

Volume 13 Issue 30
April 5, 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 5-5th grade Human Development/Parents -6:00 p.m.

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.
4/8/10
7:00 p.m.

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](#)

Libertad Or Libertas? Spanish To Latin

By: LCS Board Chairman Craig Horton

Does the phrase, "We've always done it that way" ring any bells?

There is a popular urban legend about the reason for which the U.S. standard railroad gauge (distance between the rails) is 4 feet, 8.5 inches. As the story goes, it's because that's the way they built them in England, and English expatriates built the US Railroads.

Why did the English build them like that? Because that was the width of the ruts in the Roman highways, which were driven by horse drawn chariots.

The legend goes on to explain all of the antecedent logic and reveals the true primary reason to be because the exact width of two horses' rear-ends is 4 feet, 8.5 inches, which therefore dictated the width of the chariots!

It's just a myth, but the parable has a note of truth. Sometimes, when we look at our current state we cannot draw a straight line from where we *intended* to be to where we are.

Such is the case with our foreign language program at Liberty Common School. As the expansion unfolds, we are designing a robust and expanded Spanish curriculum for the Junior High and High School.

We plan to offer Spanish 1 through 4 and Advanced Placement (AP) Spanish. We have also had extended discussions about offering other Germanic and Romance languages. You may have also read about our consideration of the Mandarin language as an option.

During these discussions, the Board and Administration visited the reasoning behind why we have implemented Spanish in the lower grades, exclusive of other languages. The primary educational goal of Liberty Common is to bring all students to English literacy.

Every other goal of the school serves this effort. When the founding parents designed the schedule and curriculum, they included regular instruction in *Latin* for all grades.

The school's founders chose Latin because it is a parent language to English, which is Germanic in origin but contains a rich infusion of Latin roots. Latin was proposed to enhance the students' English literacy through the study of Latin grammar, spelling, and word roots.

The founders also believed preparing students for the acquisition of Spanish language skills was important for students learning in an increasingly bilingual America. Linguistically, Spanish is a direct descendant of Latin and a student well-prepared in the basics of Latin can thrive in the study of Spanish, as well as a host of Western European languages. The six most widely spoken standardized Romance languages are Spanish, Portuguese, French, Italian, Romanian and Catalan.

So why then do we teach Spanish in the primary grades and not Latin? **(Continued pg. 4)**

NCIL 2009-2010 Track Schedule

April 7th	Wed.	4:00 p.m.	at Windsor
April 10th	Sat.	8:30 a.m.	Immanuel Lutheran Invitational
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

**40 Yearbooks Available to Purchase
\$25.00 Forms in Front Office**

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 marie@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!

- Spring Scholastic Bookfair is April 27th-April 30th. We need parent volunteers to help us make this a success. Please contact Lori Laws at 988-8777 or lorilynn90@yahoo.com
- 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.
- May Lunch Calendars are due to the Front Office by April 11. The calendars can be downloaded off our school website www.libertycommon.org.
- 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

Liberty Common High School Update by Bob Schaffer

Enrollment Still Open For Attending LCHS!

High-School Public-Info Night - one week away! The front office continues to field great questions about the high school. More families are still considering having their kids attend Liberty Common High School. As such, we've decided to hold another LCHS Public-Information Night. Enrollment is still open.

If you know of anyone who would fit in well as an LCHS scholar starting in August, please urge them to attend the LCHS Public-Info Night on **Monday April 12th at 6:30 p.m.** at Liberty.

Liberty Silent Auction Coming Up Quick - **May 1st!** Make plans to attend the Liberty Silent Auction. Details are found nearby. This is an important fundraiser for the school. Plus it's loads of fun. Abandon your kids ([CLICK HERE](#) to see why this is an excellent idea). Win excellent prizes. Donate to the school. Have a ball.

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Liberty Common High School Update (Continued from pg. 2)

Free Babysitting: To make it easier for parents to attend the Silent Auction on May 1st, the organizing committee is arranging for babysitting. The idea is to have experienced Liberty teenaged sitters come to your house. Now you can plan to ditch your kids without the anxiety that normally comes with inattentive parenting.

Cannonballs For Liberty: Now is the time to donate valuable works of art, heirlooms, valuables, weekend getaways, vacation trips, professional services, even amateur ones to Liberty for our upcoming silent auction - May 1st. Be creative in thinking about things you might donate.

Lawyers can donate wills. Accountants can donate lessons on how to be really charming. Police officers can donate shooting lesson - or indulgences for getting caught at their favorite speed trap.

A week of summer pet sitting, for example, will surely raise serious money for the school. A pool party at your house with special celebrity guest cannonballer Marques "High Dive" Kem and salsa-dancing instructors Duane "Twinkle Toes" Staton & Sara "Little Dipper" Nuedling ([CLICK HERE](#) for preview) could go for thousands at an auction like ours. Please see event details printed nearby.

