

**What is Happening  
In Oct. and November**

**Oct. 27**– Pizza and Pop Liberty Workshop-6:30-8:00 p.m.

**Nov. 1**-Daylight Saving Time

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

**Nov. 5**-BOD Expansion Session

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

**Nov. 17**- 5th and 6th Concert, 6:30 p.m.

**Nov. 19**– BOD Mtg.

**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 Academic Support Team Coordinator Report

**School Pictures Retake  
November 10th  
10:45-11:30**

**Grammar Launch**

If it appeared to you that the fourth through ninth grade students were receiving a rather intensive study in grammar at the beginning of this year, you are correct in your observation. As part of their English classes, the teachers implement a "grammar launch" to begin the year. A "grammar launch" is an extensive review and thorough explanation of the components of grammar.

Michael Clay Thompson, an expert in grammar instruction, describes grammar as "a way of thinking about language." His contention is that grammar is the foundation for all other language skills and without this knowledge it is impossible to be a good speaker and writer. The goals of Mr. Thompson's program, which we are implementing this year, are to:

- Apply grammar early and often, thus the term "grammar launch." Typical grammar instruction ends up being spread out throughout the year. If you haven't covered something yet, it is impossible to apply it to your writing and speaking. Mr. Thompson's law states, "You cannot apply anything in October that you will not teach until April." A "grammar launch" will front-load the grammar instruction to be used continually throughout the year and build upon the knowledge one already has about grammar. Every grade level will be doing this every year. The teachers will do a one-month intensive effort and then an eight-month application. This technique resembles what is currently done in Core Knowledge and it follows our Thinking Framework process of knowledge, patterns, modeling, and creativity/problem solving.
- To save time. In utilizing this method, the process is much more efficient. You end up using less classroom time on grammar instruction.
- Grammar instruction will improve writing abilities.
- Accurate punctuation will be possible, as students will not be guessing what punctuation mark to use.
- Grammar knowledge will aid in the interpretation of literature.
- Our students will realize that grammar is not extremely difficult. They will develop an appreciation and excitement about grammar and its proper use.

Now that the "grammar launch" has taken place, the students will perform a four-part analysis of content-based sentences on a consistent basis. This analysis will look at four things in every sentence: parts of speech, parts of sentence, clauses and phrases.

Within each of these parts, more detail is given as to how to apply and understand grammar rules and applications. Please find listed below an example of a simple four-part analysis and a more advanced four-part analysis.

|                          | <b>Simple</b>                    |     |                       |      |        |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|-----|-----------------------|------|--------|
|                          | The                              | sun | did                   | not  | shine. |
| <b>Parts of Speech</b>   | adj.                             | n.  | v.                    | adv. | v.     |
| <b>Parts of Sentence</b> | ---- subject-----                |     | ----- predicate ----- |      |        |
| <b>Phrases</b>           | none                             |     |                       |      |        |
| <b>Clauses</b>           | independent, simple, declarative |     |                       |      |        |

## Liberty Common Yearbooks On Sale til Nov. 6

Liberty Common Yearbooks are on sale until November 6th for \$18.00 This year's addition is hardback and full color digital. Don't miss out on this great opportunity to capture all your Liberty memories. Extra forms are in the Front Office.

## Honor Our Service Men and Women

Every November for Veterans Day, we honor our men and women who are currently serving our country or are veterans, by a bulletin board display. Please help make the bulletin board a great place of respect and appreciation, by bringing in 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.**

## "Oh the Things You Can Think"

WE CAN SEE THAT YOU'VE GOT THE MIND OF A SAGE  
WHY, ONE THINK, AND YOU'LL HELP US GET SEUSSICAL ONTO THE STAGE!

THE KIDS ARE ALL HERE, THERE IS SO MUCH TO DO!  
WE DO SO NEED YOUR HELP, SUCH A THINKER LIKE YOU!  
SEUSSICAL JR. IS FAST APPROACHING. "IT'S POSSIBLE" TO HAVE  
A GREAT SHOW...BUT ONLY WITH PARENT VOLUNTEERS!

Ms. Voorhies need help in the following areas:

- Tear-Down: 4-5 parents to help take down the set, props, etc. after the shows.
- Make-Up/Hair: 2-4 parents to help with hair and make-up prior to the shows.
- Backstage Supervision: 2 parents/night to supervise

Contact Ms. Voorhies at [erin.voorhies@libertycommon.org](mailto:erin.voorhies@libertycommon.org)

## Notes from the P.E. Department

Congratulations to Connor Gamlin, Taylor Guzzardo, Zach Hooker and Alisha Eskew. Each won his or her age division during last weekends Northern Colorado Regional Punt, Pass and Kick competition.

