

# Hallway Happenings



September 2024 Issue 22  
Litchfield Public Schools - PO Box 167 Litchfield, NE 68852  
Phone: 308.446.2244 - Fax: 308.244.6608



## School Starts

You can actually hear the bells from the outdoor speakers from a couple blocks away, which is not unlike an old schoolhouse belltower

## Back-to-School Kick-Off

*Article provided by Mrs. Bevin Drew*

This year, we really wanted to do something that would make everyone excited to come back to school, and we thought an evening of fun was just the thing! Our Celebration Committee, which is Mrs. Slocum, Mrs. Ritchie, Mrs. Curlo, and me, tried to plan a night where students and families could interact with the school staff in a very casual and interactive setting--a time for students to reconnect with classmates and teachers outside of the classroom. We also invited a few local organizations to attend to help get out some information and connect with our community. So many people contributed to help with the meal and all of the games and activities; I think we had a great turnout and a successful night! Of course, my favorite

part was watching Mr. Moser take down Mr. Drew in the dunk tank!

Among the many activities and features of the day were:

- Free meal of hamburgers and hot dogs prepared by the School Board and kitchen staff
- Bounce house
- Snow Cones
- Face painting
- Yard Games
- New Gaga Ball pit on the playground
- StoryWalk on the playground provided by the Spartan Foundation
- Dunk tank
- Archery
- Back to school photo booth with new Litchfield Spartans photo backdrop
- Pocket calendars and stickers
- Loup Basin Public Health Department - "Healthy Families" program
- Spartan Foundation - table of information



*At the Spartan Back-to-School Kickoff: Kegan Ritchie and Cooper Fletcher play bags; Mrs. Allison Varah paints Kesslyn Kusek's face; Mrs. Jenny Ritchie gets dunked in the tank! **Photos by Kelli Loos***

### **New Staff Spotlight: Mrs. Turley**

*Interview and photo by Aliza Ellison and Gracie Reitz*

Mrs. Kendra Turley is in her first year as Litchfield's K-12 Music and Band teacher. Mrs. Turley comes to us from Ansley, where she worked for a year. She also taught at Arapahoe and Loomis schools.

When asked what she loves about music, she says, "I really enjoy playing music with students. I like doing songs with elementary where I get to play guitar or ukulele. It's fun to get to join in and learn and grow myself."



After only a couple weeks at Litchfield, she already has said "the school has a great community. Everyone has been pretty positive, helpful, and excited to get the year rolling." One of the early highlights already seems to be the pep and marching band songs, which she's excited to have the kids perform soon.

Mrs. Turley ended with "This is a great school to be in, and I'm looking forward to the rest of the year." We agree, Mrs. Turley!

(Keep watching for our next two New Staff Spotlights in future newsletters!)

### **Gaga Ball**

*Photo and research by Ethan Evans, Brooke Fecht, and Rowdy and Jackson.*

There's a new favorite recess activity. It's called Gaga Ball, from the Hebrew word *gaga*, meaning touch-touch, which makes sense when you watch a game underway. The ball moves quickly and constantly across the ground as players slap the ball with their hands trying to hit their opponents.

The inventor, possibly a camp counselor in the 1970s named Steven Steinberg, created the game as a safer alternative to dodgeball, since the ball is not supposed to go above anyone's knees.

Addy Moser was the first reported knuckle-scraping-on-concrete injury, but after getting bandaged back up, she headed right back out there!



*The new Gaga Ball pit located on the playground in a brief moment of rest.*

## Art Field Trip

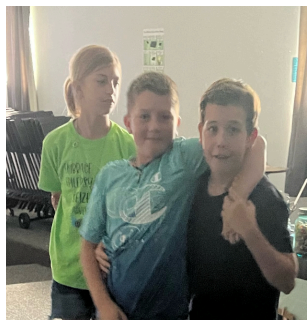
*Article provided by Mrs. Allison Varah*

The high school art students embarked on a field trip to a local gallery in Broken Bow last Friday. This is the first time that "The Wild Rose" has had this open competition to all area artists. The students saw amazing examples of professional work including: huge woodblock prints, amazing photography, textile work, sculptures and many amazing paintings.

