

Hallway Happenings



February 2025 Issue 27

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Elementary National Anthem

On January 29, students in grades K-6 performed an *a cappella* rendition of the "Star-Spangled Banner" before the Litchfield vs. S.E.M. basketball games. Led by music teacher Mrs. Turley, the students did an outstanding job, showcasing their musical talent and practice. Scan the QR code or visit the Art Litchfield page to see the performance! Video credit: Alison Varah



What Else Is Going on Around School?

Safety Presentation

By Brooke Fecht and Topanga Boyles

On Tuesday, January 7th the Junior High and the High School went to Ansley for an internet safety presentation. The presenter was Bobby Truhe from KSB School Law. It was about being smart on social media and not doing what you're not supposed to be doing. Being not very smart on social media is going to get you in trouble. Sometimes people use Social Media to harass people.

Why social media safety matters: Content that contains personal information or your whereabouts could pose a safety risk. Even content that is deleted can sometimes be accessed by the website or through screenshots of the original post and could be used maliciously. Another reason that social

media safety is important is that people can contact you via social media and gain access to your personal information through your social media page. This issue multiplies if you use and are active on multiple platforms.

STEM Lab/Maker Space

By Ethan Evans

Litchfield had a stem lab set up the stage in the old gym for two weeks after break. The stem lab had very many useful and fun labs. For example, you could learn how to weld on a virtual welder and get better without actually having to spend the materials to get better. There was also a cool drone lab where you can drive the rover around and have a ton of fun. There were plenty more fun things to do in the stem lab too!

Spartan Youth Basketball Tournament

By Lane Slocum and Tessa Henry

On Saturday, January 18, 2025, the Spartan Youth Basketball Tournament happened. The kids did a good job with shooting baskets and teamwork. The 3rd and 4th-grade boys team placed 3rd. The 5th and 6th-grade girls team placed 2nd. The 5th and 6th-grade boys team placed 2nd. The Spartan Foundation had supported free entry to the Spartan Youth Basketball Tournament.

Clubs & Organizations

FFA Update

By James Fletcher, Litchfield FFA Vice President

The Litchfield FFA has had another successful month. This month we have had contest preparation on the way to prepare members for the Career Development Events at Grand Island CCC on February 25th. Also, this month we have had three members finalizing their FFA State Degree, and FFA Proficiency Degrees which they will interview for on February 5th in Shelton. This month we had our labor auction which can be found on the Litchfield FFA Facebook page to bid on a student.

Next month the Litchfield FFA has a busy time with State Degree Interviews on February 5th, an FFA State Officer Visit on the 11th, a Cattlemen's Classic on the 19th, and an FFA meeting on the 19th at 7:30 AM, and finally our Career Development Events on February 25th. Stay tuned on the Litchfield FFA Facebook Page for more updates and information.

Spartan Sports and Activities



Boys Basketball

After a win against S.E.M. on 1/30, the Spartans sit at 9-8 as conference play nears (first round is 2/4 in Elm Creek). A split record at this point reflects what Coach Drew has called an up and down season, "with solid wins against Shelton and Central Valley, but also some disappointing loses." Overall, there's been a lot of growth as they've "gotten better, guys with little experience getting more, doing better in general, and still improving, says Drew.

The shot clock is a new addition to the sport this year, and Drew admits that it has altered the pace, and early on adjustments were needed as players didn't always know it was getting low, forcing a tough play.

Girls Basketball

By Jordan Ellison

Even with a tough season, these girls have pushed themselves to be better. It has been a rollercoaster of a season, but these girls proved they are hanging tight. They have excelled in staying in the game and still fighting even when they are down by some points. As Mr. Shields said, "The girls have been working hard all year to improve. We're not getting all the outcomes we have wanted, but attitudes are good and things are starting to come around."



From the freshman to our lovely senior these girls know how to keep trying when up against a stronger opponent. We have seen losses but we do see wins, 4-11, this means they still fight when times get tough. If you were to start fighting like our basketball girls, you are sure to stand your ground. So don't look at the record, look at the spirit in the game and watch how they play. The points don't always show how the game went.

The girls' first FKC game is 2/1 in Loomis.

Girls Wrestling

By Aliza Ellison

On January 9th, the girl's wrestling team went to Columbus. The meet was big and ran 9 mats, and the girls wrestled class B. They all wrestled well against the competition. In the 115 weight class Addie got 4th place, at 130 Clysta placed 4th place as well. In the 235 weight class, Morgan placed first. On January 16th, the girls went to Ord, where Addie got 6th, Clysta got 2nd, Malynn got 6th, and Morgan got 2nd.

Litchfield Speech

Provided by Asst. Coach Brian Moser

The speech season began on January 25 when the team went up the road to Broken Bow. For this meet, we brought only a partial team of Caydence Feldman (1st in Entertainment, 9th in Extemp.), James Fletcher (10th in POI), Alison Holm, and Macie Slocum.

