



Volume 15 Issue 33  
April 23, 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***

**April 24**– Character Assembly  
K-3rd grade, 8:10-8:45 a.m.  
4th-6th grade, 8:55-9:35 p.m.

**April 24**-Grandparents Club  
Mtg., Teacher’s Lounge at  
LCS, 6 p.m.

**April 27th**– Mayfest \*Please  
note, no hot lunch will be  
served– please bring a sack  
lunch and drink.

**April 27th**– Liberty T-Shirt  
Day.

**May 1st**– 5th and 6th grade  
Band Concert-6:30 p.m.

**May 7-11th**– Teacher  
Appreciation Week

**May 11**– Olympic Day –No  
hot lunch served. Please bring  
sack lunch and drink.

### **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**

**1725 Sharp Point Dr.  
Faculty Room  
7:00 p.m.**

## Headmaster Writing by Russ Spicer

### **High School Happenings**

It took many years to fine tune and tweak the elementary K – 8 educational program at Liberty Common School. While we are always looking for ways to improve and grow, our fabulous faculty has done a wonderful job of providing an excellent education to your children. 😊

The area that is new and changing on a daily the basis is that of our high school. Since its inception in 2010, every year of the high school has been a year of firsts. This year is the first year we have offered a junior class. New curriculum and new teachers were needed. While there were a few bumps along the way, the students are doing great and receiving a top notch college preparatory education.

This year we rolled out several AP Courses for the high school students. The AP courses offered this year are: Biology, Calculus AB & BC, Chemistry, Computer Programming, Language and Composition, Latin, Music Theory, U.S. Government and U.S. History. The students will be taking their AP exams the first couple of weeks in May. We are excited to see how our students do. Remember, these courses are accepted at most colleges and universities if the student receives a high enough score on the test. Many of our students will enter college with one to two semesters of credit already.

Our juniors took the PSAT test in the fall and we had great results. Two of our students, Evan Rencher and Keana Lozon were selected as finalists for the National Merit Scholarship program. The average percentile rank for our entire junior class was the 85% in the nation. That is the average; quite impressive indeed. The junior class will be taking the ACT test this week. It will be exciting to see how our students perform on this test and then to see what colleges come beckoning for our students as a result.

The high school facility is also undergoing some changes. There will be a 12,000 square foot addition ready to open for the 2012-2013 school year. The expansion will include: eight new classrooms, a Liberty “Commons” area that will provide an additional 50 seats during lunch and be a place to meet and hang out, restrooms, a teachers’ lounge, a kiln room, a copy room, additional storage, more and bigger lockers, and a grass field for physical education. As a result of the addition a few areas in the existing building will undergo some changes as well. One room will be converted to a College Center and another room will be converted to a Conference Room. Several of the rooms will also receive carpet this summer.

When asked how things are going with the high school, my immediate reply is “amazingly well.” While things are constantly changing and improving, the addition of the high school has gone better than could have been imagined. Yes this year has been great, but we are already looking forward to next year which will include some incredible firsts as well. One of those firsts will be the first ever graduating class of Liberty Common High School. There will be a few students graduating that will have attended Liberty Common School for their entire K-12 education. We are already looking at graduation invitations, school crests and class rings. There is never a dull moment for sure.

I love Liberty Common School and I love Liberty Common High School.

Greetings Liberty Common Community. My name is Cassy Turner and I am one of the five board members NOT up for re-election this year. I also serve on the Election Committee.

One thing I know about the Liberty community is that when the school asks you to step up, you do so. Be it volunteering in the classroom, chaperoning, or just donating Kleenex, no true need goes unmet thanks to our parents. The generosity of the families at last week's Spring Gala brought tears to my eyes. (A THOUSAND dollars for brownies?!)

And so I knew, when seeking candidates that for the two board terms up for election this year, that people would volunteer, and volunteer they did. We have five qualified and dedicated candidates. Five people willing to spend one Thursday night a month at a three hour meeting in addition to everything else they do for the school. Two will be elected, but as of yet, we don't know who they will be.

Last Thursday, the Board voted to extend the election deadline for one week. You've received the emails, you know where to find the information on candidates, and you've heard that for a valid election, our bylaws require we need 50% of the school community to participate. Let me share something you may not know; the three most important items we discussed at our April 20<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting.

