



Volume 15 Issue 31
April 9, 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 9-5th grade Human
Dev. Parent /Child Session -
6:00 p.m.

April 10- 3rd/4th Grade
Concert, 6:30 p.m.

April 11-5th Grade Human
Dev. Student Session

April 12-BOD Candidate
Forum-7-9 pm, LCS
Performance Hall

April 13-Kindergarten
Roundup-new Kindergarten
students

April 13- Spring Gala- 6:00-
11:00 p.m.

April 16-20-BOD Election

April 17-Movin'on Up for
current 6th graders,6-8 pm,
LCHS Great Hall

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
April 19, 2012
1725 Sharp Point Dr.
Faculty Room
7:00 p.m.

Headmaster Writing by Russ Spicer

Thomas Jefferson and Charter Schools

I recently stumbled across an article in my educational article archives that I would like to share with you. This article discusses some of the quotes and thoughts by Thomas Jefferson in regards to education and what involvement in it the government should play. The article, written by David Kirkpatrick (Senior Education Fellow for the U.S. Freedom Foundation) for EducationNews.org, is entitled "Thomas Jefferson on Education." As I finished the article, one thought kept coming to mind.... It sounds as if Thomas Jefferson would have been in favor of charter schools. I hope you enjoy this article as much as I did.

Thomas Jefferson on Education

Friday, January 28, 2005

U.S. Freedom Foundation www.freedomfoundation.us

David W. Kirkpatrick Senior Education Fellow

One advantage of interpreting those no longer with us is that it is frequently possible to imply that they said what we would like them to say. In this regard, no Founding Father is cited more favorably by the public school establishment than Thomas Jefferson.

Probably the most often cited is his statement that "If a nation expects to be ignorant and free, in a state of civilization, it expects what never was and never will be." This is not a statement about schools. One can be educated without being schooled. One can also be schooled without being educated.

In 1814, Jefferson made a clear distinction between the two as he said, "I hope our successors will turn their attention to the advantages of education. I mean education on the broad scale, and not that of the petty academies." (2)

While Governor of Virginia in 1779 he proposed a school bill. There would be scholarships for elementary pupils whose families could not afford the cost. Tuition at the 20 secondary schools should be paid for by the students with financial aid for bright but needy students. This sounds like vouchers.

When a 1780 bill proposed placing education in the hands of state officials he said "If it is believed that these elementary schools will be better managed by the governor and council...or any other general authority of the government, than by the parents within each ward, it is a belief against all experience."

In 1781-2, in his Notes on Virginia, Jefferson proposed three years of free basic schooling. He said this should be done by dividing each county into small districts five or six miles square, called hundreds, in which reading, writing and arithmetic would be taught for three years in a school created, controlled and supported locally.

Jefferson believed this amount of schooling was sufficient for the majority of the population as the best education was to be obtained by activity in the society at large.

Jefferson suggested that there be available "to the wealthier part of the people convenient schools, at which their children may be educated." For those whose parents could not afford further education, each year the best boy - and he did say boy - would be chosen to attend one of 20 advanced regional schools "By this means," he said, "twenty of the best (**Continued on page 6**)



Annual Spring Gala Update

THIS FRIDAY, APRIL 13th, 2012

Embassy Suites, Loveland

6 pm ~ 11 pm

Event Timeline

6:00 pm Silent Auction Begins, Cash Bar Open, Grab Bag, Teacher Treasure Tickets and Heads or Tail Sales Begin

7:30 pm 1st Silent Auction Closing

7:40 pm 2nd Silent Auction Closing

7:50 pm Buffet Dinner

8:25 pm Heads or Tails Game

8:30 pm Dessert Auction

8:45 pm Live Auction

9:25 pm Film about the Founding of Liberty Common School Honoring our Founders

9:40 pm Paddle Call

9:50 pm Teacher's Treasures Opportunity Drawing

10:00 pm Check Out Begins

11:00 pm Check Out Ends, Cash Bar Closes

Get Involved

Help the evening of the event. [Click here to register.](#)

[www.signupgenius.com/
go/30E0C4FA8AE23A20-spring](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0C4FA8AE23A20-spring)

If you would like to help out in any way or have any questions, please contact **Wendy Thomas at prontobw@msn.com or 227-7197.**

Visit www.libertycommon.org/gala often, to see our increasing Auction List.

LIVE AUCTION

- Spring Home Spruce Up (Whole House Carpet Cleaning, Room Restyle, Organization Help)
- Rockies vs. Dodgers, 4 tickets also 1 room at Westin Downtown
- Date Night for a Year
- 2 Broncos Tickets- YOU CHOOSE THE GAME
- Husband of the Year
- iPad3-16GBWiFi, custom engraved with this year's school motto "Semper Excelcius"
- Reserved School Parking Spot (one per campus)
- Lasik Surgery
- Disneyland-4 one day passes, \$200 Southwest Airlines, \$200Marriot, \$100 toward dining.

