



Volume 15 Issue 36
May 14, 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

May 4-16 | Art Show at
Foothills Fashion Mall

May 15 | Join the Liberty
Grandparents Club for lunch-
11:30 a.m. at Ryan's Sports
Grill.

May 16 | Liberty Grandparents
Club Meeting, 9:00 a.m.

May 17 | Awards Ceremony
8:15-9:15: Kindergarteners
9:30-10:30: 1st and 2nd graders
12:30-1:30: 3rd -4th graders
1:45-2:45: 5th -6th graders

May 22 | Olympic Day- no hot
lunch will be served. Please
bring sack lunch.

May 24 and May 25 | Free
Dress Day

May 25 | Last day of school-
11:00 release

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
May 24, 2012
1725 Sharp Point Dr.
Faculty Room
7:00 p.m.

Headmaster Writing by Russ Spicer

Fantastic Fundraising Facts

As everyone knows, the past few years our economy has been in a downward spiral. The same held true for the funding of Liberty Common School. Over the last 3 years we have seen our PPR funding drop from \$6,716 per student to \$5,985 per student. That is a difference of \$731 per student. Liberty has a total enrollment of around 900 students this year so the math is easy to do - $731 \times 920 = \$672,520$. That is the amount we lost from our budget if we would have been financed at what the rate was in 2009/2010. In addition to that, we decided to add a high school. As a result we added about 300 students in the elementary, 28 new staff and purchased a second building.

Needless to say, fundraising became a much higher priority for Liberty Common School. We began formalizing the process with two major fundraising events a year - the annual giving campaign and the Spring Gala silent auction. This year I am proud to announce that we have raised a record amount of money through our fundraising efforts. The annual giving campaign was \$94,982 (includes \$12,670 restricted gifts to Core Knowledge Charter School Foundation). The Spring Gala Silent Auction made \$69,200. **Wow!** That is a grand total of \$164,182.

Because of the shortcoming of funding coming from the state, there were a number of school programs and operations that were put into jeopardy. Many schools across the state reduced their teaching staff or reduced the salaries of their teaching force during this time. I am happy to announce that Liberty did neither. We were able to freeze salaries and retain all of our teachers during this time. And because of the generous contribution of \$164,182 from our wonderful parents, grandparents and friends, we will be able to give a performance based bonus to our teachers this year.

Some schools eliminated many of their extracurricular activities as a cost cutting measure. At Liberty, we understand the importance of music, art, theatre, athletics, clubs, and organizations. We did not want to eliminate these and so we stayed committed to supporting them. And because of the generous contribution of \$164,182 from our wonderful parents, grandparents and friends, we were able to continue offering the quality extracurricular programs to our students.

A number of schools began limiting the hours that the heating and air conditioning could run. Some limited the number of copies the teachers could make while others deferred all maintenance and repair items. We did not want this to happen at Liberty. And because of the generous contribution of \$164,182 from our wonderful parents, grandparents and friends, our teachers and staff continue to have all the resources and tools needed to effectively and efficiently do their jobs. The students and staff are able to attend and work at clean and well maintained facilities.

The reality is that because of the generous support of our parents, grandparents and friends, Liberty Common School continues to thrive and be one of the best schools in the state of Colorado and the nation. If it weren't for the money generated through our fundraising efforts many of the things happening at the school would not be possible. Thank you very much for caring about our school and caring about the education of your child! I love the parents, grandparents and friends of Liberty Common School.

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.

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.

Free Dress Day Dates

May 24th and May 25th are free dress days. The students earned these days for the food drive held in the fall and for the fourth quarter. Please remember no spaghetti straps, tank tops, shorts or skirts shorter than 5 inches above the knee and jeans with holes or tears. Thank you.



Dress Code Reminder



As the temperatures continue to rise, and the school year winds down, 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.



Olympic Day Rescheduled for Tuesday, May 22nd

Olympic Day has been rescheduled for **Tuesday, May 22nd**. Please note that **all** hot lunches will be cancelled for **May 22nd**. Your child will need to bring a cold lunch on **Tuesday, May 22nd**. No microwaves will be available for use on this day. If you have a hot lunch ordered for May 22nd, you will receive a credit on your child's lunch account that will carry over to next year. Also, students may wear their Olympic Day clothing which may include class t-shirt, or other class attire, a Liberty Common t-shirt or athletic clothing. Students should not be in spaghetti straps, tank tops or sleeveless shirts. Please follow dress code guidelines on length of shorts and skirts.

