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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 21st-Last Day of School,
1/2 day- Out at 11:00 a.m.-**No lunch served**

Thank You

Thank you to parent volunteer Susan Groeger, who spent endless hours turning our stage into a great platform to honor our students accomplishments during our recent Awards Ceremony. Thank you Mrs. Groeger! We can't wait to see what you will do for us next year!

Even though our school calendar lists a 9th grade graduation on 5/20/10 there will not be a graduation this year. Because Liberty is expanding to 10th grade there is no need for a graduation. All of our students are invited to continue at Liberty and graduate from LCHS!

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

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!

Learn Today to Lead Tomorrow

The motto for Liberty Common School this year has been, "Learn Today to Lead Tomorrow." The mission of Liberty Common School is to provide excellence and fairness in education through a common foundation by successfully teaching a contextual body of organized knowledge, the values of a democratic society, and the skills of learning; in summary, we teach common knowledge, common virtues and common sense." In fulfilling the aforementioned mission this year, Liberty Common successfully helped students "Learn Today to Lead Tomorrow."

Next year Liberty Common School will have quite the different look. Our K-6th grade will grow by one more class per grade level and remain in the same facility. We will be adding a 10th grade next year and the 7th - 10th grade will be meeting in our new facility at 2745 Minnesota Drive. How exciting! Liberty Common High School will now be able to complete the educational process that Liberty Common School started. Our high school students are going to receive an excellent college preparatory education by fantastic faculty in a small, safe, and caring environment.

This year there will be no 9th grade graduation, as the "official" graduation for Liberty Common High School students will take place in 2013. There are several students who are staying for Liberty Common High School. We look forward to having you back and to you being the first graduating class of Liberty Common High School. For those of you moving on to other schools, we thank you for your time spent with us and trust that we are sending you on with a great educational foundation. We wish you luck and want you to know that you are welcome to come back to Liberty if things don't go well for you at your new schools.

As this year comes to a close, we are sad to announce that a member of our Liberty teaching family will not be returning next year. Mrs. Borak has served our students and this school faithfully and will definitely be missed. We wish her well in all of their future endeavors and are extremely thankful for her work with and dedication to our students.

Looking toward next year, I would like to take this opportunity to urge all of the parents to encourage your children to read on a consistent basis over the summer. There will be a mandatory book assigned for each student to read, but please try to read more than that. Many students return to school at a lower reading level and fluency rate than when they left the year before. This occurs because the children do not read enough, or are not read to enough, over the summer. Please do your child and our school a favor, encourage them to be voracious readers over these next couple of months. Feel free to have them do a math problem or two as well. ☺

We appreciate the choice of Liberty Common School for your child and realize that you always have the option to choose to attend other schools. Thank you for the opportunity to serve your student. Our goal is to always provide a superior education to all the students so they are able to pursue whatever dreams and ambitions they have in life. This year we did just that as we helped your children, "Learn Today to Lead Tomorrow."

Have a splendid summer! We look forward to seeing everyone next year.

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, Tylenol, inhalers).
- If you need to pick up your child's medication before the last day of school, the needed number of pills 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.

A special thank you to the volunteers who generously donated their time and effort to this art show: Rebecca Finkel, Terrie Fisher, Vrinda Gore, Haley Hasler, Susan Hegdal, Elliott Hegdal, Shelly Jauch, Marcus Jauch, Sandy Kempf, and Jay Neighbors. Thank you again.

Needing an Outlet for Your Creativity? Volunteer to Make LCS High School Online

Do you have a background in web design and development using DreamWeaver? Would you like to help create Liberty Common High School's online presence? To help develop a web site that will benefit many people and include great resources, great organization and navigation, a great look, and great PR for the school? If so, please contact Bill Kranz at wkranz@libertycommon.org and let him know of your interest, background, and time availability. Liberty Common High School online is going to rock!"

High School Update by Bob Schaffer

Meet Your LCHS Profs

Wondering who those professorial-looking strangers were hanging out at the LCHS open house last Monday? They were your newest members of the high-school staff.

Hopefully, everyone got a chance to shake the hands of Dr. Barbara Werner and Dr. Chuck Hubbeling and Ms. Meg Ellis. Soon enough, you'll meet Mrs. Kay Lannen, too.

Dr. Hubbeling has taught at the South Dakota School of Mines, CSU, the Poudre School District and most recently St. Joseph Catholic Jr. High. He's taught math, science, religion, biology and coached soccer.

Hubbeling received his undergraduate degree in Mechanical Engineering from South Dakota School of Mines. He then studied German engineering at Technische Universitaet Muenchen (yes, he speaks a bit of German), got his Masters Degree in Mechanical Engineering from Colorado State University and his PhD in Mechanical Engineering from CSU.

Then there's his work experience: IT Specialist, orthopedic biomechanics research, academia, mining engineering, energy production, professional publications... His resume goes on and on. Dr. Hubbeling's next chapter: LCHS Math, Science and Engineering Instructor.

Dr. Werner earned her PhD in Classics from the University of Colorado at Boulder as a Latinist and historian. Besides instructing courses in history, Latin and Greek, she has expertise in program planning and design. She earned her Masters at CU and three B.A.s (Latin, French and Classical Civilization) from the University of Montana.

