



Volume 15 Issue 16
December 5, 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

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Common High School
Newsletter

What's Happening at LCS K-6th

Dec. 9th and 10th:

"You're A Good Man
Charlie Brown" - 7:00 p.m.
Performance Hall, LCS-
Tickets: \$5/students, \$8
general admission. See
order form on page 5.

Dec. 12 - 6th Grade Band/5th
and 6th Choir Concert, 6:30p.m.
Performance Hall, LCS

Dec. 16– Liberty T-shirt Day

Dec. 16– Registration
deadline for Lil Dribblers

Dec. 22-Jan. 6– Christmas
Break.

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

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
December 15 , 2011
1725 Sharp Point Dr.
Faculty Room
7:00 p.m.

Hard or Soft?

In his book, "Hard America Soft America – Competition vs. Coddling and the Battle for the Nation's Future," Michael Barone compares and contrasts a number of areas in which our country has either taken a soft (coddling) stance or a hard (competitive) stance. Basically, his supposition is that any program or entity that simply gives somebody something for nothing or has a lower set of standards to by which to operate, is promoting a "Soft" society. The argument is that for most things to be successful, one should have to compete and earn whatever he/she works toward. This makes sense. How hard is someone going to work for something if it is simply given to him or her? Barone's argument is that when given the opportunity to live in a Hard America and have to compete, or live in a Soft America and be coddled, many would obviously choose to be coddled.

It is during the "Soft times" that things tend to not do so well, however. Education is a system that has gone through this and continues to go through this. Barone sites many examples of our educational system turning away from a Hard demanding academic program and turning to a "Soft" progressive educational system that accepts and moves toward mediocrity, as opposed to being demanding and striving towards excellence. Barone states that one of the reasons for this shift is due to schools "denouncing rote memorization and drill arguing that children should learn on their own." It was also pointed out that schools became more interested in tending to the self esteem of the students and less interested in their academic success.

Barone also pointed out that teacher unions played a key in the softening of the American education system. The unions provided a "Soft" situation where Barone says "all employees are interchangeable and must be treated the same. This meant that management could not discriminate between workers, and therefore forbade merit pay and required teacher assignment strictly on the basis of seniority. The immediate effect was that workers and teachers had more "Soft protection." The public schools were not prepared to adapt to "Hard" competition when it emerged."

Schools had no accountability and were content to keep going down the path of progressive/self-esteem based education. That is until The National Commission on Excellence in Education released *A Nation at Risk* in 1983. This report started to turn heads and thus started a movement, be it ever so slow, from a Soft stance within education to a "Hard" one. National standards started to appear. These ultimately failed however, because they too were "Soft." People continued to cry out for better schools and more choices. So the government, on a state level, began to get involved.

Due to the desire to have better alternatives than what the Soft public education arena was offering, the idea of charter schools, home schooling and school vouchers came forth. Barone recounts that "Free-market economist Milton Friedman long ago came up with the concept of school voucher: instead of assigning children to public schools according to their place of residence, give their parents a voucher worth the amount of a year's schooling and let them choose which school – public or private – their children attend. In other words, replace monopoly with choice, bureaucracy with a market." Barone goes on to say that because of these types of things - "For the first time, the people running the public schools faced competition, which threatened the flow of money into their systems. They were being dragged, however slowly and despite their dogged resistance, toward Hard America.

Time and time again throughout this book, Michael Barone points out that the Hard America approach is what made many entities successful. To coin an old phrase, "There ain't no such thing as a free lunch." At Liberty Common School, we feel to adequately prepare students to function in society, we need to teach them knowledge, hard work, discipline, self-reliance and resourcefulness.

(Continued on Page 2)

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 chaperoned by a parent or guardian.

Lil Dribblers Intramurals

Lil Dribblers Intramurals Basketball for 1st and 2nd grade boys and girls will begin Jan. 14th. Registration deadline is December 16th. Please see page 6 for more information and registration form.



Next Liberty T-Shirt Day is December 16th. Show your Liberty pride by wearing your favorite Liberty T-Shirt.

Headmaster Writing Continued from Front Page

Liberty promotes more of a "Hard" approach to education and has experienced great success because of it. We are excited to see end result with our high school graduates as they leave our school to go on to college. We are confident that because of the excellent, "Hard" education they received at Liberty Common School, our students will be very well prepared and very successful at any college choose to attend.

