

Volume 13 Issue 16
Dec. 7, 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

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. 17– General Session

BOD AGENDA

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

**Please check your
Powerschool account for
your child's hot lunch
choices.**

What is a school? By Russ Spicer, Headmaster

I recently read a booklet entitled “What is a school” by Jacques Barzun. The author is a teacher and has published numerous articles and books on teaching. Dr. Barzun has many opinions on the state of education and what can be done to correct the current problems in public education. Below you will find listed some interesting quotes from his booklet followed by some commentary as to how the quote relates to Liberty Common School.

“A teacher, then, is a person who, by squaring his or her mind with that of the class, collectively or singly, removes ignorance on a subject fully mastered. This definition tells us not only what teaching is like, but what teacher training calls for. The unhappy truth is that there are few born teachers, fewer perhaps than born poets.”

Our teachers work hard at honing both their knowledge base and their information delivery. They are diligent in educating our students and thus removing ignorance on a variety of subject matters.

“Learning is an invisible operation, so it cannot be shown by example; but obviously a learner is one who makes a mental effort under guidance and correction. Knowledge cannot be poured into a child like liquid into a bottle. The pupil has a responsibility: if pupil is to turn into a student, he must make a mental effort and follow instructions. Learning is done in three distinct ways: listening to the teacher explain, drilling to memorize rudiments, and taking part in discussion.”

Our school espouses this philosophy and refers to it as “agency education” - the understanding that the parent and child must buy into and support the educational process. The students are also expected to be active participants in their education.

“Memorizing has a bad name, but it is essential.” The multiplication table, the verb forms of a foreign language, and all techniques such as using logarithms, cannot be mastered in any other way. Drill also teaches the lesson that in life one must go through drudgery in order to achieve something one wants to know or do.”

This is one of the early stages of our “Thinking Framework” - the information gathering stage. It is imperative to have certain facts committed to memory in order to progress to higher stages of thinking and processing. Liberty Common School realizes this and does require memorization of essential information and facts.

“One more type of instruction should be expected of every teacher in every course: correcting mistakes in English, poor pronunciation, and jumbled thoughts in speech- and also demanding legible handwriting. To overlook these from laziness or fear of hurting feelings is the greatest disservice that can be done to the young.”

Liberty Common School does this well, but we can do even better. We are working hard to ensure all work that is turned in is coherent and well written. With a continued emphasis in the grammar and composition instruction, our students’ communication skills have been improving. We persist in the instruction penmanship and hold the students accountable for their handwriting; if we can’t read it, we can’t grade it.

It looks as if Dr. Jacques Barzun would be pleased with Liberty Common School and the way we are going about things. It is great to work at a school that sets the bar high and is dedicated to excellence.

Can Can Can You Do the Canned Food Drive?

It is a tradition at Liberty Common that during the month of December we hold a canned food drive for Larimer Co. Food Bank. This year if we collect **2009** cans the students get a free dress day. If we collect **2500** cans the students will be "treated" to a faculty "talent show." We are also partnering up with the 2nd and 5th grade class and collecting food for Hope at Christmas Program-giving to families with a parent who is incarcerated. Please contribute to both these valuable services by sending in cans and boxes of non-perishable items including but not limited to brownie and cake mixes, instant potatoes, stuffing mixes, tuna, canned vegetables, canned sardines, peanut butter.....Thanks in advance to all who share.



Countdown to Seussical Jr. Be Sure All Rehearsals are on the Calendar

December 7, 2009-Tech Rehearsal– 5:30-9:00 p.m.

December 8, 2009-Dress Rehearsal-5:30-9:00 p.m.

December 9, 2009-Dress Rehearsal-5:30-9:00 p.m.

December 10, 2009– Dress Rehearsal –5:30-9:00 p.m.

**December 11, 2009– Dinner-5:00 p.m., Call– 5:00
Show at 7:00 p.m.**

**December 12, 2009– Dinner -5:00 p.m., Call– 5:00
Show at 7:00 p.m.**

Liberty Boys Basketball Schedule

Semi Finals is on Dec. 7th– Liberty plays St. John's at Windsor Charter Academy at 5:30 p.m.

Finals is on Dec. 10th –at Windsor Charter Academy

Lady Liberty Basketball Tryouts Coming

Attention 7th and 8th grade girls who love basketball: Try-outs 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.

High School Update from Bob Schaffer, Project Manager

Embracing The New LCHS Dress Code

Try this: Walk into a McDonalds and order a Whopper.

You already know the answer you will get, don't you? "Sorry Sir, we don't make that here. They serve Whoppers over at Burger King."

Still, some people think it should be different in public education. Actually, that's part of the problem with schools today.

This past Thursday night, the Liberty Board of Directors adopted a Dress Code for Liberty Common High School. This is a big step, an important one.

