

Volume 13 Issue 34
May 3, 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 3-7-Teacher Appreciation Week

May 4- 5th/ 6th Grade Concert, Band and Choir, 6:30 p.m.

May 7- Olympic Day- Please bring sack lunch

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 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 Meeting
May 6th, 7:00 p.m.

Spirit Week

Monday- Crazy Hair
Tuesday- Twin
Wednesday-Crazy Hat
Thursday-Funky Footwear
Friday- Olympic Day/
Sports Day

Donate to Liberty
Common Click Here

Good Old Fashion "Knowledge" is still best

There is an educational movement afoot entitled, "21st Century Skills." Like many other progressive educational movements, this particular one appears to emphasize the skill of gathering information over the attainment and understanding of information. This looks to be yet another attempt to denigrate the educational philosophy that purports the acquisition of content knowledge. Liberty Common School will continue our endeavor to provide students with a rich, broad, and deep exposure to content knowledge. We not only want our students to be able to find information, but to know whether the information they find is accurate or not. Attaining knowledge is best. The blog below, found on the Core Knowledge website, discusses this very issue. Have you heard about the dreaded "Tree Octopus?" If not, just "Google" it. ☺

21st Century Skills and the Tree Octopus Problem

by Robert Pondiscio Core Knowledge Blog *February 5th, 2009*

The 21st Century skills movement has a problem. It's a problem that can't be solved by all of the innovation, creativity and information literacy lessons under the sun, yet it can be deftly handled by a little bit of science knowledge. Call it the tree octopus problem.

The Partnership for 21st Century Skills describes its mission as to serve as a catalyst to position 21st century skills at the center of US K-12 education. Based on "hundreds of hours of research, development and feedback from educators and business leaders across the nation," it has developed "skills maps" for educators to help teach the supposedly new skills of demonstrating originality and inventiveness in work and developing, implementing and communicating new ideas to others. To its credit, the Partnership does not dismiss traditional curricular content, but rather "advocates for the integration of 21st Century Skills into K-12 education so that students can advance their learning in core academic subjects."

So what does a 21st Century ELA lesson actually look like in the classroom? Here's an example of a 4th grade "information literacy" activity taken directly from the 21st Century Skills Map.

Outcome: Evaluate information critically and competently.

Example: Students are given a teacher-generated list of websites that are a mixture of legitimate and hoax sites. Students apply a website evaluation framework such as RAD CAB (www.radcab.com) to write an explanation for deciding whether each site is credible or not.

"RAD CAB," if you're not familiar with it, is a trademarked "critical thinking assessment tool for online information" that teaches kids to evaluate the information on a website. RAD CAB is an acronym for Relevance, Appropriateness, Detail, Currency, Authority and Bias. OK, RAD CAB, say hello to my little friend, the Pacific Northwest Tree Octopus, an endangered species and Internet *cause célèbre*.

RAD CAB features a rubric that helps students evaluate online information. Level 3 of 4 (the "Research Pro" level, and presumably a reasonable goal for all learners) includes things like "I create 'slam-dunk' keywords from my research questions and use them to find relevant information" and "I leave information sources quickly that are too hard for me or offend my core values." Nothing very helpful in determining if the Tree Octopus is for real or not. The rubric also tells us we are research pros if we "look for copyright information or 'last updated' information" in the source. Very well: The tree octopus site was created in 1998 and updated within the last two months, so it *must* be a current source of tree octopus information.

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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. Thanks— Angie Selgren

Learn Today To Lead Tomorrow Awards Ceremony—May 13th

We celebrate the accomplishments of our students on May 13th. Once again, parent volunteer extraordinaire Susan Groeger is in charge of decorating our stage for this important event. Susan needs some help with this big endeavor. If you like to decorate and are a "workerbee" please contact Susan Groeger at 631-2584.

Help with LCS High School Web Design

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!"

Liberty Common High School Update by Bob Schaffer

LCHS Open House May 10th!

Silent Auction Was Scream'n: If you missed Liberty's Silent Auction last Saturday, you missed a truly magnificent event that raised a goodly sum for the school and united over two hundred satisfied attendees with killer-deal treasures.

Everybody went home a winner. Oh yes, and, just as advertised, it was a terrific fun event.

BRAVO! Big thanks go out to volunteers on the Special Event Committee (SEC) marshaled by its Steering Committee of Kayleen Fraley, Jill Wear, Susan Jones and Marie Eldridge. This group met regularly since February making plans.

Equally big thanks go out to those Committee members who volunteered "big time" doing yeoman's work to make the event a smashing success: Melanie Gilbertson, Bob Jones, Lola Colwell, Qeryldine Hofinger, Becky Kleen, Brenda Hoffman and Carrie Voggesr and Katie Maguire. Together, these parents were active organizers soliciting and collecting donations, decorating and all the rest.

