

Volume 13 Issue 4
Sept., 14, 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
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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 SIT**

What's Happening Now?

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

****PowerSchool parent link
can be found at
libertycommon.org, under
News, What's Happening Now**

**The History of Liberty Common School
Part 3 of 3**

The following is the conclusion of "The History of Liberty Common School" written by Maureen Schaffer.

It was June of 1996. Advocates for the Core Knowledge charter school had come up short after being legally out-maneuvered by the school district. The parents faced a \$5000 debt for legal filings and newsletters to its growing list of supporters.

The unsinkable charter group wasted no time mobilizing its next charter effort. They "passed the hat" yet again, this time requesting additional donations to hire a lawyer of their own.

The parents contacted local attorney Mike Maxwell to assist in rewriting and negotiating their charter. Maxwell was immediately captivated by the critical nature of the school choice movement. He and his partners donated their time and expertise to the cause.

The name of the new school would be Liberty Common. At a *common* school, students of all ages and socio-economic backgrounds could obtain a common education.

But, why *Liberty*? *Liberty* stood for parents who would now have educational choice. *Liberty* stood for teachers who would no longer have to work in a broken system. And most importantly, *Liberty* would symbolize the true freedom that can only be achieved when a student possesses an educated mind.

On October 1, 1996 the charter application for Liberty Common School was submitted to PSD, along with a file drawer of supporting documents, reports, and studies. The new charter provided in-depth rationale for each aspect of the school the parents deemed non-negotiable. Still, negotiations drag on for months.

Finally PSD approved the charter, and a 5-year contract signed on February 24, 1997. Now, the real work would begin!

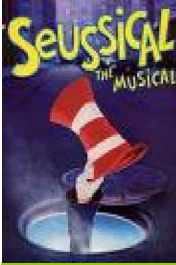
The charter group scrambled to simultaneously find a building and hire staff. Teams of parents conducted interviews at Dr. Everett's Urology Center. Applicants were quite relieved to learn that physical exams were not part of the drill!

Although there was still no school building, one courageous administrator, Dr. Kathryn Knox, took a gamble and signed on as Liberty's first headmaster. She quickly melded with the team and donated dozens of hours interviewing potential teachers.

A powerhouse staff with a pioneering spirit was assembled, including Connie Behr, Marie Louise Borak, Gretchen Jeffers, Dave Lunn, Beth Olson, Cherie Pederson, Tina Shockley, and Jeff Seiner, who are all still cornerstones of Liberty today. Teachers joined forces with parents to identify curriculum resources and skills programs to augment the Core Knowledge Sequence.

Meanwhile, parent Peter Kast, worked fervently to pull together a suitable building and financing for the new school. Pursuing multiple deals simultaneously, Peter never gave up as each financing option ultimately collapsed. Would anyone lend money to this unknown entity called a charter school?

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Seussical Jr., The Musical Meeting and Auditions

Informational meeting on **Sept. 21st at 3:15**
Auditions will be **Sept. 29th at 3:15 p.m.**
Please note this year the musical will be on December 11, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

TerraCycle, Liberty's Lunchroom Recycle Program

Liberty is now participating in a lunchroom recycle program called TerraCycle, which makes affordable, eco-friendly products from a wide range of different non-recyclable waste materials. TerraCycle's hope is to eliminate the idea of waste by finding innovative, unique uses for materials others deem garbage.

TerraCycle is a free national program that pays schools to collect used packaging such as drink pouches, energy bar wrappers, yogurt cups, cookie wrappers, chip bags and more. The collected materials are upcycled into affordable, high quality products ranging from tote bags and purses to shower curtains and kites. Your child can be part of this recycle program by depositing their lunch recyclables into designated bins in the lunchroom. Thanks to parents, Ana Sluss and Holly Wolsey for bringing this program to Liberty.

Fall Festival- October 2nd-6:00 p.m.

Fall Festival is a Liberty Common tradition for adults and children when we celebrate Autumn and all the fun that comes with the season. To make this event happen, we need parent volunteers. Please contact Lisa Murphy at 490-6062 or Susan Groeger at 631-2584.

Liberty Common Soccer Schedule

Sept. 14th at Windsor
Sept. 15th vs. Heritage at Liberty
Sept. 17th- Bye
Sept. 21st at St. Mary's

The Big Clip Competition

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.

FYI.....

- All parents or family members who are volunteering or visiting Liberty, must sign in at the Front Office. If you are volunteering and have completed your 2009-2010 Volunteer Application, you will have a nametag. Please record your volunteer hours.
- Beginning September 21, 2009 Mr. Bob Schaffer can be reached at 482-9800 ext.116 or by email at bschaffer@libertycommon.org.

October Count

All public schools in Colorado receive funding from the State based on the number of students who attend their school. It is critical that your student be present during the October Count period. The count occurs September 24th-October 8th. October 1st is the official count date set by the state. If your child will be absent for more than 2 days in a row other than for an illness, during this time, please see Mrs. Hanawalt for an official document to sign. Thank you.

Congratulations to Liberty Common School

Liberty Common School has received recognition from The Colorado Department of Education as one of the top schools for the highest academic growth in 2009. Congratulations to all the students, teachers and administrators who made this happen.

Liberty Common Volleyball Schedule

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

Continued from Front Page

It was now summer and fall was fast approaching. A building was needed immediately if there was to be sufficient time for renovations. Peter assembled a small group of investors to purchase the Colgate factory near the detention center and lease the building to the charter school. The deal closed in late June.

The facility question was answered, but substantial reconstruction was necessary to convert the former toothpaste and mouthwash factory into a school. Thirteen Liberty families put up personal assets as collateral for the million dollar construction loan. It was now July. Amazingly, the Neenan Company completed the massive remodel in less than 60 days!

The concrete floors were uncarpeted, and the upstairs remained unfinished. A support column stood in the middle of the small gym. The performance hall was non-existent. But none of that mattered.

In September 1997, a dream became a reality as Liberty Common School opened its doors to more than four hundred eager young students in kindergarten through 7th grade. And the rest is history!