

Volume 13 Issue 32
April 19, 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 20– Public Information Night– 6:30 p.m.

April 23– **Mayfest**–Pack a sack lunch, hot lunch not served.

April 30– Liberty Talent Show–6:30 p.m.

May 1– Learn Today to Lead Tomorrow Fundraiser/Auction, Rio Grande Restaurant, Agave Room, 6:30-9:30 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:
April 22, 2010

BOD AGENDA

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

The “Learn Today to Lead Tomorrow” event committee needs volunteers to tear-down the event space on May 1st until approx. 10:30 p.m. Please contact Kayleen Fraley if you can help. Phone 377-8850 or kayleen@fraleyfamily.com

Donate to Liberty
[Common Click Here](#)

Primary Classroom Placement, Jr. High and High School Schedules

By Russ Spicer, Liberty Common Headmaster

It is the time of year when activities begin to wind down in each class and for the school in general. While most thoughts are still on finishing this year out strong, some are thinking about next year. One thing that the parents and students start to think ahead about is who their teacher or teachers will be for next year.

Due to the addition of another Kindergarten section, the half-day students will be assigned to one of two teachers. As we have always done with the other grade level classroom placements, we pledge to do our best at fairly and effectively placing the Kindergarteners into each class.

For students entering 1st – 6th grade, the current teacher determines what teacher the student will have for the next year. On occasion a discussion with the academic support team or administration occurs to assist in the decision-making process as well. Liberty teachers take this responsibility very seriously and put a great amount of thought and energy into making the placements.

Please note that younger siblings of any K-6 students will not automatically be assigned the same teacher that the older sibling had. Placement considerations include:

- ❖ The student's learning style
- ❖ Reading ability
- ❖ Academic strengths and weaknesses
- ❖ Personality
- ❖ Behavior
- ❖ The number of boys and girls in each class
- ❖ Peer relationships
- ❖ Equal distribution of new students.

Our faculty takes a long hard look at this information and ultimately attempts to properly place each student into the classes for the next year. The teachers have just spent nine months working with the students and have developed a great understanding of them. It is important that we support their decisions. The class rosters will be sent home over the summer.

If for some reason there are serious concerns that you feel need to be taken into consideration, you may submit an appeal to Mr. Spicer by April 30th, 2010. Again, please understand that any appeal should occur for only serious matters of concern. Those matters shall be given careful consideration, but there is no guarantee that a change of placement will occur. Thanks for your cooperation and understanding with this matter.

All 7th – 10th grade students will have their schedules developed for the 2010-2011 academic year. While many courses are required for 7th – 10th grade, there are still a number of elective choices that must be made. Liberty Common School tries hard to give the students one of their top choices. Sometimes this is very difficult to accomplish because the schedule is so tightly packed with required core courses. Please note, however, that we will do everything we can to give the student one of his/her top choices. That is a priority for us. The class schedules will be mailed to the students this summer.


Well, now back to the present. It has been a great year of preparing the students to “Learn Today to Lead Tomorrow” at Liberty Common School. Here is hoping we can stay the course and finish the year strong.

NCIL 2009-2010 Track Schedule

April 21st Wed. 4:00 p.m. Frontier
 April 28th Wed. 4:00 p.m. Liberty

**Liberty Book Club Cancels 4/29 meeting
 Stay Tuned to Monday Notes for info.**

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



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 Common High School Update by Bob Schaffer

LCHS Building Status

Measuring For Curtains: The building location of the new Liberty Common High School is 2745 Minnesota Drive in Fort Collins. That's about one mile south of our current building.

We've signed a Letter of Intent which is the first major step toward our tenancy there. The process is not yet completed, but the path is clear.

It's a good location and a good building for our needs. The facility was built for a different charter high school that abandoned it approximately three years ago. It has been vacant ever since.

Peer Into Our Future: Photos, building dimensions and a map are posted at the Liberty blog ([CLICK HERE](#) for link). Many decisions about the facility have already been made and many more are on the agenda.

It's an exciting time in Liberty's growth. Check here next week for further information about who's moving in, school hours and move-in schedule, etc.

Please Pardon The Vagaries: It's not Liberty's bearing to be wooly on any element of our school. After all, the institution is run by parents and we've always believed transparency is best. However, there are very prudent reasons facility details have so far been ambiguous.

Due to multiple variables and delicate intricacies involved in securing the property, we've been reluctant to intimate premature confirmations about the new high school's location, details and status. We're now far enough along that we feel it's finally okay to declare what some have surmised, deduced or heard through the rumor mill.

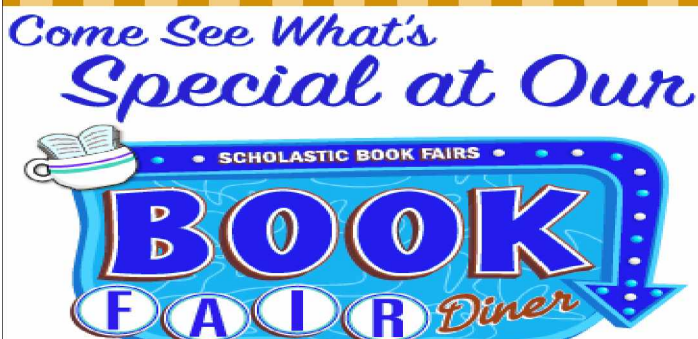
Multiple private parties are involved in the transaction which, again, remains incomplete. Had certain sensitive information become widely known too early, it could have jeopardized negotiations, inflated costs, caused delay or shut us out entirely.

Thanks everyone for your patience and understanding. Congratulations on this huge milestone in Liberty's history. Now let's raise some money for carpet, a fresh coat of paint, an engineering lab, oh...and those new curtains!