Volunteer Opportunities

Copy Room Assistance: We would greatly appreciate a few volunteers to help us finish large projects by June 8th. If you have 10 minutes or more, please stop by. Contact Mrs. Selgren in the Front Office with any questions.

Become Involved in Grandparents Day:

How important are grandparents to a child? Liberty Common School knows that a grandparent's involvement in a child's life brings enrichment on multiple levels.

The importance of grandparents has led to an annual Liberty Common tradition that honors their contributions to families and our society...It's Grandparents Day, and it falls on Tuesday of the week of Thanksgiving each year.

All grandparents of Liberty Common students at both elementary and secondary schools are invited to a unique opportunity to learn more of their grandchildren's exceptional education and spend part of the day with their grandchildren's fellow students, friends, teachers, coaches, and school administration.

The Grandparents Day Committee organizes this fantastic event. We **MUST** have three to four committed and enthusiastic volunteers to help organize the 2012 Grandparents Day event on November 20, 2012. Meetings begin the first week of September and occur weekly for one hour until the event. Contact Erin Mihulka via email at coolfam@q.com if you are interested in contributing this coming fall.

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

Odyssey of the Mind

Odyssey of the Mind is beginning in the Fall, please begin to think of forming teams and consider coaching a team. We will hold our first meeting in September, and we are looking forward to a great year ahead. For more information, please contact Heather Fontenot, Odyssey Building Coordinator, at heather@shivayanaturals.com.

**ODYSSEY
OF THE MIND**



Register Now for the After– School Spanish Program

It is that time of year to begin thinking about registration for the After School Spanish Program for next year. The registration for these classes will be based on a first come first serve process. Once classes are full, there will be a waiting list. Classes are held twice a week from 3:00 to 4:00. The first week of classes will begin on August 20th.

The 2012-2013 After School Spanish model allows for more advancement of levels as the students grow and understand the language better. Students will stay at each level for 2 years. When placing students in the levels, we look at age and ability. Kindergarteners will no longer be able to participate in the Spanish program. Students currently enrolled in the program will receive recommendations from the teacher about which level they should attend. Each case will be individually evaluated so the student is at the level that best meets their needs.

The fee for next year will be \$250 per student per year (for two classes of an hour a week). This equates to \$25 per month. Families with more than one child will pay \$250 for the first enrolled and \$150 for any additional student. A check needs to accompany this registration to hold your child's spot for the class. Refunds for the class will only be administered within the month of August.

See page 6 for registration form.

Friedman-Day Luncheon– July 31st.

Mark your calendars now for lunchtime, Tuesday, July 31st. That's the day the Liberty Grandparents Club is hosting a luncheon to celebrate three student-winners of an economics essay contest, to commemorate the 100th birthday of Nobel economist **Dr. Milton Friedman**, and of course to enjoy good food and good fun. It will be a family affair. The best part is, the cost is FREE. Watch your inbox and next week's newsletter for more details.

Last Day of School-May 25th

The last day of school is May 25th and students will be dismissed at 11:00 a.m. We ask that children be picked up promptly at 11:00 a.m. Please note that no lunch will be served. Have a great summer.

End of the Year Medical Reminder

Dear Parents:

As we are coming to the end of the school year, we want to remind parents to pick up all medications from the health office. For the safety of your children, the following procedure will be in place.

A. No medications will be sent home with students. All medications must be picked up by parents by the last day of the school year (including emergency or "as needed" medications, such as Epi-pens, Tylenol, inhalers).

B. If you need to pick up your child's medication before the last day of school, the needed number of pills may be counted out and kept at school in the original container. You may take the remaining pills home in a plastic bag.

C. Any medications not picked up by the last day of school will be disposed of by the school nurse, according to state guidelines. **(We will no longer make reminder calls.)**

We hope everyone will understand this procedure is important for safeguarding your children. (Please pick up the medications between 7:40 a.m. - 3:40 p.m.)

