

Volume 13 Issue 31
April 12, 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's Happening

April 12– High School Info.
Night

April 13– 3rd/4th Music
Concert– 6:30 p.m.

April 20– Public Information
Night– 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
Bill Werst– 631-8379

Board of Directors Meeting: Expansion Mtg. April 22, 2010

BOD AGENDA

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

The “Learn Today to Lead Tomorrow” event committee is looking for creative people to oversee the decorations and floral arrangements for this event. Nearly 500 invitations are in the mail and we are expecting a big crowd. Please email Kayleen Fraley today to put your creative energy to use for Liberty! Phone 377-8850 or email kayleen@fraleyfamily.com

Donate to Liberty
[Common Click Here](#)

Auguries of a Great School

By Bob Schaffer, High School Project Coordinator

You should see the big piles of job applications spread about the Headmaster's office. In them, we've got resumes from throughout the United States, some even from other countries.

As with any serious enterprise, Liberty Common School is obsessed with measuring its own performance and progress. We utilize standardized test scores, redundant measurements to verify assessments, ongoing classroom feedback, parent surveys, peer reviews, graduate feedback, student-growth charts, monitoring, exit interviews and other strategies.

As a charter school in a competitive academic marketplace, Liberty needs to ensure it is deploying the most efficient tactics in an effort to most directly advance the core vision of the institution. Board Chairman Craig Horton's commentary in last week's Monday Notes is a perfect example of the school's habit of regularly questioning its own assumptions. ([CLICK HERE](#) to review Horton's column on foreign-language instruction in the early grades.

Anecdotes are useful, too. Examples of our graduates flourishing in high schools and colleges, drawing upon their Core Knowledge advantage, also validate Liberty's quality.

Just last week, a proud parent praised her daughter's deep historical knowledge and understanding of a European site visited on vacation. Committed to the girl's memory, this meaningful background information came directly out of a Liberty classroom.

Though unquantifiable, these kinds of stories are still generally reasonable indicators of a great school – as are high piles of resumes in a headmaster's office.

Recently, we spent two days at the University of Northern Colorado's teacher job fair. It was the second of three job fairs attended by Liberty this year.

Our mission at these functions is to screen job-seeking teachers. Hordes of them have shown up at job fairs this year; many more than usual. Their resumes are added to the piles in the Headmaster's office.

At these fairs, we set up a table which includes a Liberty display board, some curriculum documents, a few of E.D. Hirsch's books and a stack of brochures describing our school. On hand at UNC were recruiters from more than a hundred schools. The Bering Strait School District from Alaska was stationed right across the aisle from us.

Over the two days spent there, we granted short screening interviews to a few dozen aspirants. These interrogations take about 20 minutes each and are designed to help us decide whether to invite applicants to Liberty for an actual job interview. Only a few made it to that stage.

The instructive anecdote worth considering here is this: A striking number of applicants came specifically to apply at Liberty and Liberty High School. An impressive number knew about Liberty and had researched the school's curriculum and philosophy.

They spoke about the school's reputation as a top-performing institution. They knew about our professional faculty and expressed a desire to join it. They admired the school's professional teaching environment as opposed to the union-worker role they would play at regular schools.

(Continued on page 3)

NCIL 2009-2010 Track Schedule

April 17th Sat. 8:00 a.m. UNC (Greeley)
 April 21st Wed. 4:00 p.m. Frontier
 April 28th Wed. 4:00 p.m. Liberty

CVC Meeting

Friday, April 16th-8 a.m. to discuss Teacher Appreciation. Please call Kendra at 691-2033 if you cannot attend. See you then!

Learn Today to Lead Tomorrow Silent Auction Invitations are in the mail. Please look for yours and return the Reply Card as soon as possible. If you are not in the directory and would like an invitation mailed to you, please email Marie Eldridge at mariee@mho.com. Note the opportunity to sponsor a teacher to attend this event. We'll see you on May 1st at the Agave Room of The Rio!

Volunteers for First Annual Fundraiser and Silent Auction Are Busy, Busy People

Volunteers for the First Annual Liberty Fundraiser and Silent Auction on May 1st are busy preparing for an evening of fun at The Agave Room of The Rio Grande Restaurant in downtown Fort Collins.

