



Volume 15 Issue 26  
February 27, 2012

*“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

[Click Here](#) to view Liberty  
Common High School  
Newsletter

## What's Happening at LCS K-6th

**Feb. 28**-First Day of Track  
Practice

**Feb. 28**-Integrity Assembly-  
4th-6th grade-8:10-8:45  
K-3rd grade-8:55-9:35

**Feb. 29**-TCAP Begins \*\*\**See  
schedule on page 5.*\*\*\*

**March 1**-Jr.High Girls B. Ball  
Game at home, 4:00 p.m.

**March 2**- Group Pictures

**March 2nd and 3rd**-Aladdin  
Jr. Jr.-High Musical, 7-8:30 p.m.

**March 6-March 9**-Scholastic  
Book Fair- LCS Library,  
8-4pm.

**March 9th**- 3rd Quarter Free  
Dress Day / Teacher Minute to  
Win It-2:30-3:00 p.m.

**March 12-16**-Spring Break

### Liberty Common School Board of Directors 2011-2012

**Crissy Kopren** 266-1005  
**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**  
**March 22, 2012**  
**1725 Sharp Point Dr.**  
**Faculty Room**  
**7:00 p.m.**

## Headmaster Writing by Russ Spicer

### Be Grounded

I have been told that when Liberty Common School received its charter, a Poudre School District board member remarked, “give them 10 years and they will be just like any other school in the district.” Well, we are in our fifteenth year of existence now and in that time we have been recognized as a National Blue Ribbon School, a National Charter School of the Year, we are an Official Core Knowledge Visitation Site, we continue to post impressive scores on our CSAP tests, we have been rated as one of the top performing schools in the state, and we have received the John J. Irwin School of Excellence Award every year since its inception twelve years ago. Pretty awesome I would say!!!! It doesn’t look like we are “just like any other school in the district,” though I wish all the other schools were as successful as ours. Our dedicated teachers, parents, BOD members and hardworking students deserve our thanks and congratulations for all of these accomplishments.

Though we continue to experience great success, it is still pertinent to not lose sight of our purpose. Liberty’s K – 8 curriculum is solidly in place with the Core Knowledge sequence. The development of the skill areas is being addressed in grammar (Shurley Grammar and Thompson - Grammar, Vocabulary and Poetry), Writing With Structure and Style, phonics, math automaticity, penmanship, etc. The high school curriculum is solidly designed to provide a rich and deep classical education that accentuates math, science and engineering. But an area of concern continues to be whether or not our school population is grounded in a solid understanding of what our school is about.

How many of the parents in our community have read the following books: “The Schools We Need and Why We Don’t Have Them” by E.D. Hirsch, “Cultural Literacy” by E.D. Hirsch, and “Why Johnny Can’t Tell Right From Wrong” by William Kilpatrick?” If you have read these books and agreed with the underlying philosophies, then you have a better understanding of the foundations of Liberty Common School and for what we stand. If you have not read these books, you may be missing out on the ideologies of this school.

Liberty is not like “the mainstream public school,” nor do we want it to be. We are not about affective education, seeking to re-shape the moral values, personal habits and social mindsets of children. We believe in intellectual development through agency education. This approach encourages students, parents and teachers to work together in order to accomplish that part of education that occurs in schooling. Agency education has as its metaphor “a journey.” The journey is the individual’s own quest in life and includes responsibility for one’s own education, which is a life long journey

Did you catch that? We want the students to take responsibility for their own education. Liberty Common School is an academically rigorous school that is demanding of its students. We set high standard for the students and hold them accountable for their work. We set the bar high and take pride in watching the student soar to heights never thought possible. We work hard at instilling in the students the desire to learn and the desire to question. We don’t water down curriculum and we don’t let the students “slip through the cracks.”

We need to hold true to the Agency Education philosophy and the other philosophies found in the aforementioned books. We don’t want to become just like any other mainstream public school. We should continually strive to maintain the ideals and vision upon which Liberty Common School was founded. Please try to understand and reinforce what this school is about by reading these books if you have not yet done so. It is important that our parent population be grounded in an understanding of the Liberty Common School ideology.

## Survey Feedback Is Vital Information

We have sent out several surveys over the past few weeks. One survey was a focused on The Liberty Common Schools in general. This survey pertained to years attending our school, BOD, and philosophy. We sent out another teacher specific survey the following week. Families will receive one survey for each child attending Liberty. These surveys are very important to us, as they help us discover our successes and areas to improve. As a parent run school, we are interested in what you have to say and areas that we can better ourselves. Please take a moment to fill out the surveys that were sent.

