

**Volume 13 Issue 5
Sept., 21, 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

What is Happening in October?

Oct. 1-BOD Mtg. High School
Expansion-7 p.m.

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-Staff/
Professional Development

Oct. 23- No School-Parent/
Teacher Conference

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:

Oct. 1, 2009 -7 p.m.

Oct. 15, 2009- 7 p.m.

BOD AGENDA

Financial Review, Special Edu-
cation report, Approve
Accountability Report and SIP,
FY'09 Audit Report



Pizza now being
served on
Mondays.
Calendars due on
the 20th.

Educational Philosophy 101

Part 1 of a 2 Part Series

If someone approached you on the street and asked, “so what makes Liberty Common School different than other schools?” What response would you give? Well, an obvious answer is that we use the Core Knowledge curriculum. But there is another characteristic that is very important when distinguishing Liberty Common School from other traditional public education institutions. That characteristic is our educational philosophy.

What is Liberty Common School’s educational philosophy? Liberty Common School espouses the Classical Liberal educational philosophy. Dr. Randy Everett, one of Liberty Common School’s founders, does a masterful job of explaining the Classical Liberal philosophy. He has prepared a rough outline of the three major educational philosophies as they relate to what occurs in the educational process. I have included this outline in this week’s Monday Notes. Please refer to this handout (attachment) in addition to reading this column.

The next two Headmaster writings are going to discuss in more detail some of the information found in this outline. It is important that the parent population understand Liberty’s educational philosophy. It is important that our parent population comprehends for what the school stands, and on what basis the school was founded. If we are to continue achieving educational excellence, we must embrace and support the direction the school has chosen.

To begin with, I will address the characterizing metaphors of each philosophy. The Rationalists believe in the “Utopia” metaphor. They believe that if we create a perfect environment, or society, children will develop into perfect individuals. If something goes wrong with the child’s learning or development, the system is at fault. The Latin translation of utopia means “no place.” It doesn’t exist.

The Romantics believe that the child is like an unfolding flower. He/she will develop to his/her full potential of a well-educated, rational person simply by natural “developmentally appropriate” means. Parents and teachers should not stifle this natural process with their “adult” expectations. The romantic metaphor is the Idyllic or “dream world” approach.

The metaphor for the Classical Liberal philosophy, the one that Liberty adheres to, is that the educational process is a journey. The child is seen as an autonomous moral agent. He/she must make use of his/her abilities and capacity to actively acquire their education in a system that has been designed (by parents and teachers) to move the child toward self-reliance. For example, the Core Knowledge curriculum is designed to help students acquire wide familiarity with literature, history, geography, science, math, music, and arts. It doesn’t just come about. It is something that is worked at, a continual process that prepares our students for the journey of life. One never stops learning.

(Continued next week)

The Big Clip Competition

Bring in your Box Tops Labels this week for a special classroom competition! Bring your Campbell's labels to put in OTHER classroom bags to subtract from their score! The classroom with the highest overall score WINS an Ice Cream Party!! This contest only runs this week so bring in your stash!



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.

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 run smoothly, **we need parent volunteers**, (decorating, running stations, and cleanup) donations of candy (nut free), 2 ltr. Pop and sugar cookies (store bought) . If you can help in anyway, please contact Lisa Murphy at 227-8718, 490-6062, Earl-Lisa@comcast.net or Susan Groeger at 631-2584 or Groegersc@yahoo.com.

Parents- Please fill out the attached food pre-order forms for Subway and CiCi's Pizza. These preorder forms are due back to the Front Office by September 30th. Thank you

What is Happening at Liberty Common?

Not sure the date of an upcoming event or even the time it starts? There are many ways you can find out: Check- Monday Notes emailed or on our website at libertycommon.org, See- your student's Teacher's Monday Notes, or Visit- Powerschool Website under bulletin items and View- the 2009-2010 Event Calendar that was sent to every family this summer or can also be found on our website. After exploring all these routes and not finding what you're looking for, call the Front Office at 482-9800, ext 110.