1. Slight modifications to our promotion and health policies, including a discussion of summer school and online options for high school students.
2. The possibility of adding a Dean of Students as an additional administrator to help out at both campuses.
3. We are on pace to have a slight budget surplus at the end of this fiscal school year.  
Woohoo!

We also received updates on expansion, summer freshening of the campuses and other school matters. Minutes from the meeting will be available soon on the Liberty Common Board web page. If you're looking for more detail, feel free to contact myself or another board member. You could even get a student perspective from High School Captain, Megan Davis, who also sat through the meeting, as she does most months...voluntarily.

So back to a plea on behalf of the board. Please, take advantage of this extended election deadline and vote. We don't want to erode that potential surplus by having to run a second election. The Board can look to change the bylaws to make voting easier next year. But we can't do it this week - the school needs you to step up & deliver that vote. (And they could probably use Kleenex, too.)

## 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.

## Support Liberty-Buy Scrip

Please remember our Scrip Program as you consider purchasing gifts for upcoming occasions like Teacher Appreciation, Mother's Day, birthdays or graduations. Here are some great specials Great Lake Scrip is offering for a limited time. Celebrate teachers with a \$5 Starbucks Teacher Appreciation card available 4/7-5/11/12 with a 7% contribution rate. Other bonuses running right now are Bath & Body Works (a great Mother's Day gift!) all cards offering an 18% contribution rate 3/31 - 4/27/12. Red Robin \$25 gift cards offering an 11% contribution rate 3/31 - 5/11/12. Kmart \$25 gift cards offering a 6% contribution rate 3/31 - 4/27/12. **Our next order is being placed May 7, so take advantage of any of these great offers.**

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.

Questions can be answered by **Tracy Horst** at [dthorst@msn.com](mailto: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](#)

## Spirit Week May 7<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> 2012

### Monday- Crazy Tie Day

Students may wear a crazy tie along with their normal dress code clothing.

### Tuesday- Crayon Day

Students may dress in their favorite color. This may be in dress code or other clothing. Please keep in mind, students should not be in spaghetti straps or sleeveless shirts. Please follow dress code guidelines on length of shorts and skirts. No face, body, or hair paint/dye please.

### Wednesday- Crazy Hair Day

Students should be in dress code clothing. If hair color is used, it must be completely washed out the next day.

### Thursday- Hawaiian Day

Students may wear Hawaiian shirts, leis, and grass skirts over shorts or skirts. Students should wear dress code pants, shorts, or skirts.

### Friday- Olympic Day

Students may wear their class t-shirt or other class attire, a Liberty Common T-shirt, or athletic clothing. Please keep in mind, students should not be in spaghetti straps or sleeveless shirts. Please follow dress code guidelines on length of shorts and skirts.

\*\*\* Spirit week activities are optional but encouraged.  
Dress code on any of the above days is acceptable. \*\*\*

## Important Dates 2012-2013 School Year

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

## Final Thoughts From Odyssey of the Mind

Dear Liberty State Competition OM teams, Liberty OM teams, coaches, judges, and volunteers:

Thank you so much for all your efforts supporting your teams and the State Tournament last Saturday and at the Regional competition in March. I am very grateful for all of you and your hard work this OM Season.

It was a pleasure to watch all three presentations last Saturday and I am very proud of all you have accomplished in such short time – I also heard from some parents and attendees that the presentations improved from last time and that the addition of new props was well done.

We had three teams competing at the State level – One Division I team and two Division II teams. As I helped each team I noticed the following: Fantastic teamwork professional looking props and backgrounds; and both coaches and kids having so much fun and their pride busting from the seams – I was not only very proud of them, but shed some tears of my own.

After a fierce competition, one of our Division II teams received a 3<sup>rd</sup> place (Weird Science), our Division I team received 9<sup>th</sup> place (Ooh-Motional Vehicle, Team B), and our other Division II team received 8<sup>th</sup> place (Odyssey Angels).

I acknowledge the disappointment that none of our Liberty Common School teams will attend the OM World Finals – but please allow me to remind you all that Liberty Common School sent the greatest number of teams of any Poudre Valley School District to the OM State Competition and that is one of the items that we all should be very proud.

