

Volume 13 Issue 17  
Dec. 14, 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. 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

Please bring in extra  
plastic grocery sacks for  
our Health Office.  
Thank you!

## Liberty Common High School By Russ Spicer, Headmaster

For many years I have heard from students and parents that they wished our school continued through twelfth grade. For many years numerous students and parents shared with me their disappointment in the quality of education available once they left our school. The feedback from former students and graduates was that *post-Liberty* coursework was sometimes rigorous, but usually without real academic challenge. Often I would hear that the standards of character and behavior were much lower at other schools compared to what was expected at Liberty Common School.

For these reasons and many others, Liberty Common School is expanding to include tenth through twelfth grades, and Liberty Common High School will officially open its doors in August of 2010. This is an exciting time to realize a meaningful growth opportunity for our students, their siblings and others within the community.

Students from Liberty Common School (K-8) and from other schools who want a rich, rigorous, college preparatory education will be able to attend a high school that provides a first class, top notch, quality Classical Liberal education. They will be able to attend a school that takes seriously the responsibility of producing positive, productive members of our society. High expectations of character and behavior will be the norm. Liberty Common High School students will not have to deal with many of the educational distractions that are ever present in other schools. Just like we have succeeded in doing with our K-8 program, the high school will strive for excellence in every category – academics, student leadership, athletics, character education, drama, chess, robotics, music, art, etc.

We encourage you to attend the first information night about our high school on Monday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in the Performance Hall. This will be your first opportunity to hear about the Liberty Common High School philosophy, curriculum and student life programs. We are very excited to share with you the well-thought high school plans that are coming together. If you are unable to make this informational night, another one will be offered on January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

If you are interested in learning more about our Liberty Common High School, we hope you will attend this informational meeting. You are encouraged to tell your friends, neighbors, and colleagues about this meeting as well. If you have any questions feel free to contact Headmaster Russ Spicer ([rspicer@libertycommon.org](mailto:rspicer@libertycommon.org)) or Project Manager Bob Schaffer ([bob.schaffer@libertycommon.org](mailto:bob.schaffer@libertycommon.org)) at 970.482.9800. We look forward to seeing you on Monday night. I love Liberty Common School and I love Liberty Common High School!

## Liberty's Canned Food Drive-Our goal is 2500 Cans= Liberty's Teacher Idol

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.

## 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.



## Please Send in Clothes to the Clothes Closet- Supplies Running Low

We are running low on pants for the Liberty Common Clothes Closet. Please go through your student's closet and send in any gently worn pants that no longer fit. Remember no cargo pants or pants with rips or stains are accepted. We are especially needing sizes 7- 16, pants for both boys and girls. Thank you.

## Lil Dribblers Intramurals-Starts Jan. 16th

Lil Dribblers Basketball Intramurals for 1st and 2nd grade boys and girls begins Saturday, January 16th at 8:00 a.m. This is a fundamental experience for first time players and the first Saturday will be spent learning the basic skills of the game. Look for a purple flyer that went home in each 1st and 2nd grade Monday Folder. Extra sign up sheets are available in the Front Office. Any questions, contact Mr. Wilcox, at [jwilcox@libertycommon.org](mailto:jwilcox@libertycommon.org).

## High School Update from Bob Schaffer, Project Manager

### "Lamp Of Experience" Guides LCHS

Tonight at 6:30 p.m., begins the first public-information meeting for Liberty Common High School. The new school opens its doors in August – which, by the way, is only eight months away!

If you know prospective students who will be in the 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> grade next year, whether already at Liberty or a Liberty neophyte, please urge them and their parents to attend. No kidding, call them as soon as you're done reading this newsletter. Or, email this newsletter to the budding young scholar's family. Hurry. Please.

Everyone curious about LCHS naturally wants to know what the high school will be. Sure, we'll describe our omnibus plans. However, many details are yet to be decided, such as the exact location of the school, though we're still on track with the acquisition timeline.

While most speculation will be about the future of LCHS, it's instructive to consider the portly foundation upon which the high school is being built. Patrick Henry, in his famous *Give Me Liberty* speech said, "I have but one lamp by which my feet are guided and that is the lamp of experience. I know of no way of judging of the future but by the past."

Henry knew a new independent country would be superior to subjugation under the monolithic rule of the British Crown, yet he hadn't the foggiest idea at the time exactly what a breakaway nation would become. The Declaration of Independence hadn't even been written at the time of his revolutionary address.

