



Volume 15 Issue 18
December 19, 2011

*"Semper Excelsius-
The Liberty Way"*

The Liberty Common School
Common Knowledge, Common Virtues, Common Sense
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

[Click Here](#) to view Liberty
Common High School
Newsletter

What's Happening at LCS K-6th

Dec. 19- Tryouts continued for 6th, 7th, 8th grade girls basketball, 3:30-5:30 p.m.

Dec. 20-Character Assembly, 4th-6th grade 8:10-8:45a.m., K-3rd grade 8:55-9:35 a.m.

Dec. 21- Registration deadline for Multi-Activity Intramurals and 5th & 6th grade basketball intramurals

Dec. 21- Free Dress Day

Dec. 22-Jan. 6- Christmas Break.

Jan. 10-Liberty Geography Bee, 3:30 p.m. in the library

Jan. 10- High School Public Information Night at LCHS, 6:30 p.m.

Liberty Common School Board of Directors 2011-2012

Crissy Kopren 266-1005
Amy Redstone 378-1170
Dan Provaznik 223-0188
Mark Sutherlin 225-0432
Cassy Turner 691-3027
Jeff Webb 545-9636
Bill Werst 631-8379

Board of Directors Meeting:
Liberty Common School
January 19, 2012
1725 Sharp Point Dr.
Faculty Room
7:00 p.m.

Headmaster Writing by Russ Spicer

A Message from the BOD

It is amazing what you can accomplish in two years with a talented and hardworking administration, staff, teachers, parents, and students. Only a few years ago Craig Horton was leading a dedicated group of parents exploring the possibility of expanding to a college preparatory high school. As a BOD, we were searching for a facility, sweating the details of curriculum decisions, and running pro forma financials on if we could afford to have a viable school during the middle of the worst economic downturn in our life-times. Two years later we have successfully expanded to three tracks of K-8th grade.

The CSAP results are one measure of how we have integrated the new students into the school, and they are exhibiting similar levels of proficiency that we expect from every Liberty Common student. Most importantly the demand for a Liberty Common education remains high with over a 1,000 students on our lottery list and even 24 students on the lottery list for this year's 9th grade. The high school's college preparatory curriculum continues to build out including an offering of rigorous Advanced Placement courses enabling interested high school students to earn college credit. One of the advantages of a parent led charter school is that when we recognize that we should have made a different choice, we are able to make quick "course corrections". During the middle of the first quarter we offered a US History and Conceptual Physics course for our 11th graders. This is just one example that demonstrates how we continue working toward our vision to be the best small high school in the United States.

So what will the next few years bring. First, as a BOD, we recognize that we have maximized the use of our facilities and there is a need to expand. Though it is not a done deal yet, we are very close to having everything in place to pursue our expansion efforts. A top priority is to have the Liberty Common Building Corporation purchase the existing building from the McWhinney Corporation, so we are able to expand the facility. We will do this in a series of phases. The main goal is to increase the number of classrooms to accommodate our growing student enrollment. If all goes according to plan, beginning this spring, we will start construction on a new wing that will add four classrooms for next year, and complete the shell of the building that will accommodate four more classrooms the following year. This will enable us to separate by floors the junior high and high school students, giving each their separate identity and space.

After the scheduling difficulties of only having two tracts of students, the BOD decided to expand to three tracts starting with next year's 9th grade. This ensures every one of the 8th graders at Liberty Common School will have a spot available to them to stay for high school. Knowing that we have 65 students already on the lottery list for next year, we also hope to include a few interested students to join the future graduating class of 2016. Three tracts provide schedule flexibility and enable more elective choices.

The long-term vision to expand the facilities at the high school may take the next five – ten years to completely build out. We will renovate the site plan and drainage to accommodate a new high school sized gymnasium, music and theater practice facilities, space for a high school library, and a small practice field to be used for physical education and the sports teams. Another phase of the expansion will build a top-notch high school engineering facility and additional science labs and classrooms. Other parts of the long-term plan is to explore purchasing land close to the schools to be used for an outdoor sports fields for baseball, soccer, etc. We are also looking at land to eventually build a performance auditorium to showcase the high quality music and theater programs at both schools.

