

Volume 13 Issue 24
February 16, 2010

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 In February and March

Feb. 26th Winter Carnival–
Jungle Jubilee– 6-8 p.m.

March 5th– Class Photos

March 9th– Upper School
Concert-Performance Hall, 6:30
p.m.

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

Board of Directors Meeting:
Feb. 18, 7 p.m.

BOD AGENDA

Financial Review, Colorado
Legislation Update from Bus.
Mgr., Preliminary review of
2010-11, Course/Staffing
changes (if any), Appoint
BOD Election Committee

**If you have not
responded to Liberty's
Annual Survey of Par-
ents please take the
time to carefully com-
plete the survey, your
opinion matters.**

**Donate to Liberty
Common [Click Here](#)**

Liberty Common High School Update by Bob Schaffer

No parent can sit this out

We've got to create a serious, sustained fundraising and donor culture at Liberty. And we've got to be rather assertive about it. No parent can sit this out.

Did you see last week's *Denver Post* story about how school districts across Colorado are preparing for staff reductions, pay cuts, furloughs and various other austerity measures? If not, [click here](#). The Poudre School District is mentioned.

The cold reality is that Colorado's economy is not producing sufficient state revenues to fully fund the School Finance Act. It's severe.

As with all public schools, the situation will hit Liberty between the eyes – if we stand still and pretend we're somehow immune. There are some positive elements to this report, but none sufficient for comfort.

First, thanks to years of prudent planning, frugal budgeting and sensible spending, Liberty has a current operating surplus. Unlike most public schools, we have funds to help cushion the impact of the state's sagging economy – to a limited extent.

Second, we have an impressive waiting list of families who want to become part of the Liberty community. This is significant. Having motivated customers in an economic downturn is an asset that any other school would envy.

Third, our End-of-Year fundraising appeal was the most successful in the school's history. Approximately 21 percent of the parent population, about 105 of us, responded to the appeal and sent in over \$81,000. A few others sent in contributions before the campaign started.

To everyone who contributed: Thank you very much. Your generosity confirms the core conviction of Liberty's philosophy – that educating children very well is a high and noble endeavor worthy of our time, treasure and loving devotion.

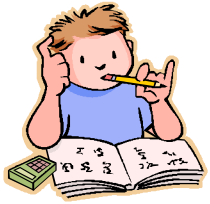
Educating children is a prime parental responsibility. It's what parents do. It's not a sacrifice. It's parenting. We sacrifice lesser things to raise our children well. Not the other way around.

Liberty is a parent-run school, and all parents must understand the times we are in. In the face of a weakened economy, America's graduates continue to fall behind their international peers, but not at our school.

Nearly one in three Colorado graduates needs remedial courses in college. [Click here](#). The idea that someone else can educate our children better than we can simply isn't borne out by history or contemporary facts.

No one holds a higher obligation to provide for the adequate education of children than parents do. Each one of us must commit to doing whatever it takes. Here's why: **(Cont. pg. 3)**

CSAP Schedules Available Now



CSAP testing begins soon! Please take note not to schedule dental, orthodontic or medical appointments during your student's testing times. For schedules, please contact your student's teacher or the Front Office.

Join the Liberty Common Book Club

All Liberty Staff and parents are invited to join a Liberty Common Book Club. As a community we will be reading the books that are the foundation of our school. We will take a month to read each book and then meet for a presentation/discussion on the entire book. Our first book is The Schools We Need and Why We Don't Have Them by E.D. Hirsch. We will meet to discuss on March 25th at 7 p.m. and the discussion will be led by founding parent, Ruth Ann Everitt. The second book is Cultural Literacy, by E.D. Hirsch, we will meet on April 22nd at 7:00 p.m. and the discussion will be led by Bob Schaffer. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Connie Trout at ctrout@libertycommon.org. Copies of books can be found in our own school library.

Jungle Jubilee Jobs



Jungle Jubilee is less than two weeks away—Feb. 26th from 6-8 p.m. **Parent volunteers are desperately needed to staff booths and run activities.** Please contact Winter Carnival Coordinator, Lisa Murphy at (970)686-5975 or Earl-Lisa@a.com

Liberty Common Girls Basketball

Come out and support the Lady Eagles as they take on their opponents. All games begin at **4:00 p.m.**

Feb. 16 Rez at Liberty

Feb. 18 Ridgeview at Liberty

News from the Lunchroom

April Calendars are due on March 11th and May Calendars are due on April 11th. Please make every effort to turn in these calendars on the dates they are due.

Penny War Continuing This Week

The Penny War between all grades, continues through Friday, February 19th. Clean out under the couch cushions, car seats and junk drawers for loose change and send it in with your student. All proceeds go to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

NEW and EXCITING 2009-2010 yearbooks are still available and on sale throughout the month of February. The cost is \$25.00. Order forms are available in the Front Office.