Show Me The Money! To thrive in an unpredictable economy, Liberty needs more donations and financial support. To donate now, please [CLICK HERE](#).

Raise Me The Money! To volunteer to help our parent-led Fund Development Committee - for example, you might want to join the grant-application subcommittee or help plan the Silent Auction, or cultivate a partnership with a fund-donating entity - please email Committee Co-Chair Kayleen Fraley at kayleen.fraley@libertycommon.org

Babysitters Needed: Attention babysitters! We need a whole bunch of experienced (teenaged-or-older) babysitters to provide childcare for the many Liberty parents who will be abandoning their kids on May 1st for the Silent Auction. Do your part for humanity by volunteering. This helps your school as the parents who attend the Silent Auction are contributing to your educational futures. Email Co-Chairman Kayleen Fraley at Kayleen.fraley@libertycommon.org

How Does Your Garden Grow? Congratulations to Liberty's illustrious 4th-grader Sierra Finley for figuring out 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 Sierra to the correct answer: "Mary, Mary, quite contrary, how does your garden grow?" It's from a cryptic English nursery rhyme. With Cockle Shells. For being first to answer correctly, Sierra received two fossil specimens - Rhynchonellid brachiopods (Cockle-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 Mystery Sentence first and you'll win, too:

This Week's Smart Kid Question is Q: What is this sentence? Clue: A famous sentence from Shakespeare begins with a compound infinitive in which the second infinitive in the compound is negated by an adverb and ends with a clause that contains a demonstrative pronoun, as a subject, a present tense verb, a definite article and a singular common noun as a subject complement.

Social Networking With Liberty. The Liberty staff last Wednesday participated in a short seminar on how 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 produce by passing this information on to our lists, 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.

The key message point we're communicating this week is: Public-information night for Liberty Common High School - April 12th at LCS.

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The answer has nothing to do with horses!

When opening the school, the founders simply could not find any qualified Latin teachers. But they did happen to have a very qualified German and Spanish teachers on hand. They pressed on.

Because of the expansion, Liberty Common has a unique opportunity to refocus our foreign language curriculum to more properly align our offerings with our intentions and charter. Also today, Liberty Common has established an impressive reputation and we receive many job applications for open teaching positions – over 400 just this year!

While we still plan on offering a robust and expanded Spanish program in the upper grades, we are strongly considering transitioning to the study of Latin instead of Spanish in the lower grades.

Last week, the Board of Directors met with the Foreign Language Specialists and members of the Academic Advisory Committee (AAC). All of the AAC members present were founders of Liberty Common. They stressed the intent of the curriculum and its intended focus on Latin as well as the long history of moving slowly back toward that goal.

For this change in the lower grades we would replace the two 30-minute periods per week of Spanish instruction (one period per week in Kindergarten) with more time devoted to study of Latin grammar, spelling and word roots. Spanish (and possibly other languages) would continue as offerings in the upper grades.

The emphasis on Latin will serve the students' study of English (our primary goal) and their study of Spanish or other languages (a subordinate goal.) Prior to formally implementing this changes, we want to offer the school community an opportunity for comment.

If you have any thoughts you would like to share with the Administration and Board about the Latin/Spanish conversation would you please take the time to email Mr. Spicer so that he can forward them to the Board? His email address is russ.spicer@libertycommon.org .

Learning Today to Lead Tomorrow,

Craig Horton, Chairman
Board of Directors

Liberty Common Teams Excel At Odyssey of the Mind Tournament

Liberty Common School teams wowed audiences with their performances at the PSD Odyssey of the Mind Tournament on Saturday, March 27. The two Liberty Common teams in competitive division both were awarded second place in the Tournament. The team consisting of younger students earned praise from judges for their performance in the non-competitive Primary Division. More than 100 teams participated in the event which promotes problem-solving skills through teamwork and creativity. Teams have been working since December in preparation for the Odyssey of the Mind Tournament.

Congratulations to the following teams for representing Liberty Common School so superbly:

Food Court, Division 1B—Second Place

Sierra Finley Ben Fraley
Caitlyn Jones Wyatt Jordan
Spencer Packham Gabi Stokely
Christi Seidman, Coach

Sincere thanks to coaches who have assisted students throughout their Odyssey journey. Thanks, too, to volunteers and judges who helped on Tournament Day.

Food Court, Division 1D—Second Place

Emma Daharsh Megan Kleen
Anuja Gore Kate Molenaar
Eli Oceanak Chelsea Wang
Becky Kleen and Nancy Daharsh, Coaches

Surprise Party, Primary (non-competitive)

Leander Didier Zoe Draper
David Gao Kaustubh Kaushik
Megan Liu Liam O'Malley
Robert Packham Ryan Saldanha
Charlie Wang Jamie Weibler
Julie Weibler and Yvonne Draper, Coaches