It was a really big job. They did it for the love of their children and love of Liberty. Next time you see these parents at school or around town, be sure to personally thank them and join us in extending a big, hearty BRAVO!

HUZZAHS! Wow. Did you notice the list of silent-auction donations to the school? Weekend getaways, hotel accommodations, trips, a new water heater, splendid art, professional services -- the list is enormous. It was a veritable bonanza of spectacular opportunity.

Over the next month, we'll be bombarding you with the names of donors and their companies (see below). Please patronize them and thank them. Their partnership with Liberty, especially in our time of need, is a truly heroic gesture. To them all: Thank you and HUZDAH!

To be sure, we'll have more times of need in the coming years, so it's crucial to maintain our friendships and return the favor whenever possible. To shop, promote and do business with these wonderful donors is to support Liberty in its expansion and ongoing academic improvement.

HIP HIP... What a crowd. This was the biggest fundraising gathering in the school's history. Three cheers of approbation go out to all those who bought tickets, who bought tickets for our teachers and their spouses, who couldn't attend but sent in money anyway. To all who participated...HOORAY! HOORAY! HOORAY!

Leben Ahf Dein Kop! An impressive handful of Liberty scholars stepped up and volunteered to babysit (**Continued on pg. 3**)

Liberty Common High School Update (Continued from page 2)

for parents who attended the Silent Auction. Heaps of thanks go out to the following students who babysat Saturday: Amber English, Maria Lanciotti, Kelsey Easton, Sarah Royer and Jake Peterson.

Four other scholar/heroines stepped up, but their services were, in the end, not needed: Alaina Younger, Miriam Stice, Kelly Nestman and Krista Cummings. To all of our Liberty kinderhitters, *Leben Ahf Dein Kop!*

OORAH! On top of their normally jam-packed workdays of long hours holding the front lines of Liberty, the office staff and administrators at CENTCOM—Liberty soldiered up, formed a package-force tac-log battery supporting the SEC providing tactical recon/surveillance and load management on base and at the lodgment area.

Thanks to them, our event objective was proficiently achieved. Pending net assessment and final operational account reporting – **MISSION ACCOMPLISHED.**

Congratulations to Liberty's Bravo Company: SgtMaj. Bev Hanawalt, MGySgt. Marianne Rieb, GySgt. Jill Ronen, Cpl. Julie Whitmore, Cpl. Julie Russell, Sgt. Dennis Vigil, Pvt. Angie Selgren, Pvt. Tina Spicer, Lt.Col. Casey Churchill, Maj. Tim Ricketts and Col. Russ Spicer.

Customary medals, decorations, commendations and citations will be awarded as time permits. Additional compensation: Postponed Indefinitely. Thank you and OORAH!

See you tomorrow at 0630.

до свидания всего хорошего! Liberty enjoyed making new friends with a Russian delegation visiting the school last Tuesday. The group of ten Russians included a Siberian mayor, a director of tourism, a director of economic development and other local-government administrators.

They were very impressed by our students, teachers and curriculum. Upon leaving, they asked, "Can you come to Russia and help us build a school just like this?"

What a great compliment – which we didn't exactly know how to answer other than to smile, waive and say *до свидания всего хорошего!* (goodbye and good luck!)

Kick The LCHS Tires. Want to walk through and inspect the new Liberty Common High School building? You're in luck. An open house is scheduled for Monday, May 10th from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Come by at your convenience. Kids, parents, grandparents, everyone is welcome. The Liberty Jazz Band and Lady Belles will help make the occasion festive. 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](#). Photos are also posted on the bulletin board near the Liberty (existing school) front office.

LCHS FAQs: For answers to frequently asked LCHS facility questions, see last week's High-School Update ([CLICK HERE](#)). Members of the Liberty administration and Board of Directors will also be on hand to answer questions. See you there!

Know your fossils. Congratulations to Liberty's exquisite 8th grader Tim Scott who answered last week's Smart Kid Question of the Week first. The answer, "Mr. Ken Vetter" was the right one for the question, "Which famous Liberty celebrity entered the world the same day Benito Mussolini left it?"

Both events were commemorated last Wednesday – at Liberty and in Italy respectively, although in Mr. Vetter's case, possibly in both locations among others. Way to go Scott! Stop by to pick up your Devonian fossil (Disclaimer: This is not a *double entendre* reference to Mr. Vetter).

This Week's Smart Kid Question is: Which mountain is the highest on Earth when measured from the center of the planet? The first to answer correctly wins a swell prize of geological proportions.

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We are also research pros if we "look for the authority behind the information on a website because I know if affects the accuracy of the information found there." Merely *looking* for the authority tells us nothing about its value, but let's dig deeper. The authority behind the site is the "Kelvinic University branch of the Wild Haggis Conservation Society." Sounds credible. It is, after all, a university, and one only has to go the extra mile to be a Level 4, or "Totally Rad Researcher." The Tree Octopus site even carries an endorsement from Greenpeas.org, and I've heard of them (haven't I?) and links to the scientific-sounding "Cephalopod News."