Reminder that indoor soccer intramural sign-ups for 3rd-6th graders are due Wednesday, Oct. 28. Extra forms are in the Front Office.

## Liberty Boys Basketball Schedule

|                                  |                         |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Monday, Oct. 19 <sup>th</sup>    | Liberty at St. Joe's    |
| Thursday, Oct. 22 <sup>nd</sup>  | Liberty at St. John's   |
| Monday, Oct. 26 <sup>th</sup>    | St. Mary's at Liberty   |
| Thursday, Oct. 29 <sup>th</sup>  | Liberty at Windsor      |
| Monday, Nov. 2 <sup>nd</sup>     | Frontier at Liberty     |
| Thursday, Nov. 5 <sup>th</sup>   | Liberty at HMS          |
| Monday, Nov. 9 <sup>th</sup>     | KQA at Liberty          |
| Wednesday, Nov. 11 <sup>th</sup> | Union Colony at Liberty |
| Thursday, Nov. 12 <sup>th</sup>  | Titans at Liberty       |
| Monday, Nov. 16 <sup>th</sup>    | Liberty at New Vision   |
| Thursday, Nov. 19 <sup>th</sup>  | Rez at Liberty          |
| Monday Nov. 23 <sup>rd</sup>     | Ridgeview at Liberty    |

*All games begin at 4:00 p.m.*

## High School Update from Bob Schaffer, Project Manager

"We've got a lot of songs. We're not going to talk too much."

That's what country-music legend George Strait said at the start of a recent concert. He then launched into a musical set lasting nearly two hours, belting out hit after hit.

As promised, Strait didn't talk much. He just performed. The crowd loved it.

If launching a high school were a country tune, it might be George Strait's hit title Write This Down. In other words, opinions and ideas about the high school are really flowing at Liberty. I'm writing them down.

Dialogue about the high school is very healthy. The Liberty crowd seems to love it – and, yes, we're moving forward all the while.

For example, last Thursday, Mr. Spicer and I met with all the ninth graders to discuss plans for acknowledging what used to be Liberty's graduation. For them, the goalpost has moved. Adjustments have to be made. Change is hard.

Adding the high school has moved Liberty's graduation to the completion of twelfth grade. One student summarized it right, "We're stuck."

I'm confident the healthy dialogue will result in a meaningful year-ending commemoration albeit different than a graduation. The class gave constructive suggestions on how to find a happy medium and I'm certain we'll all be pleased with the outcome.

Tomorrow, Tuesday the 27<sup>th</sup>, we're holding a **free** upper-grade pizza night to talk further about the high school, what it should stand for, what it should accomplish and what we should call it. Please encourage your 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> graders to attend. This will be the start of new high-school traditions.

So, **write this down: Free** pizza and drinks. Tomorrow night. 6:30-8:00pm.

We've got a lot to decide. I'm not going to say too much. When I listen, students talk.

## Continued from Page 1

| <u>Advanced</u>          |       |         |           |               |                      |       |            |   |
|--------------------------|-------|---------|-----------|---------------|----------------------|-------|------------|---|
| <b>Parts of Speech</b>   | Did   | Giotto  | rescue    | Aria          | from                 | the   | mellifuous | Sirens?   |
|                          | v.    | n.      | v.        | n.            | prep.                | adj.  | adj.       | n.  |
| <b>Parts of Sentence</b> | pred. | Subject | predicate | direct object |                      |       |            |   |
| <b>Phrases</b>           |       |         |           | -----         | prepositional phrase | ----- |            |   |
| <b>Clauses</b>           |       |         |           |               |                      |       |            | one independent clause, simple interrogative sentence |

On a daily basis students will be analyzing sentences and thus applying grammar knowledge and skills. In the younger grades, K-3<sup>rd</sup>, we will continue to teach Shurley Grammar so that the students have a strong knowledge base of the vocabulary and components of grammar. 3<sup>rd</sup> grade begins to transition from Shurley Grammar into the Thompson Grammar methodology as the year progresses. The 4<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> grade teacher will build upon that knowledge with an even more detailed look at grammar and its rules. The patterns will become evident through the repetition involved with the four-part analysis. The students ideally will then begin to model the good grammar in their own writing and be able to assess whether or not their sentences are grammatically correct.

We are very proud that Liberty Common School teachers place an emphasis on grammar knowledge, which lends itself to strong writing skills as well. We encourage you to ask your children about how their grammar education is going so far this year. All systems go... Liberty Common School just completed another successful "grammar launch!"

*Russ Spicer, Headmaster*

## Odyssey of the Mind, starting again soon at Liberty Common School

Liberty Common Students:

Are you Creative? Do you like to Solve Problems? Enjoy Performing?

