

### What is Happening In January

Jan. 19– Spelling Bee, after school in library

Jan. 21- BOD Meeting, 7 p.m.

Jan. 25– Liberty Common School- Public Information Night, 6:30 p.m.

Jan. 29– Liberty Science Fair  
3-4 p.m.

Feb. 4-BOD Meeting, 7 p.m.

Feb. 9th-2nd & 3rd grade Concert—6:30 p.m.

Feb. 15th. President's Day, **NO SCHOOL**

### Liberty Common School Board of Directors 2009-2010

Terri Fisher– 223-0989  
Kayleen Fraley-377-8850  
Craig Horton– 207-1454  
Dave Kleen- 377-9579  
Dan Provaznik– 223-0188  
Jeff Webb-545-9636  
Bill Werst– 631-8379

### Board of Directors Meeting: Jan. 21, 7 p.m.

### BOD AGENDA

Financial Review, Mid-year teaching staff review.

Be sure to check out our **Lost and Found** for your student's missing items.



### A Successful School

A few years ago I attended a leadership conference for charter schools hosted by Denise Mund of the Colorado Department of Education School of Choice Unit. The conference title was - "School Effectiveness: Increasing Student Achievement in Charter Schools." Several charter school leaders and representatives from the Colorado Department of Education were present. I came away with many good ideas and thoughts to ponder about how to make our highly successful school even better.

Peggy Littleton, who at that time was a member of the Colorado State Board of Education, led a session that discussed consistent traits of successful schools. Listed below are the 10 successful traits she discussed. I included comments as to how Liberty Common School is faring in each of these traits.

1. Focus on things we can do (teach) instead of things we can't change (community).
  - ❖ Liberty Common School focuses on providing the students with academically rich content taught by excellent teachers. Knowledge is the great equalizer. Our challenge is to provide every child with a great, quality education.
2. We must not leave anything about teaching and learning to chance.
  - ❖ Liberty's teachers all understand and adhere to the educational philosophy of our school. Clear expectations are set forth for all staff and administration. The saying in our school is that teaching is not a private practice. We all work together on the common plan that has been set forth.
3. We must provide teachers with a lot of effective professional staff development and mentoring.
  - ❖ Intensive professional development is provided to the teachers before the school year begins, throughout the school year and at the end of year before the teachers leave for the summer. The teachers attend numerous professional conferences throughout the year as well. All new teachers are assigned a mentor and all teachers are encouraged to work closely with their colleagues when planning their lessons.
4. We must put all kids in a demanding and sequential curriculum.
  - ❖ The Core Knowledge Curriculum is an academically challenging curriculum specifically sequenced to meet the needs of Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. The 9<sup>th</sup> grade was specifically designed to piggyback on the Core Knowledge curriculum and offers Pre-AP courses. Liberty's high school curriculum is designed to piggyback on the Core Knowledge curriculum and will offer many college preparatory and AP courses. Classic liberal courses and enriched math and science courses will be available.
5. We must be absolutely obsessive about instructional time.
  - ❖ This is the challenge put forth to our teachers regularly. We need to be teaching "bell to bell" as the saying goes. The Core Knowledge Curriculum has so much information, that it is a necessity to use all of the class time fully and effectively.
6. We must recognize that Principals are hugely important, but there must be other leaders.
  - ❖ We are fortunate to have very productive and intelligent parents who serve in the capacity of Board members, CVC's, committee chairs, and volunteers. Equally important is the fact that the teachers are not afraid to step up and do whatever it takes to make this school successful! And where would we be without our spectacular high school project manager, Bob Schaffer, magnificent Business Manager, Tim Ricketts, and outstanding Assistant Principal, Casey Churchill? Yes, our school has many talented, qualified leaders.

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## Math Counts Meets in Jan. and Feb.

Math Counts will be meeting every Thursday in January and February after school in Mr. Lovely's room.

## Upper School Running Club

Attention couch potatoes, gaming gurus, and anyone who is interested in shedding those unwanted pounds. There will be an after school running club for any upper school student interested in going on distance runs ranging from 2 to 4 miles. The club meets on Tuesdays after school beginning Jan. 12th. Please meet in the blue gym at 3:15. See Mr. Lovely with any questions. Parents and other teachers are welcome to attend.

