



Volume 15 Issue 24
February 13, 2012

*“Semper Excelsius-
The Liberty Way”*

The Liberty Common School
Common Knowledge, Common Virtues, Common Sense
A National Charter School of the Year, A Nationally Recognized Blue Ribbon
School, A Certified Core Knowledge Visitation Site School,
A John Irwin School of Excellence

[Click Here](#) to view Liberty
Common High School
Newsletter

What’s Happening at LCS K-6th

Feb. 15- “Liberty for Lunch”-
Olive Garden, 11:30 a.m.,
Bob Schaffer, speaker.

Feb. 17-Last day to bring in
pennies for Penny War

Feb. 20 – No School,
President’s Day

Feb. 21- Track and Field
Meeting 7-8pm in the LCS gym

Feb. 24-Liberty T-shirt Day

Feb. 24- Winter Carnival-
6-8 p.m. **Volunteers Needed**

Feb. 27- Scrip Order Due

Feb. 29-TCAP Begins *****See
schedule on page 6.*****

March 9th- 3rd Quarter Free
Dress Day / Teacher Minute to
Win It-2:30-3:00 p.m.

Liberty Common School Board of Directors 2011-2012

Crissy Kopren 266-1005
Amy Redstone 378-1170
Dan Provaznik 223-0188
Mark Sutherlin 225-0432
Cassy Turner 691-3027
Jeff Webb 545-9636
Bill Werst 631-8379

Board of Directors Meeting:
Liberty Common School
February 16, 2012
1725 Sharp Point Dr.
Faculty Room
7:00 p.m.

Headmaster Writing by Russ Spicer



Thank You!



This week is Volunteer Appreciation week at Liberty Common School. I continue to be amazed by the fantastic things parent volunteers do for our school. Liberty Common is certainly blessed by the giving hearts and attitudes of our parent community. As a charter school, we welcome and encourage this active participation and Liberty’s parents always rise to the occasion.

Parents are an integral part of this school and our success is greatly linked to their involvement. The fact that our parents have to drive their children to a non-neighborhood school signifies a high degree of involvement right off the bat. Countless hours are spent transporting the children to and from school. A great deal of patience must be exercised daily as the parents patiently wait in the car pool lines before and after school.

It does not take long for one wandering the halls of our schools to see volunteers in action. Many parents sign up as guest readers for classrooms or work one-on-one with students on various skills. It is important to be able to offer individualized support. The resource room is constantly buzzing with activity and words cannot adequately express how much support the “resource room angels” provide to our teachers and school. Countless hours of preparation work are saved thanks to everyone who works in the resource room.

The Classroom Volunteer Coordinators invest their time by supporting classroom teachers and relieving them of many time consuming tasks such as organizing class parties or fieldtrips. How fortunate we are to have dedicated parents who care about the education their children receive and desire to help in whatever manner needed. At the high school, numerous parents are assisting teachers with grading, filing, copying and paperwork.

Our school committees are led by parents as well. This year the Volunteer Support Team has been working hard to help support our school. Kendra Simms chairs the Volunteer Support Team. The VST does a magnificent job of answering the call for volunteers throughout the school. There are many volunteers doing many everyday jobs in our school without notice. Where would we be without all of the “behind the scenes” workers?

Lisa Murphy and Marnie Dame chair the social committee. This year the social committee organized the Fall Festival in October and the Winter Carnival that will take place on Friday, February 24th. Heartfelt thanks go out to Lisa, Marnie and the social committee for planning these fun-filled events for the Liberty Common School community.

Wendy Thomas is chairing our Fundraising Committee this year and has done a marvelous job in spearheading the corporate donations/sponsorship drive and the Spring Gala. The Spring Gala (Friday, April 13th) promises to be one of the best silent auction events ever thanks to the efforts of Wendy and her team. Mark it on your calendar now; you won’t want to miss it.

Another group of volunteers that work many hours for our school is our Board of Directors – Bill Werst (Chairman), Mark Sutherlin (Vice-Chair), Dan Provaznik (Treasurer), Jeff Webb (Secretary), Chrissy Kopren, Amy Redstone, and Cassy Turner. We are very fortunate to have such a dedicated group of intelligent men and women governing our charter school. Our board takes their responsibilities seriously and works hard to maintain the integrity of the original charter and mission for the school while strategically guiding us into the future. It is an honor to work alongside this fine group of dedicated volunteers.

