

Volume 13 Issue 25  
February 22, 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:**  
Expansion Mtg.  
March 4, 2010-7 p.m.

### BOD AGENDA

Financial Review, approve 2010-  
2011 school calendar, review  
Election Committee progress,  
write Headmaster performance  
evaluation, foreign language  
Report.

### Upcoming Board Elections

Parents: Now is the  
time to become  
involved at Liberty  
Common School on a  
Board of Directors  
level. There are three  
open seats available.  
Simply [click here](#) to  
apply online.

Donate to Liberty  
Common [Click Here](#)

### Headmaster Writing by Russell Spicer

#### Tough Choices - Tough Times

A few years ago I read an executive summary of a report from the National Center on Education and the Economy entitled, Tough Choices Tough Times - The Report of the New Commission on the Skills of the American Workforce. The report brought a great amount of attention throughout the education world and addressed many questions and concerns about the state of education in our country and offered some suggestions as to how to make things better.

The initial part of the executive summary addressed how the world economy and market is becoming more global, and in order to compete, we must do a better job of educating the members of our society. The following quotes found in the executive summary support this assertion.

"Whereas for most of the 20th century the United States could take pride in having the best educated workforce in the world, that is no longer true."

"While our international counterparts are increasingly getting more education, their young people are getting a better education as well. American students and young adults place anywhere from the middle to the bottom of the pack in all three continuing comparative studies of achievement in mathematics, science, and general literacy in the advanced industrial nations."

"Because this is so, a swiftly rising number of American workers at every skill level are in direct competition with workers in every corner of the globe."

"This is outsourcing. Firms that do not do this will inevitably be put out of business by firms that do. In this way, many functions that have always been performed by American workers in American firms will be outsourced to workers in other countries who do them better and cheaper."

The summary then goes on to state what is going to be needed to be successful in this global market.

"This is a world in which a very high level of preparation in reading, writing, speaking, mathematics, science, literature, history, and the arts will be an indispensable foundation for everything that comes after for most members of the workforce. It is a world in which comfort with ideas and abstractions is the passport to a good job, in which creativity and innovation are the key to a good life, in which high levels of education - a very different kind of education than most of us have had - are going to be the only security there is."

"The best employers the world over will be looking for the most competent, most creative, and most innovative people on the face of the earth and will be willing to pay them top dollar for their services. This will be true not just for the top professionals and managers, but up and down the length and breadth of the workforce."

"Strong skills in English, mathematics, technology, and science, as well as literature, history, and the arts will be essential for many; beyond this candidates will have to be comfortable with ideas and abstractions, good at both analysis and synthesis, creative and innovative, self-disciplined and well organized, able to learn very quickly and work well as a member of a team and have the flexibility to adapt quickly to frequent changes in the labor market as the shifts in the economy become even faster and more dramatic."

Later, the summary states that in order to accomplish these things and thus be competitive in the new global workforce, the education system we currently are using must change. **(Continued pg. 3)**

## 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. A counselor from Poudre **will not** be here. If you plan on attending the non-IB program at Poudre, contact the Front Office. 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](mailto:rspicer@libertycommon.org) or 482-9800, ext. 118

## CSAP Schedules Available Now

CSAP testing has begun. 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 Everett. 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](mailto:ctrout@libertycommon.org). Copies of books can be found in our own school library.

## 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.**

## Liberty Common Girls Basketball

The Lady Eagles have gone undefeated this year and now it's Quarter Finals and Semi-finals time. If you haven't seen these talented players now is your chance.

**Quarter Finals at Liberty on Feb. 25th at 4:00 p.m.**  
**Semi-Finals on March 1st at 5:30 p.m. at Saint Johns**  
**Finals on March 4th at 5:30 p.m. at Saint Johns**

**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.**

**Sniffles have returned, please send in a box of tissues with your student to Front Office. Thank you for your donation.**



## Liberty Common High School Update By Bob Schaffer

We're Not Kidding. Interestingly, someone asked if last week's Liberty newsletter message about the state's financial situation and its threatening impact on our school was perhaps some kind of exaggeration. It wasn't.

The need for every Liberty family to fully comprehend the impact of a shrinking Colorado School Finance Act is quite serious. If you missed it or need to re-read it, PLEASE [CLICK HERE](#).

Your Kid's School Is Calling. Then give serious consideration to elevating your financial commitment to the school. Also, please indicate you'll help the Liberty Fund Development Committee in its ramped-up efforts to better finance the Liberty program. Email Co-Chair Kayleen Fraley at: [kayleen.fraley@libertycommon.org](mailto:kayleen.fraley@libertycommon.org) to add your time, talent and treasure to the efforts of the other parents who have signed up to pitch in.

Donating To Liberty Made Easier: There's a new donation page set up at the Liberty website. Henceforth, a link to it will appear on nearly every electronic publication transmitted by the school directing readers to visit - and donate. One of Liberty's rock-star teachers greets visitors when they [CLICK HERE](#).

CSU College of Engineering: A team of administrators, teachers and parents from Liberty headed over to CSU last week for a promising meeting about the LCHS math, science and engineering curriculum. Our discussions were part of building an in-depth partnership with the CSU College of Engineering. An initial objective is to map a strategy for a four-year high-school track that would satisfy all of the College's admissions requirements - and then some.

Say Something Great: Calling all past Liberty students and any past or present Liberty parents who have something really good to say about Liberty. For our school-marketing files, we're collecting short testimonials about the school. These will be used on our website, blog, printed materials and other marketing publications.