## Penny War Results

May we have a drum roll please? The winner of the 2011-2012 Liberty Common School Penny War is 6th grade. The prize for all their hard work is an ice cream party. We had a very impressive showing with a total of **\$2,155.05** collected school-wide. All proceeds go to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Thanks to all students and parents who cleaned out their piggy banks, turned over couch cushions and scoured cars for loose change. Your generosity will make a difference to someone suffering from leukemia or lymphoma.

## Do You Need Before School Care?

Liberty Common School has an opportunity to offer before school care from 7:00-8:00 a.m. Monday-Friday provided by our current after school care provider, the A.S.K. program. The cost would be \$7.00 full time student and \$8.00 part time student. If this is something you are interested in please contact Jill Ronen, at 482-9800, ext. 3110.

## Plan to Attend the Scholastic Spring Book Fair –March 6th-9th

Join in the reading celebration as Liberty hosts the Scholastic Spring Book Fair Luau on **March 6th-9th in the Liberty Common Library**, open **8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.**

If you're all booked up during Book Fair week (or just want to keep shopping), be sure to visit the Book Fair online at <http://bookfairs.scholastic.com/homepage/libertycommonschl> (click on link to access) The Book Fair online is available for an extended time from Feb. 22, 2012 to March 13, 2012. At this website you will find an expanded selection of books for the whole family—preschool to adults and can share our Book Fair with family and friends by sending wish lists or eCards. All orders ship to school for FREE and each purchase benefits our school.



## 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 be chaperoned by a parent or guardian.

## Important Dates 2012-2013 School Year

The 2012-2013 Calendar has been approved by Liberty Common's Board of Directors. Please note the following dates when making vacation plans for your family.

**Classes Begin** - August 15, 2012

**Labor Day** - September 3, 2012

**Thanksgiving Break** - November 21-23, 2012

**Christmas Break** - December 24-January 4, 2013

**Spring Break** - March 18-22, 2013

**Last Day of School**- May 24, 2013

## Kindergarten Store Opening: Need Gently Used Toys and Books

Do you have any gently used toys or books at the bottom of your toy box that the kids have tired of playing with? The kindergarten teachers would love to have those neglected toys or books of all sizes. We will be opening our stores in a couple of weeks to help teach our kinders about money. Please drop off toys to any of the kindergarten classrooms. Thank you very much for helping make this money unit so fun for the kinders!

## Annual Spring Gala-April 13, 2012



Check out the Gala Website Coming Soon  
[www.libertycommon.org](http://www.libertycommon.org)

Line up your babysitters now!

Consider coordinating a sleepover with another Liberty family  
and share a sitter.

Early Registration Drawing

Register to attend the Gala by March 9<sup>th</sup> and you will be entered  
to win a prize.

Volunteers Still Needed:

Dessert Auction Donations  
Volunteer Coordination  
Phone Calls to Businesses

Don't Forget the Date:

Friday, April 13<sup>th</sup>  
6 - 11 pm

Embassy Suites, Loveland

If you would like to help out in any way or have any questions,  
please contact

Wendy Thomas at [prontobw@msn.com](mailto:prontobw@msn.com) or 227-7197.

## CVC Meeting– March 19th at 2:00 p.m.

Attention Classroom Volunteer Coordinators: Please mark your calendars to attend a CVC meeting March 19, 2012 at 2:00 p.m. in the Teacher's Lounge. The topic of the meeting will be planning for Teacher Appreciation. Please R.S.V.P. Kendra Simms at (970)691-2033 or at [ronsimm872@msn.com](mailto:ronsimm872@msn.com). Hope to see you on March 19th.!

## Talent Search for Talent Show

**Liberty's Got Talent!**

What's yours??

**Audition Dates: March 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> 3:00-5:00pm**

**Talent Show: March 30<sup>th</sup> 6:30pm**

**Audition Requirements:**

- Acts must be no longer than 3 minutes in length
- All material must be school appropriate.
- All singers must bring either an accompaniment CD or have a piano accompanist.
- Students are expected to come to the audition rehearsed and prepared (with necessary equipment)

**What are judges looking for?**

- Unique talents
- A variety of different acts
- Professionalism
- Coming prepared and rehearsed (your act should be **ready to perform** as if it were the show)
- Humor (if appropriate to the act)

**Will all students make it into the Talent Show?**

- Depending on how many students audition for the Talent Show, judges may need to make cuts to keep the show a reasonable length.