A special thank you for the generous and creative donations from our staff, families and community members! We are actively seeking donations to add to our growing inventory of awesome auction items.

Please consider asking friends, neighbors, business associates and old Aunt Agnes for donation items-Bronco tickets, Celtics Tickets, beauty services, a work of art, interior design consulting, a shopping trip with fashion advice, gift cards or a trip to Disneyland. The ideas are limitless!

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 rasb@nassmv.com with Silent Auction donations or contacts. The solicitation of silent auction items will require many hands on deck; can we count on yours?

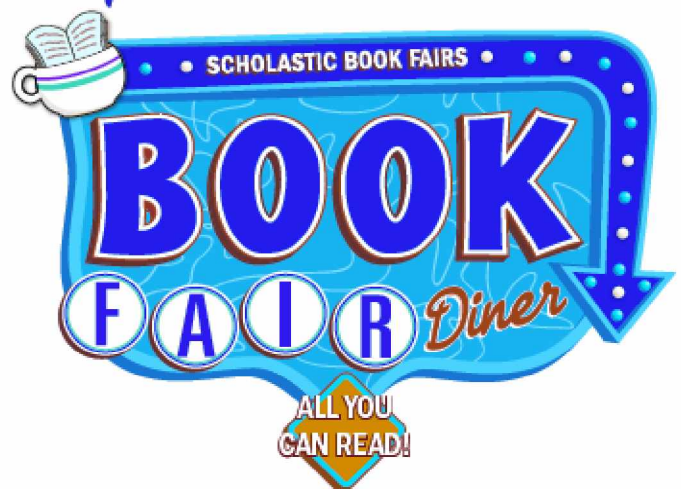
Liberty Book Club Meets Again on 4/22 All invited!

Don't miss your opportunity to be a part of another great learning and discussion group. All Liberty staff and parents are invited to attend the second book club discussion on **April 22nd at 7:00 pm.** on Cultural Literacy, by E.D. Hirsch. The discussion will be led by Bob Schaffer. If you have read the book come. If you have only read 1/2 of the book come. If you have only read the first paragraph you are still encouraged to attend. Cultural Literacy is available for check out from our school library. If you have any questions, please contact Connie Trout at ctrout@libertycommon.org. Happy Reading!

Let's Make 4th Quarter Rock!

- If your child is absent please call the Attendance Line at 482-9800, press 2. When your child is late and an adult signs them in, it is necessary that a reason for tardiness be given. Our auditors frown on blanks on the Student Check-In Sheets.
- Hot lunch will not be served on April 23rd. Please send a sack lunch with your child. Thank You!
- Please use Powerschool <http://libertycommon.powerschool.com/guardian> to access everything from your child's grades to their lunch selection. Call the Front Office for assistance.

Come See What's
Special at Our



Come to the Spring Scholastic Bookfair, April 27-April 30th

(Continued from Front Page)

Our twenty-minute interview questionnaire helps cull a herd rather quickly. Should a teacher be a ‘sage on the stage’ or a ‘guide on the side?’ ([CLICK HERE](#) to see our headmaster’s commentary on this very question). Should students be rewarded for effort or results? Is it more important that a student know information or be able to find it? ([CLICK HERE](#) to see the former Ridgeview Headmaster’s timely remarks on this topic).

We’re only marginally interested teachers who might be a good fit. We want a perfect fit.

Of all recruiters visible from our vantage point, Liberty drew the largest crowds of applicants. The lines extending from both ends of our table became an unintentional problem. They blocked other recruiters’ tables to our left and right creating somewhat of a traffic jam.

Soon, recruiters from other schools were visiting the Liberty table collecting our handouts and wondering what had attracted so many jobseekers. There was a palpable buzz about our school. A competing recruiter told us of flustered interviewees who had come directly to his school’s table asking if anyone knew the right answers to Liberty’s “tough” questions.

Ecstatic about getting a screening interview, one teacher couldn’t wait to answer the question, “Why do you want to teach at Liberty?” She responded, “Sir, I’ve dropped off resumes at every table in this whole arena, but there’s only one school I really want to teach at. It’s Liberty Common School.”