(Continued on page 3)



Winter Carnival-Feb. 24th-6-8pm

Come Prepared to Be Amazed



Come ready to be amazed and have a spectacular time at this year's winter carnival, **February 24th from 6-8 pm**. This year our theme is science and we have *new* activities for the kids, young and not so young as young, as well as crafts, games, entertainment and food.

Pizza and Subway sandwiches are available for purchase. Please note that Subway sandwiches must be pre-ordered. Please fill out one order for each meal you would like to purchase and **return to the Front Office no later than end of school Feb. 21, 2012**. Each meal costs \$5.50 and includes chips and a cookie; sodas will be sold separately. Payment is to be made the night of the event. Order forms are available by [clicking here](#) or may be picked up in the Front Office.

Volunteers are needed for donations and activities during the carnival as well as pre-event help. For volunteer opportunities, please contact Marnie Dame at 391-8983 or MarnieDame@MSN.com



Scholastic Spring Book Fair Needs Volunteers



Join in the reading celebration as Liberty hosts the Scholastic Spring Book Fair **March 6th-9th**.

Thanks to Dunja Widhalm who has kindly offered to be this year's chairperson. If you are interested in volunteering at the book fair please contact Dunja at (970) 493-0092 or dunjaw72@gmail.com.

Do You Need Before School Care?

Liberty Common School has an opportunity to offer before school care from 7:00-8:00 a.m. Monday-Friday provided by our current after school care provider, the A.S.K. program. The cost would be \$7.00 full time student and \$8.00 part time student. If this is something you are interested in please contact Jill Ronen, at 482-9800, ext. 3110.



Still Time to Bring In Spare Change For Liberty Common Penny Wars

Check the car seats, search the sofa cushions, look in the junk drawer and bring in all your spare change. The Penny Wars at Liberty Common School is a friendly competition between grades to raise money for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Remember, pennies collected count toward each grades' total while silver coins are used deplete from other grades' totals. The Penny War runs through February 17th. and the winning grade will receive an ice cream party. Keep the spare change coming in.

How to Reach Us

- Our office hours are **7:30-4:00 p.m.**
- Our telephone number is **(970) 482-9800**
- Our attendance line is **(970) 482-9800, option 2**, please call by 8:30 a.m.
- Please note that you may go to your student's classroom and wait for them to be dismissed only after 2:50 p.m.
- If you need to take your child to an appointment during school hours, please come to the Front Office, sign them out and we will call them out of class.
- All students who arrive after 8:00 a.m. must be signed in at the Front Office. It is important that a reason be written as this determines if the tardy is excused or not.
- Our school closes at 4:00 p.m. All students need to have left the building by 4:00 p.m. or be chaperoned by a parent or guardian.

And the Survey Says.....

It is that time of year when we seek your input on your child's educational experience at Liberty. We value your opinion and strive to do our very best to be one of the top schools in Colorado. Thank you to all who have completed the general survey. This week you will receive an individual teacher/class survey. One survey will be sent for each child attending school. Please take a few minutes to fill out these surveys. **We value your feedback.**

Important Dates 2012-2013 School Year

The 2012-2013 Calendar has been approved by Liberty Common's Board of Directors. Please note the following dates when making vacation plans for your family.

Classes Begin - August 15, 2012
Labor Day - September 3, 2012
Thanksgiving Break - November 21-23, 2012
Christmas Break - December 24-January 4, 2013
Spring Break - March 18-22, 2013
Last Day of School- May 24, 2013

Headmaster Writing Continued from Front Page

I am sure there are many other volunteers that contribute to our school that have not been mentioned. I want everyone to know how much we greatly appreciate everything that is done for our school. Thank you for your selfless dedication in helping our faculty and staff provide an excellent educational experience for the students.



I love Liberty Common School. I love our volunteers.

Spring Sports Begin Soon at Liberty for 6th-8th Graders

The Jr. High girls' soccer and boys' and girl's track & field seasons are right around the corner! Grades 6th-8th at Liberty are encouraged to participate, no matter the playing experience.