Terracycle Comes to Liberty Common

We are excited to announce that Liberty Common School will be participating in a national collection program run by Terracycle (terracycle.net) that pays schools to collect used packaging such as drink pouches, cookie and energy bar wrappers, chip bags and more. The collected materials are then upcycled into affordable, high-quality products ranging from tote bags and purses to shower curtains and kites. Our school receives .2 cents for each wrapper collected and returned to Terracycle.

Here is a list of specific items that we are collecting in the lunchroom for this purpose:

Frito-Lay chip bags: Fritos, Cheetos, Doritos, Lays

Drink pouches: Capri Sun & Honest Kids

Cookie wrappers: Chips Ahoy & Oreos

Energy Bar wrappers: Balance & Clif Bars

If you are interested in supporting these efforts or have further questions about the program, please feel free to give Ana Sluss (988-6788) or Holly Wolsey/Soper (215-2418) a call!

REMEMBER TO VOLUNTEER FOR FALL FESTIVAL- GREAT TIME HAD BY ALL

Chess Club

Chess Club will meet every Friday after school until 4:30 p.m. in the Science Rm. There will be a few competitions against other schools this year, the first one being in October. There will be activities and instruction for everyone, from beginners to more advanced players. We have plenty of chess sets and few chess clocks. If your child is interested in attending, please let me know as soon as possible. You can contact me, Ted Anderson (Liberty parent) at caribenoan@gmail.com or 412-8322.

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.

Liberty Common Soccer Schedule

Sept. 21st at St. Mary's

Sept. 28th Quarter Finals Game at Liberty

Liberty Common Volleyball Schedule

Sept. 21st at Resurrection

Sept. 23rd at Ridgeview

Sept. 28th vs. St. Joseph School

Quilts by Third Graders-Final Destination

Over the summer several quilts drawn and colored by 3rd graders of Liberty Common School found their final destinations: Poor children in Peru and the Good Samaritan Nursing home in Fort Collins. Thank you 3rd graders (now 4th and 5th graders)! A big "Thank You" also goes to the dedicated volunteers who made this project possible with their skills in designing and sewing the quilts: Terry Fisher, Susan Hegdal, Lynette Mills, Julie Meiners, and Crystal Thomas. And last but not least the people who helped with the final delivery to the lucky and enthusiastic recipients: The Mullaney Family who took five quilts to Peru; Terry and Michael Fisher, and Trish and Josh Biggio who brought the "special delivery" to the Good Samaritan. Terry Fisher made one quilt by herself for both projects. Gracias! The following links show pictures of the quilts, their recipients, and helpers.

<http://picasaweb.google.com/davidmbapmp/QuiltsForPeru#>
<http://mrsborak.webs.com>

