

Volume 13 Issue 2  
August 31, 2009

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

### 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 Member e-mail  
addresses are on our Liberty  
Common website,  
libertycommon.org

**Board of Directors Meeting:  
September 17, 2009**

### BOD AGENDA

**Financial Review, Math and  
English Specialist Report,  
Initial Review of Accountabil-  
ity Report and SIP**

### What Is Happening Now?

**Sept. 7**– Labor Day-No School  
**Sept. 10**– Back to School Night–  
6:30 p.m.  
**Sept. 16-18**– Eco-Week-6th  
Graders, Pingree Park  
**Sept. 17**– BOD Meeting-7 p.m.

### What is Happening in Oct.?

**Oct. 2**– Fall Festival-6 p.m.  
**Oct. 2**– School Pictures  
**Oct. 9**– Upper School Dance  
**Oct. 9**– Hearing/Vision  
Screening  
**Oct. 13**– Upper School  
Concert-6:30 p.m.  
**Oct. 15**-BOD Meeting-7 p.m.  
**Oct. 16**– No School  
**Oct. 23**-No School

### The History of Liberty Common School (Part1)

I am so thankful for our school! I am grateful to the many parents that stepped up to the challenge of starting a charter school. We should never take for granted how fortunate we are to be an independent charter school - thus able to avoid many of the pitfalls associated with the “larger district, mainstream public education” approach.

The next three weeks this column will run a “history of Liberty Common School” written by Maureen Schaffer. We must never forget that our founding parents had to fight a hard and painful battle just to get our doors open. The administration and Board of Directors ongoing commitment to fulfill the original goals and mission will continue with an enthusiasm and diligence we have all come to expect.

How exciting it is to be working towards fulfilling the original desire of our founding parents by extending our educational offering to include a college preparatory high school. We look forward to adding additional chapters to the history of Liberty Common School in next few years as we add additional tracks to our primary grades and expand to a high school.

#### How Did We Get Here?

By

Dr. Maureen Schaffer

Liberty first opened its doors in September of 1997, but the story of Liberty Common School dates back much further.

In the early 1990’s, true educational choice was non-existent in Poudre School District. Parents without resources for private school sent their children to neighborhood schools. Nebulous curricula were largely determined by individual classroom teachers, leading to gaps and repetition in student learning. Dissatisfied, small groups of parents began to read, research, and meet throughout PSD in search of better options.

One young couple, with a seemingly insatiable interest in education issues, emerged with a solution. After months of research, Dr. Randy Everett and his wife, Ruth Ann, identified several fundamental elements they believed most parents desired in their children’s schooling:

Parental choice in education

A core curriculum of specific content knowledge

Solid, content-driven skill instruction

Teaching the values of a democratic society

School-based management

Randy and Ruth Ann took their message on the road, placing advertisements in the local paper, and speaking in living rooms and meeting halls throughout the county. Soon, hundreds of parents had joined the cause.

In the spring of 1993, Dr. Everett submitted a proposal to the PSD Board of Education to establish an Elementary School of Choice organized around the Core Knowledge Sequence.

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The educational community fought the proposal with gusto. District teachers testified before the school board, pronouncing the Core Knowledge Sequence too difficult to teach or learn. In spite of this strong opposition, the school board approved the request, and the Washington Core Knowledge School opened with 125 students that fall. This progressive episode in PSD's history is documented on pages 62-63 of *The Schools We Need* by E.D. Hirsch.

Washington Core Knowledge School flourished. Parents painted the run-down school building and gathered curriculum resources. Courageous teachers joined the team, and students began to outperform their peers at neighborhood schools. In two years, enrollment had nearly doubled, and the waiting list numbered in the hundreds.

To meet this high demand, the school board allowed Washington Core to further increase enrollment and move into a portion of the old Fort Collins High School building. In a monumental construction effort led by parent volunteer Carol Christ, the high school building was converted to an elementary school over the summer of 1995. Things were going well for Washington Core, or so it seemed.

The school district notified Washington Core that its two-year pilot program had ended. Faculty would now be determined by the district, rather than the school's parent board. Sadly, the district immediately fired two teachers, replacing them with "tenured excess" teachers from within PSD.

The founding parents were dismayed. How could the school retain its integrity, if PSD brought in teachers who were not committed to the school's curriculum? Fortunately, the Colorado legislature had provided an answer - the Charter Schools Act.

**TO BE CONTINUED NEXT WEEK.....**

### Did you know.....

If your child is absent because of illness or an appointment, please call before 9 a.m. at 482-9088, option 2.

Not to park in the Center Partners parking lot or Advanced Energy Parking lot when dropping off or picking up your student.

Entrance into the school is allowed at 7:50 a.m. unless previous arrangements have been made with your student's teacher.

To schedule your student's appointments when possible, after 3:00 pm. Less interruption to their education.

Arrive to school on time— your education at Liberty is something you don't want miss a minute of.



### Liberty Common Soccer Schedule

Come out to Everett Soccer Field (home games) and cheer on Liberty's boys soccer team. All games begin at 4 p.m.