## Liberty Common Girls Basketball

Come out and support the Lady Eagles as they take on their opponents. All games begin at **4:00 p.m.**

**Jan. 19** Liberty at St. John's

**Jan. 21** St. Mary's at Liberty

**Jan. 25** Liberty at Windsor

**Jan. 28** Frontier at Liberty

**Feb. 1** Liberty at HMS

**Feb. 4** KQA at Liberty

**Feb. 8** Union Colony at Liberty

**Feb. 11** Liberty at New Vision

**Feb. 16** Rez at Liberty

**Feb. 18** Ridgeview at Liberty

## News from the Lunchroom



In Monday Notes, (to be delivered on Tuesday, Jan. 19th) your student will be receiving lunch calendars for **March, April and May**. You may fill out and pay for all three months *or* do one month at a time. Please note that the date the calendars are due is written on the side of the menu. Please, please, make sure that calendars are turned in by the date written. The lunch program is seeking volunteers to help distribute lunches from 11:00-til 11:45. You only need to commit to volunteering one day a week. Please contact Mrs. Whitmore at **482-9800 ext. 164** if this is something you would like to do.

## Kindergarten Store Needs Your Help

Mrs. Shockley, one of our fine Kindergarten teachers, is seeking gently or barely used toy treasures to stock her Kindergarten store. Please bring in items to the Front Office and they will be delivered to her classroom. Thank you.

## High School Update from Bob Schaffer, Project Manager

### Our Newsworthy School

"I can't give you brains, but I can give you a diploma," said the Wizard of Oz to the scarecrow. The epigram is one of the best lines from L. Frank Baum's classic story. Happily, at Liberty we can do both!

Enjoying two straight weeks of positive media coverage, Liberty was featured in last week's Coloradoan newspaper. This time the daily ran a dazzling story about a Liberty science lesson involving a real human brain specimen.

Liberty parent, Dr. Timothy Allen, one of Colorado's best neurologists, brought in the specimen, explained every fold and interstice to students and answered their questions. The subsequent article included a riveting photo of Dr. Allen's skilled hands lifting the inanimate brain before a bank of both sedate and aghast third-graders.

Drawing a crowd. The timely spate of press coverage may have had something to do with the bigger-than-expected crowds attending both of Liberty's public-information nights last week. We had to wheel in a couple extra stacks of folding chairs to accommodate the throng attending Monday's upper-school info night.

A similarly healthy crowd gathered for last Thursday's high-school information night. It's clear, people want brains to come with their kids' diplomas and we're proud to deliver on both - literally and figuratively.

Show on the road. We pitched Liberty Common High School to eighth graders at Windsor Charter Academy last week. As Core-Knowledge scholars themselves, the students reacted warmly to the LCHS vision. If you know of other school groups, homeschoolers, clubs, etc., to which we should be making a similar presentation, please let us know. Time is of the essence.

Mi Casa es tu Casa. Watch for information about the "House System" at LCHS. Though unique in the U.S.A., the House System is a strategy to improve the quality of student life. The approach has existed in British, Australian and New Zealand schools for over a hundred years and in top-tier schools throughout the world.

Simply put, it's a vertical grouping of students within a school designed to supersede the traditional partition of freshman, sophomore, junior and senior. The key objective is to provide more sustained staff-to-student guidance and to create more student-leadership opportunities. It doesn't eliminate class status, but does abase the traditional age-defined divisions endemic in American high schools.

Student life at LCHS. The LCHS House System will have a major, positive and unique impact on student life. We could use a few parent volunteers to help implement the new LCHS House System starting immediately. If this is for you, please email: bob.schaffer@libertycommon.org

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7. Professionals do matter. Put in and keep good teachers.
  - ❖ Beyond a shadow of a doubt, this is one of the main reasons Liberty Common School is so great. We have incredible teachers. They work hard because they know they will be rewarded for their hard work and effort. Our standard is excellence. The teachers know this and strive for it.
8. We must be obsessive about student data.
  - ❖ Thanks to the Alpine Achievement Data Mining Service, the administration and teachers have really been looking hard at the CSAP and NWEA data. The NWEA test data (math, science, reading, grammar) provides us with instant feedback on the progress of the students so the teachers can make immediate interventions for the students when and where needed. We also test the students with a reading comprehension and reading fluency test each year. After these tests we determine if any of the students need to be placed on a literacy plan.
9. Our schools have to be nice places to work.
  - ❖ Like every workplace, there are occasional bumps and bruises, but I am most impressed by the collegiality of our staff. The atmosphere found within the teachers' lounge, classrooms, and hallways is very positive. Our staff respects each other and holds each other accountable for professionalism and academic excellence.
10. Make your school different. Raise the bar! Set high standards and expectations!
  - ❖ This is the challenge I put to the administration and staff on a consistent basis. It would be pretty easy to rest on our laurels as we have been doing things well for a number of years. The test now lies in not becoming complacent and setting even higher goals. We should not be satisfied with where we are at, but constantly strive to do even better.

