

Volume 13 Issue 19
January 25, 2010

Learn Today, To Lead Tomorrow

Liberty Common School

Common Knowledge, Common Virtues, Common Sense
1725 Sharp Point Dr., Ft. Collins, CO 80525, (970) 482-9800

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

What is Happening In January

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

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

Feb. 4-BOD Expansion Mting, 7 p.m.

Feb. 9th-1st and 2nd Grade Concert—6:30 p.m.

Feb. 12th– Liberty Teacher Idol-2:30-3:00 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 Expansion Meeting:

Feb. 4 , 7 p.m.

Board of Directors Meeting:

Feb. 18, 7 p.m.

BOD AGENDA

Financial Review, Colorado Legislation Update from Bus. Mgr., Preliminary review of 2010-11, Course/Staffing changes (if any), Appoint BOD Election Committee

Understanding Liberty's "Common" Distinction By Bob Schaffer, Liberty Common High School Project Manager

Does the Constitution guarantee equality? Graduates of Liberty Common High School will know the answer. Regrettably, the question confounds too many Americans and is the object of debate on many college campuses today.

Copies of *Imprimis* are routinely seen on faculty and administration desks throughout Liberty. That should come as a surprise to no one.

The free publication of Hillsdale College posts significant scholarly speeches on matters of liberty, citizenship, economic freedom, national security, art, history, education and other contemporary issues. Hillsdale's treatment of these topics tends to buttress Liberty's Core-Knowledge Curriculum and the scholarly academic spirit defining our school culture.

The latest *Imprimis* issue recounts a speech delivered last October by Hillsdale President Larry Arnn. In it, Arnn summarizes Hillsdale's academic goals for its students – a handful of whom are Liberty graduates.

Hillsdale's educational objectives dovetail nicely with our intentions for Liberty Common High School. Both institutions emphasize a classical liberal arts curriculum.

This entails an appreciation for math, science and engineering within the context of the humanities. Such an emphasis on a greater significance and meaning leads scholars to understand *why* as a predicate for *how*.

Science, for example, becomes more extraordinary when the scientist fully appreciates his work's historical significance, its economic value, its relationship to art, beauty, truth and dignity – to humanity.

"Many think of liberal arts education as a broad education, but in fact it is a high education," said Arnn. "We understand things to be arranged in a hierarchy.

"Hillsdale College has plenty of science and math majors, and our students go on to the very best graduate and professional schools. But whatever their majors, they learn the distinction I just made about questions of greater and lesser significance, and they study how to think about the very greatest ones."

Like Hillsdale, Liberty Common High School draws inspiration from the American Revolution and the Declaration of Independence. Embracing classical knowledge as a foundation for equality brings justice to the Declaration's prime observation that "all men are created equal, that they endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights..."

Empowering individuals with the knowledge to sustain their equal footing through the high expectations of academic rigor is what is meant by a "common" school. It's why the word figures so prominently in the school's identity.

The Declaration of Independence accentuates equality in birth as a God-given, self-evident truth. However, equality in later life is not at all guaranteed – not by God, the Constitution, the Declaration, social order or any authority whatsoever.

Equality becomes a measure of relationships between efforts, virtues and knowledge. These are the raw elements of character, the basis upon which individuals are fairly and rightfully judged and upon which discrimination is legitimate.

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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. 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



2009/2010 Yearbooks are still available for \$25.00 until supplies last. Order forms are available in the Front Office.

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.

News from the Lunchroom



Last Tuesday, January 19th, your student received 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. It is very important that calendars are turned in by the date written. Thank you.

Kindergarten Store Opening Soon

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.

(Continued from Front Page) – Bob Schaffer's—Understanding Liberty's "Common" Distinction.

Without these attributes, firmed in the fullness of human dignity, true Liberty becomes exceedingly difficult.

Again, quoting the Declaration of Independence, President Arnn said, "We aim to recover the meaning of the 'Laws of Nature and of Nature's God' and to place that meaning firmly in the minds and hearts of ambitious young men and women who have the courage to do something with that knowledge."

In a similar way, "Liberty Common" is a perfect description of how the American experience informs our school's goal to produce graduates capable of self government and virtuous leadership by honoring the natural truths of both equality and Liberty.

Get your *Imprimis*. To see President Arnn's speech [click here](#).

Info night tonight at Liberty. Tonight at 6:30 p.m., in Liberty's Performance Hall is the last of our public-information nights. This one is general in scope and will cover broad aspects of Liberty Common School and Liberty Common High School. Anyone interested in attending Liberty, or just learning more about the school is encouraged to attend.

