



Volume 15 Issue 6  
September 26, 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. 23-Oct. 7:** October Count  
(See explanation, page 2)

**Sept. 27:** Character Assembly

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

**Oct. 7:** Fall Festival 5:30-8:00  
(See attached flyers)  
**Volunteers Needed see page 2.**

**Oct. 14:** End of 1st quarter

**Oct. 21:** No School-Parent/  
Teacher Conferences

**Oct. 27:** Liberty T-shirt Day

**Oct. 28:** No School-Teacher/  
Professional Development

**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 Sutherland-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

### The Perfect SCRIP

An almost immediate result of our wonderful school expanding to more classes and grade levels last year was the increased number of requests for money to support the various student activities, athletics, clubs and groups. Liberty Common School offers many excellent student programs like robotics, choir, band, musicals, Odyssey of the Mind, chess club, athletics, NHS, Science Olympiad, computer programming, knowledge bowl, student government, etc., etc. We are excited to offer all these activities and groups. That is one thing that makes Liberty so special – we understand how important being a well-rounded student is. Academics will always be our top priority, but providing children the opportunity to pursue outside interests and activities is also important.

Many of these groups have approached the administration with fundraising ideas. Liberty Common School has always taken a firm stance on its approach to fundraising. We do not support using children as solicitors for fundraising efforts. We have in place a number of avenues for fundraising, but it does not involve the children asking us to buy things. 😊

Our two major fundraisers are the end of the calendar year annual fund campaign and the Silent Auction. This year the annual fund campaign will take place in November and the Silent Auction will take place on April 14<sup>th</sup> (mark it on your calendar now 😊). Other than these two fundraisers, Liberty Common School tries not to ask you for money. We do, however, provide a number of “opt in” opportunities.

One of those “opt in” opportunities that would greatly benefit all of our student activities is the “SCRIP” program. This program has the potential to generate a fair sum of money for our expanding student programs in a manner that only asks a little bit of planning and time on behalf of our parents. The program works by having parents pre-purchase dollar amounts to stores they shop at regularly. For example, if your family consistently shops at King Soopers, you can purchase a certain dollar value for King Soopers. If you purchase \$200 worth of SCRIP money, you get to spend \$200 on your purchases there. You are out nothing but a bit of time to order the SCRIP money. SCRIP in turn gives Liberty Common School 5% of that purchase. Each participating SCRIP vendor has a different percentage – most of them fall between 2 – 5%. ([Click Here for SCRIP policy sheet](#), [Click here for enrollment form](#))

Last year we had about 27 families participating in the SCRIP program starting in November, 2010. This year Liberty Common School has only 7 families participating. So far, those families from last year and this year have generated about \$2,100 to date. The current total number of families at Liberty Common School is about 600. Just imagine the amount of money we would raise if every family used the SCRIPS for just their grocery shopping. Using the data from last year’s numbers that 27 families generated about \$2,100 in a ½ year, we could feasibly contend that half of the families in our school (300) could earn about **\$46,500** a year. That would be 300 families, times approximately \$155 earned per family per year, doing this program. \$46,500 would go a long way in covering the expenses associated with our student programs. And again, this costs you nothing but a bit of your time to plan ahead and submit your orders.

**(Continued on Page 4)**

## 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.



## 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 !!

## Liberty Dress Code

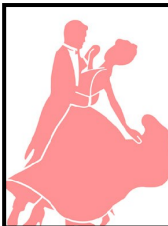
Parents,

Please take a moment and look over the Liberty dress code in the parents/student handbook (page 45). We have had a number of students out of dress code. Your help in monitoring how students come dressed each day would be helpful. (Click here) [http://www.libertycommon.org/resources/handbook/documents/StudentParentHandbook2010\\_11.pdf](http://www.libertycommon.org/resources/handbook/documents/StudentParentHandbook2010_11.pdf)

Keith (Casey)Churchill, Principal

## October Count

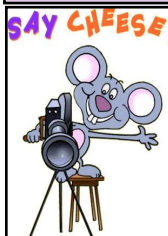
All public schools in Colorado receive funding from the State based on the number of students who attend their school. It is critical that your student be present during the October Count period. The count occurs September 23rd-October 7th. September 30th is the official count date set by the state. 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.



## Cotillion at Liberty- Sept. 27th

The John D. Williams Cotillions will be here on Sept. 27<sup>th</sup> to present at our monthly character education assembly about respect. Please visit their website for more information [www.cotillion.com](http://www.cotillion.com).

## 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.



## Take a Kid Mountain Biking October 1, 2011

October 1<sup>st</sup> 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>.



## Great Volunteer Opportunity Fall Festival October 7th

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 2 lt. pop, cupcakes, frosting, sprinkles and sugar cookies (store bought, nut free) 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](mailto:marniedame@msn.com). Thank you!

*Please use the order form on page \_\_\_\_ to pre-purchase tickets. Buying tickets by October 4th will insure no standing in line and more time to enjoy the festivities.*

## Grandparents Day Nov. 22, 2011 Save The Date !

This year's Liberty Grandparents Day is Tuesday, November 22nd. [CLICK HERE](#) for full information about Grandparents Day 2011 including RSVP instructions. Invitations were mailed out last week. If yours didn't show up, please know it's not intentional and your student's grandparents are still invited to participate. Please notify grandparents now so they'll have plenty of time to make travel arrangements. This is a very popular Liberty event. 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 see the nearby "Volunteer Opportunities" announcement if you can help or contribute for the event.