Student Art Available for Bidding

Kindergarten: Zoo Animal Shelves - Spunky lime green and zebra striped shelves, embellished with precious zoo animals created by the kindergarten classes, will be the perfect addition to a playroom, classroom, or child's bedroom.

1st grade: Flower Collage Breakfast Tray - Breakfast served from a tray tiled with floral collages, crafted with care by the first grade class, couldn't be more special.

2nd grade: Fingerprint Art Table Linen Set - Tiny fingerprints created a buzzing garden for your tabletop with this lovely linen set. This spring table collection includes six placemats and six napkins, each colorfully and uniquely designed by eighty- eight second grade finger tips.

3rd grade: American Flag Framed Art (3) - Three collections of stylized American flags created by the third grade classes become sweetly patriotic keepsakes, framed and ready to display.

4th grade: Angelic Christmas Tree Skirt - Angels made by our angelic fourth grade classes come together in a stunning Christmas tree skirt.

5th grade: Hand printed note card sets (3) - Each fifth grade class has hand stamped a set of note cards. Each card is one of a kind, and will send a sweet message with sentiment and style.

See More Items on Page 3

Student Art Continued

6th grade: Newsprint Portrait Table - Self portraits of the sixth grade class, created from newsprint, make this a one-of-a-kind end table for your home.

7th grade: Self Portraits Vintage Window - Self portraits by the 7th grade class peek through the panes of this vintage window with colorful expression.

Upper School: Advanced photography – each photo is matted and is a separate item.

- Cascading Crystals-A creative perspective of a crystal chandelier makes the ordinary extraordinary.
- To New Heights– The sky peeks through the branches of an autumn aspen tree.
- Muted View-This is an interesting, monochromatic photo with a textural essence.
- Centerpiece of Light– This photo creatively captures light as art.

Now is the Time to 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 April 23rd, 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 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](#)

News About BOD Election

There are 6 candidates running for 2 Board of Director positions in this year's election. Running for the LCS Board of Directors are: Sarj Gill, Sue Jones, Crissy Kopren, Steve Mangelsdorf, John Rohrbaugh, and Bill Werst.

All eligible Liberty voters received an email sent on 4/4/12 that includes the written applications for all the board candidates. Please take the time to read and learn more about each candidate. [Click Here](#) to read applications.

There will be a candidate forum on Thursday, April 12th at 7:00 p.m. at the Liberty Common School Performance Hall.

Ballots will be mailed out to everyone the week of April 9th with the actual election running from Monday, April 16th through Friday, April 20th at 4:00 p.m. Ballots turned in after 4:00 p.m. will not be counted.

Our charter states that we MUST have a majority (50%) of the eligible School Community vote in order to have a valid election. If this does not occur, we will have to run another election which will waste precious time and resources. **Please make sure you vote!**

Wizard of Oz Tickets On Sale Now

GET YOUR TICKETS FOR THE WIZARD OF OZ!!

Ticket are now on sale for the 5th and 6th Grade Dessert Theatre. Shows are Friday April 20th and Saturday April 21st. To purchase tickets, go to libertycommonmusic.com. Tickets are only available to purchase online. See you at the show.

News from the Cafeteria

The last couple months of the school year can be a hectic time for all families, faculty and staff. In order to reduce some of the chaos in the cafeteria we would like to remind students to know when they have ordered hot lunch and when they are having cold lunch. Parents may obtain this information on PowerSchool and students may check lunch calendars in their individual classrooms. If you have any questions, please contact the Front Office.

Clothes Closet Needs Donations

Let the spring cleaning begin. The clothes closet is in need of short sleeve polos in all sizes and dress code colors and size 6, 10, 12, 14, 16 shorts in all dress code colors. Please make sure all clothing meets dress code and is without stains or holes. Thank you!

Don't miss out on a great way to save all your school year memories in a 48 page full color, amazing book. This yearbook includes pictures of your friends, music programs, athletic events and school wide celebrations. Yearbooks are still on sale for \$18.00 until supplies last. Pick up an order form in the Front Office.

Headmaster Writing Continued from Front Page

geniusses will be raked from the rubbish annually..."

After six years of further schooling, half of the students would end their education, from whom future grammar school teachers could come. The other half would study "such sciences as they shall chuse (sic), at William and Mary College."

Jefferson was still advocating this plan years later, as he did in a letter to John Adams, October 28, 1813.

Participation would be voluntary. For his "Bill for the Establishment of Religious Freedom," in 1786, Jefferson had written, "To compel a man to furnish contributions of money for the propagation of opinions which he disbelieves and abhors, is sinful and tyrannical; even forcing him to support this or that teacher of his own religious persuasion, is depriving him of the comfortable liberty of giving his contributions to the particular pastor whose morals he would make his pattern."