It's possible to spend countless hours looking at the various RADCAB categories without getting the joke. Unless, of course, you actually *know something* about cephalopods — such as the fact that they are marine invertebrates that would have a tough time surviving or even maintaining their shape out of the water — then the hoax is transparent.

Here's where we come smack up against the limits of information literacy skills in the absence of content knowledge. Researchers at the University of Connecticut's Neag School of Education asked 25 seventh-graders from middle schools across the state to review the Pacific Northwest Tree Octopus site, the results were unsurprising:

- All 25 students fell for the Internet hoax;
- All but one of the 25 rated the site as "very credible;"
- Most struggled when asked to produce proof – or even clues – that the web site was false, even after the UConn researchers told them it was; and
- Some of the students *still insisted vehemently* that the Pacific Northwest Tree Octopus really exists.

If you were on the research team you might fairly conclude that science knowledge was lacking in the 7th graders in the study. (One dead giveaway on the site is the reference to the Tree Octopus's natural predators, the bald eagle and the sasquatch) But the team at the University of Connecticut saw things differently. Their verdict: "Classroom instruction in online reading and other 'new literacies' is 'woefully lacking.'" (Cue the sounds of palms smacking on foreheads)

It's one thing to talk about how 21st century skills can "advance learning in core academic subjects." It's quite another to put it into practice. To a hammer, everything is a nail, and to 21st century skills enthusiasts, it's all about technology tools, information literacy, innovation and collaboration. All the rest is "facts you can find online in a maximum of 20 seconds." So the question for the Partnership for 21st Century Skills is this: are you prepared to argue just as strenuously for content standards and a broad, rich curriculum as for innovation, critical thinking and problem solving standards? Because ultimately 21st Century skills without content knowledge is a non-starter and probably a step backward. Dan Willingham proved to be not just a great cognitive scientist, but a good history student recently when he noted a familiar pattern in education:

Pendulum swings between an emphasis on process (analysis, critical thinking, cooperative learning) which fosters concern that students lack knowledge and generates a back-to-basics movement that emphasizes content, which fosters concern that student are merely parroting facts with no idea of how to *use* their knowledge, and so on. In calmer moments, everyone agrees that students must have both content knowledge and practice in using it, but one or the other tends to get lost as the emphasis sweeps to the other extreme.

Wise words. Maybe if we start listening, history will stop repeating itself.

Olympic Day is Fast Approaching (May 7th) and Volunteers are Needed

Olympic Day is only a few weeks away and we need volunteers to help make the day special for our kids. If you are available on May 7th, we need volunteers from 8:30-11:30 and 12:00-2:30. You can volunteer for one of the time slots or for the entire day. Please contact Barb Moncrief at kbjkc@cowisp.net if you can help. We need canopies that we can put up on the track infield for the day. We also need donations of 5 gallon buckets. We will not return the buckets as they will be a donation to the P.E dept. If you have a canopy that we can borrow, please contact Barb Moncrief at kbjkc@cowisp.net. Thanks. We hope to see you at Olympic Day on May 7th.

Yearbooks Still Available– Do Not Miss Out!

Orders for Yearbooks are still being taken. Pick up an order form in the Front Office. This is a priceless memory keeper at \$25.00

Liberty Common High School Update (Continued from page 3)

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

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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 Vijayasarthi](#)
[Corey Voggesser](#)
[Bill Werst](#)
 White Dog Tree Farm & Nursery
 Whole Foods
 YMCA of Estes Park
[Zephyr Hats](#)

**Please note all highlighted entries are Liberty families or faculty/staff and their businesses.

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.

Mrs. Borak and Mrs. Nichols are needing assistance in setting up the art on

Wed., May 5th. Volunteers will meet at Liberty at 8:00 a.m. and transport items to the mall. Volunteers are also needed in 2 hour shifts throughout the days. The exhibit will come down on Thursday, May 20th in the a.m. and volunteers are needed for this task as well. Those that are interested in helping, please sign up with Mrs. Borak at Liberty.

Remember, no hot lunch will be served on May 7th– Olympic Day. Please bring a sack lunch and water bottle.

NWEA Proctors Save the Day

The following parent volunteers have helped Mr. Kranz and the rest of the Liberty staff by proctoring students taking the NWEA tests. We all appreciate these parents taking the time out of their busy schedules and allowing Mr. Kranz to continue his normal teaching schedule-without missing a beat. Thanks again.

- Mrs. Carrie Gillis
- Mrs. Lola Colwell
- Mrs. Julie Werst
- Mrs. Suzanne Scott
- Mrs. Cindy Sherman
- Mrs. Beth Molenaar
- Mrs. Sindu Vijayasarthi
- Mr. Dana Grant