**Examples/Suggestions for Acts (You are not limited to these!):**

- Stand up comedy or impersonation
- Magic tricks
- Special skill such as hula hooping, yo-yo, juggling, rubix cube, gymnastics, etc.
- Short drama, skit or puppet show
- Performance on a musical instrument or voice
- Choreographed dance number

## Chessmates Checkmate Again

Congratulations to two of our Liberty Common chess players who placed in this year's Colorado State Chess Tournament held over President's Day weekend. Ryan Green (2nd grade) and James Zheng (5th grade) both placed in their divisions. Ryan took 7th and James took 14th. Good Job gentlemen way to represent!



## Back To Our Roots

By: Bob Schaffer, LCS Principal

Put it on your calendar now! Liberty's Annual Spring Gala is scheduled for Friday, April 13<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 to 11:00 p.m.

This year's event location is the Embassy Suites Loveland at 4705 Clydesdale Parkway near "The Ranch." Attire is "business casual." The theme is "Back To Our Roots."

This is a great annual event and all Liberty families should plan to attend. Invitations were recently mailed to Liberty households, to Liberty grandparents and to other friends of Liberty. If you don't recall receiving your invitation, no worries. You're still invited.

The registration cost is \$38 per person which covers your meal and seating. This allows the rest of the event to raise money for the school – and we do indeed need to raise more money for our entire K-12 program.

It's a fun event, too. If you've never been to Liberty's Annual Spring Gala, please make sure you don't miss this one. [CLICK HERE](#) to see photos, video and a recap of last year's Gala which was accurately described as "a rightheously grand event."

If you're on Facebook, [CLICK HERE](#) for the Spring Gala event page. There's also a new Facebook Liberty Gala "group page" where you can keep track of new auction items being donated and ways to volunteer to help out with the event. [CLICK HERE](#) to join the group.

The great thing about the Spring Gala is this: You can bid at auction on hundreds of spectacular treasures and take them home for bargain-basement prices. Yes, you should expect to spend a bit of cash. You take home bargain items and the school raises money, which we really need.

If you have any products, services or anything that might entice some bidding, please donate these items to the auction. Donations are tax deductible. To donate auction items or to ask questions about the event, please call 227-7197 or email: [auctiondonation@libertycommon.org](mailto:auctiondonation@libertycommon.org)

Everyone has a great time at these gatherings and it truly benefits our students at both schools. Please don't miss this year's Liberty Spring Gala. More event information will appear here in the coming weeks, but in the meantime, get this date on your calendar now: April 13<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 to 11:00 p.m.



## Grandparents Corner

By: Ed Haynes, Chairman of the Liberty Grandparents Club

Last week, I reported on our first-ever "Liberty For Lunch" quarterly luncheon of Feb. 15<sup>th</sup>. It was a wonderful gathering of Liberty grandparents, parents, administrators and students – and you certainly won't want to miss the next one, which I'll announce here once we've got a date and location set.

At our luncheon, **Mrs. Wendy Thomas** took a few minutes to fill us in on plans for the upcoming Liberty Spring Gala. It's scheduled for Friday, April 13<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 to 11 p.m. This year's theme is "Back To Our Roots." At the gala, we'll be celebrating and recognizing Liberty's founders. Most of their kids are now past school age and we don't often get the chance to thank them for their pioneering hard work in establishing what has become one of the country's best schools.

Please see **Mr. Schaffer's** nearby column for more information about this important event. Also, please join the Grandparents Club in turning all efforts toward making the Spring Gala a huge and spectacular success.

*For more information or to join the Liberty Grandparents Club, please email [gpc@libertycommon.org](mailto:gpc@libertycommon.org)*

## Spring Sports Begin Soon

The Jr. High girls' soccer and boys' and girl's track & field seasons are right around the corner! Grades 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> at Liberty are encouraged to participate, no matter the playing experience.

There will be three track & field practices before spring break. These dates are **February 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>, and March 7<sup>th</sup>**. The season runs from **2/28- 4/24**. Please make sure you have all paperwork completed and turned in *prior* to the first day of practice, Feb. 28th. or the athlete can't participate. Any parents interested in volunteering please send Mr. Reeves or Mr. Wilcox an email at [dreeves@libertycommon.org](mailto:dreeves@libertycommon.org) or [jwilcox@libertycommon.org](mailto:jwilcox@libertycommon.org).