**Aug. 31st** Cancelled

**Sept. 3rd** at Frontier

**Sept. 8th** vs. Ridgeview at Liberty

**Sept. 10th** vs. St. Joseph School at Liberty

**Sept. 14th** at Windsor

**Sept. 15th** vs. Heritage at Liberty

**Sept. 17th**- Bye

**Sept. 21st** at St. Mary's

### Volunteers Needed - Upper School/ Library

#### Upper School

Parents, we are looking for volunteers to help our Upper School teachers grade papers, make copies and assist with a variety of projects from 8:00-10:00 a.m. If you are willing to help them once a week or every other week, please contact Tina Spicer at [spicerrt@yahoo.com](mailto:spicerrt@yahoo.com) or at 223-7587.

#### Library

This is a great volunteer opportunity for parents with children who are not yet old enough to attend Liberty. Since there are no classes in the library during this time, younger siblings are welcome to come with their parent. Miss Behr would like help re-shelving books Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 8-10. If you are able to help, please contact Tina Spicer at [spicerrt@yahoo.com](mailto:spicerrt@yahoo.com) or at 223-7587.

### PowerSchool Codes Coming Home

We are sending home each student's code through Monday Note Folders for the K-6 students on Aug 31st. If your child is in grades 7th, 8th or 9th grade their PowerSchool code letter will arrive in the mail. Please contact the Front Office with any questions.

### Liberty Common Volleyball Schedule

**Aug. 31st** at Frontier

**Sept. 2nd** vs. HMS at Liberty

**Sept. 9th** at KQA

**Sept. 14th** -Bye

**Sept. 16th** vs. New Vision at Liberty

**Sept. 19th** at Heritage (Saturday tournament)

**Sept. 21st** at Resurrection

**Sept. 23rd** at Ridgeview

**Sept. 28th** at St. Joseph School

## Seusical the Musical Coming to Liberty



## Show Your Liberty Common Pride

Ms. Voorhies is seeking parent volunteers to help with the musical production. There will be a short production meeting at the beginning of October for all committee members. Help is needed in the following areas:

- Props/Sets: 2-3 parents to assist in building sets, locating props/materials.
- Costumes: 1-2 parents to chair this committee. 2-3 parents to assist in making/locating/picking up/returning costumes.
- Video: I would love to have the show videotaped and available for students to purchase for a minimal cost.
- Clean Up Crew: 1-2 parents needed to chair this committee
- 4-5 parents to assist in tear down/clean up after the production.

Please contact Ms. Voorhies if you would like to help or if you have any questions: erin.voorhies@libertycommon.org or (970)482-9800 ext. 158

Sept. 25, 2009  
 Oct. 30, 2009  
 Nov. 20, 2009  
 December 18, 2009  
 January 29, 2010  
 February 26, 2010  
 March 26, 2010  
 April 30, 2010

## Fall Festival and Winter Carnival Coordinator Needed

If you are a person who likes to plan parties for large groups of people and loves to celebrate the seasons, we have a volunteer position for you! These positions can be shared among parent volunteers or chaired individually. The Fall Festival is quickly approaching– October 2nd, so please strongly consider this opportunity.

### Fall Festival Coordinator

Organize booths and activities  
 Recruit volunteers to run activities  
 Meet with Mr. Churchill to discuss budget and food / beverage options.  
 Collect receipts and compile notes on the festival.

### Winter Carnival Coordinator

Same responsibilities as above in addition to meeting with Mr. Churchill to discuss theme activities.

If you are interested in one or both of these positions or have questions, please contact Kendra Simms, at libertyvolunteers@hotmail.com.

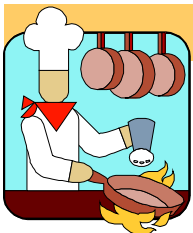
## Carpool Lists Available in Front Office

Carpool lists are completed and available for pick up in the Front Office. Thanks to our great parent volunteer Beth Scott, you can now save gas and time by connecting with other Liberty families. The carpool list is divided by zip codes and neighborhood schools which makes the process a whole lot easier. Thanks again, Beth Scott, for taking the time to compile this list.

## Bring In Box Tops and Caps for Cash

Coming Soon to Liberty– Box Tops for Education Classroom Contest-**The Big Clip**. The contest will run **Sept. 21st-Sept. 27th** and the class with the most points wins an ice cream party. See the Monday Note insert for more information. For answers to Box Top questions please contact parent volunteer, Cherie Young at 493-6187 or testcyoung@aol.com.

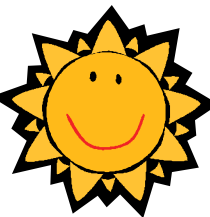
Liberty also participates in the Morning Fresh Dairy Caps 4 Cash Program. All caps from Morning Fresh Dairy Farm glass bottle caps are eligible.. That includes milk, chocolate mil, orange juice, pink lemonade, plum-apple-cherry juice and eggnog. Each cap will be redeemed for 5 cents and spent any way the school would like. Drink your milk, or juice, save your bottle caps, collect caps from family and friends and bring your caps to school.



## Lunch Reminders

Lunch menus are due back to Liberty by the 20th of each month. This allows Mrs. Whitmore, our lunch coordinator, to input selections and have them available for viewing on PowerSchool by the 5th of the following month.

If you send a lunch with your student that needs to be microwaved, please limit it to something that only needs to be cooked or reheated for 1-2 minutes. Keeping this request in mind will reduce the lines to the microwaves. Thank you.



## Make Your Morning Run Smoothly by.....

- Entering the building through the Front Doors located at the South side of the building. This applies to all students , except Kindergarteners.
- Leaving forgotten lunches, homework, jackets etc. in the Front Office. This will reduce the number of classroom disruptions.