High School Counselors Return 2/24

High School Counselors will return to Liberty on Feb. 24th at 7:00 a.m. to pick up student course selections. If you have questions about registration or requirements prior to 2/24, please contact the student's high school counselor directly or Mr. Spicer. Mr. Spicer can be reached at rspicer@libertycommon.org or 482-9800, ext. 118

Many Opportunities To Take An Active Role At Liberty Common School

The Fund Development Committee is looking for volunteers! If you are interested in any of the following, we want to hear from you:

Party planners – if you like to plan parties, the Special Event Committee needs your help planning a spring fundraising event to include decorations, promotion, silent auction donations and other areas. You can be a part of creating a Liberty tradition!

Grant Researchers – if you enjoy research, the Grant Committee is for you. Grant writing is 80% research and 20% writing which is why these volunteers are crucial. We need people who can research grants available and then thoroughly research the funders so the grant writers have all the information needed to write the grants.

Booster Club – if sports and after-school activities are your passion, then we need you! To keep sports fees for grades 7-12 low, we need to form a Booster Club to raise money for Liberty teams. We are looking for a leader of the club and members to join the effort.

Please contact Kayleen Fraley at 970-377-8850 or kayleen@fraleyfamily.com or Michelle Provaznik at 970-223-0188 or provaznik@msn.com with questions or to volunteer.



We need you to consider running for Liberty Common Board of Directors. Elections will be held in April and applications are due by February 24th. Go to the Liberty Common Web site and download your application today. We are seeking three parents to fill three vacancies. This is a great opportunity for those who want to be more involved in our wonderful school.

(Continued from Front Page)

The State of Colorado has rescinded funding in the School Finance Act – the formula that funds all public schools including Liberty. For the next school year, legislators are set to enact an across-the-board cut of an estimated 6%.

That figure may even grow more threatening depending on the performance of the state's economy – and it occurs on top of a funding recession that has already cost us in the current school year.

Six months ago, we had more than enough to get us through a three-year rollout of the school's expansion. The school's parents and Board of Directors committed to the journey – and we're not wavering.

However, due to state cutbacks, it is clear we simply must develop a private-school-style donor program complete with annual giving campaigns, special events, sponsorships, activity fees – everything short of tuition. We can make it, but not without seriously growing our donor base. And we must trim expenses.

A 6% cut in Liberty's state funding represents approximately \$300,000 in operating revenues for the next school year. As such, Liberty needs more people to serve on our fund-development committee and to become personally active in the financial wellbeing of the school.

Now is the time for you to volunteer to take on specific fund-development projects, to financially sponsor school activities such as sports teams and academic projects, to help apply for grants and come up with creative ideas to fuel Liberty's expansion over the next three years.

We need to encourage more donors within the Liberty community and beyond. If you won't do it for your own child, who will? Who should?

Again, thank you for your commitment to Liberty, for your financial support for the school and your dedication to the program now, when it matters most.

Volunteer on the Fund-Development Committee. Contact Member of the Board and Committee Chair Kayleen Fraley kayleen.fraley@libertycommon.org to volunteer, donate and help raise money for the school; or contact me: bob.schaffer@libertycommon.org

Parental Notification. In light of last month's community controversy involving the Poudre School District's decision to delay informing parents of a teacher's arrest in the sexual assault of a student (in another school – NOT Liberty), the Liberty Board of Directors has asked for a recommendation on a school policy for parental notification that would apply to our school. I'm working on a draft policy now. If you'd like to weigh in on the draft, please contact me.

Tree Octopus? Thanks to the dozens of students who submitted answers to the Smart Kid Question of the Week (posted on Mr. Schaffer's office window) **Q:** What are the tree octopus' two natural predators?

Several students answered, "the Bald Eagle and the Sasquatch" because that's what you find on the Internet when you search for "tree octopus." However, Kati Werst was the first scholar to come up with the correct answer. **A:** The Tree Octopus does not exist.

That's right! It's an Internet hoax developed by a teacher to challenge students' critical-thinking skills. Congratulations Kati. She won a spectacular blue crystal desk-top globe mounted on a shimmering brass stand.

Nickel for your thoughts. This week's Smart Kid Question is, **Q:** What is the value, in dollars, of an 8-foot stack of nickels? Hint: A stack of 100 nickels has a height of 6.25 inches. Express your answer to the nearest hundredth.

The first to answer correctly wins a school of live pre-historic *Triops longicaudatus*, sometimes called tadpole shrimp or "sea monkeys." Yes, these creatures really do exist – and have for millions of years. It's true. You can look it up on the Internet!