The first practice for girls' soccer will be **March 19<sup>th</sup>**. The season **runs 3/19-5/9**. Please make sure you have all paperwork completed *prior* to the first week of practice. It can be found by [clicking here](#). Any questions, please contact Mr. Hubbeling at [chubbeling@libertycommon.org](mailto:chubbeling@libertycommon.org)

Once all paperwork has been turned in, you will be given a "blue card" to turn in on the first day of the season/tryouts. You must have a "blue card" in order to tryout/practice.

**ATTENTION: TCAP (CSAP) Schedule– 2011-2012**

**LIBERTY COMMON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TCAP SCHEDULE  
2011-2012**

GRADE	DATE	SESSION	TIME			
3rd	2/29/2012	Reading #1	8:00-10:00			
3rd	3/1/2012	Reading #2	8:00-10:00			
3rd	3/20/2012	Math #1	8:00-10:00			
3rd	3/21/2012	Math #2	8:00-10:00			
3rd	3/26/2012	Writing #1	8:00-10:00			
3rd	3/27/2012	Writing #2	8:00-10:00			
4th	3/20/2012	Math #1	8:00-10:00			
4th	3/21/2012	Math #2	8:00-10:00			
4th	3/22/2012	Math #3	8:00-10:00			
4th	3/26/2012	Writing #1	8:00-10:00			
4th	3/27/2012	Writing #2	8:00-10:00			
4th	3/28/2012	Reading #3	8:00-10:00			
4th	3/29/2012	Reading #4	8:00-10:00			
4th	3/30/2012	Writing #5	8:00-10:00			
4th	4/2/2012	Reading/Writing #6	8:00-10:00			
5th	3/20/2012	Math #1	10:00-12:00			
5th	3/21/2012	Math #2	10:00-12:00			
5th	3/22/2012	Math #3	10:00-12:00			
5th	3/26/2012	Writing #1	10:00-12:00			
5th	3/27/2012	Writing #2	10:00-12:00			
5th	3/28/2012	Reading #3	10:00-12:00			
5th	3/29/2012	Reading #4	10:00-12:00			
5th	3/30/2012	Writing #5	10:00-12:00			
5th	4/2/2012	Reading/Writing #6	10:00-12:00			
5th	4/3/2012	Science #1	10:00-12:00			
5th	4/4/2012	Science #2	10:00-12:00			
5th	4/5/2012	Science #3	10:00-12:00			
6th	3/20/2012	Math #1	10:00-12:00			
6th	3/21/2012	Math #2	10:00-12:00			
6th	3/22/2012	Math #3	10:00-12:00			
6th	3/26/2012	Writing #1	10:00-12:00			
6th	3/27/2012	Writing #2	10:00-12:00			
6th	3/28/2012	Reading #3	10:00-12:00			
6th	3/29/2012	Reading #4	10:00-12:00			
6th	3/30/2012	Writing #5	10:00-12:00			
6th	4/2/2012	Reading/Writing #6	10:00-12:00			

  

KEY	
2/29/2012	3rd Grade Only
3/1/2012	3rd Grade Only
3/20/2012	3rd/4th/5th/6th
3/21/2012	3rd/4th/5th/6th
3/22/2012	4th/5th/6th
3/26/2012	3rd/4th/5th/6th
3/27/2012	3rd/4th/5th/6th
3/28/2012	4th/5th/6th
3/29/2012	4th/5th/6th
3/30/2012	4th/5th/6th
4/2/2012	4th/5th/6th
4/3/2012	5th Grade Only
4/4/2012	5th Grade Only
4/5/2012	5th Grade Only

  

NOTES:
Grades 3-4 will be taking the CSAP test from 8-10
Grades 5-6 will be taking the CSAP test from 10-12
Teachers may reschedule specials that are missed because of the test but should work that out with the individual specials teachers.
We may use the specials rooms and staff to help proctor students that need accommodations.

**Winter Carnival Thank You**

Thank you SO MUCH all you wonderful volunteers and entertainers! Thank you to Brownie Troop #3123 for helping with the carnival set up and decorations . Thank you to Girl Scout Junior Troop #3126 for helping raise awareness for the plight of the Red Panda with their fun game and activity. The Winter Carnival was a huge success and it would not have been possible without the donation of time and supplies. Liberty Common has the best parents, students and staff .

Lisa Murphy and Marnie Dame , Carnival Coordinators

**Aladdin Jr. Jr-High Musical**

Take a magic carpet ride and come to *Aladdin Jr.* Musical , March 2nd & 3rd. from 7:00-8:30 p.m. at Liberty Common School. Tickets are available online only. To purchase your tickets go to [www.libertycommonmusic.com](http://www.libertycommonmusic.com) and double click on the “Aladdin Jr. Buy Tickets Now” link.