Smart Kid Question Of The Day. Congratulations to Jonathan Ruska for correctly answering the Smart Kid Question Of The Day which is posted on Mr. Schaffer's office window. Q: Who said "Something's rotten in the State of Denmark?" A: It was Horatio in Shakespeare's Hamlet Act 1 scene 4. Jonathan won a greenish chunk of quartz quarried in Ghana, West Africa.

Congratulations to Nico Forcatto and Jacob Gillis who teamed up and followed their gut instincts to answer last week's query. Q: Where are the Islets of Langerhans? A: The pancreas. The dynamic duo won a box of soaps that look like rocks and a NASA space pen that works upside down and in zero gravity (and it has the Congressional Seal stamped on it).

Take the world by the hand. The current Smart-Kid stumper is up. Q: Who is Xanthippe's spouse's best student's mother's second spouse? The first to answer wins a stunning, blue, glass, globe paperweight.

Link to Liberty. Click on the following links to Liberty: [LCHS's blog](#). LCHS History blog. LCHS's [Coloradoan blog](#). LCHS on Twitter. LCHS on Facebook. LCHS on LinkedIn. LCHS website. Stay informed. Weigh in with a comment. Pass Liberty links and info along to your own networks.

"Proclaim Liberty throughout the land, unto all of the inhabitants thereof!" – Inscription on the Liberty Bell.

Liberty Library Needs Shelving Volunteers

Miss Behr needs a parent volunteer in the library on Tuesday mornings from 8:00-10:00 a.m. to help shelve books. Younger siblings are welcome to accompany a parent during this time. If this is something that would work with your schedule, please contact Tina Spicer, at 223-7587 or spicertr@yahoo.com.

American Idol Has Nothing on Liberty

Mark your calendars and Blackberrys– for **February 12th** when many of the Liberty Common School staff and teachers take the stage for Liberty Idol. The fun will begin at **2:30 in the Performance Hall**. All talent scouts, parents and students are invited to attend. This fun event is brought to you by Liberty Common School Student Council. Liberty students earned this event by bringing in a record number of canned goods for the Larimer County Food Bank.

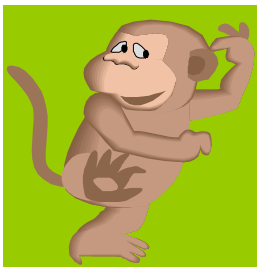
News from Liberty's BOD

- Board Elections will be held in April. If you are interested in being on the Board, please submit your application by February 24th. Applications are available via this [hyperlink here](#).
- On-line parent surveys will be out on Feb. 1st. Please check your email and complete. Your opinions matter!
- The FUND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE is seeking volunteers! If you have background and/or an interest in fund-raising, grant writing or event planning, our committee could use your help. We meet the first Tues. Of every month at the school at 6:30 p.m. Even if you are just curious about the needs of the school, we would love to have you join us. Please call Kayleen Fraley with any interest at (970)377-8850. Kayleen or Michelle Povaznik will get you connected in this dynamic opportunity!

Reminder from Mr. Lunn and Miss Voorhies

The Liberty Music Department is looking forward to another concert on February 9th. Please keep the following guidelines in mind as you enjoy the performance.

- Please turn off cell phones or other noise-making devices. Please use the back door of the performance hall/gym when leaving.
- Please keep children with you in the seating area, rather than up front on the floor or out in the hall unsupervised.
- If you have to leave, please do so between songs.
- The students work hard to create a good performance for the audience so if you can, please try to stay for the entire concert. We realize your time is valuable, so we will do all we can to keep things moving in our performances.



Jungle Jubilee

February 26, 6 pm – 8 pm

Come join the Liberty Common Family for a night of fun at our winter carnival – *Jungle Jubilee*! There will be a bouncy house and 50-foot obstacle course, games, crafts and food. Tickets are available for pre-purchasing, (see Monday folder for order form and prices,) or at the door during the carnival. Volunteers are needed before, during and after the Jubilee, as well as now. We're also asking for a loan of Guitar Hero system and Dance/Dance Revolution system, and donations of 2 lt soda pop, cupcakes, frosting, sprinkles and sugar cookies.

Please contact Lisa Murphy at 686-5975 or e-mail Earl-Lisa@q.com if you can volunteer your time or donate any of the requested items. Thank you so much for your support! Without our volunteers, our Jubilee wouldn't be possible.