Northern Colorado Math Counts Competition– February 20th

The Northern Colorado Math counts competition will be this Saturday, February 20th, from 8 am to 2:15 pm at the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley. The following students will be representing Liberty at the competition: **Victor Amato, Allen Zhou, Alex Iverson, Kevin Sun, Cody Turner, Tim Scott, Will Werst** and **Zachary Sun**. Parents, please arrange transportation to and from the event for your student. Contact Mr. Lovely with questions for more details.

Odyssey of the Mind Competition to Include 22 Liberty Common Students

Twenty-two Liberty Common students are participating in Odyssey of the Mind this year. Since November, these students have been working in teams to solve one of six long-term problems. Their solutions will be presented at the 23rd annual Odyssey of the Mind Tournament at Fossil Ridge HS on Saturday, March 27.

Special thanks to the following volunteers who are coaching Liberty Common OM students:

- Julie Weibler and Yvonne Draper, Primary Team (Grades K-2)
- Becky Kleen and Nancy Daharsh, Division 1 Team (Grade 4)
- Christi Seidman, Division 1 Team (Grades 4-5)

We are seeking **judges and volunteers** to help at the Tournament. **Judges** must attend a training on Monday, March 1 from 6:45 to 9:00 pm at Kruse Elementary School, then judge a three- to four-hour shift at the March 27 Tournament. **Volunteers** work two to three hours in various roles on Tournament Day.

If interested, contact Liberty OM coordinator Wade Turner (691-3189 or wade.turner@comcast.net).

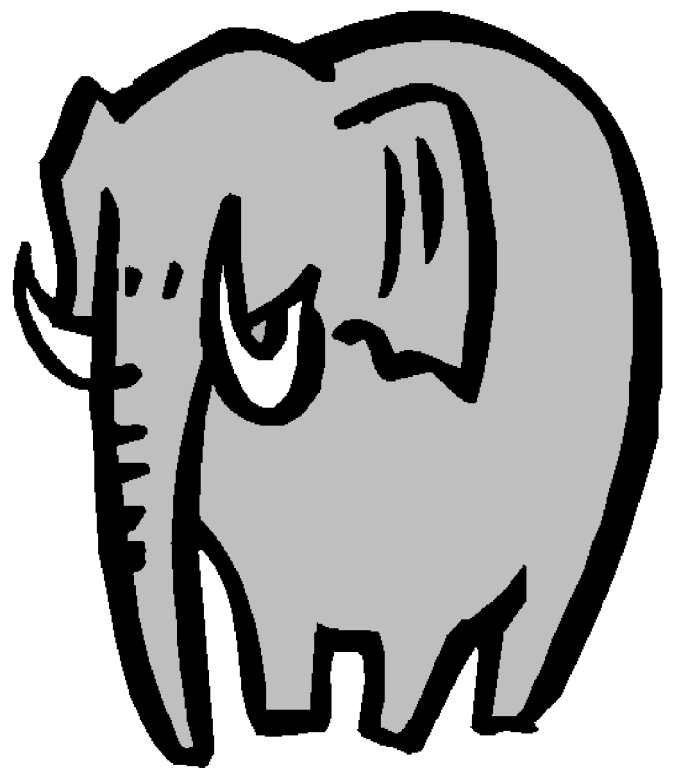
Good Luck students we will be cheering you on!

Valentines Day Made Even Sweeter by Moms In Touch

Thanks goes out again to the great women of the group Moms In Touch who spoiled staff and teachers on February 12th. We were served a delicious lunch of soups, salads, breads and yummy desserts. Thank you ladies for giving us something to look forward to after a hectic week. We so appreciate it when you spoil all of us.



REMEMBER TO VOLUNTEER
FOR JUNGLE JUBILEE JOBS.
PARENT VOLUNTEERS ARE
NEEDED TO STAFF BOOTHS
AND RUN ACTIVITIES.
CONTACT LISA MURPHY AT
(970) 686-5975.





Jungle Jubilee

February 26, 6pm - 8 pm

Prepurchase Ticket form

By pre-purchasing your winter carnival tickets, you save money and time.

Prepurchased tickets: 5 for \$1

Tickets at the night of the event: 4 for \$1

Costs of events are as follows:

- Hamburger meal..... 15 tickets
(includes hamburger, chips & soda pop)
- Hot dog meal..... 15 tickets
(includes hot dog, chips & soda pop)
- Nacho chips w/ cheese..... 4 tickets
- Soda pop..... 2 tickets
- Chips..... 2 tickets
- Bouncy House..... 4 tickets
- Obstacle course..... 4 tickets
- Games & crafts..... 1 to 4 tickets each



Name: _____

\$ included for tickets: _____

Check # _____

Please attach your check to this bottom portion of the flyer and return to the Front Office no later than Feb 23rd. Pre-purchased tickets may be picked up at the Jungle Jubilee in the pre-purchased ticket line. Thank you.