Purchase Scrip Cards for the Holidays

The holidays are fast approaching and now is the perfect time to purchase scrip cards. There are only two more dates for orders to be made before the holidays. We have over 100 merchants that have scrip cards available and many donate more than 5% back to Liberty Common School.

For the holidays some merchants are offering a bonus % back– Land's End & Bath & Body Works 18%, L.L. Bean 17%, Macy's 10%, Outback Steakhouse 10% to name a few. If you don't see a card for the merchant you want, please feel free to ask, it may be available but not listed on the current order form.

Please remember to submit your scrip order **by 8:00 a.m. Monday, Dec. 12th** Cards ordered on this date will be available for pick up on **Friday, Dec. 2nd. by 4:00 p.m. This will be the last Scrip order before Christmas.**

Anyone that is interested in helping with this program or has questions, please contact Tracy Horst at dthorst@msn.com or (970) 223-7282. We need more volunteers to make this program successful and profitable. .

Picking Up Your Child After School

If you pick up students in the playground area (middle pick up), we are asking that you pick up your child and move your car forward through the line. We have noticed a lot of cars stacking up. This causes the carpool line to back up onto Sharp Point. The staff will be asking students to not play on the play equipment outside so that they can get to their cars. This should help keep the line moving.

If you would like to allow your child time to play, we would ask that you park your car and accompany them to the playground. Thank you.

Attention Lady Hoopsters - Girls Basketball for 6th, 7th and 8th Grade

Attention all 6th, 7th and 8th grade girls interested in playing basketball for LCHS: Tryouts for the 2011-2012 season are Friday, December 16th from 3:30 –5:00 and Monday December 19th from 3:30-5:30 p.m. Teams will be announced on Monday, December 19th after practice. In order to tryout, it is absolutely necessary to have a physical card and a completed sports packet turned into Mr. Torgeson, prior to Friday, December 16th. When all forms are turned in Mr. Torgeson will issue a "blue card" to the athlete. Girls will not be able to participate until they have a "blue card." Forms may be picked up in the front office of both schools. If you are not going to be in town for tryouts but are interested in trying out, please notify Coach Steve Ronen as soon as possible. Any questions contact Wade Torgeson, Athletic Director at wtorgeson@libertycommon.org or Steve Ronen, Coach at ronen@libertycommon.org.



Grandparental Reverb

By: Bob Schaffer, Principal
LCHS

It's a good time for parents to get more involved in Liberty. There are many projects for which we could use more hands on deck.

Grandparents are leading by example. Buoyed by an exhilarating Liberty Grandparents Day on November 22nd, grandparents have already resolved to meet this week to discuss ways to pitch in.

Please see the nearby "Grandparents Corner," a new regular feature of the Monday Notes Newsletter. Mr. Ed Haynes, Chairman of the Liberty Grandparents Club shares his impression of his grandson's school; and he invites everyone to attend the Club's meeting tomorrow night at the elementary school.

You don't have to be a grandparent to attend. Parents and students are welcome, too. We could use anyone who has an inclination to volunteer.

One item on the agenda is the objective of finding more people to help plan next year's Liberty Grandparents Day. This is something we really need. For whatever reasons, this year's planning committee dwindled to just four parents – and it kind of wore us out.

Just a few more volunteers would have made light work of the fantastic event. It turned out just fine, and the committee was proud to pull it off. But if Grandparents Day is to become the annual event that it ought to be, more parents simply have to be willing to step forward to divide the effort.

Liberty's grandparents represent a rich tradition of volunteerism. Their generation is known for pulling together to get significant and heroic things done.

With state funding getting thinner, the school budget getting tighter and expectations always higher, money and manpower are quickly becoming more important than ever for our school. You can count on Liberty asking for donations. Watch your mailbox over the next couple of weeks for more on that.

On an ongoing basis, we also need more time from Liberty parents. Thanks to Liberty grandparents for rekindling the bootstrapping attitude that has always carried our school through its most challenging times. It seems we're heading into another one.

In his book of the same title, Tom Brokaw described them as "The Greatest Generation." Liberty's grandparents are hopeful their grandkids are learning how to lead what could

become an even greater generation.

[Grandparents Day revealed that their expectations](#) for our students are high and ambitious. Fully two weeks after the splendid event, the enthusiasm of over 400 grandparents is still reverberating through the halls of our school.

Indeed, it's a good time for parents to get more involved in Liberty.

