

Volume 13 Issue 35  
May 10, 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

May 11-Upper School Concert-  
6:30 p.m.

### May 13- Awards Ceremony

Kinder.- 3rd grade-9:00 a.m.  
4th -6th grade -12:30 p.m.  
7th-9th- 6:30 p.m.

### May 14- Upper School Field

Trip- 7th/8th -Fort Fun  
9th- Elitches

**Liberty Common  
High School Open  
House-May 10th,  
6:30-8:30 p.m.  
2745 Minnesota  
Dr. All Are Invited**

### 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: 5/20/10

Goodbye and good luck wishes to Julie Whitmore, our lunch cashier. Julie is moving to Durango, Colorado where she will work for the Bayfield School District. We will miss you Julie. If you have any questions about your student's lunch accounts please contact, Mrs. Hanawalt, 482-9800, ext. 112.

## Look Who's Coming To LCHS by Bob Schaffer

Why would an experienced, PhD college professor want to teach at Liberty Common High School? Soon, you'll be able to ask two PhD-degreed instructors for yourself why they've decided to join the Liberty teaching staff.

It's a tad too early to announce these new LCHS teachers by name. Both are still instructing elsewhere and we don't want this newsletter to become a source of any potential uneasiness at their present institutions.

Nonetheless, it's hard to contain our excitement for the truly world-class teachers who have lately signed on to become part of our high-school faculty. Trust us when we say, you'll not find a more expert academic team than the one we're assembling at Liberty.

One of the new teachers is an expert in the classics, speaks French, Greek and Latin, knows ancient history better than anyone you'll ever meet, makes American history leap from the textbooks and absolutely loves teaching. Her ability to enthuse young people about history, western civilization and language is perfect for Liberty.

The other is a highly regarded math and engineering instructor who has mastered computational and physical concepts most people can't even pronounce. He has years of hands-on private-sector engineering experience on top of impressive and proven classroom experience.

There's more. These instructors will be joined by another accomplished working engineer whose teaching talents have helped many students conquer aversions to complex math and engineering problems. She'll be on staff part time.

These and other new hires, combined with our well-accomplished current upper-school staff, will give our college-bound students considerable academic advantages as they approach graduation in 2013 and beyond. Thriving in top-tier colleges is our vision for our graduates, not just getting into one.

Liberty has been recognized consistently on a state and national level and is among the most successful schools in the nation. We were the first school in Colorado to deploy E. D. Hirsch's Core Knowledge Sequence. Today, there are more than 80 of them.

Based upon Liberty's charter, the mandate for our high school couldn't be clearer:

"The purpose of completing our high-school program is to offer high-school education that is college preparatory in nature, specifically builds on the Core Knowledge curriculum, effectively continues to foster the reading, writing, mathematical and thinking skills particular to Liberty's current offering, continues the Liberty approach to character education, is small in size, extends the economics, history, science and mathematics foundation that Liberty has established and makes use of learning opportunities inherent in the thinking framework currently employed at Liberty."

That's real vision. That's why world-class academicians want to teach at Liberty. That's what is about to get underway in just a few months.

It's truly exciting. It's literally revolutionary. For a good number of fortunate LCHS scholars, the journey of a lifetime is about to begin.

**See The New LCHS Building Tonight.** Walk through and inspect the new Liberty Common High School facility tonight from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. It's an old-fashioned open house! (Continue on p.3)

## Update from Liberty Common Board of Directors

I enjoy the times when issues come up that arouse parents' passions for the education of their children. Such was the case this spring as many parents discussed and debated the value of teaching foreign language at Liberty Common School. Despite strong opinions coming from the perspective of many educated and passionate parents, the tone of these discussions was remarkably courteous and complementary. Everyone involved approached the issue from the standpoint of a learner, and learn we did!

In our discussions, there was broad agreement that early exposure to a foreign language develops in children the ability to learn the language with much greater ease. There was also broad agreement that the study of Latin, the immortal language, creates in school children a base to learn all Western languages. These languages include Spanish, French, German, Portuguese, Catalan, and of course English.

