

Volume 13 Issue 7
Oct. 5, 2009

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 October?

Oct. 9– Upper School Dance-
6:30-9:00 p.m.

Oct. 9– Hearing/Vision Screening
K-3, 5,7,9

Oct. 13– Upper School Concert-
6:30 p.m.

Oct. 15–BOD Meeting-7 p.m.

Oct. 16– No School-Staff/
Professional Development

Oct. 23- No School-Parent/
Teacher Conference

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:

Oct. 15, 2009– 7 p.m.

BOD AGENDA

Financial Review, Special Edu-
cation report, Approve
Accountability Report and SIP,
FY'09 Audit Report



Lunch Calendars
due on the 20th. of
every month. Look
for November
Calendar the end of
October.

Headmaster Writing by Russell Spicer, Liberty Common School Headmaster

A key foundational construct of the Core Knowledge curriculum is building a solid and broad base of content knowledge. By developing this solid base, students are able to relate and make connections to a variety of subject matter. Without a solid, contextual content base, it becomes increasingly more difficult to learn and process. An article written by Robert Pondiscio of the Core Knowledge Foundation does a tremendous job of reinforcing this principle. I hope you enjoy this article as much as I did.

The "Curse of Knowledge"

*Published by Robert Pondiscio on August 18, 2009 in Core Knowledge,
Curriculum, Literacy and Research and Reports.*

Try this experiment: Find a friend and tell him you're going to tap out the rhythm of a famous song that everyone knows. Without telling him what the song is, tap out the notes for "God Bless America," "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star," or "Happy Birthday to You." No singing or humming along; just taps. Before you begin make a prediction: Do you think he'll guess the song correctly based on your ability to tap it out? Nearly 20 years ago, a Stanford graduate student named Elizabeth Newton did her dissertation in psychology on this simple game and discovered something remarkable. Given a list of 25 well-known songs to tap out, the listeners' success rate was only 2.5 percent-one out of 40 attempts. However the tappers were so sure the listener would know the song, they predicted a 50% success rate. Why the disconnect? In the experiment, the tapper hears the song in his or her mind and thinks it's so obvious that the listener can't possibly fail to understand it. The tapper mentally sings the words and hears the melody to "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star" while the listener merely hears "tap tap tap tap tap tap." The tapper can't understand why the listener doesn't get it; the listener gets frustrated that the tapper thinks he should. Chip Heath and Dan Heath describe the phenomenon in their book *Made to Stick*: The problem is that tappers have been given knowledge (the song title) that makes it impossible for them to imagine what it's like to lack that knowledge. When they're tapping, they can't imagine what it's like for the listeners to hear isolated taps rather than a song. This is the Curse of Knowledge. Once we know something, we find it hard to imagine what it was like not to know it. Our knowledge has "cursed" us. And it becomes difficult for us to share our knowledge with others, because we can't readily re-create our listeners' state of mind. As a listener, the task is hard because even though you are getting valid information, it's incomplete. You're not getting the whole song. Newton's experiment offers as good a model as you're likely to find as to why background knowledge is the key to reading comprehension- for struggling readers, what's on the page is useful, but it's not enough. This is also one of the most difficult concepts to wrap your mind around. When you read, your background knowledge is the melody playing in your head. Like the tapper in the experiment, it's impossible to forget what you know and force your mind NOT to make the connections that create understanding. Proficient readers hear the music, the lyrics, even a full orchestra. Students, especially those from low-income families or households lacking in enrichment, hear only tap, tap, tap, tap, tap tap. The tapping experiment also shows why reading strategies don't help. Try to determine the author's (tapper's) purpose. Tap, tap, tap. Can you find the main idea (melody)? Tap, tap, tap. When meaning breaks down, reread (relisten) for clarity. No matter what "strategy" you employ, if you don't know the song, it still sounds like tap, tap, tap. Seen through this lens, reading strategies are worse than useless, only compounding the listener's frustration. You might as well instruct students "don't just listen to the tapping, try to hear the song in your head!" They can't. We all know background knowledge matters. As teachers, even devotees of strategy instruction tell students to "activate your prior knowledge" to aid in comprehension. However, we are assuming that there is background knowledge to activate. If we don't teach the explicit content needed to guarantee comprehension, we are hearing the melody in our heads and refusing to share it. Our students, on the other hand, hear only "tap tap tap tap tap tap."