All Liberty Common School teams represented the school and themselves commendably at both competitions, and the character and moral fiber of our students were recognized by the judges and all that attended our fine presentations!

We all should be very proud! I know I am and I will never forget the wonderful experience that you all were very kind to give it to me. I humbly thank you for allowing me to serve you.

In addition, I would like to convey my heartfelt appreciation for Henrique's leadership through this OM season - the building coordinator is required to put in a lot of time into this program in order for it to be successful. A lot of that time is behind the scenes, but I know, he also spent a lot of time with different teams and coaches, as well as supporting all the teams at each tournament.

As they say... We love Liberty.... (it is because of the people that make up Liberty!)

Unfortunately, neither Henrique or I are able to be the building coordinator for the 2013 OM season. If you are interested, please let Henrique or I know and we will put you in contact with the district coordinator. She is already gearing up for the 2013 season and meetings are being scheduled.

Henrique Barreto  
Victoria Vaadia  
OM Liberty Building Coordinators

### Art Show at Foothills Fashion Mall May 4th-May 16th

Art by our students will be displayed at the Foothills Fashion Mall from May 4th-May 16th. Please mark your calendar and come out to view the students' amazing work.

Remember, no hot lunch will be served on April 27th due to May Fest. Please bring a sack lunch and a water bottle.

### 2011-2012 Concert Season

#### MAY

- 1- 5th/6th Band & Choir Concert, 6:30 p.m.  
Performance Hall, LCS **\*Please note date change**
- 15- LCHS Band, Choir, & Orchestra Finale Concert,  
6:30 p.m. Performance Hall, LCS

### 2012 Jr. High Girls Soccer

**\*All Home games played at the Fort Collins Soccer Complex**

**Wed, April 25<sup>th</sup> Home Frontier 4pm**  
**Playoffs – TBD**

**Qtr. Finals – Wed, May 2<sup>nd</sup> Higher Seed Hosts 4pm**  
**Semi Finals – Mon, May 7<sup>th</sup> Higher Seed Hosts 4pm**  
**Finals – Wed, May 9<sup>th</sup> @ LCS 4pm**

### 2012 Jr. High Track Schedule

**Tuesday, April - 24 at Liberty - FINALS 4:00 p.m.**

## Sports Camps Available for all incoming 6th, 7th and 8th Graders

\*Boys soccer, girls volleyball, and boys & girls basketball camp will run from July 30-Aug.3 at the elementary school.

\*Boys soccer and girls volleyball will be held from 9:00-11:30 and boys & girls basketball from 12:30-3:00.

\*Contacts: Boys soccer will be with Mr. Reeves, volleyball with Mr. Wilcox, girls basketball with Mr. Ronen, and boys basketball with Mr. Dybzinski.

\*Girls soccer (new this year) will run with Dr. Hubbeling the week of Aug. 6-Aug. 10 from 5:30-7:00 p.m. at the elementary school.

\*Cost for one camp will be \$50.00, two camps \$75.00, and for the girls all three camps \$100.00.

*See page 8 for registration form*

## Attention: All 6th, 7th and 8th Girl Hoopsters

All girls going into 6th, 7th, and 8th grade interested in playing summer basketball please contact Lori Lunn at [lunnsax@msn.com](mailto:lunnsax@msn.com).

## Summer Math Camp

The Summer Math Program is a *supplementary math enrichment course* for students going into grades 4 – 12 who either struggle with mathematical concepts/skills or those who want additional reinforcement of a particular topic in order to be successful at the next level. The course runs for 4 weeks and uses the Accelerated Math computer program coupled with individualized instruction from Mr. Lovely, Liberty Common School's Math Specialist. Advanced students may also enroll as an enrichment opportunity. Registration forms available in the Front Office.

## Liberty 2 Liberty 5KRun/Walk

**Begin your training now for the Liberty 2 Liberty 5K Run/Walk! Saturday, May 12th, 9:00am.** This Liberty tradition is being organized by the three houses at LCHS, to raise money for the house system's various activities throughout the year. The route starts at LCHS, goes down Drake to the Poudre River Trail and ends at LCS.