There is no question in the value of a Latin education for school children who study any of the above languages. Nor was there disagreement about Latin's relevance in the hard sciences, or in botany, horticulture, biology, medicine, and law. Few disputed the assertion that the study of Latin can translate to higher order thinking and critical thinking skills.

There was in the discussion disagreement about when is the appropriate time to engage our Primary School students with the Latin language. The Board of Directors solicited feedback from the Academic Advisory Committee, the Administration, and the parent community while considering this issue. At our last meeting on Thursday night we concluded that Latin would be deployed in all grades at Liberty Common School, beginning in Kindergarten.

Spanish classes (through at least AP Spanish) will continue beginning in 8th grade for those students choosing Spanish as an elective. Students can also choose to continue with Latin. Hopefully our high school will grow so quickly students will have several other options (e.g. Spanish, French, German, and Latin) when choosing how to fulfill the required 30 hours of foreign language instruction for graduation.

Spanish will no longer be offered in the Primary School during the school day. Many parents continue to believe that early exposure to spoken Spanish (especially with a native Spanish speaker) will help their children succeed in their later study. The Board of Directors agrees and tasked Mr. Spicer with creating an extra-curricular Spanish program for the 2010-2011 school year. The program will provide a before or after-school Spanish program with instructional time equal to or greater than the program offered today.

If you have questions or concerns about the Board of Directors' decisions regarding Latin and Spanish, please contact Mr. Horton, [chorton@libertycommon.org](mailto:chorton@libertycommon.org), or any member of the Board.

Respectfully submitted,  
Craig Horton, Chairman

### 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 9th 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.

### Art Show at Foothills Mall-May 6th-19th

Art by our students will be displayed at the Foothills Fashion Mall from May 6th-May 19th. Please come out to the mall and view the student's amazing work.

### Congratulations to New BOD

Congratulations to Dave Kleen, Dan Provaznik and Mark Sutherland for winning this year's BOD election. The three of them ran unopposed for the three vacant BOD seats. They will each serve a three year appointment. We are thankful to have such qualified, dedicated parents interested in serving our school

## Liberty Common High School Update (Continued from page 1)

Come by at your convenience. Bring the kids, grandparents, neighbors, prospective scholars, parents – everyone is welcome. Hear the Liberty Jazz Band and Lady Belles as you stroll through the halls and walk along PSD's best path to college.

Will any of the new LCHS teachers be there? Got to show up to find out. Hmmm.

Lemonade and cookies will be served, too. The LCHS building location is 2745 Minnesota Drive in Fort Collins – about one mile south of our current building. For a map, photos and description [CLICK HERE](#).

**Can You Hear Me Now?** One of the high notes of the May 1<sup>st</sup> Silent Auction was the impassioned pleas of Liberty's music instructors Dave Lunn and Erin Voorhies. They described for the crowd the crucial need for an improved sound system to enhance musical and theatrical performances in the Liberty Auditorium (sometimes called the "cafegymatorium").

Sharing their sterling vision of an elite musical program at Liberty, the pair persuaded the crowd to donate money to the cause. On the spot, the parents present pitched in a total of \$17,500 for the cause. Erin cried.

The moment really was quite heartwarming. Erin's mom was even bragging about it at Church the next day.

**Treasury Notes For Quarter Notes.** If you were unable to attend the fundraising event, but would like to add another Ben Franklin or two – or even another Andrew Jackson – to the project, please [CLICK HERE](#). Nobody's child should ever again have to practice for months only to have her microphone cut out on the night of the grand performance.

While we're asking, Liberty could use more Grover Clevelands, James Madisons, Salmon P. Chases and Woodrow Wilsons this year, too. We hope everyone hears that.

**Vote Liberty!** Great thanks to Liberty's own Linda Thelen for passing along this next nugget of opportunity. GreatSchools.org is awarding \$20,000 in a contest based upon online votes.