There will be three track & field practices dates before spring break. These dates are February 28th, 29th, and March 7th. The season runs from 2/28- 4/24. Please make sure you have all paperwork completed and turned in *prior* to the first week of practice. It can be found by [clicking here](#). **There will be a parent meeting for track & field on February 21st, 7-8pm in the LCS gymnasium.** Any parents with background knowledge in distance, throws or jumps, please contact the track coaches. Volunteers interested will need to have a background check completed before working with the team. Please contact Bev Hanawalt for more information on the background checks. bhanawalt@libertycommon.org

The first practice for girls' soccer will be March 19th. The season runs 3/19-5/9. Please make sure you have all paperwork completed *prior* to the first week of practice. It can be found by [clicking here](#). Once all paperwork has been turned in, you will be given a "blue card" to turn in on the first day of the season/tryouts. You must have a "blue card" in order to tryout/practice. Blue cards will be given out by Mr. Torgeson at the LCHS campus.

If you have any questions, please contact...

Chuck Hubbeling – Jr. High Girls Soccer Coach – chubbeling@libertycommon.org

Donny Reeves – Jr. High Track & Field Coach – dreeves@libertycommon.org

Jon Wilcox – Jr High Track & Field Coach – jwilcox@libertycommon.org

Annual Spring Gala—April 13th



Keep an eye out for the

Annual Spring Gala

Invitation

Coming to a mailbox near you!

Our Annual Auction has grown into a fabulous event for us all to share! As always we will have the Silent Auction as well as some incredible Live Auction items.

This year the theme is "Back to Our Roots", and we will be honoring our founders by including them in our celebration while we remember the determination, perseverance and vision it took to grow this school we are so proud of.

So please mark your calendars and come enjoy and support Liberty Common!

Friday April 13th, 2012

6:00 – 11:00 pm

Embassy Suites, Loveland

Volunteers are still needed for before and during the event.

If you would like to help out in any way, or have any questions please contact us at

libertyevent@libertycommon.org.

6th, 7th and 8th Grade Girls Basketball Team Stay Undefeated

The Jr. High Lady Eagles are now 8-0. Please come out and support this talented group of athletes. All games begin at 4:00 p.m. Come out and cheer our teams to victory.



2/13/12– Liberty at Resurrection

2/16/12– Liberty vs. Windsor

2/21/12-Liberty at HMS





Classical Liberalism

By: Bob Schaffer, LCS Principal

Liberty Common High School's classical curriculum consistently delivers high-level conversation about timeless principles. These discussions, it is hoped, will one day stir our graduates to action.

This is one reason LCHS has become a truly important institution. Indeed, timeless principles, when set in motion, actually expand the frontiers of liberty.

Regardless of how much one thinks about it, all people actually care quite a lot about timeless principles. We care about consistency, predictability and transparency in our leaders, in our personal relationships and business partnerships. The sooner one grasps these important concepts, the better a leader one is likely to become.

[Liberty's classical-liberal approach](#) is predicated upon acknowledgement and deference to natural law – the understanding that human nature relates directly to a larger natural order. As such, natural law effects how man behaves, determines what humans need and ultimately helps predict how the majority are likely to react under certain circumstances.

The American Founders actually predicated the entire Declaration of Independence upon this concept. They wrote of the necessity for people to assume the “Station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature’s God entitle them.”

For generations, this seminal concept of man had been parsed by history’s most significant philosophers. Chief among them were [Montesquieu](#), [St. Thomas Aquinas](#), and [John Locke](#) – who had profound influence on the Founders.

As Liberty educates future leaders, we want them to understand human nature and natural law. For example, in economic leadership, our students should be able to explain why free people are motivated to create jobs.

As business leaders, they should respect the ability of free people to make the wisest and most-logical decisions about their wealth. As leaders for peace, they should understand the essence of liberty and know why rational beings are compelled to defend it when threatened.

As active citizens and voters, we often speculate on how early political leaders acquired stature in civic leadership and how quickly they embraced the basic elements of natural law. Did they always adhere to these principles? Did they ever discard them; and, if so, why?

Sure, leaders can change. Yes, they evolve and mature. They can improve. They can be brought to see things differently. These are not bad qualities.