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How to Reach Us

- Our office hours are **7:30-4:00 p.m.**
- Our telephone number is **(970) 482-9800**
- Our attendance line is **(970) 482-9800, option 2**, please call by 8:30 a.m.
- Please note that you may go to your student's classroom and wait for them to be dismissed only after 2:50 p.m.
- If you need to take your child to an appointment during school hours, please come to the Front Office, sign them out and we will call them out of class.
- All students who arrive after 8:00 a.m. must be signed in at the Front Office. It is important that a reason be written as this determines if the tardy is excused or not.
- Our school closes at 4:00 p.m. All students need to have left the building by 4:00 p.m. or be chaperoned by a parent or guardian.

Clothes Closet Needs Donations

Thanks to all who have already donated to the clothes closet. We are currently needing pants in sizes 6, 7, 8 and 12. Please make sure all clothing meets dress code and is without stains or holes. Please bring clothing in anytime between 7:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. And remember if you bring in items you can evenly exchange items for others.



Thank you Sri Thai Restaurant and The Mayes Family

A special Liberty Common thank you to the Mayes family, owners of Sri Thai Restaurant and Liberty family, who provided lunch for all faculty and staff on December 14th. The lunch was delicious and we all appreciate your kindness and generosity. Please remember to patronize Sri Thai Restaurant when the craving hits for Thai food. Sri Thai is located at 950 S. Taft Hill Rd.

Calling All Kindergarteners for 2012-2013 School Year

We are continuing to fill our Kindergarten sibling spots for next year. If your child is planning on attending Kindergarten at Liberty next year, 2012-2013, please call the Front Office or stop by and speak with Bev Hanawalt. Don't delay as spots are filling quickly.

Holidays Fast Approaching— Easy Gift Idea

Are you needing a holiday gift idea for your child? Why not peruse the Liberty Common Reading Lists (K-6) and pick a book to purchase from your favorite bookstore. The comprehensive lists contains fiction and non-fiction titles that appeal to all interests. Simply [Click Here](#) to access the list and enjoy shopping.



Intramural News

Beat the winter blues by signing up your student for one of the following intramural activities.

Multi-Activity Intramurals for 3rd-4th Grades— begins Tuesday, Jan. 17th. **Registration deadline is Wednesday, Dec. 21st. or when 56 slots are filled.** Cost is \$10.00 for 5 intramural dates: Jan. 17, Feb. 2, Feb. 13, Feb. 21 and Feb. 23. from 3:10-3:55 p.m. Sign up forms available in Front Office or from the P.E. office.

Basketball for 5th and 6th Grades— begins Jan. 17th. **Registration deadline is Wednesday, Dec. 21st. or when 24 slots are filled.** Cost is \$10.00 for 5 intramural dates: Jan. 17, Feb. 2, Feb. 13, Feb. 21 and Feb. 23 from 4:00-4:40 p.m. Sign up forms available in the Front Office or from the P.E. office.

Time to Sign Up for Chess Club

If you think your student would enjoy improving his or her chess game, learning strategies and forward thinking while spending time with friends, then now is the time to sign up for Chess Club. Chess Club's first meeting is **January 13, 2011.**

Chess Club is a 12 week chess program full of lessons, chess games and tournaments!

Beginners(K-2) meet on Friday mornings from 7:00 a.m.– 7:50 a.m. and Advanced Players meet on Friday afternoons from 3:15-4:15 p.m. Cost is \$40.00/student. Sign up in the Front Office.

For more information see flyer on page 5



Extraordinary Things

By: Bob Schaffer, LCHS Principal

There isn't too much I remember from the first grade at Hopewell Elementary School in rural Ohio; but, Christmas vacation that year – 1968 – is one thing I do recall. What six-year-old boy wouldn't love a long break from school, snow on the ground and presents under the tree?

The fact is, I don't recall what I did with my time off school, what presents I got that year or even precisely where I was when I heard and saw the thing that has been so firmly lodged in my mind ever since. Like most Americans on that particular Christmas Eve, I was glued to a television set.

That night, three astronauts aboard [the Apollo 8 spacecraft](#) were the first humans to reach the moon. They didn't land on it during that first trip. They orbited it ten times beaming home fuzzy black-and-white images of the lunar surface.

There were the pictures, in real time, on the TV. That's what I remember – along with what those astronauts said. To me, it seemed like an absolute miracle.

Riveted there in front of the TV, no one spoke so that everyone in the living room could hear every word exchanged between NASA and the three spacemen – Frank Borman, Jim Lovell and Bill Anders. Then they said the thing I remember. I can hear it again in my mind right now.

They announced they were seeing a lunar sunrise. Then one of the astronauts spoke directly to all the people on Earth who were tuned in. He began reading from the Bible – the first ten verses of the Book of Genesis.