A few sentences are all we need. Include your name, relationship to the school, then email it to [bob.schaffer@libertycommon.org](mailto:bob.schaffer@libertycommon.org). Submission implies permission to use your comments at will.

"Sharp-Dressed Man" (and Woman): After a few months trying out the new LCHS Dress Code, we're proud to say, it's working fairly well. Scholars are doing a great job "dressing up" well above the minimum requirements of the Code.

Jackets, ties, skirts, dresses and business suits are now common in the upper-school hallways prompting visitors to ask, "Why are they so dapper?" You can almost hear kids humming the classic ZZ Top tune Sharp Dressed Man in reply, "Clean shirt, new shoes. And I don't know what I am gonna do. Silk suit, black tie, I don't need a reason why."

Alms For The Debonair: Here's one anyway. We're looking for incentive gifts to reward students for examples of constructive leadership, positive behavior and virtue. **(Continued on page 3)**

Listed below are ten items identified by the National Center for Education and the Economy that the United States will need to face and change in order to make our system more efficient.

1. We recruit a disproportionate share of our teachers from among the less able of the high school students who go to college.
2. We tolerate an enormous amount of waste in the system, failing our student in the early years when the cost would be relatively low, and trying to remediate it later at much higher cost.
3. This inherently inefficient system has gotten progressively more inefficient over time.
4. The growing inequality in family incomes is contributing heavily to the growing disparities in student achievement.
5. We have failed to motivate our student to take tough courses and work hard, thus missing on of the most important drivers of success in the best-performing nations.
6. Our teacher compensation system is designed to reward time in service, rather than to attract the best and brightest of our college students and reward our best teachers.
7. Our testing system rewards student who will be good at routine work, while not providing opportunities for students to display creative and innovative thinking and analysis.
8. Too often we have built a bureaucracy in our schools in which, apart from the superintendent of schools, the people who have the responsibility do not have the power, and the people who have the power do not have the responsibility.
9. Most of the people who will be in our workforce are already in it, and if they cannot master the new literacy at high levels, it will not matter what we do in our schools.
10. We have done a poor job of making it possible for adults who have full-time jobs and family responsibilities to get the continuing education and training they need to survive in the world that is coming.

How refreshing it is to see that Liberty Common School consistently addresses these items listed by this commission. Our teachers are top notch and have extremely high expectations of their students. We have a “pay for performance” system in place that compensates our teachers well and rewards the best teachers. The Core Knowledge curriculum is academically rigorous and is the “great educational equalizer” for all students no matter what socioeconomic background they have. The educational program at Liberty Common School provides students with solid background knowledge in math, science, history, English, music and art, and teaches the students to be creative and problem solvers.

The times they are a changing. The future of our education system definitely is going to require some tough choices. Thankfully the founding fathers of Liberty Common School saw this coming and were willing to endure the tough times when they made the tough choice to start our school. We look forward to establishing the same high standard with our new high school. I hope other educational institutions will have the courage to follow suit.

## Liberty High School Update by Bob Schaffer Continued from Page 2

Soon we'll be handing out gift cards to the sharpest-dressed scholars.

Check the recesses of your wallets, purses and kitchen junk drawers. If you've got unused gift cards to restaurants, bookstores, clothing stores or anyplace else an LCHS scholar might patronize, please donate them to the school to be used as rewards to Liberty's most debonair.

**Sea Monkeys:** Congratulations to 5<sup>th</sup>-grader Matthew Iverson for correctly answering last week's Smart Kid Question Of The Week (posted on Mr. Schaffer's office window). The question was **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.

Matthew was first to answer correctly, **A:** \$76.80 -- Wow, that's 1,536 nickels! Matthew won a clutch of live, suspended, *Triops longicaudatus* eggs. These adorable and cuddly pre-historic creatures are sometimes called tadpole shrimp or “sea monkeys.”

**China elephant:** This week's Smart Kid Question is **Q:** How many integers between 100 and 500 do not contain an even digit? The first to answer correctly wins a handcrafted Lenox china elephant.

**Donate to Liberty:** In case we haven't mentioned it recently, Liberty needs more financial support from Liberty families and the greater community. To donate now, please [CLICK HERE](#). To volunteer to help our parent-led Fund Development Committee, please email Committee Co-Chair Kayleen Fraley at [kayleen.fraley@libertycommon.org](mailto:kayleen.fraley@libertycommon.org)

## 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](mailto:kayleen@fraleyfamily.com) or Michelle Provaznik at 970-223-0188 or [provaznik@msn.com](mailto:provaznik@msn.com) with questions or to volunteer.



## Jungle Jubilee

February 26, 6 pm - 8 pm

Jungle Jubilee is almost here! We need 10 more volunteers to fill all the positions for the carnival! If you can possibly donate an hour and 15 minutes of your time to help our kiddos have a great time, it would be **GREATLY APPRECIATED!**

We also still need many donations of 2 liter pop, store-bought sugar cookies and cupcakes as well.

Don't forget to pre-purchase your tickets as well! They're 5 for \$1 if bought early and 4 for \$1 at the door.

Please contact Lisa Murphy at 686-5975 or e-mail [Earl-Lisa@q.com](mailto:Earl-Lisa@q.com) if you can volunteer your time or donate any of the requested items. Thank you so much for your support! Without our volunteers, our Jubilee wouldn't be possible. See you Friday!



# 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.