Vision/Hearing Tests



According to district guidelines, we will be screening grades K-3, 5, 7 and 9 for hearing and vision. If you have a child in grades 4, 6 or 8 that you would like to be screened, please call us at ext. 113. Please remind your children to wear their glasses or contacts on **Friday, October 9th.**

Balloon Mania Dance

Upper School Dance– **Oct. 9th., 6:30-9:00**, casual dress. Please be kind and pick up your student at 9:00

Dough Raiser at CiCi's Pizza

Every 3rd Thursday of every month, all day, only at the Fort Collins Store, you can raise 10% for Liberty for every pizza you buy. See CiCi's for details.

Join 5th and 6th graders for Math Camp

If you love math, join us for the fun and challenge of Math Olympiads. The 5th and 6th grade math club meets on Wednesdays after school until 4:00 p.m. in Mrs. Crisafulli's classroom. For more information, contact Sondra Iverson at sondra@pleasingsoftware.com or just stop by on Wednesday.



Boy's Basketball Tryouts

Hey all you 7th and 8th grade hoopsters! The time is almost here for another intense season. Tryouts will be on **10/7 and 10/8 from 3:15-4:45**. Liberty paperwork and a doctor's physical need to be on file before on can even try out. Talk to Mr. Dybzinski if there are any additional questions. See you there!

Liberty Common Soccer

Finals game is today. Liberty vs. Frontier begins at 5:00 in Greeley.

Liberty Common Volleyball

Oct. 5th vs. Resurrection at Liberty-4:00 p.m.

A Few Notes from the Music Department

We in the Liberty Music Department are looking forward to kicking off another year of making great music with our students. We have some thoughts on how our audience can help our student musicians have the most success in their programs this year. Each performance is a result of 2 to 4 months of practice. As such, we want to do everything we can to ensure that the audience can hear the performance and our musicians on stage can focus on the difficult task of performing for you to the best of their abilities. To help make this happen, we would like to communicate few guidelines for our audience this year:

- 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.

Thanks for all you do for Liberty music!

We hope you will attend the following concert dates:

Oct. 13, 2009-Upper School Concert- 6:30 p.m.

Nov. 17, 2009-4th, 5th, 6th grade Concert-6:30 p.m.

Dec. 1, 2009- Upper School Concert-6:30 p.m.

Dec. 11, 2009-Liberty Common Musical, Seussical the Musical, 7:00 p.m.

Dec. 15, 2009- Kinder and 1st grade Concert-6:30 p.m.



Dave Lunn and Erin Voorhies

Fall Festival Appreciation

A huge thank you goes out to Fall Festival Coordinators, Lisa Murphy and Susan Groeger. These ladies put in tons of time and energy, recruiting volunteers, making decorations, organizing games and activities and overseeing the entire evening. Fall Festival was a great night thanks to all who participated and donated soda or candy or cookies. Happy Autumn.

Classroom Volunteer Coordinator Meeting

All Classroom Volunteer Coordinators (CVC) are invited to attend our first meeting on Friday, Oct. 9th at 2:00 p.m. in the Teacher's Lounge. If you are not able to attend please contact Kendra Simms at 691-2033. See you on Friday.



Student Directory is now available for \$1.00 in the Front Office.





Prevention of H1N1 & Seasonal Flu

We Need Your Help to Control the Spread of Seasonal and H1N1 (Swine) Flu

(Updated September 21, 2009)

Several Poudre School District Schools are reporting that an increasing number of students are absent with flu-like symptoms. Because flu can be easily spread from person to person, PSD is taking steps to reduce the spread of flu in schools. We want to keep schools open and functioning in a normal manner during flu season. **We need your help to do this.**

Prevention is the best strategy, and here's how you can help:

