



Volume 15 Issue 5
September 19, 2011

*"Semper Excelsius-
The Liberty Way"*

The Liberty Common School
Common Knowledge, Common Virtues, Common Sense
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 At LCS-K-6th

Sept. 20: Singapore Math Boot Camp 7:00-8:30 p.m. **RSVP to the Front Office-482-9800**

Sept. 23-Oct. 7: October Count (See explanation, page 2)

Sept. 23: Liberty t-shirt day

Sept. 30: Individual Student Photos. **This is a free dress day.**

Oct. 7: Fall Festival 5:30-8:00 (See attached flyers)

Oct. 14: End of 1st quarter



Student Directories are now available in the Front Office for \$1.00. Stop by and get yours today.

Liberty Common School Board of Directors 2011-2012

Amy Redstone-378-1170
Dan Provaznik- 223-0188
Mark Sutherlin-225-0432
Cassy Turner- 691-3027
Jeff Webb-545-9636
Bill Werst- 631-8379

Board of Directors Meeting:
Liberty Common School
October 20, 2011
1725 Sharp Point Dr.
Faculty Room
7:00 p.m.

Headmaster Writing by Russ Spicer

This week I would like to share an article that talks about sequencing and how knowledge builds upon knowledge found in the archives of the Core Knowledge Foundation Newsletters. We apply this principle all the way through the high school and purposefully align our classes to build sequentially on what has already been learned in K-8. Because of this purposeful, sequential approach, our students received a deep and broad knowledge base. One indication of the effectiveness of this approach is visible in how well our Jr. High and High school students perform on their standardized and college placement exams. Our students continue to get stronger where many other schools and program do not.

Please find below a reprinting of the aforementioned article.

The following article is reprinted with from the Core Knowledge Foundation with permission.

Why Is the Sequence Sequenced?

By Robert Shepherd

In seeming contradiction of Pasteur, John Malone published in 2002 his *It Doesn't Take a Rocket Scientist: Great Amateurs of Science*, a compendium of wonderful stories of scientific discoveries made by interested amateurs. Michael Faraday, for example, was the son of an impoverished blacksmith and received very little formal education. Nonetheless, he discovered electromagnetic induction (that a changing magnetic field produces an electric field) and so became the father of the technological age. Albert Einstein and Jack Horner almost failed elementary school, but Einstein revolutionized fundamental physics, and Horner redefined our understanding of the appearance, social lives, and methods of locomotion of dinosaurs. David Levy wasn't a professional astronomer, but he was the co-discoverer of Shoemaker-Levy 9, the comet that plowed into Jupiter in July of 1994, creating the largest explosion our solar system is likely to see (we hope) in our lifetimes.

Inspiring stories, all. However, the more one learns of these stories, the more one realizes that the leading characters were all amateurs in the root sense of the word (Latin, *amo, amat*) — they lacked professional credentials and training, but they made up for their deficiencies by spending years in solitary, single-minded pursuit of the objects of their affections. To a person, these great scientific amateurs were tenacious autodidacts, driven to read and learn and think about their subjects almost to the exclusion of everything else. The point is that stories of scientific discoveries by amateurs, wonderful as they are, rarely provide counterexamples to Pasteur's general rule: Chance favors the prepared mind. To read the rest of this captivating article, [Click Here](#).



Students from Mrs. Von Barger's 3rd Grade Class

How to Reach Us

- Our office hours are **7:30-4:00 p.m.**
- Our telephone number is **(970) 482-9800**
- Our attendance line is **(970) 482-9800**, option 2, please call by 8:30 a.m.
- Please note that you may go to your student's classroom and wait for them to be dismissed only after 2:50 p.m.
- If you need to take your child to an appointment during school hours, please come to the Front Office, sign them out and we will call them out of class.
- All students who arrive after 8:00 a.m. must be signed in at the Front Office. It is important that a reason be written as this determines if the tardy is excused or not.
- Our school closes at 4:00 p.m. All students need to have left the building by 4:00 p.m. or chaperoned by a parent or guardian.



