

**Volume 13 Issue 9  
Oct. 19, 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. 20-**Alcohol and Drug  
Education Night-6:30-8:00

**Oct. 21-**Odyssey of the Mind  
Informational Meeting-3:30p.m.

**Oct. 23-** No School-Parent/  
Teacher Conference

**Nov. 2-**Public Information  
Night-6:30 p.m.

**Nov. 1-**Daylight Saving Time

**Nov. 6-**Upper School Math/  
Science Olympiad

### **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:**

**Expansion Session 11/5/09**  
7 p.m.

**General Session 11/19/09**  
7 p.m.

#### **BOD AGENDA**

Financial Review, Science  
Specialist Report, Adopt  
Amended 2009-10 Budget

**Math Counts meets next  
on Oct. 22nd from 3:15-  
4:15, in Mr. Lovely's  
classroom. All welcome!**

### **NWEA (Northwest Evaluation Association)**

Data driven instruction is alive and well at Liberty Common School. Liberty begins a third year of the NWEA testing program for the 2<sup>nd</sup> through 9<sup>th</sup> grade students. This is an informative series of tests that provide instant feedback in the areas of reading, language, math and science, supplying our teachers with information on student achievement. At the upcoming parent/teacher conferences you will be receiving student data from NWEA and CSAP tests in addition to information about class performance (homework, tests, projects, etc.).

The following information will provide you with a good understanding of what the NWEA test is and the benefits of taking it. Most of this information came from a fact sheet put out by the Northwest Evaluation Association.

The MAPS (Measure of Academic Progress) tests are electronically administered and scored achievement tests designed to measure growth for individual students, classrooms and schools. This test does more than provide scores that compare and rank students; they provide growth information about the student throughout the year.

The goal of this test is to challenge the student at his or her appropriate functional level of achievement. Each student takes a unique test that is dynamically developed for him or her as the test is administered. The program instantly analyzes the student's response to each test item and determines the appropriate difficulty level to present throughout the remainder of the test. It also remembers which items the student has seen in the previous sessions and doesn't display them again. Student test results can be viewed and printed at the end of each test.

The tests are not timed, but generally take between 45 – 60 minutes. The results of the test are reported on an achievement scale called the NWEA RIT scale. Growth in student achievement can be accurately tracked between terms and across years. In turn this information helps our teachers focus instruction for our students.

An added benefit is that Liberty Common School is able to compare our students to others in the nation taking the NWEA. The NWEA's norms include over 500,000 students, the largest norm base in the country. The norms are systematically collected enabling our school to accurately compare growth of students with others in their grade. Ongoing NWEA research has resulted in norms that show the expected growth of both low-performing students and high-performing students.

We are very excited about this testing program, as these assessments provide specific data to Liberty's educators, and help to insure that your children are "learning today to lead tomorrow."

Russ Spicer, Liberty Common Headmaster



**No School  
Oct. 23**  
**Parent/Teacher Conferences**  
Upper School Teachers will be available to meet  
with parents in the gym -9-noon/ 1 to 5:30 p.m.

### Did You Know?.....

That if your child is ill or absent due to a trip, you may email the teacher to request any missing work. If your child is an Upper School student simply use the email address upper@libertycommon.org and your request will go to all the Upper School teachers. Because teachers are teaching all day, homework will be available after 3:00 p.m. Please don't leave any requests for homework on the Attendance Line.

### Calling All Kinders for 2010-2011

We are beginning to fill our Kindergarten sibling spots for next year. If your child is planning on attending kindergarten in 2010-2011, please call the Front Office and put your child on the sibling list.

### Liberty Common Yearbooks On Sale

Liberty Common Yearbooks go on sale Oct. 19th and orders will be taken until November 16th. Once again this year's edition is hardback but this year all the photographs will be digital. Don't miss out on this great opportunity to capture all your Liberty memories for only \$18.00. Order forms go home with all students on Oct. 12th. Extra forms are in the Front Office.

### Alcohol, Drug and Tobacco Information Night

Liberty Common School will be hosting our annual Alcohol, Drug and Tobacco Information Night on October 20th from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Susan Vance will be here from the Fort Collins Police Department to discuss the harmful effects of drug use. This event is for 5th through 9th grade students and parents. Please join us for this educational evening. We hope to see you there.

### Seusical the Musical Needs Parent Volunteers

Ms. Voorhies is seeking parent volunteers to help with the musical production. Help is needed in the following areas:

- Props/Sets: 2-3 parents to assist in building sets, locating props/materials.
- Costumes: 1-2 parents to chair this committee. 2-3 parents to assist in making/locating/picking up/returning costumes.
- Video: I would love to have the show video taped and available for students to purchase for a minimal cost.
- Clean Up Crew: 1-2 parents needed to chair this committee
- 4-5 parents to assist in tear down/clean up after the production.
- Make-up/Hair: 2-3 parents to help with hair and make-up prior to the show on Friday and Saturday.
- Backstage Supervision: 4-8 parents to help supervise performers backstage. Would only need to sign up for either Friday or Saturday so you could see the show the other night.

Please contact Ms. Voorhies if you would like to help or if you have any questions: erin.voorhies@libertycommon.org or (970)482-

### High School Update from Bob Schaffer

What's in a name? When it comes to a high school, the name can and should say a lot.

Needless to say, we're taking the naming of Liberty's new high school very seriously. Last week, I conducted a second focus-group session with student leaders.

Our goal is to develop a Liberty brand that can inform various high-school symbols such as a motto, a crest, a mascot, school songs, a logo and, most of all, the school's name.

Our upper-grade students have taken on the attitudes of young scholars as they, without prompting, offer up lofty words to describe the virtues that should mark a Liberty high-school graduate.

Well educated, moral, prepared and well rounded are just some themes. Today, all 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> graders have received a questionnaire asking their opinions about the school's brand. It's due tomorrow.

We'll follow that up next Tuesday evening with a "Pizza & Pop Liberty Workshop" held at the school starting at 6:30pm. Dinner will be provided and students will lead the way toward "branding" their new high school.

Also, watch for details about high-school information nights planned for the coming months. In the meantime – Go Bullfrogs! I'm kidding. Sort of.

### Honor Our Service Men and Women

Every November, for Veterans Day, Jill Ronen, likes to honor our men and women who are currently serving our country or are veterans. To make her bulletin board a great display of respect and appreciation, she is requesting pictures of our soldiers. Please include the service man or woman's name, and where they are serving or served. The pictures will be returned to you the first week in December. Please submit by Nov. 6th. Thank you

**Please check PowerSchool for lunch balances. If possible, please pay any outstanding balances when you turn in the November Calendar no later than Oct. 20th. Thank you.**