Thank you for your cooperation!

Angie Selgren
Health Technician

Attention All 5th Grade Parents

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment requires **all students entering the 6th grade to have proof of receiving the Tdap booster vaccine, or a signed exemption.** This is based on the Center for Disease Control recommendations to prevent cases of Pertussis (Whooping Cough).

Please submit clinic documentation to the school health office to verify that your child has been immunized, or submit a signed exemption. The information will be included in your student's school immunization record.

Thank you,

Angie Selgren
Health Technician

Summer Girls' Basketball Competitive Team Now Forming

Girls entering 6-8th grade, interested in playing on a competitive team in June and July are invited to attend an informational meeting Thursday, May 17 at 3:30 p.m. The meeting will be held at LCS in Mr. Ronen's room. If you have any questions, please contact Lori Lunn at lunnsax@msn.com.

Tennis Anyone?



Grab your tennis racket, and join Liberty Common Co-ed Middle School Tennis Team this fall. The team is open to all incoming 7th and 8th graders. Interested? Contact Tricia Diehl at Tricia@diehlmanagement.com

Seeking High School Girl's Basketball Coach

Liberty Common High School is currently looking to hire a new High School Varsity Girls Basketball Coach. The description can be found here:

<http://www.libertycommon.org/highschool/staff/jobs/Women's%20Varsity%20Basketball%20coaching%20vacany%20-%20NEW.pdf>

Jr. High Girls Soccer Score Big

Congratulations to the Jr. High Girls Soccer team who captured the Northern Colorado Independent League Championship by beating Frontier 4 to 1. Our Lady Eagles went undefeated this season and according to their coach, Chuck Hubbeling, "the team really grew together and worked hard all season." Go Liberty!



Sports Camps Available for incoming 6th, 7th and 8th Graders See Registration forms on page 7

Boys Basketball Camp for 5th-8th Graders

A brochure for the Boys Basketball Youth Camp this summer can be found here: <http://www.libertycommon.org/highschool/athletics/basketball/2012%20High%20School%20Basketball%20Camp%20Brochure%20PDF.pdf>

2nd Annual Liberty2Liberty 5K Run/Walk May 12, 2012

Saturday morning brought perfect running weather, cool, clear and dry, for our seventy-seven runners and walkers. Congratulations to David Mullaney and Randie Bell 1st and 2nd place overall winners. Outside of the overall winners category congratulations go to Olivia Couch 1st place under 18, Bill Kranz, 1st place men's, Crissy Koprin 1st place women's. Many thanks to our volunteers and race sponsors: Butter Cream Cupcakery, Employment Solutuins, Performance Aircraft Fuel Systems Specialists, eAnalytics Laboratory, Rossiter with Mara and Peaceful Massage.





Hope That Sticks

By: Bob Schaffer, LCCHS Principal

A public-school superintendent in Muncie Indiana was recently quoted in *National Review* asking, “If we were doing our job, why would parents want to go to charter schools?” It’s an obvious question.

The article in which Superintendent Tim Heller is quoted is titled *In Nothing We Trust*. [CLICK HERE](#) to read it. It’s a sobering report on how heartland Americans are placing less trust in institutions that have traditionally contributed to the nation’s economic and cultural strength.

The article also references Gallup Poll data showing dramatic losses of public confidence in bedrock organizations such as the military, the police, the courts, the media, churches, banks, labor unions, and other institutions.

Amid the story’s melancholy, stands one shining beacon familiar to everyone reading this newsletter – charter schools.

Things that define our school and the Liberty community seem to be the very things that offer hope in places like Muncie, according to the article. Organizational transparency, sensible spending, partnerships between parents and administrators, high expectations, identifiable priorities and real accountability are some of the features mentioned.

Also mentioned is the positive impact school choice has on regular public schools. Upon the introduction of marketplace choices in education, most public schools rise to the occasion.

Indeed we’ve seen it right here in northern Colorado. Colorado’s charter-school law and Liberty Common School can confidently claim direct credit for the majority of positive local improvements that even non-charter-school students have come to enjoy since the law’s inception in 1995.