“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, Let there be light, and there was light,” read the first astronaut.

They took turns reading the passage. Millions of earthlings watched, and listened, and hung – on every – single – word.

The war in Vietnam was weighing heavy on the country. Dr. King had been shot that year; so had Senator Robert Kennedy. In fact, that whole year seemed like an endless string of bad news.

Those astronauts changed everything. It was the combination of the extraordinary thing they were achieving and [the extraordinary thing they decided to say while they were doing it](#) that changed everything.

Christmas is indeed an extraordinary time to contemplate miracles. It's a time to celebrate true freedom and true liberty and the true means by which we have come to be in possession of such generous blessings.

The scholars of Liberty Common High School have themselves achieved extraordinary things this year. They deserve a little time off. Rest is surely in order. So is solemn celebration for the true miracle that defines this holy time.

“And from the crew of *Apollo 8*,” said Frank Borman, “we close with good night; good luck, a Merry Christmas, and God bless all of you – all of you on the good Earth.”

That's what I remember from Christmas break, first grade.

Grandparents Corner

By: Ed Haynes, Chairman of the Liberty Grandparents Club

As grandparents, we're certainly looking forward to Christmas break and celebrating the holidays with our Liberty grandkids. We're also anxious for the New Year and getting started with the new plans the Liberty Grandparents Club has made to help the school.

Last Thursday, the Grandparents Club started a new tradition of sending a grandparent representative to the regular monthly Liberty Board of Directors meeting. Tammy Thomas attended the meeting on behalf of our club and gave a brief report on the great things Liberty grandparents are doing.

We hope, this kind of communication between the BOD and the Grandparents Club will help keep school volunteers informed and help us do a better job of lending a hand where it's needed most. We'll be discussing this and more at our next Liberty Grandparents Club meeting on January 10th, 7:00 p.m., at the elementary school teachers lounge.

To contact or join the Liberty Grandparents Club email: gpd@libertycommon.org

Congratulations to Lily Soper

Congratulations to Lily Soper (5th grade-Mrs. Schupp's class) who was chosen as a finalist in the 2nd Annual Alpine Achievement Essay Contest.

The essay topic for 2011 was: ***How would you like to leave your mark in the world? In what ways are the things you are learning in school providing you with the inspiration, skills and knowledge you need to help you succeed.*** Great job Lily– you make Liberty proud!

Chessmates Are Triumphant Again

Chessmates of Liberty Common School recently competed in their third Chessmates series tournament on December 10th. There were 11 other teams competing and Liberty Common took first in the team division with 17.5 points. Individual winners included the following : **Matthew Iverson** (7th grade), took 4th place in the rated section, **Vedha Vijayasarathy** (6th grade) earned 1st place in the 6th -8th grade section, **Ryan Saldanha** (3rd grade) won 2nd place in the 3rd-5th grade section, **Nathan Meiners** (5th grade) took 3rd place in the 3rd-5th grade section and **Ryan Green** (2nd grade) took 2nd place in the K-2 section. Congratulations to all our Chessmate winners!



Lego Robotics Team Takes First

The Green Bean Lego Robotics Team of Liberty Common School successfully competed in the First Lego League State Championship held in Denver, December 10th and 11th. Liberty rivaled with the best 62 teams in the state and came up 1st place winners in Robot performance, as well as in the Strategy and Innovation portion of Robot Design. The Green Bean Team was also nominated for awards in all three categories of Robot Design and they were the only team to win two first place awards. Congratulations goes out to team members: Josh Rohrbaugh (5th grade), Michael Hofinger (5th grade), and Walter Jordan (5th grade). Seventh grade was represented by; Corbin Mayes, David Rohrbaugh and Wyatt Jordan. The Green Beans are coached by John Rohrbaugh with assistant coaches; Janelle Rohbaugh, Carrie Jordan and Qeryldine Hofinger. Well done Green Bean Lego Robotics Team, may your future competitions be as successful.



5th and 6th Graders Provide Great Entertainment

A round of applause for the 5th and 6th grade choir and 6th grade band who performed beautifully on December 12, 2011. Our talented students were led by the gifted Miss Palfreeman and Mrs. Grandprey. Thank you for a great performance.



(Continued from Front Page)

The timing for these expansions will be determined by the amount of financing we can afford and the fund-raising efforts for the extra-curricular facilities we desire to have for both schools.