The Wild Rose is thinking of having a student show because of the interest of so many young people. Mr. Loomer, who is the renowned past art teacher at Broken Bow Public Schools, took the students on a tour and spoke to them about the process of each media and even gave them insight into what the judge had to say about each. The judge, Christy Kosmicki, is a current UNK professor of fine arts. Students brought back ideas for projects and inspiration for the year. *Pictured on top are students who are staged to look admiringly at Mrs. Varah's work that won "Award of Excellence". Pictured on bottom, art students with Mr. Paul Loomer.*



**"Hey Students, what are you looking forward to this year?"**



**Odette Pierce**, "Seeing my friends"

**Owen Slocum**, "The end of the school year"

**Riddick Boyles**, "Getting smarter!"

**Bentley Lefever**, "Looking forward to Christmas"

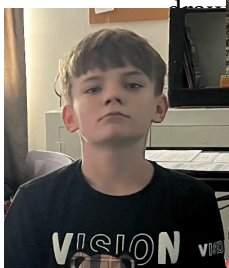
**Ryker Harder**, "Looking forward to math"

**Jayse Bennett**, "Math"

**Ezra Kelle**, "Finding more pieces of puzzle"

**John**, "Going to the park,"

**Joy**, "Going to the park and home"



# Spartan Sports

## Volleyball

*Interview by Ethan Evans, Brooke Fecht, and Rowdy Jackson*

This year the Spartans have a ton of girls out, which is not only exciting for all of the interest and participation, but also since it will make scrimmaging easier! Litchfield volleyball coach, and Special Education teacher, Mrs. Makaleigh Kohlscheen often talks to our Spartans about being “small but mighty.” She says, “The girls hear often how ‘short’ we are but they don’t let it get to them and continue to be competitive & work hard.” Mrs. Kohlscheen and the Spartans have been practicing and scrimmaging hard and are excited for the games to begin!



## Football

*Article provided by Mr. Neil Kaslon*

Despite a challenging last season marred by injuries and a small roster, the Spartans displayed unwavering determination and resilience on the gridiron. With a record of 3-5, each game was a testament to their perseverance and commitment. Despite setbacks, they never backed down, pushing through adversity with grit and determination. Facing roster limitations and battling injuries, every member of the team stepped up, demonstrating their passion for the game and their unwavering belief in each other. Their unity and camaraderie became their greatest strength, as they fought tooth and nail in every game, refusing to let obstacles deter their pursuit of victory. Their journey to the playoffs was nothing short of inspiring. Against the odds, they defied expectations and clinched a playoff spot, proving that heart and resilience can triumph over adversity. Though the season may have been challenging, the Spartans emerged stronger, closer, and more determined than ever to make their mark on the season.

This year the Spartan will move to 6 man football, and there will be new

opponents and opportunities to conquer. Lead by a good group of seniors the Spartan Football team looks to make their mark on the season a push to state playoffs where anything can happen

Sophomore football player Daevon Magner says, “We had a small team last year and showed glimpses of greatness, we showed hard work and dedication throughout the season.” He continued by saying, “I appreciate those who participated last year and those who continue to participate. Every day, everybody came to practice ready to go,” when asked about this season he said, “I hope to continue what we had last year, working together, and trying to push further through the state playoffs. We all know the expectations we set for ourselves daily, and will continue to get better every day at practice, and represent Ansley-Litchfield.”

## Breaking News

Due to the scheduling of the FKC Track Meet, the **Elementary Track Day** has been rescheduled to 1 week later: **May 9th in Litchfield**

# Clubs & Organizations

## **FBLA**

The FBLA will be led this year by our new business teacher Hillary Rasmussen. They will have several projects, events, and activities this year, including the following in the next month:

1. Alzheimer's Association fundraiser at the September 6th football game. This is a new organization we are raising money for as an FBLA organization.
2. Our FBLA highway cleanup will be on Sunday, September 8th.
3. Our fall conference is on September 24th at UNK.
4. Selling yard lines again this year!



*Litchfield FBLA and FFA students at their combined kickoff event on August 23.*

## **FFA: Beginning of the Year**

*Article provided by Mr. Brian Johnson*

Litchfield FFA began with a beginning of the year kickoff with the FBLA. A few members will be attending Range Judging soon as well. Coming up throughout the year the students will participate in a variety of activities including but not limited to: Connecting Chapters, Bring Your Tractor to School Day, Ignite, Pathways to Careers, Livestock Judging, Leadership Development Events and Career Development Events. All of this will lead up to the State Convention in April. Students will again be selling fruit, meats, cheeses, candy, nuts and butter braids beginning on approximately October 15th. This, along with the annual labor auction are vital fundraisers for our chapter. We're looking forward to a great year ahead!

**LITCHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
500 N MAIN ST  
LITCHFIELD, NE 68852**

**Presorted Standard  
Postage Paid  
Litchfield Public Schools  
Permit #2**

**POSTAL CUSTOMER**