Répondez S'il Vous Plaît: Liberty's Silent Auction is coming up quickly – May 1st at the Rio Grande Restaurant. If you're reading this, you likely received an invitation in the mail a few weeks ago. Please let our event organizers know you're coming.

Too many people are letting their RSVP cards collect dust. If you've misplaced yours, [CLICK HERE](#) to print off another one. Send it in, fax it in, or confirm your attendance by email to kayleen.fraley@libertycommon.org.

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Come to the Spring Scholastic Bookfair,
 April 27-April 30th, 8-4 p.m.

Liberty Common High School Update (Continued from page 2)

This is an important fundraiser for the school. Plus, all the economically savvy people will be there. Boy, does that sound fun or what?

Economics In One Auction: Seriously, due to the phenomenal success of the organizing committee, donated items and services are rolling in the front door like a high-seas loading dock. So far \$18,000 in treasure has been donated! That figure is climbing as more items are coming in every day. If you've got something to donate, get it to us ASAP.

Here's a guarantee: The value of the items you haul home the night of May 1st will easily exceed the value of your event expenditures. Your kids will be persuaded how smart you are when you explain how much you bagged for so little. Ticket prices are \$30 per individual or \$50 per couple.

You can only win. The school can only win. For more proof [CLICK HERE](#) and see why you'd be a fool not to attend. So *répondez s'il vous plaît* now! That's French for "let us know pronto whether you're coming so we order the right amount of Mexican appetizers!"

Outstanding Orators. Scholars Hope Jeffers and Katie Werst spoke on behalf of the LCHS student body and the House System before the crowd assembled for last week's high-school public-information meeting. Both gave updates about the House System and how it's making their personal journey to the new high school exciting.

Both also spoke most eloquently about the system's early success in developing leadership and ownership in the unfolding of LCHS. Hope's powerful remarks are published at the LCHS blog. [CLICK HERE](#) to read them.

Human Supercomputer. Liberty 9th-grader Hunter Smith revealed his supercomputing capacity last week by answering the Smart Kid Question of the Week – a super-difficult math riddle. In fact the riddle was certified as "impossible by anyone without a math PhD" by the manufacturers of the math riddles used by the Liberty Department of Smart Kid Questions. You can find see the riddle for yourself in last week's Monday Notes by [CLICKING HERE](#). The answer $715 \times 46 = 32890$ required Hunter to find all but two of those digits in the entire equation. Pretty impressive!

Hunter's Devonian Brachiopods. For being first to answer correctly, Hunter received two fossil specimens from the early Devonian Period – Rhynchonellid brachiopods. These are sea-shell-sorta-look'n creatures archeologists say lounged around the ocean floor around 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, too, will win some!

This Week's Smart Kid Question is: What happened in 1961 and will not happen again until 6009?

Churchill's Wisdom: Our assistant principal Casey Churchill made some news last week for Liberty. As a National Core Knowledge Consultant, Mr. Churchill is in big demand when parent groups and school leaders throughout the Rocky Mountain West need a speaker to discuss strategies for great education.

His latest appearance was mentioned in a write-up featured in the Denver Post's Your Hub pages. [CLICK HERE](#) to see it.

Still Needing Proctors for NWEA Testing- Please Check Your Calendars for Availability

Our Spring NWEA testing cycle has begun and will run through May 10th. To help Mr. Kranz our wonderful computer technology teacher make his life easier, we need parent volunteers to help proctor the testing process on the following days and times. Please contact Mrs. Ronen in the Front Office if you are willing and available. She can be reached by telephone at 482-9800 ext. 110 or by email at jronen@libertycommon.org. Thank you.

Tuesday, April 20th- 10:10– 11:10

Monday, April 26th -10:10– 11:10

Thursday, April 29th -10:10-11:10

Thursday, April 29th - 2:00-3:00

Monday, May 10th - 10:10-11:10

Help Us Show the Love- Teacher Appreciation Week– May 3-7th

Teacher Appreciation Week is fast approaching and we could use your help with food preparation for Teacher Appreciation Luncheon, set up and clean up. Decorating of the Teacher's Lounge is also needed as well as donation of decorations- Italian theme. If interested in helping, please contact Kendra Simms at 691-2033.

Time to Pick up Student's Medication

As we are coming to the end of the school year, we want to remind parents to pick up all medications from the Health Office. For the safety of your children, we ask that you follow these procedures.

- No medication(s) will be sent home with students. All medications must be picked up by parents by the last day of the school year (including emergency or "as needed" medications, such as EpiPens, Tylonol, inhalers).
- If you need to pick up your child's medication before the last day of school, the needed number of pill may be counted out and kept at school in the original container. You may take the remaining pills home in a plastic bag.
- Any medication not picked up by the last day of school will be disposed of by the school nurse, according to state guidelines.

We hope everyone understands this procedure is important for safeguarding your children.

Please pick up medication between 8a.m. –3 p.m.

Attention Parents of 5th and 6th Graders

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment requires all students entering the 6th and 10th grades to have proof of receiving the Tdap vaccine, or a signed exemption. This is based on the Center of Disease Control recommendations to prevent cases of Pertussis (Whooping Cough).

Please submit clinic documentation to the Health Office to verify that your child has been immunized, or submit a signed exemption. The information will be included in your student's school immunization record. Thanks– Angie Selgren, Health Technician

Mayfest is April 23rd

Mayfest a Liberty Common Tradition, is April 23rd. All students will participate in activities based on what has been learned in the classroom. To make this day run as smoothly as possible please keep these following items in mind.

- Hot lunch will **NOT** be served. Please send a sack lunch with your student.
- Many activities will be outside. Please send sunscreen with your student as well as water and a hat.