For LCHS, you enjoy a far clearer picture of the superior institution you're helping to build. Indeed, our feet are guided by Liberty's lamp of experience. Liberty's spectacular success over the past 13 years makes for rational optimism and unflinching confidence.

Students at Liberty have consistently placed themselves at the very top of the school-performance hierarchy. Last year, our 6<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> grades scored in the top ten in the state on every CSAP test administered. Our 9<sup>th</sup> grade was 1<sup>st</sup> in the state in math *and* writing and 2<sup>nd</sup> in the state in reading. For details, please visit [libertycommon.org](http://libertycommon.org)

Liberty's elementary and junior-high schools have been recognized as a National Charter School of the Year and a United States Department of Education Blue Ribbon School. For the eleventh year in a row, we've won the John J. Irwin School of Excellence Award from the Colorado Department of Education, which has also given our programs the highest rating possible – Excellent!

Henry was right. The only way to judge of the future is by the past; and judging from the past, our Board's intention to build the best high school in Colorado is not some imponderable shadow. It's actually attainable! Soon.

For those unable to attend tonight's meeting at Liberty, there is another one scheduled for Thursday, January 14<sup>th</sup>. **(Continued pg. 3)**

## Geography Bee Results

Congratulations to all who participated in the Liberty Common Geography Bee on December 8th. Our winners were 1st Place–Olivia Sponsler (8th grade), 2nd Place–Nate Trout (8th grade) and 3rd Place–Mariya Garland (7th grade). Our champion will now take a written test to qualify for the state geography bee. Good luck, Olivia.

## Apply Now for Homework Club Assistant

Liberty Common School has a homework club for those students who are seeking additional help with their studies. The Homework Club is needing an assistant from 3:00-4:30 p.m. This is a paid position. If interested in helping students do better with their school work, please contact Linda Thelen-Academic Support Co-ordinator, ext. 167, or Susan Porter, Homework Club Manager, ext. 120.

## News from the Lunchroom



This time of year is very busy for everyone. Please take a few moments to check your student's lunch account on Powerschool. Each student's lunch choice is on Powerschool along with any balances. Checking your child's account will help decrease the number of children who forget their lunches. Click on the green \$ to view transactions. February calendars are due to the office on January 10th. Thank you and Merry Christmas.

## Remembering Others During the Holidays

When doing your Christmas cards this year, take one card and send it to this address. If everyone sends one card, think of how many cards these wonderful special people who have sacrificed so much would get. When you are making out your Christmas card list this year, please include the following:

**A Recovering American Soldier**  
**c/o Walter Reed Army Medical Center**  
**6900 Georgia Avenue, NW**  
**Washington, D.C. 20307-5001**

## December 18th, deadline for 6th-9th graders

Parents of 6th-9th graders, by now you should have received in the mail, 2010-2011 Course Description Catalog and Course Selection Form. It is very important that these forms be completed and returned to Mrs. Rieb, Registrar, in the Front Office by December 18th. If you have any questions, please call Mrs. Rieb, ext. 114, or Mr. Churchill, ext. 111.

## High School Update from Bob Schaffer, Project Manager (Continued Page 1)

Please promote that meeting, too.

Rounding out our new high school entails promoting it on our own. Liberty's past performance is its best selling feature. From a marketing standpoint, Liberty's experience is solid gold. No other school even comes close.

As prospective scholars and their parents weigh the option of LCHS, it's time for all of us who know the blessings of a rigorous curriculum, character education and the freedom of a well-run charter school to attract others to our own mighty revolution in public education.

Let's mind the postlude to Patrick Henry's unilateral reply: "Is life so dear, or peace so sweet as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it Almighty God. I know not what course others may take, but as for me, GIVE ME LIBERTY..!"

See you tonight, 6:30 p.m., in the Performance Hall at the history-making Liberty Common School.

PS. This column is laced with vocabulary words from Mr. Lavin's class in another omniscient attempt to get incredulous, nonplussed students to vide this literary benediction for extra credit – a sly tactical interdiction to further beat back the frontiers of ignorance. Please excuse any malapropisms.



Mrs. Shockley's Tuesday/Thursday class welcomes Specialist James Warram to their class. James is the boyfriend of Andrea Weeks, a student teacher of Mrs. Shockley's. Both kindergarten classes contributed to care packages to Specialist Warram. When he returns to Iraq next week, he will have 3 packages filled with coffee, beef jerky, candy, games and a knitted hat (knitted by Miss Behr) to be worn under his helmet waiting for him. Thanks to Mrs. Shockley's Kindies for sending your Liberty Common School love across the ocean.