From a high school athletics stand-point, we are thrilled by the success of our two fall sports teams. LCCHS has been accepted for membership in the Mile High League beginning next year, and we plan to be approved for a positive acceptance into CHSSA in January. This means, next year's teams will be eligible to compete in the post-season play. You may have noticed a new addition at the back of the elementary school. Thanks to your generosity in last year's fundraising, we purchased two used school buses to transport our athletic teams to and from away games and from the high school to the elementary school for practices each afternoon. This should ease the burden on our parents who have been so generous with their time in the car pooling efforts.

So how can you help and be more supportive in the future. The biggest need for the school beyond your financial generosity is the contribution of parents in leadership roles. A challenge most charter schools face is to continue the momentum after the founding parents' children have graduated. The school is built and performing well. However, there is always a danger that a school will start to atrophy without new parents volunteering to take on leadership roles. There are numerous opportunities where parents can contribute. Especially, if you are new to Liberty Common, please consider stepping up and following in the footsteps of previous parents by volunteering to help at Fall Festival, Winter Carnival, the Spring Fund-raising event at the Ranch, or one of the other student events during the year. Taking on leadership roles on these projects for a few months has an enormous benefit to the entire school. We need a leader to take on organizing next year's Grandparents Day, so Amy Redstone, who has assumed a position on the BOD, can focus on some other improvement areas she wants to lead. If your interest is athletics we have a need to form an Eagles Athletic Booster Club. There have been discussions about having an annual golf tournament to purchase equipment and help improve our various sports teams. If you have a personal interest in one of the clubs or an after school activity you wish Liberty Common offered, think about stepping forward and being a parent leaders for that club. If you have had interest in serving on the Liberty Common Board of Directors, we have the need to chair and lead various sub-committees.

Our motto of "Semper Excelsius" permeates all the efforts at Liberty Common. Be it academics, teachers, athletics, clubs, the Houses and Orders, character stones and cap stones, and curriculum, we celebrate our successes and strive for constant improvements. If you are brand new to the school or one of the original Liberty Common families, please think about how you can volunteer and be even more involved in the school. We expect the finances to be even tighter the next few years as the level of state funding continues to be reduced. However, the conservative and lean way we operate the school, means we will maximize the return on the investments made. We hope you will consider donating some of your talents and your treasure to Liberty Common School. You will be a key part of establishing the best K – 12th grade school in the United States.

Bill Werst
Chairman, Board of Directors



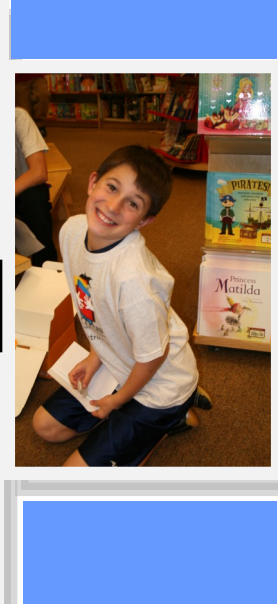
Student Council Members were given the opportunity to volunteer for Book Trust on December 15th at Barnes and Noble Bookstore.

Book Trust partners with Scholastic Book Clubs to provide children(K-6) that are living in poverty or low-income households the opportunity to choose and own books. Every month, each child receives a \$7 credit to purchase books. This totals to about 18-24 books a year!

Student Council Members greeted guests, invited shoppers to come and do face painting or story time with Clifford, gift wrapped or helped with literacy game stations.



Book Trust is currently serving over 22,000 children in 9 states.



Liberty Chess Club



Who: For all students K-6.

What: A 12 week chess program full of lessons, chess games and tournaments!

Beginner group (K-2): Fridays 7:00am-7:50am in the Library.

Advanced (3-5): Fridays 3:15pm-4:15pm in the Art room.

Why : To improve your chess, learn strategy and forward thinking and have a great time with friends.

Schedule

January: 13, 20 and 27.
 February: 3, 10, 17, and 24.
 March: 2, 9, 23, and 30
 April: Last day 13th
 (The second session start date will be January 13th)

Introducing the Coach

Hi! My name is Zachary Bekkedahl, chess coach and teacher of many schools and my own chess club. I can't wait to run Liberty chess again! I want to build off of our hard work last year and continue to grow as a team! Nice work everybody in placing 2nd in the district tournament!!!

If you have questions please call me @ (970) 581-2424 or e-mail me at info@chessmatesfc.com If you would like further information about me or my club check out my website at www.Chessmatesfc.com. Thanks!