Perfect? Not a chance. Are we on the right track? You bet. Liberty Common School is a successful school, but our goal is to be even better than we currently are! We are looking forward to doing the same in our new high school! I love Liberty Common School! I love Liberty Common High School!

### Calling all Chess Players

All experienced chess players are encouraged to help represent Liberty in the upcoming team tournament at Tavelli on Jan. 23rd. The more participants we have, the greater the chance that we can win the competition. Parents remember that chess has been shown to improve a child's abstract reasoning, planning and math skills, all in an environment of friendly competition. Below is a link to the official entry form which must be filled out and mailed to the Poudre School's address given on the form. Please let me know if your child/children are planning to attend the tournament. I will be there with my son, Henry. All students are always welcome to attend Chess Club on Friday afternoons from 3-4:30 p.m. Please contact me with any questions at 412-8322. Respectively, Ted Anderson.

<http://www.psd.k12.co.us/curriculuminstruction/programs/giftedtalented/chestournaments.aspx>



Mark your calendars for this year's winter carnival, February 26th from 6-8 p.m. We have new activities for the kids, young and not so young, as well as crafts, games and food. Watch Monday Notes for more information about this fun night and how volunteers can help.

**IT'S JUNGLE FEVER-CATCH IT!**

### High School Update from Bob Schaffer, Project Manager

**Vocabulary Extra Credit.** In homage to Mr. Lavin's vocabulary list, no *obiter dictum* would be complete without an obsequious retort of pathetic fallacy to its aim of ratiocination. Rather than condescend to the reading level of academic toads, today's high-school update comes *mutatis mutandis* assuring Lavin's earnest scholars avoid the *terra incognita* of the vernacular. All but one word on the list made its way into today's text.

Can you figure out which one is missing? If so, you'll get brains with that diploma...guaranteed!

**CARNIVAL TIME**

# Liberty Common Jr. High and High School Honor Roll

## First Semester -2009

### 7<sup>th</sup> Grade 4.0

Dillon Cummings  
Carina Easton  
Mary Falsetto  
Denna Fraley  
Jessica Granner  
Colleen Hurst  
Kayla Rhoads  
London Shafer  
Lauren Sluss  
Caroline Soper  
Laura Tsiouvaras  
Tarah Vijayarathy

### 7<sup>th</sup> Grade 3.50 to 3.99

Miranda Coby  
Shelby Deutsch  
Michael Evans  
Nico Forcatto  
Amy Gilbertson  
Nisha Gill  
Jacob Gillis  
Molly Gillis  
Merrell Horton  
Alexander Iverson  
Alyssa Kleen  
Alexis Macan  
Kellee Meiners  
Blakeslee Mills  
Margaret Scott  
Jake Sutherlin  
William Werst  
Jayson Wild  
Alaina Younger

### 9<sup>th</sup> Grade 4.0

Joshua Cochran  
Alexander Hennings  
Jordyn Siemens  
Christiana Spicer

### 9<sup>th</sup> Grade 3.75 to 3.99

Tanner Arnett  
Kati Werst

### 9<sup>th</sup> Grade 3.50 to 3.74

Kristina Cummings  
Kelly Nestman  
Jarred Petroff  
Hunter Smith  
Alauna Sutton

### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade 4.0

Elizabeth Carrington  
Alisha Eskew  
Anna Gilbertson  
Luke Hanson  
Emma Rieb  
Marisa Rudolph  
Olivia Sponsler  
Kevin Sun  
Jordan Wheeler

### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade 3.50 to 3.99

Kalee Blanchard  
Lisa Bobb  
Malorie Bond  
Catelyn Bottom  
Vic Chilson  
Anna Garcia  
Madison Horton  
Garrett Kerbs  
Micayla Kirkman  
Michael Knab  
Maria Lanciotti  
Jamie Lee  
Hailee Meiners  
David Mullaney  
Daniel Provaznik

Nathaniel Trout  
Nicholas Tsiouvaras  
Allen Zhou