Grandparents Corner

By: Ed Haynes, Chairman of the Liberty Grandparents Club

Hello Grandparents!! We had a wonderful Grandparents Day activity at both the elementary and high schools on November 22nd. All who attended were richly rewarded for being there. The breakfast was delightful and the speeches by school administrators were informative and exciting.

Performances by students were AWESOME! More than 400 grandparents attended!!! The classroom activities with our grandchildren were uplifting. Every grandparent I saw in classrooms and hallways had a smile on their face. Our own 3rd-grade grandson was very disappointed when the activity time came to a close.

We were all encouraged to participate in the SCRIP program to painlessly help raise money for the schools. I hope those who attended have already completed the forms and submitted them to the schools. If you were not there and want more information please contact Tracy Horst at dthorst@msn.com or (970) 223-7282. (See also additional SCRIP information nearby)

We are having our Grandparents Club meeting at the LCS on Tuesday, Dec 6th, at 7:00pm. Please feel free to attend if you are available. We will be discussing plans and activities for the GPC and for the future.

Liberty Common High School Presents

"You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown"

December 9th & 10th, 7:00 p.m.

Pre--purchase your tickets at a discounted price for You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown, and pick them up at will-call the night of the play. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

All tickets will be reserved seating, so reserve yours today!

Visit www.libertycommonmusic.com for more information.

Tickets: \$8/adult
\$5/student

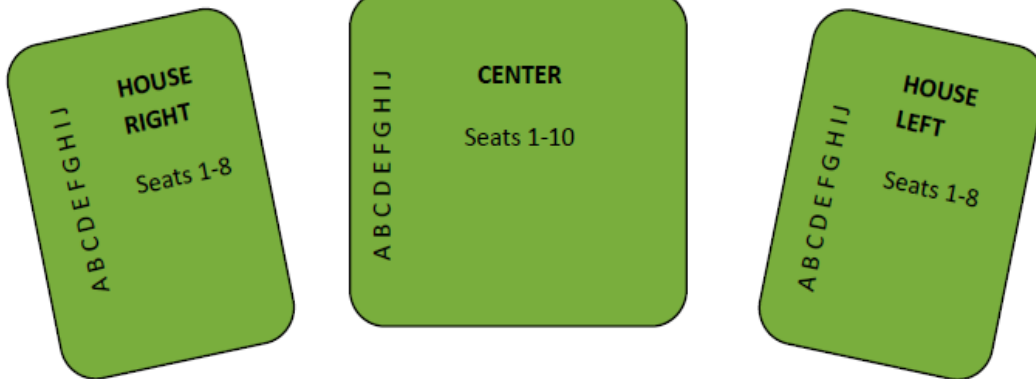
Name: _____
Email: _____ Phone: () _____ - _____
of tickets for Friday _____ or # of tickets for Saturday _____

Seating preference: (1-3 with 1 being your first choice)

Seats are assigned in the same order that the form is received.

House Right _____ Center _____ House Left _____
OR Best Available _____

House Diagram (for reference)



\$ included for tickets:
Check #

Please attach your check to this flyer and return to the LCHS Front Office
no later than December 6, 2011 .

Checks are appreciated, made out to Liberty Common School.

****Tickets will also be available for purchase at the door both nights.****
(\$10/adult, \$7/student)



Lil Dribblers Intramurals



1st & 2nd Grade Boys and Girls

When: Saturdays - Jan. 14th, 21st, 28th and Feb. 4th and 18th
(Games will run approximately every 40 minutes) When teams have
been picked a schedule will be released with times your team will play



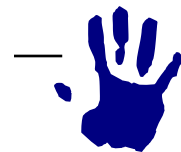
The first Saturday will be a practice day. Fundamentals will be taught to the teams
and a basic explanation of the rules will be given.



Where: Liberty Common School Facilitated by: Mr. Wilcox

Registration Deadline: December 16th, 2011

Cut along line and turn form in with registration fee



1st & 2nd Grade Basketball League Form

Name _____ Grade _____ Basketball Experience (years) _____



Leagues will be formed according to the numbers in each grade that sign up. Ideally we would
like to offer separate gender brackets, but that will be determined by how many children sign
up. There may also be a limited number of spots and those with their fee and attached form
turned in first will be guaranteed a spot.

The teams will wear colored pennies for the games.

COST will be \$15.00. Make Checks payable to Liberty Common School.

Please turn into Mrs. Ronen in the front office.

