

Volume 13 Issue 26  
March 1, 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 March

**March 3rd**– Track Mtg. 6 p.m.

**March 5th**– Class Photos

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

**March 11th**– April Lunch  
Calendars due

### 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.



The Colorado Eagles Hockey Team will be at Liberty Common on **March 1st** after school in the gym. The program is brought to our school by the after school program (A.S.K.) program. All are welcome to attend.

Donate to Liberty  
Common [Click Here](#)

Greetings from the Board of Directors,

Have you heard that we are growing? “Sure,” you might say, “we’re adding a high school!” What most people don’t know is that we are also growing a much larger elementary school. We are now accepting students from the lottery into our third track of Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> grades. When we open the doors next fall, we will have more than 120 new students in our elementary school, and many more additional students to come. At build out, we will have grown the elementary school by 50%, with 180 new students. Comparing that to the expected 25 or 30 new 10<sup>th</sup> graders next year puts in perspective the magnitude of growth in the two branches of the school. Please support your elementary teachers this spring as they prepare for the big changes in store.

We don’t ask students to sell the candy bars, popcorn, bread braids and other appurtenances ubiquitous to most public schools. Liberty Common School is fiscally responsible, a good steward of our tax dollars and we offer an academic education which is fully funded by our tax-payer support. While this stewardship remains paramount to our decision making, two important changes are upon us, which require new thinking. The school’s expansion is obviously the first. Because of the downturn in the economy, we are also faced with severe pupil funding reductions. We have already been required to return \$100,000 to the state coffers this year. Our share of the state’s budget reduction in K-12 education funding is currently projected to be at least \$300,000 for next year. The anticipated 2010-2011 rescission, nearly 7.5% of our annual budget, will bring hard choices if we cannot increase our level of support through in-kind donations, cash gifts and grants. In order to weather this financial storm, we have to ask for parental and community support for our programs. That began this fall with Mr. Schaffer’s solicitation for donations. The Board of Directors joins the administration in thanking the more than 100 families who gave generously during that campaign.

Some perspective on the value of our Liberty education is enlightening. In addition to top test scores, Liberty Common offers students the option to stay with a small cohort of students for 13 years. Below is a comparison of local private and independent schools that offer a values-oriented academic education in a small school environment:

<b>Front Range Baptist Academy -</b>	<b>\$3,450/year + books</b>
<b>Resurrection Christian School -</b>	<b>\$4,500/year</b>
<b>St. Joseph’s Catholic School (non-affiliated) -</b>	<b>\$4,800/year</b>
<b>St. John’s Military Academy -</b>	<b>\$17,200/year</b>
<b>Kent Denver School -</b>	<b>\$19,360/year + books</b>
<b>Liberty Common School –</b>	<b>No tuition</b>

Another opportunity to support the school is fast approaching. The first annual Liberty Fundraiser and Silent Auction, “Learn Today, To Lead Tomorrow” will be Saturday, May 1<sup>st</sup> in the Agave Room at the Rio Grande Restaurant. Please review your family’s giving plans this year and reflect on the value of the education provided by Liberty Common School, and join us at the Rio!

Finally, we will soon have a home for Liberty Common High School, and we are “dyin’ to tell ya” about it. When things become more crystallized with the high school site, the Board of Directors and administration will schedule a school-wide meeting to share the exciting news and introduce more about LCHS. Stay tuned!

Looking forward,

Craig Horton, Chairman

## 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.

**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.**

## 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.

## First Annual Liberty Fundraiser

**Planning for the First Annual Liberty Fundraiser and Silent Auction on Saturday evening, May 1st is in full swing! The event will be held at the Agave Room of the Rio Grande Restaurant.**

**Donation items have already started to arrive for this event, and we need your help! There are so many varied items and services that could contribute to a successful and entertaining evening, from a round of golf to a hot air balloon ride ...to a weekend getaway or tickets to a sporting event... to a flight simulator visit or a VIP lunch - the ideas for auction items are limited only by your creativity! With the coming reduction in funding for education, it is the Special Event Committee's goal to generate additional funds for Liberty students, staff and supplies through this entertaining event. Please contact Susan Jones at [sjones@performanceacs.com](mailto:sjones@performanceacs.com) with Silent Auction donations or contacts. We are actively soliciting donation items from all sources! The solicitation of silent auction items will require many hands on deck; can we count on yours??**

## Liberty Common Girls Basketball

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

**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**

## Liberty Common High School Update By Bob Schaffer

**Get Your House In Order.** Attention all LCHS-bound 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> graders. All students planning to attend Liberty Common High School in August will be assigned to their houses on Thursday, March 11<sup>th</sup> at a pizza feast at Liberty.