To my memory, this was our first event win at our first meet of the year in the years I've been year! And the two freshmen who debuted were as confident and successful as we've ever seen new students begin a speech career. We're on to Hampton (2/1) and Burwell (2/15) next.

Boys Wrestling

Provided by Coach Lance Ellison

The boy's wrestling team has competed in many tournaments since the start of the year. We traveled to Pleasanton where we were a little short-handed. It was tough to meet after the break. Then the next week we went to Burwell we saw a little more success Isaac and Andy taking third. The team then turned around and wrestled in Amherst, where we came away with three medals: Owen 3rd, Andy 3rd, and Isaac 2nd. After a week of practice, the boys traveled to Dunning and brought home 3 medals: Andy 2nd, Jimmy 4th, Isaac 1st. We are continuing to improve. We will retake the mats in Ord on 1/31 and then Shelton 2/6.



Opinion/Reviews

Spartan Movie Reviews: *The Conjuring*

By Brooke Fecht

I will be writing about *The Conjuring*. This movie is newer and it is very intriguing. I think that *The Conjuring* is an excellent movie because it shows how you should be with god, and the danger of satanic practices. I give this movie 5 stars. It is fantastic to watch because there can be funny parts but also some very scary and serious parts. This movie is about these new people moving into a house that is possessed by evil spirits. They call in a pastor to come to cleanse the house. When the pastor is cleansing the house the pastor sees the spirits and discovers that it is way too much to handle. I love this movie because it shows how much of a threat that satanic practices can be very scary and dangerous.



February Counselor Corner 2025

Spring is on the rise?

Seniors are busy applying for scholarships, making decisions as to which college is their right fit, contemplating part-time jobs, and thinking about what their lives will look like when they graduate in May. Juniors are thinking about ACT testing and some are visiting colleges to see if he/she would be a good fit for the campus. Others are working on building their activities for their resumes.

Scholarships

For local and state scholarships, visit [Scholarship Quest](#) at **EducationQuest.org**. It is never too early to begin searching for scholarships as well as making your list of strengths, volunteer activities, and other notable characteristics about yourself. National scholarships can be found in this [resource](#).

Seniors, keep applying for those scholarships. Any scholarship is free money so take advantage of them. If you work on a scholarship for 30 minutes and receive \$150, it is a pretty good-paying job. If you don't apply, you can't receive the scholarship.

College planning help??

Sign up for Education Quest's Newsletter by [clicking this link](#), and scroll down to Countdown2College to receive monthly emails with tips and resources to help you plan and pay for college. If you would like, go to the Education Quest Foundation website, where you can also follow the steps below to sign up for any 9th - 12th grader.

Parents can sign up for newsletters to help their children in college planning. Go to <http://www.educationquest.org>. Scroll down to Countdown to College sign-up at the bottom of the page.

College Classes offered during high school

Multiple juniors and seniors took courses last semester. This semester juniors and seniors continue to take college courses. They range from College Speech to Intermediate Algebra and Introduction to Sociology. These students are independent and self-driven as the classes are web-based, online per zoom, or teacher-paced online.

NEST 529

NEST 529 is a state-sponsored, tax-advantaged college savings plan. For more information visit NEST529.com

Prepare for the FAFSA with *free* programs and resources

Seniors, make sure you have completed your FAFSA. Depending upon your college's deadline, complete the FAFSA before April 1. Colleges will use your FAFSA results to determine how much they will award you in federal, state, and college-based financial aid. The following Education link will help you learn more about the financial aid process and the FAFSA

<http://www.educationquest.org> **Kearney office 308-234-6310. Follow them on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)!** Remember, if you do not fill this out, your student will NOT be eligible for federal financial aid and aid from the school he/she is attending. It is NEVER too late to file, the sooner the better.

Food Pantry/Food Bank information: Our school food bank receives prepackaged food from the Heartland Food Bank. It regularly serves 13 students in our school every week. Any donations to the food pantry are appreciated. We also accept financial donations to help provide our families with perishables from P & D Market such as milk, bread, eggs, and fruit. I thank everyone who donated to the FBLA Food Pantry collection in December. My shelves are full again and it is great to know we have so much support from our community.

Take care of yourself. Remember to take time for yourself. Our schedules can be very hectic so taking 3-5 minutes in the morning and evening can do a lot for you. Set a timer, read for fun, listen to music or sounds of nature for just a few minutes, and take time to be in the moment. Anticipate you will feel refreshed or calm and be ready to tackle the day or focus on the evening.

Suicide Prevention Lifeline 1-800-TALK (8255) or Text #988

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Thanks, Jim Holm!

Litchfield Public Schools would like to recognize outgoing school board member Mr. Jim Holm. Jim has served our district for 15 years with leadership and passion for always making Litchfield better.



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