There's a lot you could do to help Liberty raise another \$20,000 for our ongoing operations, but [CLICKING HERE](#) and voting is probably the easiest investment one could make at this very moment.

GreatSchools.org is a non-profit group that rates schools and encourages parental involvement. Liberty currently ranks as the best school in Fort Collins on the GreatSchools.org website. This is valuable because real-estate agents commonly quote the GreatSchools.org ratings when describing Fort Collins to newcomers.

**Sun Shines Bright For Liberty.** We received word last week that Liberty eighth-grade scholar Kevin Sun achieved a perfect score on the 2010 National Latin Exam. Students from the United States of America, Australia, Zimbabwe, Canada, England, Italy, New Zealand, Poland, Korea, Bulgaria, China, Japan and Singapore participated in the exam. Liberty's Latin instructor Marques Kem says, "Kevin is a remarkable example of a student who demonstrates the desire for perfection. He's one of those kids that remembers everything, even facts I've mumbled as an aside."

See this quote along with remarks from Headmaster Spicer, the National Latin Exam Committee and from Sun himself in the rest of the story published at the Coloradoan by [CLICKING HERE](#). Way to go Kevin!

**Closer To The Other Sun.** Congratulations to Liberty's exquisite 8<sup>th</sup> grader Tim Scott who correctly answered last week's Smart Kid Question of the Week first. It was his second win in as many weeks. The question was, "Which mountain is the highest on Earth when measured from the center of the planet?"

The answer is, "Mount Chimborazo." It's in Ecuador.

Though Mt. Everest is the highest above sea level, Chimborazo is the highest when measured from the center of the Earth. To put it another way, it is the furthest out into space or closest to the sun. This is because of the way the Earth bulges at its center.

**Another Really Bright Idea.** This week's Smart Kid Question is: What's the fastest way to accurately calculate the volume of a standard light bulb? The winner gets gifts from Liberty's recent Russian visitors or a bag of sea-bed fossils (your choice).

**P.S.** There's a really good chance we'll name those new high-school teachers next week. Check this space in next Monday's newsletter. Enrollment is still open.

## Attention Parents of 9th Graders-Celebration Scheduled for May 20th

There seems to be some confusion about the end of the year festivities for our 9th graders. Despite the fact that our calendar lists a 9th grade graduation on May 20th, there will not be a graduation this year since Liberty is expanding to 10th grade next year.

However, in lieu of graduation, a celebration for the 9th graders has been organized at The Island on May 20th. Attached is the information about this celebration.

We will be showing a slide show of the 9th graders and if you could please give a disc with 8-10 pictures of your student to Kayleen Fraley (an envelope for this is available in the Front Office) by **Weds. May 12th**, we will include those pictures in the slide show.

If you have any questions, please contact Tina Spicer at spicerrt@yahoo.com or 223-7587.

Sincerely,

LCS Administration

### Liberty Common School's 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Class End of the year celebration

May 20<sup>th</sup>  
(Rain Date—May 21st)

12:30-5:00

**The Island**  
5887 SW Frontage Road  
Fort Collins, CO 80528

**We will drive you out to the Island at 12:00.  
Catered lunch by Qdoba**

Available activities:  
Sand volleyball courts  
water trampolines  
horseshoe pits  
paddle boats  
canoes

Appropriate attire:  
Modest Swim Suits & Shorts  
NO BIKINIS

**Your parents should pick you up at 5:00.**

Directions: Harmony to Ziegler  
South on Ziegler  
East on Kechter  
Entrance to The Island ~ 1.5 miles on right

**Contact Tina Spicer @ spicerrt@yahoo.com or 223-7587 for any questions.**

### Grazie per il delizioso pranzo

Grazie per il delizioso pranzo is Italian for "thank you for the delicious lunch." On May 4th faculty and staff of Liberty Common School was treated to a wonderful lunch provided by a group of loving parent volunteers. The cuisine was delightful and provided for a much needed break during another busy week. Thanks goes out to Kendra Simms, Liberty Common, Volunteer Coordinator for organizing the event and all the wonderful parent chefs who made such yummy dishes. Thanks again!