Werner's academic career is studded with prestigious awards and fellowships. Dust off your Herodotus, Vergil, Catullus and Cicero. Want to sail through college? Learn from one who's taught there. You're in for fascinating journey through history and culture with LCHS's newest history and Latin instructor!

Mrs. Lannen is a professional engineer who has taught and volunteered in classrooms over the past 20 years. She earned her B.S. in Electrical Engineering from Montana State University and her Masters Degree in Computer Engineering from National Technological University.

Recent projects include camera microcontroller, wind-turbine microcontroller, x-ray image analysis, application networking configuration and serial communications over USB for test applications. She and her husband run their own custom engineering firm and she has worked at Agilent Technologies and Hewlett-Packard Company going back to 1988.

Math, science, engineering, physics – no problem! Mrs. Lannen helps students figure out challenging concepts and knows how to help scholars relate these topics to the real world. **(See page 3)**

High School Update Continued from Page 2

Who knew engineering could be so much fun?

Ms. Ellis is our new LCHS art teacher. Talk about talent and energy, Ms. Ellis earned her Masters Degree from the #1 Fine Arts graduate school in America (according to U.S. News) - Rhode Island School of Design. She earned her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Pennsylvania State University.

She's taught in Rhode Island and Pennsylvania. Her specialties are in contemporary and historical art, studio practices and aesthetics. She's an advanced-level instructor whose familiarity with the Core Knowledge Sequence makes her a perfect fit for LCHS.

To define her teaching philosophy, Ellis quotes Holocaust Survivor and teacher Elie Wiesel, "Receive information, turn it into knowledge, turn knowledge into sensitivity, and sensitivity into commitment...Think higher! Feel deeper!"

Are you excited for the 2010-11 school year to get started now? We can certify this: You're not nearly as excited as Dr. Hubbeling, Dr. Werner, Mrs. Lannen and Ms. Ellis are to launch LCHS in the direction of Colorado's best high school.

Rats! It Happened Again. During the upper-school concert last week, a couple of the kids' microphones cut out. The scholars practiced so hard. Grandpa came all the way from Michigan to watch. At least he could see his granddaughter's lips moving.

During the May 1st Silent Auction, Liberty's music instructors Dave Lunn and Erin Voorhies asked the crowd to pitch in to address this annoying problem. They need about \$20,000 to overhaul the sound system.

Within 20 minutes, the crowd kicked in \$17,500! We're still a bit short though.

Close The Gap. If you're able to help put the finishing touches on this particular project goal, grandpa would be grateful. Then we can move on to the next funding project.

Please [CLICK HERE](#) to contribute now. 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. No more grumpy grandpas please.

Vote Early And Vote Often! GreatSchools.org is awarding \$20,000 in a contest based upon online votes. [CLICK HERE](#) and vote for Liberty.

Werstimesdes. What's the fastest way to accurately calculate the volume of a standard light bulb? That was last week's Smart-Kid Question. Notable ninth-grader Kati Werst got her answer in at 9:56 a.m. - several hours before the nearest competitor. Did she cheat?

Well, she was home recovering from a bad sunburn (Don't even think about it all you conniving kiddos. That one won't work a second time) and was doing what all home-bound Liberty scholars do - reading the High-School Update in the Monday Notes minutes after it was published.

She saw the question and the proverbial light bulb went off. "Place the light bulb in water and see how much water it displaces or fill it up with water and measure the amount of water in a beaker," Werst wrote in an instant email. Good enough for Archimedes. Good enough to win a prize. Stop by Mr. Schaffer's office and take your pick from the Smart-Kid Prize Vault.

Know Your History. This week's Smart-Kid Question is: What famous quote is associated with thunder coming up over the land from the water? Who said it and in what language was it spoken? Extra credit if you can say the author's name in his native tongue. The winner gets gifts from Liberty's recent Russian visitors or a bag of sea-bed fossils (your choice) and induction into the Smart-Kid Hall Of Fame.

Schools Out For Summer- A Few Last Minute Reminders

The staff and administration wish all our families a safe and fun summer. We look forward to seeing you on August 18th.

- The school office will be open over the summer, please call for hours.
- The last day to go through Lost and Found is Friday, May 21st. All unclaimed items will be taken to Savers.
- Remember to bring in gently used items to the clothes closet and trade for bigger sizes, or different styles. If you have nothing to trade, items are only \$1.00.

Step Up to the Plate and Become Involved in Fundraising

The Fund Development Committee is looking for volunteers to be ready to go with new programs in the fall. We would like one or two volunteers to research ideas for the implementation of a SCRIPPS fundraising programs for LCS and LCHS in the fall. We have some information pulled together to get this motivated volunteer team started. This has the ability to drive some significant fundraising dollars to our school this fall!

AmeriGas Propane School Days Receipt program will rebate money for every gallon of propane purchased back to the school. Do you own or work at a business that uses propane? All we need is to collect receipts. Contact Kayleen Fraley if you have a business that could help with this, or if you would like to volunteer as SCRIPPS Coordinator! Contact information: Kayleen@fraleyfamily.com or phone (970) 377-8850. Feel free to call over the summer!

Please Pay Outstanding Lunch Balances and Return Overdue Library Books by Friday, May 21st. Yearbooks will not be given to students with unpaid lunch charges or with books that are not returned to Miss Bear. Any questions, contact the Front Office.

Have a Great Summer!

Remember to wear sunscreen and don't forget helmets when skateboarding or riding bikes.