What students wear to school has a direct bearing on how students learn in the school. If they dress well, they will learn well.

If they are disciplined in their attire, they will be more disciplined in their behavior. If they look sharp, they will be smart. If they appear dignified, they will be taken seriously – especially when it really matters.

While the details of the Dress Code are now posted on the [LCHS website](#) (click here) and [LCHS blog](#) (click here), the fifteen stated intentions of the Code are motivating and reassuring to any sensible parent, hopefully to sensible students, too:

- To promote a sense of pride in LCHS.
- To set LCHS apart as a unique and exceptional institution.
- To encourage a sense of community and belonging towards LCHS.
- To discourage identity with behaviors, attitudes, causes or manners not directly associated with LCHS.
- To discourage identity with organizations, corporations, brands, groups, parties, clubs and any other association not directly associated with LCHS.
- To guide LCHS students in choosing smart, practical, sensible attire being most suitable for academic excellence and student life.
- To promote equality in appearance.
- To remove pressures for expensive fashionable, faddish dress and expressions of materialism.
- To remove distractions associated with apparel and appearance.
- To reduce school-clothing costs for parents.
- To promote apparel choices that do not interfere with or endanger self or others while participating in school or school-sponsored activities.
- To reinforce the high standards of excellence at LCHS.
- To project a first-class educational institution to all LCHS visitors and to all observers outside of the high school.
- To project a first-class educational institution to all people associated with LCHS.

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Terracycle is Still Happening at Liberty

Liberty Common School is still participating in the national collection program run by Terracycle (terracycle.net) that pays schools to collect used packaging. Please remind your student to recycle juice boxes wrappers, Frito bags, Skittles, Starbursts, M&Ms, Twix and Snickers wrappers. There is a drop off location in our cafeteria. Look for products made by recycled wrappers at your local stores. Thanks for participating.

Math Counts Meets Monday

Math Counts will meet Monday, December 7th from 3:15-4:15 in Mr. Lovely's room. See you there!

Homework Club Seeking Help

Homework Club is needing tutoring and homework help after school, Monday-Thursday, 3:00-4:30 p.m. If you are interested in helping students do better with their studies please contact Linda Thelen –Academic Support Coordinator, ext. 167, or Susan Porter, Homework Club Manager, ext. 120.

Operation Support Our Troops-2009

Thanks to all the Liberty Common students who unselfishly shared their Halloween candy with Troops located on the Afghanistan and Pakistan border. Many students also created handmade letters that will bring joy to all who read them. Thank you all for your help with this project. Because of everyone's generosity 228 soldiers will know that Liberty Common School students care and support our troops.

Attention Parents of 6th-9th Graders

Parents and 6th-9th grade students, please watch your mail for the 2010-2011 Course Description Catalog and Course Selection Form. These forms are due back to Liberty by December 18th. If you have any questions please contact Mrs. Rieb, Registrar, ext. 114 or Mr. Churchill, ext. 111.

Brrrr.....It is Cold Outside



Please remember to send a coat with your child during this winter season. Students will go outside to recess when temperatures are 15 degrees or above. We have a small supply of extra coats that are on a first come first serve basis. Thanks for paying attention to this important request— your student's safety is our concern.

High School Update from Bob Schaffer, Project Manager

Embracing The New LCHS Dress Code (continued from page 2)

- To foster positive habits of dress that best prepare LCHS students for success after graduation.

Oh, there is some grumbling, but not much really. It is impossible a dress code will satisfy all subjects. Thankfully, customers do have choices. Some think the LCHS Dress Code is too strict. Others think it too loose.

Actually it's about right. It will surely be tweaked and perfected going forward. The LCHS Dress Code is a solid reflection of the school's values, a statement of the high expectations we have for student performance.

Of course there will be a few who prefer fashion and clothing style to Liberty's brand of common knowledge; who value personal expression over common virtue; whose desire for selfish attention exceeds common sense. Fortunately for them, they're serving Whoppers over at Burger King – though we'll still make a strong case for Liberty.

Truly, an objective observer should find the LCHS Dress Code to be quite reasonable, a flexible set of general dress guidelines providing firm parameters while deferring to the maturing judgment of maturing scholars. We view the Dress Code as simply minimum standards satisfying the intentions herein stated. Frankly, we predict our students will dress above it on their own volition.

It should be regarded a privilege to be part of such a focused and purposeful high school.

After much research and consideration, we're confident LCHS is on track to becoming a truly superior institution due, in part, to the dress standards.

LCHS will be a great place to learn – a place where children make the transition toward responsible adulthood while elevating the tempo of academic growth. In fact, we are convinced our school's standard for proper attire is yet another reason more discerning customers will choose Liberty.

Common knowledge, common virtue, common sense – that's what we make here.