If so, check out ODYSSEY OF THE MIND

The Odyssey of the Mind program was founded on the belief that the mind, like the body, can be trained through practice and exercise to reach its fullest potential. Through this school-sponsored extracurricular program, students divide into teams of 5 to 7 members and learn creative techniques and team skills to solve given problems.

In the annual District wide competition, held Saturday, March 27th, 2010 at Fossil Ridge High School, teams will participate in fun-filled mental gymnastics and present final solutions to one of six problems developed by the National Odyssey of the Mind Organization.

### IMPORTANT ODYSSEY OF THE MIND DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR:

Registration Deadline:

When: Wednesday, November 4

- Every effort will be made to honor your first problem choice.
- If requested, I will do my best to put you together with your friends!
- Teams will be formed on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Remember, all costs are paid by Liberty!

Kick-Off Meeting:

When/Where: Wednesday, November 11 at 3:30 p.m.

Who: All Registered OMers Must Attend this Meeting with A Parent/Guardian!

This will be when lots of things will happen:

- You meet the rest of your team
- You will finalize coaches, judges and volunteers (Each team must identify 2 coaches, 2 judges and 2 volunteers.)
- You will choose a meeting day, time and location, and also schedule your first meeting. (Please bring your calendars.)

**Odyssey of the Mind  
Long-Term Problem Synopses**

**Problem 1: Nature Trail'R Sponsored by NASA Divisions I, II, III, & IV Cost limit: \$145.**

This problem requires teams to design, build and drive a human-powered vehicle and camper that will go on a camping trip. When the vehicle arrives at the Campground, the camper will be disconnected and the vehicle will travel on a team-created Nature Trail. On the Nature Trail, the vehicle will overcome an obstacle, clean up the environment, encounter wildlife, and undergo a repair. The performance will include a character that is in or near the camper that explains the experience as part of its role.

**Problem 2: Return to The Gift of Flight Divisions I, II & III Cost limit: \$145.**

Teams will make and operate a series of aircraft that will complete a variety of flight plans. The flight plans include flying straight, making a target spin, traveling slowly, dropping something into a target, touching down and taking off, and a mass launch of multiple aircraft. The aircraft in the solution will be made of a variety of materials and will have a variety of power sources. The testing of the aircraft will be presented in a team-created performance that will include a character that serves as a creative "air traffic controller."

**Problem 3: Classics . . . Discovered Treasures Divisions I, II, III & IV Cost limit: \$125.**

Teams will create and present an original performance that includes the portrayal of the discovery of two archaeological treasures. One portrayal will be a team-created version of the discovery of an actual historical treasure. The other portrayal will be the team's depiction of a modern sculpture or structure that exists today but is discovered in the future. The performance will include an artistic representation of the two discovered treasures and characters that are part of the discovery teams.

**Problem 4: Column Structure Divisions I, II, III & IV Cost limit: \$145.**

The problem is to design and build balsa wood columns that will function together to balance and support as much weight as possible. The columns must not be connected to each other in any way. The team will test its Column Structure by placing weights onto it. The team will add weight until its Column Structure breaks or time ends. Bonus score will be awarded for the number of columns used. The team will incorporate the testing of its columns in an original team-created performance.

**Problem 5: Food Court Divisions I, II, III & IV Cost limit: \$125.**

The problem is to create and present a humorous performance where a food item is accused of being unhealthy and must defend itself among its food peers. All characters are food items and will include "the accused," "the accuser," a jury that is not portrayed by team members, and additional team-created characters. The jury will reveal its decision to the audience.

**Primary: Surprise Party Grades K-2 Cost limit: \$125.**

The team is to create and present a humorous performance that includes a Surprise Party for a team-created character. The theme of the party is a surprise because it is being given for something that is not normally celebrated. Partygoers will give three gifts that help symbolize the theme of the party. The performance will also include an original party "noisemaker" that makes an unusual sound instead of a loud sound.

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**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Grade:** \_\_\_\_ **Teacher:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parents' Names:** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-Mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Problem Choices:**

**1st:** \_\_\_\_\_ **2nd:** \_\_\_\_\_ **3rd:** \_\_\_\_\_

If possible, I would like to be on a team with my friend \_\_\_\_\_ phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent involvement required Please choose one: \_\_\_\_ Co-Coach \_\_\_\_ Judge \_\_\_\_ Tournament Volunteer

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (student's name), understand that participation in Odyssey of the Mind is a team effort. I am responsible for participating in team meetings, activities and the district-wide O.M. Tournament on Saturday, March 27th, 2010. If I am sick, I will notify my coaches prior to the meeting and will make every effort to make up what I missed on my own so I am prepared when my team meets again.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration Deadline: Wednesday, November 4**