House deans will be introduced. Houses will organize, make initial plans and acquaint new incoming scholars who will be attending LCHS and joining the Liberty community. The dinner bell rings at 6:30 p.m. sharp. This is your first "House Call." This important first step into high school will be informative, nutritious (well, certainly tasty) and, of course, great fun.

For a refresher lesson on the LCHS House System, [CLICK HERE](#).

**Learn Today to Lead Tomorrow (Learn To Mark Your Calendars Today, Too)** – Parents: You won't want to miss the First Annual Liberty Fundraiser and Silent Auction! Saturday – May 1<sup>st</sup> – evening – the Rio Restaurant downtown. Further details are provided nearby and more are forthcoming. Donate silent-auction items and plan to attend this not-to-be-missed event.

**Best-Dressed Man:** Congratulations to Liberty scholar Jonathan Ruska upon being recognized as Liberty's Best-Dressed Man for the quarter. In nominating him, one of his teachers wrote, "He has set such intention on looking his best. His positive attitude and pride in appearance make him a natural candidate for this award."

For his leadership in dapperly emergence, Jonathan was rewarded two Liberty Passes (permits jeans on Friday), a \$25 gift card donated by Plato's Closet, a \$25 gift card for new shoes and a \$50 gift card to another clothing store to go along with the historical distinction of being the very first male scholar to win the award thus kicking off a new LCHS tradition.

**Best-Dressed Woman:** Congratulations to Liberty scholar Christiana Spicer upon being recognized as Liberty's Best-Dressed Woman for the quarter. In nominating her, one of her teachers remarked, "Even on Blue-Jean Mondays she looks great. She always makes a conscientious effort to dress well and set a standard every single day."

For her leadership in modish suavety, Christiana was rewarded a \$25 gift card donated by Ross Dress For Less, a \$25 gift card donated by Plato's Closet, a \$50 gift card to another clothing store and two Liberty Passes (priceless) to go along with the historical distinction of setting a high standard for dignity in appearance for LCHS women.

As Liberty's first scholars to earn the "Best Dressed" distinction, both Christiana and Jonathan get a hearty "BRAVO!" from their peers and parents plus an additional "THANK YOU!" from Liberty's teachers, staff, administrators and Board of Directors. You make us all proud and you look absolutely marvelous.

**Shop At Plato's Closet:** Special thanks go to our good friends at Plato's Closet in Fort Collins for supporting the LCHS dress code

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## Track Starts at Liberty March 11th



Calling all 6th-8th grade runners, discus throwers, shot putters, long jumpers and high jumpers– Liberty Common School track begins **March 11th** immediately after school. There will be a mandatory track meeting on **March 3rd at 6:00 p.m.** for both parents and student. At the meeting schedules and expectations of athletes will be discussed. All required paperwork including sports physicals are due on **March 11th**. Athletic forms are available in the Front Office.

## 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.



## Liberty Common High School Update (from page 2)

by donating clothing gift cards to Liberty's best-dressed scholars. Please return the favor and friendship by shopping at **Plato's Closet**, and be sure to thank them for supporting Liberty when you're next at their store. [CLICK HERE](#) for store information.

**Shop At Ross:** Special thanks go to our good friends at Ross Dress For Less in Fort Collins for supporting the LCHS dress code by donating a clothing gift card to Liberty's best-dressed scholars. Please return the favor and friendship by shopping at Ross, and be sure to thank them for supporting Liberty when you're next at their store. [CLICK HERE](#) for store information.

**Alms For Elegance:** Please continue donating unused gift cards languishing in the recesses of your wallets, purses and glove boxes to Liberty's next "Dress-For-Success" winners. Such incentives involving bookstores, coffee shops, restaurants, clothing stores, skiing, etc., go a long way in fostering a well-dressed, dignified, sharp-looking stable of scholars at Liberty.

If you have any other modest treasures with which scholars may be gently (bribed) nudged toward civilized array, please donate them - and get a tax deduction.

**Odd Digits:** Congratulations to Alex Iverson for being first to correctly answer last week's Smart Kid Question, Q: How many integers between 100 and 500 do not contain an even digit? His answer, A: "50," earned him a splendid prize -- a handcrafted Lenox china elephant.

**Hey Ewe!** This week's question is Q: What is this Mystery Sentence? Clue: This four-word simple declarative sentence is one of the most famous statements made by an American civil-rights leader. The sentence begins with a subject, a first-person-singular personal pronoun. The next word is a present-tense action verb, which happens to be a word which is often used as a helping verb in the perfect tenses. The sentence concludes with an indefinite article and a subject complement, a singular common noun.

Be the first to answer correctly and receive a pewter sculpture of a Rocky Mountain big-horn sheep and lamb by the late Michael Ricker of Estes Park. Good luck to ewes all!

**Donate to Liberty:** The key to raising money is asking, so we do. Liberty needs more financial support from Liberty families and the greater community. Please see Board Chairman Horton's nearby column for elucidation. 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)