- **Teach children to wash their hands** often with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand rub. You can set a good example by doing this yourself.
- **Teach children to cover coughs/sneezes and not share personal items** like drinks, food or unwashed utensils, and to cover their coughs and sneezes with tissues. Students should cover their coughs or sneezes using the elbow, arm or sleeve instead of the hand when a tissue is unavailable.
- **Clean surfaces and objects that your child touches frequently** with appropriate cleaning agents.
- **Know the signs and symptoms of the flu.** Symptoms of the flu include fever (100 degrees Fahrenheit, 37.8 degrees Celsius or greater), cough, sore throat, a runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, and feeling very tired. Some people may also vomit or have diarrhea.
- **Do not send children to school if they are sick.** Any children who are sick while at school *will be sent home*.
- **Keep sick children at home** for at least 24 hours *after* they no longer have fever or do not have signs of fever, without using fever-reducing drugs. Keeping children with a fever at home will reduce the number of people infected.
- **Get your family vaccinated** for seasonal flu and H1N1 flu when vaccines are available. According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), a vaccine specific to H1N1 may not be available until mid-October. They are recommending the vaccine be made available to individuals in priority groups, including school-aged children.

Poudre School District is working closely with the Larimer County Department of Health and Environment and other city, county and state agencies to monitor flu conditions and make decisions about the best steps to take concerning schools..

Helpful websites and phone numbers:

Larimer County Dept. of Health and Environment: <http://www.co.larimer.co.us/health>

H1N1 Flu Information and Resources: <http://www.flu.gov/> or call 1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636)

Steps if Children are Sick or School is Dismissed: <http://www.flu.gov/plan/school/parentfactsheet.html>

Steps to Protect Your Family from Flu: <http://www.flu.gov/plan/school/parentfactsheet2.htm>

Parents—Please Read

New and Exciting Programs offer by the 1st Choice After School Kare (A.S.K.) program.

www.1stchoiceask.com

A.S.K. Members and Non-A.S.K. Members Welcome

Dear Parents,

The 1st Choice After School Kare (A.S.K.) program is excited to announce they will be offering a fun yet educational program for your child. **“Science Matters in Colorado”** is a company that offers weekly after school hands-on Science projects. Your child is going to love it. If you are a member of the A.S.K. program there will be no charge. Non-A.S.K. members may attend the one hour per week program for just \$12 per class per week. The programs will start 10 minutes after school release times in the A.S.K. room assigned to your school.

“Science Matters in CO” is Colorado’s longest running hands on science enrichment program. Starting its eleventh year, over 30,000 students have participated in their science clubs and summer camps. The science clubs include teacher demonstrations and hands on projects where the children learn by doing. Each week the children bring home a project they’ve worked on in class.

The program has been recognized in news segments on TV and in print heralding the program as “Fun with a Purpose”. With after-school programs in over 150 schools in the Front Range, our teachers and curriculum make the difference. Bring science alive for your child with programs from Science Matters in CO – “Where Science and Fun are One!”

2009 Scheduled days and Schools;

Monday: 10/12, 10/19, 10/26, 11/2, 11/9, 11/16, 11/23, 11/30, 12/7, 12/14 (10 sessions)

Liberty Common School, Truscott Elementary, Namaqua Elementary, Lincoln Elementary

Tuesday: 10/13, 10/20, 10/27, 11/3, 11/10, 11/17, 11/24, 12/1, 12/8, 12/15 (10 sessions except for Windsor Charter) Windsor Charter Academy (no class on 10/13), Knowledge Quest Academy, Mary Blair Elementary, Laurene Edmondson

Wed: 10/14, 10/21, 10/28, 11/4, 11/11, 11/18, 12/2, 12/9, 12/16 (9 sessions)

Van Buren Elementary, Winona Elementary, Garfield Elementary

Please visit— www.sciencematters.tv

(Non-ASK Members) **To enroll** in the Science Matters Program, please call 1-866-543-9386

Visa and MC accepted.

Owner: Collin Sasaki Collin@sciencematters.tv

For more information on enrolling in 1st Choice A.S.K. at your school, please visit
www.1stchoiceask.com.

Academic Tutoring by Certified Teachers from your school, most if not all homework completed and checked before you pick up child--Sporting activities—Fire Safety Seminars; local Fire Dept.-Part time and full time available—No busing of your child—On-site after school care at your school—CCAP Certified—All A.S.K. serviced schools and directors are state licensed.

1st Choice ASK if approved by but not part of the Thompson School District.

Call now, A.S.K. enrollment is limited—Bill Black 970-744-9284