Singapore Math Boot Camp

We have been in school now for four weeks and many of you have had a chance to acquaint yourselves with your student's math program, Singapore Math. If you have questions or want further information about this great math program, please mark your calendar for **September 20th from 7:00-8:30 p.m.** Cassie Turner, Singapore Math Consultant and LCS Board Member will be presenting information and answering questions. Please RSVP to Jill Ronen, Administrative Assistant



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 23rd-October 7th. September 30th is the official count date set by the state. If your child will be absent for more than two days in a row other than for an illness, during this time, please see the Front Office for an official document to sign. Thank you.

Grandparents Day Planning Committee

Planning has started for this year's 11/22/11 Grandparents Day. We need more volunteers to help pull off our second-annual event in splendid fashion. If you can volunteer or make donations to the effort, please [CLICK HERE](#).



Free CSU Girls Basketball Clinic

Attention future girl basketball stars. The CSU Women's Basketball team will be teaching basic fundamental skills through interactive drills and activities to any 1st-5th grade girl.

When: Saturday, October 1st- 9:00-noon

Where: CSU Intramural Gym (just East of Moby Gym)

How: Sign up in the Front Office by Sept. 30th

Cost: FREE !!

Attention First Grade Parents

If your child participated in the 100 books marathon over the summer with Mrs. Shockley, Mrs. Trout, and Mrs. Benzel please note that the students will be receiving their marathon t-shirts on September 26th.

Please have your student wear their t-shirt on September 27th for our first Character Assembly. Thank you.

Take a Kid Mountain Biking

October 1st is National Take a Kid Mountain Biking Day. Students and parents are invited to join Mr. Siener and others from our Liberty family for this free event. The ride takes place in Lory State Park and spaces are limited so sign up soon. Full details and registration can be found at <http://www.overlandmtb.org>.



Save The Date 11/22/11 Grandparents Day

This year's Liberty Grandparents Day is Tuesday, November 22nd. Please notify grandparents now so they'll have plenty of time for travel arrangements. This is a very popular Liberty event. Invitations will be mailed in a few weeks. The RSVP date is **Friday, Oct. 21st**. This is very firm RSVP date. Due to limited seating, class scheduling with grandchildren and other special arrangements, no RSVPs will be accepted after Oct. 21st. Please don't put our all-volunteer Grandparents-Day Planning Committee in the unenviable position of telling your grandma "no." That's never a good thing – but they'll really do it if her RSVP comes in after Oct. 21st.

Congratulations to Student Council Representatives 2010-2011

Congratulations to those who were elected as representatives from the 5th and 6th grades and to all the students who ran for this position, created wonderful posters, and did amazing speeches! These representatives will lead fellow students in planning and carrying out several service activities and also manage the Snack Shack throughout the year.

Mrs. Cardenas: **Caroline Morris and Chloe Eberl**
Mrs. Schupp: **Lily Soper, and Taylor Smith**
Mr. Henderson: **Taylor Reinke and Cole Goeltl**
Mr. Huey: **Bryce Simms and Karisa Taylor**
Mrs. Jordan: **Piper Townsend and Katleyn Yockey**
Mrs. Crisafulli: **Phoebe Huey and Evan Diehl**



Suntans Are Overrated

By: Bob Schaffer, LCHS Principal

In addition to the honor of being your students' principal, I also have the honor of representing Colorado's Fourth Congressional District on the Colorado State Board of Education. I'm in my sixth year on the Board and my third year as the Board's Chairman.

A Board colleague of mine recently gave me a copy of John Medina's 2008 best-selling book *Brain Rules*. She even had it inscribed by the author himself. The colleague, Dr. Angelika Schroeder of Boulder, says the book should be read by everyone in the education business.

It's just as useful to all parents of schoolchildren. After all, we're in the education business, too.

The book explains in layman's terms (in twelve rules) how the brain works. It gives lots of tips on how to improve the brain's performance and insights on how learning can be improved.

Though the book is indeed aimed at teachers in the classroom, it offers practical advice that parents can follow in an effort to help teachers and students alike. For example, oxygen is a superpower fuel for the brain.

More oxygen equals better brain performance – for everyone, all the time. Exercise, adequate sleep and good nutrition make every brain smarter. If your kid is struggling in school, start there.

"Multitasking" is something like a suntan. It seems pretty fascinating at the time, but it's really overrated.