Nonetheless, the value of consistency escalates according to the importance of the station being sought. We’ve all been

Grandparents Corner

By: Ed Haynes, Chairman of the Liberty Grandparents Club

This is a big week for the Liberty Grandparents Club. Our inaugural quarterly luncheon is this Wednesday, Feb. 15th at Olive Garden 3905 S. College Ave., in Fort Collins. Things start at 11:30 a.m., and our featured speaker is LCHS Principal and Colorado State Board of Education Chairman, **Bob Schaffer**.

The event is designed to help bring our Liberty family closer together by providing a fun gathering, lighthearted atmosphere, and informative presentations. Though our RSVP date has passed, please contact **Tammy Thomas** at 204-0033 or by email: tamarajthomas@aol.com to see if there’s still an available seat or two.

For more information about the Liberty Grandparents' Club or to join, please email gpc@libertycommon.org



(Continued from Classical Liberalism)

disappointed by leaders who were driven by expedience, or whose beliefs turn out to be a show of cognitive dissonance rather than internalized virtue.

Changing one’s philosophy is okay for perhaps a student. However, over the long term, Liberty strives toward consistency – not just for consistency’s sake, but because we are genuinely driven by timeless principles anchored in natural law. Indeed, [Liberty’s philosophy](#) embraces the same classical-liberal ideas that mark civilization’s best philosophers.

They are the same principles that moved America’s Founding Fathers to action, and which continue to expand the frontiers of liberty. They are the qualities we seek most in our leaders today and in the future.

Timeless principles are, in fact, [virtues and ambitions that guide LCHS](#), that unite us as the Liberty family, and move our students boldly together in every classroom in which they gather.

Kindergarten Store Opening: Need for Gently Used Toys and Books

Do you have any gently used toys or books at the bottom of your toy box that the kids have tired of playing with? The kindergarten teachers would love to have those neglected toys or books of all sizes. We will be opening our stores in a couple of weeks to help teach our kinders about money. Please drop off toys to any of the kindergarten classrooms. Thank you very much for helping make this money unit so fun for the kinders!



Lil Dribblers demonstrate skills learned during the half-time of the Prairie vs. Liberty Common High School Game

Scrip Program Easy Way to Help Liberty

Families are invited to participate in the Scrip program at Liberty. This is a strictly voluntary program and is a great way to help generate funds for Liberty Common School by buying gift cards to make purchases you would be making anyway. We offer gift cards for all the major grocery stores in town and many other retailers and restaurants. Groceries, household items, and gasoline can be purchased with scrip gift cards.

If you don't see a card for the merchant you want, please feel free to ask, it may be available but not listed on the current order form. King Soopers gift cards are available in \$25 and \$100 increments and are reloadable at the register for any amount.

If questions, please contact **Tracy Horst** at dthorst@msn.com or (970) 223-7282. To enroll just [click here for a form](#) or get one in the front office. [Click here for the policy page](#). [Click here for an order form](#)

Liberty Own in Stars of Tomorrow

Congratulations to our own Sithumi Sinley who was among the best of the best and was chosen to perform at the Stars of Tomorrow competition on February 25. Sithumi was chosen out of 95 acts from throughout the district.

This year the Kiwanis Club is excited to announce The People's Choice Award! In addition to the prizes award by the judges, the audience can vote via cell phone for their favorite act. The winner of The People's Choice Award will receive \$100 cash and a trophy. Come support Sithumi by purchasing tickets at the Lincoln Center Box Office. All proceeds from the show go to support [The Kayla Foundation](#) and the [Fort Collins Kiwanis Club](#), both local service organizations support the youth of Fort Collins.

Clothes Closet Needs Donations

Thanks to all who have already donated to the clothes closet. We are needing pants in sizes 6, 7, 8 and socks. Please make sure all clothing meets dress code and is without stains or holes. Thank you.

Liberty Common School Yearbook Still Available to Purchase

The 2011-2012 Liberty Common Yearbook is still available for purchase. The price is now \$18.00 per book and orders will be taken through the end of February or until supplies last. Order forms are available in the Front Office. Yearbooks will be distributed the on the last day of school, May 25th.