*Attn. Chefs— if you have a pan, dish or utensils that were used for the lunch please claim in the teachers lounge. If not retrieved by May 14th they will be donated to a local charity.*

### Missing Coat- Please return

If you were at the Learn Today to Lead Tomorrow Silent Auction on May 1st and accidentally took a calf length, black, JCrew coat, please contact Olga at (303)916-1612.

### Help Needed for Stage Set-Up

Susan Groeger, artist and parent volunteer extraordinaire, needs help setting up the stage for the Upper School Awards Ceremony. Please check your calendar for availability on May 12th from 3:00-5:00 p.m. No calls needed, just show up and she will put you to work. Thanks!

### Starting Date Set

It has been decided, the first day of school will be August 18th. This will be a full day, however lunch will not be served until August 23rd. Have a great summer!

## Support and Patronize Friends of Liberty Common School

**Support And Patronize Friends Of Liberty.** Following is a partial listing of people and organizations who donated to Liberty's Silent Auction:

Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta  
 Allen Plumbing & Heating  
[American Eagle Carpet Cleaning](#)  
 American Furniture Warehouse  
 Arfy's Mercantile for Dogs & Cats  
 Armadillo Border Grill & Restaurant  
 AT&T Mobility  
 Barnes and Noble Bookstore  
 Bas Bleu Theatre Company  
 Beau Jo's Pizza  
 bel ami Salon  
[James and Tracie Benzmiller](#)  
 Best Western University Inn  
 Bible Superstore  
 Boomer Music Co.  
[Butter Cream Cupcakery](#)  
 Buzz and Bliss  
 Cafe Vino  
 Camp Timberline  
 Canino's Italian Restaurant  
 Carousel Dinner Theatre  
 Cheyenne Frontier Days  
 Cheyenne Yamaha, LLC-Motocross/ATV  
 Claire's On The Park  
 CSU Shakespeare Summer Theatre  
 Colorado Baggage Company  
 Colorado Rapids  
 Cool Beans Playhouse and Café  
 Coopersmith's Pub and Brewing  
 Countryside Animal Hospital  
[Mrs. Denise Crisafulli](#)  
 Denver Museum of Nature & Science  
 Denver Zoo  
[Mr. Emanuel Didier](#), Landscape Artist  
 Dion Robert Photography  
[Mr. Jared Dybzinski](#)  
[Dynamic Events](#)  
 Edora Pool Ice Center (  
 Eileen's Colossal Cookies  
[Fast Times at Silver Screen Video](#)  
[Jim Fazio](#)  
[Terrie Fisher](#)  
[Gina Forcatto Nutrition Consultation and Supplements](#)  
 Fort Collins Club  
 Fort Collins Museum & Discovery Science Center  
 Fort Collins Nursery  
 Fort Fun  
 Fossil Creek Nursery  
 Front Range Restaurants  
 Gib's Bagels  
[Gillis Financial Solutions, LLC](#)  
 GK Gymnastics  
 Glowgolf  
 Golf Discount, LLC  
 Great Harvest Bread Co.  
 Gulley Greenhouse  
 Gymboree  
 Hanrahan Golf School at Fort Collins Country Club  
[Haley Hasler Award Winning Artist](#)  
[Historical Armory, Inc.](#)  
 Home Smart Home  
[Angela Horton custom desserts](#)  
 Inner Wave Martial Arts  
[Scott Jennings](#)  
 Jiffy Lube  
 Jordan's Floral Gardens  
 Karate West  
[Kevin Packham,A/A, KCP Design Architectural Consultation](#)  
 Kidz Fit  
 Kilwin's Chocolates and Ice Cream  
 King Soopers Orchard Shpg Ctr. Loveland  
[Becky Kleen](#)  
 Kool Rides Custom Tint and Clear Bra Window Tinting  
 Ladies Workout Express  
 Leave A Legacy  
[Lixin Lu](#)  
[Dave and Lori Lunn](#)  
[Mountain Vista Greens](#)  
 National Hockey League  
[Jay Neighbors -- Hampton Inn in Fort Collins](#)  
 Old Chicago Restaurant  
 Old Firehouse Books  
 Old Town Whistle Clean Car Wash  
[Omni Interlocken Resort & Spa](#)  
 Outpost Sunsport  
 Painted Prairie, Inc.  
 Palmer Flowers and Decorating Gallery  
 Patio & Dining Lifestyles  
 Pepsi Center  
[Susan Quilan](#)  
[Pryor Plumbing & Heating](#)  
[Amy Pulis](#)  
 Reader's Cove  
 Rocky Mountain Shooters Supply  
 Rodizio Grill  
 Rollerland Skate Center  
[Meli Salim](#)  
[John and Mary Sanfilippo - Radio Station KBCO of Boulder](#)  
[Bob Schaffer](#)  
[Coyote Gold Premium Margaritas – owned by Maureen Schaffer](#)  
[Angie Selgren](#)  
 Sentiments  
[Cindy and Peter Sherman](#)  
[Mr. Jeff Siener](#)