We are looking for sponsors at any level, so if you are interested, please contact House Director Dave Lunn at [dlunn@libertycommon.org](mailto:dlunn@libertycommon.org) by **April 12th**. Sponsors will have their names or logos printed on race t-shirts, brochures and posters. We are also looking for individuals who would like to help provide snacks for runners at the end of the race and prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places.

Come join us for this awesome event involving the whole Liberty community! Register at either school before April 26th, \$15 fee includes a cool t-shirt to wear on race day.

**Registration forms available on page 6.**

## Lost and Found Overflowing

Please check Lost and Found for any of your student's water bottles, lunch boxes, coats, sweaters, hats, gloves, books, etc.....Items not claimed will be donated. Thank you.



## Dress Code Reminder



As the temperatures continue to rise, please remember that flip flops are not allowed to be worn to school. Sandals with back straps are permissible. Thank you for your attention to this important dress code rule.

## Liberty T-Shirt Day is April 27th





## Avalanche of Events

### By: Bob Schaffer, LCS Principal

It's an exciting time of year at Liberty. Some would say it's a hectic time of year at Liberty. I think it's an invigorating time of year at Liberty.

The final half of the final quarter is upon us and with it comes an avalanche of events and activities. Spring sports teams are practicing or competing every night and on weekends. We held our Moving-On-Up night last week where 6<sup>th</sup> graders got a chance to meet their new LCHS teachers and look around the high-school building they'll be attending for the first time next year as 7<sup>th</sup> graders.

There are lots more similar events on the agenda, and coming fast. Be sure to take a look through the event schedule posted weekly in this newsletter. Make sure your family and your students are ready in advance for events that pertain to them.

It's especially challenging for students to participate in all of these activities, plus field trips and end-of-year testing and keep up with their classroom objectives. We're giving them lots of encouragement here at school and we're cheering them on through the finish line. Wow. Only four weeks to go!

Next topic: As I feared, there were a few names accidentally left off of my list of superhero volunteers in last week's Principal's Column. These are Liberty parents who volunteered to put on our Spring Gala. It was a fabulous event, and I noted a long list of volunteers who helped pull it all off last week.

The following names should have been on that list, too: **Jamie Aamundgard, Shannon Canfield, Jill Franklin, Jodi Fraser, JoAnn Gollwitzer, Lynette Grosfeld, Maribel Larson, and Julie Weibler.**

One name that was indeed on last week's list, but deserves to be mentioned one more time, is that of **Wendy Thomas** who chaired the Spring Gala committee. She and many of the volunteer team ([CLICK HERE](#) to see them all) are, in fact, still working long hours to tie up final post-event details and accounting.

Each of these volunteers deserves an extra-enthusiastic BRAVO! When you see any of them next, please thank them on behalf of the Liberty family for their hard work and dedication to our school, and to our children.

Video from the Spring Gala is now posted on the Liberty Channel at YouTube. Of special interest is the now-famous \$1,000 plate of brownies – all caught on camera. To see it and recall an avalanche of fun, please ([CLICK HERE](#)).

## Grandparents Corner

### By: Ed Haynes, Chairman of the Liberty Grandparents Club

This is the time of the school year when our grandchildren get to shine. I'm sure most of them don't see it that way, but it's true. A couple of weeks ago, Liberty students took the state's standardized assessment TCAPs. This week, they're taking the NWEA. At the high school, juniors are taking the ACT this week, and many scholars are gearing up for AP exams, year-end projects and final exams.

All this testing gives us the academic comparisons we love to brag about to our friends and acquaintances, and that make us so proud to say, "my grandkids go to Liberty Common School!" We grandparents think it's okay that we uphold some standards, too, albeit not nearly as rigorous ones as the youngsters.

We'll be holding one of our infrequent, convenient, and generally fun Grandparent Club meetings tomorrow, Tuesday, April 24<sup>th</sup>. We'll start at 6:00 p.m., and meet in the elementary-school's teachers' lounge. At our last meeting, we had about 5 or 6 show up, and it was enough to get things done. However, we sure could use at least that many more showing up at tomorrow's meeting and help us keep our commitments to the school. It's not much, but it certainly helps and it sure is rewarding.