By the way, she was one of the few very well prepared for the rest of her interview. We’re interviewing her again in a few days. If she turns out to be a perfect fit for Liberty, we’ll invite her to join the faculty.

The scene at UNC was indeed different from years past. Many more people in the business of education know about Liberty. After fourteen years in operation, they know we’re setting a standard in student achievement and professional teaching. They know our character education trains up responsible and decent young citizens.

Our peers have come to admire and respect our program and its culture. More truly great teachers tell us that teaching at Liberty would be the highpoint in their careers.

No, the UNC story isn’t a complete portrayal of Liberty. It’s just another anecdote.

It does, however, affirm the hard and fast measurements we take in charting the school’s ongoing performance and improvement. To the extent these indicators, along with high piles of resumes, portend success for Liberty’s expansion and our new high school; they are indeed auguries of a great school.

In other high-school news:

High-School Public-Info Night – Tonight! Enrollment is still open for Liberty Common High School.

If you know anyone who would fit in well as an LCHS scholar starting in August, please urge them to attend the LCHS Public-Info Night tonight at 6:30 p.m. at Liberty.

Make Noise About The Silent Auction. Liberty’s Silent Auction is coming up quickly – May 1st! Make plans to attend and shout out to others you might persuade to attend. Details are found nearby.

This is an important fundraiser for the school. Plus it’s going to be the start of a fun school tradition. Abandon your kids ([CLICK HERE](#) to see why this is an excellent idea). Bid on once-in-a-lifetime bargain deals. Donate to the school. Hang out with your kid’s best friends’ parents. Strengthen the Liberty community.

To Be Or Not To Be? That is the question Liberty’s classic 8th-grader Tim Scott figured out first in answering last week’s Smart Kid Question of the Week. Another Mystery Sentence, the clue in last week’s school newsletter ([CLICK HERE](#) to see it) led Tim to the correct answer: “To be or not to be, that is the question.” It’s from Shakespeare’s *Hamlet*.

Tim’s Classic Brachiopods. For being first to answer correctly, Tim received two fossil specimens – Rhynchonellid brachiopods (sea-shell-sorta-look’n things) from the early Devonian Period (416 to 359.2 million years ago). [CLICK HERE](#) to see some. This week’s winner gets two more specimens (your choice) out of the same bag of Devonian fossils. Just answer this week’s Smart-Kid Question first and you’ll win, too:

(Continued on Page 4)

This Week's Smart Kid Question is a really, really tough math riddle. This multiplication problem uses all the digits 0-9. Fill in the missing numbers. $(7 \ X \ X)4 \ X = X \ X \ X \ X \ X$. (each x is a different number (0-9))

Social Networking For Liberty. Help spread the good word about our school. Focused on the growing utility of free Internet tools, we're getting better at building awareness and brand identity through Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, Ning, blogs and other cost-effective tools.

The simplest strategy is for everyone in the Liberty community to pass along, forward and "ReTweet" (that's Twitterspeak) news and information about Liberty. For example, this very newsletter column will be posted at three different locations on the Internet.

The more Liberty traffic we can generate by passing and linking this information on to our friends, family, constituents, even each other, the easier we make it for prospective students, teachers, donors, grant makers, policymakers and school leaders to know about us. This is a very powerful and valuable tool.

Help Liberty's Viral Marketing. Parents and supporters: Set up accounts, follow and spread information about Liberty at the following places (Click on each to link to its platform):

[Liberty's Webpage](#)

[Liberty's Colorado Charter Schools blog](#)

[Liberty's Colorado Charter Schools history blog](#)

[Liberty's Coloradoan On-Line News blog](#)

[Liberty's Facebook Group Page](#)

[Liberty on Twitter](#)

[Liberty on LinkedIn](#)

If you have questions or need some help getting started, please don't hesitate to contact me via [Twitter](#) or the [old-fashioned way](#).



**LIBERTY
COMMON SCHOOL**
Common Knowledge, Common Virtues, Common Sense

Attend Fort Collins' Newest College Prep High School



April 12, 2010

6:30pm

High School Information Night

1725 Sharp Point Drive • Fort Collins
970-482-9800 • www.libertycommon.org