**(Continued on Page 6)**

## Support and Patronize Friends of Liberty (Continued from page 5)

Skillman Photography  
[Mr. Russ Spicer](#)  
 Spa 4 Paws Dog Grooming  
 Sport About  
 Sprouts  
 Studio Be Salon/Spa  
[Tharp Cabinet Corporation-owned and operated by Don and Kayleen Fraley](#)  
 The Club at Old Town Fitness Center  
 The Cupboard  
[The Doak Family](#)  
 The Dog Club of Fort Collins  
 The Edge Sports Center  
[The Goddard School of Fort Collins -- Melanie Gilbertson](#)  
 The Melting Pot-  
 The Other Side Restaurant, National Park Village  
[Ms. Linda Thelan](#)  
 ToothZone  
[Majory Trinen](#)  
 Triple Crown Sports  
 Tropical Escape Tanning  
 Tuana Hair Design  
[Darrell Schoenig-Ultimate Support Systems/Ultimate Bicycle Support](#)  
[Sindu Vijayasathy](#)  
[Corey Voggesser](#)  
[Bill Werst](#)  
 White Dog Tree Farm & Nursery  
 Whole Foods  
 YMCA of Estes Park  
[Zephyr Hats](#)

### ***New Additions 4/30/10 or later***

Two Pairs Party Spa  
[Gore, Vrinda](#)  
[Miss Nuedling, 2nd grade teacher](#)  
[Mrs. Meister, 2nd grade teacher](#)  
[Mrs. Allen, 2nd grade teacher](#)  
[Susan A. Quinlan, author and naturalist](#)  
[Dr. Tim Allen](#)  
[Eileen Baynes](#)

### ***One final Thank you to the Special Events Committee from Fund Development Chairs:***

**A Huge thank you for the many hours and creativity of our Special Events team planning and executing a very successful "Learn Today, To Lead Tomorrow Event"!**

**Organizers:** Sue Jones, Kayleen Fraley, Jill Wear and Marie Eldridge

**Decorations:** Lola Colwell and Qeryldine Hofinger, Angela Horton

**Silent Auction:** Carrie Voggesser, Becky Kleen, Brenda Hoffman, Melanie Gilbertson, Bob Jones

**Set-Up and Table Movers:** Maia Tomich, Casey Churchill, Mike Chavez, David Diehl, Darren Wiebler, Don Fraley, Bob Jones

**Check-out and Overseers:**

Beverly Hanawalt, Jill Ronen

**Speakers:** Bob Schaffer, Russ Spicer, Craig Horton

**Entertainment:** Dave Lunn Trio

**Video Production:** Dave Lunn