## Grandparents Day Planning Committee Needs Volunteers

Planning is well underway for this year's 11/22/11 Grandparents Day. The committee will meet three Thursdays a month at the elementary school. We need more volunteers to help pull off our second-annual event in splendid fashion. [CLICK HERE](#) for full information about Grandparents Day 2011. If you can volunteer or make donations (including food, decorations, printing, etc.) to the effort, please [CLICK HERE](#) to contact our superhero Committee Chairwoman, Board Member and Liberty parent Amy Redstone.



**Kindergarteners and Parent**



## Chasing A Shiny Penny

By: Bob Schaffer, LCHS Principal

Liberty's students are fortunate they are surrounded by loving parents who are actively involved in deciding not only how their kids learn but what their kids learn. It's the trademark advantage of an excellent charter school.

A full sprint toward national academic standards has been underway for the past few years. With the financial backing of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, two serious groups – the National Governors' Association and the Council of Chief State School Officers – have designed and are implementing something called "The Common Core Standards."

Within just a few months of unveiling of the [Common-Core plan](#) on June 2, 2010, over 40 states had officially committed themselves to adopting it. By just one vote, [Colorado did, too](#).

Only the Common-Core standards for mathematics and English language arts have been introduced so far. To entice swift conformity, the [U.S. Department of Education is writing big checks to states that adopt the new national standards](#) as part of their "reform" plans.

Embracing the idea of core standards is nothing new at Liberty. In fact, it's [a concept that brands Liberty](#) and the Liberty family. Liberty's core standards are, of course, built upon the privately developed and time-tested [Core Knowledge Curriculum](#).

Colorado's adoption of the Common Core standards will clearly have an impact on Liberty and not always for the better. ([CLICK HERE](#) to see why I opposed Colorado's adoption of the plan). The national standards will drive the state's assessment system which is applied to all public-school students including ours.

Last year's CSAP test (Colorado's foremost assessment tool) was the last CSAP test your kids will ever take. Next spring, your kids will be required to take [the state's new transitional test – called TCAP](#) – which will be half based on the new standards and half based on existing standards. The full transition will be completed in 2014.

Liberty is not constrained to teaching to the state standards as most public schools are. Our teachers are clearly knowledgeable of the state standards and we certainly accommodate them until they depart too much from our more-ambitious Core Knowledge Sequence. Yet, because [we do so very well on state assessments](#), we brag about our high scores all the time.

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## Chasing A Shiny Penny

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

Parents are asking me with greater frequency these days about the Common Core standards and what they mean for Liberty. Since they're still in the development stage, it's hard to say with precision. Carefulness, however, is certainly in order.

Going forward, it is clear Liberty needs to be vigilant never losing sight of our foundational vision and dedication to [our philosophy and curriculum](#). The temptation to chase the shiny penny of the newest national trend will surely tug at our classical, time-tested methods which, by comparison, may likely be panned by some as old fashioned, obsolete and dull.

Already, there is concern about the politics that went into the Common Core's math standards. There's the reality that Colorado's standards seem fine when compared to say Wyoming's, but seem anemic when compared to Finland's and Taiwan's. More on that next week.

In the meantime, amid these immense national discussions, asserting active judgment on the parent-derived standards of our excellent charter school continues to give a very powerful advantage to all Liberty students.

## Headmaster Writing (Continued from Page 1)

As is happening everywhere in our economy, the projection for school finance next year is flat or another slight reduction (if there is a reduction, it would be the 4<sup>th</sup> year in a row the Per Pupil Revenue was reduced). Fundraising is more important now than ever before. Thank you for considering the SCRIP program as a means to support the many activities, programs, and clubs of our school. This is a fairly easy way to generate revenue for our student programs and it requires no financial investment. To find out more about our SCRIP program or to get an order form please ([CLICK HERE](#)). You can also contact Tracy Horst who is coordinating the SCRIP program for Liberty at [dthorst@msn.com](mailto:dthorst@msn.com).

Don't forget the end of the year campaign coming up in November and the Silent Auction on April 14th. Thank you for your continued support of our wonderful school. We couldn't do it without you. I love Liberty Common School and I love Liberty Common High school.



**Kindergarteners celebrate Teddy Roosevelt and Johnny Appleseed**

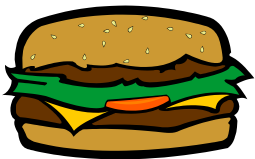
# Fall *FESTIVAL*

Friday, October 7<sup>th</sup>  
5:30 – 8:00

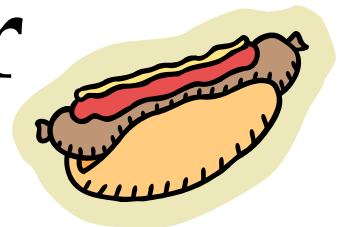


Games, crafts,

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.