We'll discuss the Spring Gala and offer some constructive comments to make next year's gala even better. Our next project is to plan a lunch gathering, and consider raising a few bucks to buy some year-end awards for worthy students specifically from the Grandparents Club. If you can attend, please do.

## Superparent(s) Needed For LCHS Yearbook

The LCHS Yearbook for the 2011-12 school year is done and in the publisher's hands. We need a parent (or a tag team) to volunteer to lead students in producing next year's yearbook. It will be an important one, too. The 2012-13 yearbook will be the first to feature a senior graduating class! Students on the yearbook committee meet during club time throughout the year. Ideal volunteers to help lead this effort will be able to come to the school on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:45 - 3:30 p.m. If this is for you (or if you just have questions), please contact **Ms. Meg Ellis** at [mellis@libertycommon.org](mailto:mellis@libertycommon.org)

# 2nd Annual Liberty 2 Liberty 5k Run/Walk Registration Form



**Date:** Saturday, May 12, 2012  
**Registration:** 8:30 a.m. at Liberty Common High School  
**Race Time:** 9:00 a.m.  
**Route:** Liberty Common High School to Liberty Elementary School

## Name and Address:

First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Age \_\_\_\_\_ Sex M F

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

(supply e-mail for updates and alerts regarding the event)

## T-shirt Size (check one):

Men's/Women's:  Small  Medium  Large  XX-Large

Youth:  Small  Medium  Large

**Early Registration Fee: \$15.00/Race Day Registration Fee: \$20.00**

## Terms of Participation:

**Liability and Publicity Waiver:** I know that running/walking a road race is a potentially hazardous activity. I should not enter and run/walk unless I am medically able to do so and properly trained. I assume all risks associated with running/walking in this event. Including, but not limited to: falls, contact with other participants, the effects of weather, traffic, and course conditions, all such risks being known and understood by me. I understand that Liberty Common School or Liberty Common High School assumes no responsibility or liability with respect to my participation in this event. I agree, however, to abide any decision of any race official relative to my ability to safely complete the run/walk. I agree to abide by the rules of this event as stated in all official event information. Having read this waiver and knowing these facts and in consideration of your accepting my entry, I, myself and anyone entitled to action on my behalf, do hereby release and discharge Liberty Common School, Liberty Common High School, the City of Fort Collins, Larimer County, and all sponsors, representatives (including event volunteers), and employees of them, from all claims or liabilities of any kind asking out of my participation in this event even though that liability may arise out of negligence or carelessness on the part of the persons named in the waiver.

**Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent** (if participant is under 18) \_\_\_\_\_

## To Enter:

Complete, sign, and return entry form with check made payable to Liberty Common School. Entry forms can be turned into the High School or Elementary front offices.



# Liberty Sports Camp

## 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade



### Sports Offered

Boy's and Girl's Soccer  
 Girl's Volleyball  
 Boy's and Girl's Basketball

### Dates and Times

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Sports Offered</b>
July 30 <sup>th</sup> to August 3 <sup>rd</sup>	9:00 to 11:30	Boy's Soccer and Girl's Volleyball
July 30 <sup>th</sup> to August 3 <sup>rd</sup>	12:30 to 3:00	Boy's and Girl's Basketball
August 6 <sup>th</sup> to August 10 <sup>th</sup>	5:30 to 7:00	Girl's Soccer

### Location

Liberty Elementary Campus

### Cost

(includes a Liberty Sports Camp T shirt)  
 1 Sport Camp = \$50.00  
 2 Sports Camps = \$75.00  
 3 Sports Camps = \$100.00

All Boys and Girls entering 6th, 7th or 8th grade may participate. Please register by June 1<sup>st</sup> so we can plan appropriately.

-----  
 Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Please check which camps you are desiring to attend:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boy's Soccer (9-11:30)  | <input type="checkbox"/> Boy's Basketball (12:30-3)  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Girl's Volleyball (9-11:30)                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Girl's Basketball (12:30-3) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Girl's Soccer (5:30-7:00, <b>August 6th through August 10th</b> ) |  |

\*\*\* Please note if staying for both camps and plan on staying at Liberty Common School, you are responsible for bringing a lunch.

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
 (make checks payable to Liberty Common School)