As Liberty’s high-school faculty, staff, students and parents bear down on the final ten days of a second successful school year, it’s good to keep a healthy frame of reference upon which to consider the core elements that have come to define our school, and signal steady accomplishment.

Though it chronicles other peoples’ disappointments, *In Nothing We Trust* is a compelling and important reminder of all that is virtuous about charter schools, about marketplace choices, and about Liberty.

Grandparents Corner

By: Ed Haynes, Chairman of the Liberty Grandparents Club

Join us for a fun lunch tomorrow. The Liberty Grandparents Club is gathering at Ryan’s Sports Grill beginning at 11:30 a.m. Location: 925 E. Harmony (between Kohl’s and Ace Hardware). Yes, it features sports on many TVs, but they’ll be turned down just for us! We’ll have brief updates on school activities, but mostly we’ll just socialize and brag about our Liberty grandchildren.

The Grandparents Club received word last week that we’ll receive a \$1,000 grant from The Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice for an event we’re planning for Tuesday, July 31st. That date marks the 100th birthday of the late **Milton Friedman**, Nobel economist and noted advocate for school choice. We’ll be holding a luncheon that day and awarding \$100 cash prizes to student/authors of the top three essays written about Milton Friedman’s contributions to the field of economics. Liberty’s economics instructor **Mr. Duane Staton** is organizing the essay contest. The Grandparents Club will select the top essays over the summer.

Grandparents are also enjoying participating on job-interview panels at the high school. Our members are part of the interview teams for prospective math, English and chemistry teachers. We still have more interviews to do before the administration decides on finalists. If you’d like to help out with this, and you’re a Liberty grandparent, please let us know right away.

Finally, our next Grandparents Committee meeting is **Wednesday, May 16th, 9:00 a.m.**, at the Elementary School in the teachers’ lounge. All grandparents are invited to attend and participate.

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



Office Use Only: Date Received: _____ Received by: _____ Amount Paid: _____ Check # _____

Registration Form for 2012-2013 After School Spanish

Dear Parents,

It is that time of year to begin thinking about registration for the After School Spanish Program for next year. The registration for these classes will be based on a first come first serve process. Once classes are full, there will be a waiting list. Classes are held twice a week from 3:00 to 4:00. The first week of classes will begin on August 20th.

Below is an outline of how the Spanish After School Program will change next year. This organization of classes will offer the most flexibility to place students and segregate the grades enough to make the classes as productive as possible. Please note that After School Spanish will no longer be offered to the Kindergarten students.

Next Year's Configuration 2012-2013

Book	Class Size	Grades	Class Days	Level	Status
<i>Comienzos</i>	20	1-2	Mon. & Wed.	1	Open
<i>Canciones</i>	20	3-4	Tue. & Thur.	2	Open
<i>Animales 1-8</i>	20	5-6	Mon. & Wed.	3	Open
<i>Animales 9-15 & Descubre 1 (selections)</i>	20	4-6	Tue. & Thur.	4	Open

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The fee for next year will be \$250 per student per year (for two classes of an hour a week). This equates to \$25 per month. Families with more than one child will pay \$250 for the first enrolled and \$150 for any additional student. A check needs to accompany this registration to hold your child's spot for the class. Refunds for the class will only be administered within the month of August.

For any additional information please contact Mr. Churchill cchurchill@libertycommon.org or the teachers Alba Williams awilliams@libertycommon.org and Paulina Deitrick pdeitrick@libertycommon.org. If you are interested in having your child attend one of these classes, please fill out this registration form and turn into the front office.

Student name(s): _____ Grade(s): _____

Parent/guardian name: _____

Parent/guardian email: _____

Parent/guardian phone number: _____



Liberty Sports Camp

6th, 7th, and 8th Grade



Sports Offered

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

Dates and Times

Date	Time	Sports Offered
July 30 th to August 3 rd	9:00 to 11:30	Boy's Soccer and Girl's Volleyball
July 30 th to August 3 rd	12:30 to 3:00	Boy's and Girl's Basketball
August 6 th to August 10 th	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 1st 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, August 6th through August 10th) | |

*** 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)