The brain can truly focus on only one thing at a time. Distractions impede learning. This makes a strong case for eliminating distractions.

It explains why we're sticklers for the Dress Code, being tardy, chewing gum, using cell phones, wandering off campus and other disturbances. If your scholar is not achieving his full potential, consider how you can remove distractions at home, too.

Most memory vanishes immediately. Enduring memory is fixed in the brain's cortex. Lodging it there and retrieving it entails gradual acquisition of information and reinforcement through repetition.

This helps explain why the Core Knowledge Sequence is so powerful and why the concept of "background knowledge" helps the learning process to surge through high school, college and beyond. If your student's performance is not at its peak, find strategies at home to reinforce what they're expected to know at school – even after the unit is over.

Chronic stress at home hurts brains at school. Stress stimulates the body's production of adrenaline and cortisol. Too much of these chemicals damages the heart and hippocampus.

(Continued on page 4)

Suntans Are Overrated

By: Bob Schaffer, LCHS Principal
(Continued from page 3)

High stress can literally cause a brain to snap. This explains why we work so purposefully at Liberty to create a safe, calm, stable, routine and predictable environment for our students.

The process of education is a good kind of stress. Adding traumatic stress on top of it is counterproductive. If your household is unstable, do your best to insulate your kids from the mayhem.

To see a 45-minute video introduction to Medina's book [CLICK HERE](#). To help make your students' brains stronger, keep supporting Liberty. Your kids will have it made in the shade.

**Volunteer Opportunity:
Fall Festival-October 7th
5:30-8:00 p.m.**

Come join the Liberty Common family for a celebration of the season at the Fall Festival. There will be games, crafts, prizes, 3 bouncy houses and food to enjoy. **WE NEED VOLUNTEERS** to help run craft tables and game centers, as well as donations of candy, (nut free,) 2 lt. pop, cupcakes, frosting, sprinkles and sugar cookies (store bought,) and help setting up and cleaning up afterwards. If you can help in any way, please contact Marnie Dame at 391-8983 or marniedame@msn.com. Thank you!

Photo Day is September 30th

Individual photo day is September 30, 2011. This is a free dress day for students and they are encouraged to wear appropriate photo-taking attire. Please make sure your student is not wearing jeans with holes or t-shirts with inappropriate sayings. Girls are not allowed to wear spaghetti straps or mid-drifts. Thank you.

Eco-Week- 6th Graders at Pingree Park



Friends getting ready to embark on their three day journey.



Students exploring at the B-17 bomber site

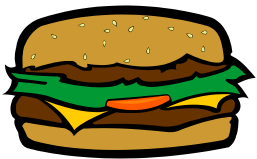
Fall **FESTIVAL**

Friday, October 7th
5:30 – 8:00

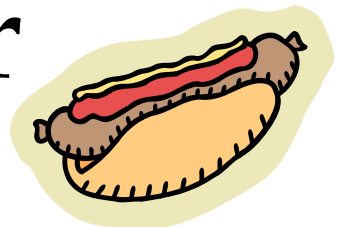


Games, crafts,

**bouncy houses, hayride
& prizes; tickets
required**



Hamburgers, hot dogs &
nachos available for
purchase





FESTIVAL

October 7th, 5:30pm – 8 pm

Pre-purchase Ticket form

By pre-purchasing your Fall Festival carnival tickets, you save **money** and **time**.

Pre-purchased tickets: 5 for \$1

Tickets at the night of the event: 4 for \$1



Expected costs are as follows:

- Hamburger meal..... 15 tickets
(includes hamburger, chips & soda pop)
- Hot dog meal..... 15 tickets
(includes hot dog, chips & soda pop)
- Nacho chips w/ cheese 4 tickets
- Soda pop..... 2 tickets
- Chips..... 2 tickets
- Games, crafts and bouncy houses 1 to 4 tickets each

There are many crafts and games, both inside and outside. Make sure you pre-purchase enough tickets at the *discounted* price!

Name: _____

\$ included for tickets: _____

Check # _____

Please attach your check to this bottom portion of the flyer and return to the Front Office no later than Oct. 4th. Pre-purchased tickets may be picked up at the Fall Festival in the pre-purchased ticket line. Thank you.