Three Major Educational Philosophies

	RATIONALISM	ROMANTICISM	CLASSICAL LIBERAL
WHENCE ORIGIN	Enlightenment/Age of Reason 1700's Reason (mind) can explain or solve everything.	Rousseau 1800-1850	Classical Tradition High points in human civilization
CHARACTERIZING METAPHOR	Child as "blank slate, Tabula Rasa" Utopian ("no place") Unconstrained Vision create perfect society or institution which will in turn create perfect individuals.	Child as –the unfolding flower Idyllic ("dream world")	Child on The Journey The individual as an autonomous moral agent Ability, Capacity (might/strength)
ATTITUDE TOWARD KNOWLEDGE	Knowledge is important to reasoned argument but limited in derivation. Only acceptable knowledge is through 5 senses /science, not tradition, culture or religion.	Rejection of knowledge as "mere facts/trivial pursuit" emphasis on "process" it is relative	Cultural Literacy Customs, traditions Collected wisdom of group Social practices FACTS: thinking of theme patterns, hypotheses, rational judgment.
ATTITUDE TOWARD MORALS	An intellectual exercise Situational ethics Moral reasoning Decision-making models	Values Clarification "How do you feel about this?" Emphasis on Self-Esteem	Habit Formation Virtue equals Strength The earned capacity to act out proper principals; hardiness Imitation of present and past examples in history and literature
ATTITUDE TOWARD DEVELOPMENT	Environmental Behaviorism	They'll get it when they're ready" emphasis on "developmentally appropriate" Relativism Genetic Determinism	Sequenced: no fixed phases Children are highly competent Learning requires effort plus hard work Knowledge, Patterns, Modeling, Creativity Volition, mankind has agency
ATTITUDE TOWARD ASSESSMENT	Argument Evidence Logic	No standardized test "don't want to teach to test" "tests don't assess creativity"	Clear evaluation against a well-defined standard
ATTITUDE TOWARD SKILL	Exercise of mind (a reasonable /reasoning approach)	Child directed; aka "child centered based on emotional and internal readiness-waiting for skill to unfold Progressive	Direct Instruction Practice Habit Formation Spontaneous Ability thru Automaticity
ATTITUDE TOWARD CRATIVITY	Functional	Overflow of spontaneous expression	The directing of skill and knowledge, craftsmanship and hard work
THE END OF EDUCATION (The goal!)	Progressivist Gets caught up in Relativism Reductionist Cognitive	Socialization of the Child	The outfitting of the child with skills. Knowledge, virtue, capacity, hardiness to fulfill life long journey
DEFINING VISION	Unconstrained view of man's nature Vision of the Anointed	Unconstrained view of man's nature Vision of the Anointed	Constrained view of man's nature Tragic Vision

SUBWAY SANDWICH ORDER FORM

Please fill out one order for each meal you would like to purchase. More order forms are available in Front Office. Each meal cost \$5.75, including beverage. Please pay the day of the event.

NAME: _____

Please CIRCLE 1 choice per section.

Bread: White Wheat Herb/Chz Oat

Sub: Veggie Ham Turkey Trio Tur/Ham Spicy

Cheese: American Provolone None

Veggie: Lettuce Tomato Cucumbers Green Pepper Onions Pickle Olive Jalapeños Banana Peppers

Chips: Baked Regular Classic Lays Doritos BBQ Sun Chip Cheddar Cheetos

Cookie: Choc. Chip White Chip Sugar Oatmeal Raisin Snickerdoodle

Beverage: Water Coke Diet Sprite Lemonade Tea Red Tea
Fanta Orange Cherry Coke

Mayo, mustard, oil, vinegar will be provided for you.

Payment: Cash Check MasterCard Visa

NAME: _____

Please CIRCLE 1 choice per section.

Bread: White Wheat Herb/Chz Oat

Sub: Veggie Ham Turkey Trio Tur/Ham Spicy

Cheese: American Provolone None

Veggie: Lettuce Tomato Cucumbers Green Pepper Onions Pickle Olive Jalapeños Banana Peppers

Chips: Baked Regular Classic Lays Doritos BBQ Sun Chip Cheddar Cheetos

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Cookie: Choc. Chip White Chip Sugar Oatmeal Raisin Snickerdoodle

Beverage: Water Coke Diet Sprite Lemonade Tea Red Tea
Fanta Orange Cherry Coke

Mayo, mustard, oil, vinegar will be provided for you.

Payment: Cash Check MasterCard Visa

CiCi's Pizza Order Form

Name _____

Please enter the number of slices you would like for each type of pizza. Please pay the day of event.
Pizza will cost \$2.00. Sodas will cost 50 cents.

_____ Pepperoni Pizza

_____ Sausage Pizza

_____ Veggie Pizza

_____ Cheese Pizza



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

Parent Volunteers Needed
Be a part of this fun
Liberty Common Tradition

Contact Susan Groeger-631-2584
Lisa Murphy-227-8718