Attendance Alert

Dear Parents,

Attendance is very important here at Liberty Common School. When the students are here, they learn more. When they are here on time, they learn more. We want to provide the students with maximum class time throughout the year to ensure that students are getting maximum teacher contact time. Please make sure that you are dropping students off on time so that they can get ready for the day. If you are late (we know life happens), please make sure to sign in at the front office so that we have a record of the tardy. Once you have dropped off your child, please make sure to clear the halls so that the classroom teachers can get started with their day. If you are staying to volunteer, please report back to the office to sign in and get your nametag. We love our volunteers.

Thanks for your cooperation.

Keith A. Churchill, Jr.
Elementary Principal

ATTENTION: TCAP (CSAP) Schedule– 2011-2012

Please note the following TCAP schedule for 3rd-6th grade. If at all possible, please try to arrange doctor appointments, dentist appointments and orthodontist appointments around this schedule. If you have any questions please contact the Front Office.

LIBERTY COMMON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TCAP SCHEDULE 2011-2012

GRADE	DATE	SESSION	TIME			
3rd	2/29/2012	Reading #1	8:00-10:00			
3rd	3/1/2012	Reading #2	8:00-10:00			
3rd	3/20/2012	Math #1	8:00-10:00			
3rd	3/21/2012	Math #2	8:00-10:00			
3rd	3/26/2012	Writing #1	8:00-10:00			
3rd	3/27/2012	Writing #2	8:00-10:00			
4th	3/20/2012	Math #1	8:00-10:00			
4th	3/21/2012	Math #2	8:00-10:00			
4th	3/22/2012	Math #3	8:00-10:00			
4th	3/26/2012	Writing #1	8:00-10:00			
4th	3/27/2012	Writing #2	8:00-10:00			
4th	3/28/2012	Reading #3	8:00-10:00			
4th	3/29/2012	Reading #4	8:00-10:00			
4th	3/30/2012	Writing #5	8:00-10:00			
4th	4/2/2012	Reading/Writing #6	8:00-10:00			
5th	3/20/2012	Math #1	10:00-12:00			
5th	3/21/2012	Math #2	10:00-12:00			
5th	3/22/2012	Math #3	10:00-12:00			
5th	3/26/2012	Writing #1	10:00-12:00			
5th	3/27/2012	Writing #2	10:00-12:00			
5th	3/28/2012	Reading #3	10:00-12:00			
5th	3/29/2012	Reading #4	10:00-12:00			
5th	3/30/2012	Writing #5	10:00-12:00			
5th	4/2/2012	Reading/Writing #6	10:00-12:00			
5th	4/3/2012	Science #1	10:00-12:00			
5th	4/4/2012	Science #2	10:00-12:00			
5th	4/5/2012	Science #3	10:00-12:00			
6th	3/20/2012	Math #1	10:00-12:00			
6th	3/21/2012	Math #2	10:00-12:00			
6th	3/22/2012	Math #3	10:00-12:00			
6th	3/26/2012	Writing #1	10:00-12:00			
6th	3/27/2012	Writing #2	10:00-12:00			
6th	3/28/2012	Reading #3	10:00-12:00			
6th	3/29/2012	Reading #4	10:00-12:00			
6th	3/30/2012	Writing #5	10:00-12:00			
6th	4/2/2012	Reading/Writing #6	10:00-12:00			
KEY						
	2/29/2012	3rd Grade Only				
	3/1/2012	3rd Grade Only				
	3/20/2012	3rd/4th/5th/6th				
	3/21/2012	3rd/4th/5th/6th				
	3/22/2012	4th/5th/6th				
	3/26/2012	3rd/4th/5th/6th				
	3/27/2012	3rd/4th/5th/6th				
	3/28/2012	4th/5th/6th				
	3/29/2012	4th/5th/6th				
	3/30/2012	4th/5th/6th				
	4/2/2012	4th/5th/6th				
	4/3/2012	5th Grade Only				
	4/4/2012	5th Grade Only				
	4/5/2012	5th Grade Only				
NOTES:						
Grades 3-4 will be taking the CSAP test from 8-10						
Grades 5-6 will be taking the CSAP test from 10-12						
Teachers may reschedule specials that are missed because of the test but should work that out with the individual specials teachers.						
We may use the specials rooms and staff to help proctor students that need accommodations.						