Recognizing that there might be some few parents might neglect the education of their children he declared that "It is better to tolerate that rare instance of a parent's refusing to let his child be educated, than to shock the common feelings by a forcible transportation and education of the infant against the will of his father."

U.S. Supreme Court decisions regarding schooling and the First Amendment didn't really become an issue until the Everson decision in 1947 initiated a history of judicial controversies that continues today.

This was something Jefferson foresaw, and dreaded. He said "The great object of my fear is the Federal judiciary. That body, like gravity, ever acting, with noiseless foot, and unalarming advance, gaining ground step by step, and holding what it gains, is engulfing insidiously the special governments into the jaws of that which feeds them."

Clearly, Jefferson favored student grants, parental control of their child's education, and minimal governmental interference in the educational process.

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.

Needed: Dessert Serving Platters

Dear Parents,

Many thanks go out to those that supported us and brought in the much needed juice boxes. However, we need your help once more.

We are looking to borrow as many dessert serving plates and trays as possible for the night of April 20th and 21st. We are in need of tiered trays and platters to display the wonderful desserts we have those two nights. We would prefer non-plastic items. Please label your platters and trays so that we can get them promptly returned to the rightful owners.

Thanks again for all your support of our school and kiddos.

Dhipanee Mayes, Volunteer Coordinator for Wizard of Oz

2011-2012 Concert Season

APRIL

10- 3rd/4th Grade Concert, 6:30 p.m.
Performance Hall, LCS

20/21- 5th/6th Dessert Theatre, 6:00 p.m.
Performance Hall, LCS

Tickets: \$5/students, \$10/general admission. To purchase tickets, go to www.libertycommonmusic.com.



Stay To The End

**By: Bob Schaffer, LCS
Principal**

Here's an earnest plea from the committee of volunteers who are putting on this-Friday's Liberty Spring Gala: Please plan on staying until the end of the event.

That will be 11:00 p.m. The event starts at 6:00 p.m. At last year's gala, a goodly number of attendees slipped out before we finished. Accordingly, this year's agenda and format is very different.

The all-volunteer gala committee has been working very hard to put this year's event together, and it's really important to them that all attendees see what they have planned. In addition to the various fun stages of the evening's agenda, the team has produced a moving video about the school's history, and you'll not want to miss its debut.

Shortly after the video, there's an exciting "Teachers' Treasures Drawing" capping off the event. Everyone needs to be on hand in order for this event to turn out just right. So, please plan on staying to the end of the Gala.

Speaking of staying through to the end, we completed our last character-education assembly of the school year at the end of March. The final topic was temperance. Liberty mom **Melinda Minton** did an outstanding job as our final keynote speaker.

Over the course of the school year, the three Houses produced very nice assemblies covering each of the LCHS capstone virtues – Prudence, Temperance, Justice, Fortitude, Gratitude and Patriotism. They all did a spectacular job.

It has been truly impressive to see how seriously our students have taken on the responsibilities of studying and articulating the richness of our capstone virtues. The high-school students have risen to the occasion of helping our junior-high students know what it means to mature and become young adults.

It's an aspect of our school that is unique and significant in preparing our graduates for life in a challenging world. It's the kind of uniqueness we'll be discussing at the Spring Gala, along with ways to pitch in to help sustain a great school, its philosophy and its high regard for character development.

It might even turn out to be an exercise in fortitude. Because, we really do need everyone to stay until the event ends at 11:00 p.m.

See you at the Gala – all of it!



Grandparents Corner

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

So the edict came down from **Wendy Thomas** that we need to encourage everyone attending the Liberty Spring Gala to stay until the end of the event. The video we'll see (for the first time ever) about Liberty's founding contains interviews from most of the founding parents. The volunteers who are organizing the Gala had to do a lot of work to find, interview and film those who started this fabulous school over 16 years ago.

Wendy has done an incredible job of organizing this year's event. The planning committee has done a fantastic job of reaching out to grandparents and asking us to help, and for us to attend.

It will be fun learning more about the school's founders and to meet them as many will be attending the event. As for me, I can't wait to thank them for creating such a phenomenal place for our grandkids to go to school.

Liberty Bus Service Now Running

The Liberty Common School shuttle bus is currently transporting from the elementary campus to the high school campus and back again. The bus leaves from behind LCS at 3:10 and arrives at LCHS at 3:25. Upon arrival at the high school, the bus pulls in front of the school and unloads the student from LCS. The bus returns to LCS at 3:25 and unloads in front of LCS.

From the elementary to the high school the shuttle bus is reserved for students who have older siblings at the high school or whose parents work at the high school. Trips from the high school to the elementary are reserved for any Liberty Common High School student who have after school activities at the elementary school or whose parents work at the elementary school.

For any questions or concerns, please contact Headmaster Russ Spicer at rspicer@libertycommon.org.





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 (Circle one):

Mens/Womens: Small Medium Large XX-Large

Youth: Small Medium Large

Registration Fee: \$15.00

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 arising 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.