

Volume 13 Issue 14  
Nov. 23, 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

Nov. 25-27– Thanksgiving  
Break– No School

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

Dec. 11-Dec. 12– Seussical Jr.  
The Musical, 7:00 p.m.

Dec. 14– High School Info.  
Night– 6:30 p.m.

Dec. 15– Kindergarten Concert–  
6:30 p.m.

Dec. 17-BOD Meeting-7 p.m.

Dec. 18– 2nd Quarter Ends

Dec. 21-Jan. 1– Christmas  
Break, 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:**  
All Meetings begin at 7 p.m.  
Dec. 3– Expansion Mtg.  
Dec. 17– General Session

## BOD AGENDA

Financial Review, History/  
Economics Report, Academic  
Support Team Report

**January lunch calendars  
are due Dec. 1st. Please  
check PowerSchool for  
balances.**

## THANKFUL FOR LIBERTY!

By Russ Spicer

I am amazed at what goes on in our wonderful school. Everyday I see incredible learning taking place at all levels K-9 throughout the school. Liberty Common School truly is a school I am proud to work for and have my children attend. But just what is it that makes Liberty so awesome? What separates us from every other school? William Bennett in his book “The Educated Child” lists ten signs of a good school. As I went through the list and thought about what we have and what we do at Liberty, I better understood what makes Liberty so great. Below are the ten signs of a good school that Bennett listed. See if you agree with me that this list affirms why we have such a fine educational environment here at Liberty Common School.

1. A Safe and Orderly Atmosphere. Discipline and academic success go hand in hand. \*(Dress Code and firm, yet fair, discipline. Our classrooms provide a positive educational environment.)
2. A Clear Academic Mission. Good schools spell out the knowledge and skills that children must acquire. \* (Core Knowledge, skill development, classical education, academic rigor... need I say more?)
3. Attention to Character. Good schools treat children as moral beings. They teach about right and wrong. Teachers help train children in habits that lead to better lives. \* (You have to love our Character Ed Program and our Foundation Stones)
4. Fine Teachers. Teachers are the heart of any educational enterprise. Good schools are full of adults of sound character who like children, know the material, and effectively impart knowledge and skills. Good schools reward greatness in teaching a refuse to tolerate mediocrity. \*(I challenge you to find a harder working, always dedicated, always professional, faculty and staff!)
5. Strong Leadership. It is rare to find a good school without strong leadership. The vision and academics are placed first. \*(Our BOD and Administrative team hold true to the educational philosophy and expectations set forth by our founding parents!)
6. High Expectations. Attitudes toward learning often become self-fulfilling prophecies. Schools that maintain high standards get greater academic achievement from children. \*(EXCELLENCE is our standard in every area!)
7. Homework. Achievement rises when teachers give homework and children conscientiously do it. \*(Just ask your kids if they have homework ☺)
8. Evaluation and Feedback. Good schools hold all their kids accountable for meeting standards. They monitor how children are performing. They provide feedback to teachers, and pupils. \*(CSAP analysis, NWEA Analysis, ability to check student progress online, Skill Standards for passing grades, below a C- at Liberty is not a passing grade)
9. Parent Involvement. Good schools are surrounded by moms and dads who monitor and assist with academics, stay in touch with teachers and raise children who are well behaved and ready to learn. \*(Our parent involvement is spectacular - THANK YOU PARENTS!)
10. A Sense of Community. A good school is a welcoming place where youngsters know that adults care deeply about them. All its participants – grownups and children alike – share enthusiasm, pride and a sense of purpose. \*(I love Liberty Common School!)

## Liberty Boys Basketball Schedule

Monday Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup> Ridgeview at Liberty

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

Tournament Schedule:

1st Round is on November 30th

Quarter Final is on Dec. 3rd-High Seed Hosts

Semi Finals is on Dec. 7th- Location TBD

Finals is on Dec. 10th -Location TBD

## Lady Liberty Basketball Tryouts Coming

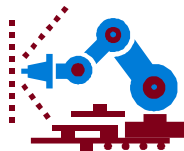
Attention 7th and 8th grade girls who love basketball: Tryouts are December 16th and December 17th from 3:15-4:30 p.m. In order to tryout you must have a current physical and a complete sports packet. Forms may be picked-up in the Front Office. Any questions can be directed to Mr. Ronen or Mr. Churchill.

## Props Needed for Seussical Jr.

Time to clean out the basement, storage unit, closets and crawl spaces and help make the job of the Prop Crew of Seussical Jr. easier. The following are items needed for this fun production. Please mark your items with your name, if you would like them returned and bring them to the Front Office.

- Director chairs (2)
- Yellow umbrellas (5-6)
- Mini piano
- Big butterfly nets (2)
- Coat with frilly sleeves (Latin style with multi-colors)

## Liberty Lego Robotic Teams Gets Results



On Saturday November 14, Liberty Common School had three teams compete at the Poudre First Lego League Tournament. The tournament for 4th-9th graders involved designing and programming Lego NXT robots to perform tasks as part of this year's theme- "Smart Moves"-transportation issues within our community.

It was a few hectic weeks prior to the tournament getting projects completed, tweaking the robot designs and overcoming the unexpected random behavior of the robot.

This year's teams, LCS Team 3, Roboteers and Six Kids and a Bot did well again this year placing 21st, 27th and 33rd in the robot competition. All teams had a great time competing and watching the other teams in the tournament.

Thank you to Mr. Kranz, Mr. Ludwig, Mr. Levi Smith, Mr. Meyers, Mrs. Neighbors and Mr. Maroney for all their volunteer coaching hours. Liberty Common School appreciates you!

## High School Update from Bob Schaffer, Project Manager

Everyone's mailbox is peppered with fundraising solicitations this time of year. If you're like most people, you tend to pull out the meritorious ones and stack them near your pile of bills for consideration at month's end.

Ideally, Liberty's recent fundraising solicitation is among your most meritorious considerations. We're grateful to the Liberty families who have already responded and who have sent contributions to the school. The need is growing and we're counting on everyone else to follow their example.

Just last week, the Colorado Office of State Planning and Budgeting announced its proposal to reduce state funding for public education by 6.12%. This is a bigger reduction than was first disclosed just a week prior. For Liberty, we're used to belt tightening and pinching pennies. As a charter school, we've always had to be more efficient. Frankly, we have a better school because of it.

As we move forward with our expansion plans, generous contributions from our parent community will make the key difference in decisions we're making about adding new tracks and planning Liberty Common High School.

Donating now is like buying good seed corn. The payoff is a bumper crop next fall.

Liberty is a qualified charity so any donation is fully tax deductible. Donating now will reduce your federal and state tax liability for 2009 – and, trust us, there isn't a more meritorious cause in that pile of bills awaiting your month-end check-writing duties.

In other news, we're getting closer to finalizing the high-school dress code and deciding on a second building. We still need volunteers on our new Marketing/PR Committee, the High-School Laptop Committee and the Fundraising/Finance Committee.

Happy Thanksgiving! Don't forget the seed corn.

