



HALLWAY HAPPENINGS

LITCHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS - PO BOX 167 LITCHFIELD, NE 68852
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3RD AND 4TH GRADE BY MRS. VEGA

Results won't be published until May, but we were excited to have three of Mrs. Slocum's Science students come and give us some good advice. On Thursday March 5th, Wes Fowler, Brooke Fecht and Karson Moore came to Science and worked as advisors on the 2026 Flour Engineering Challenge Ball Runs that our four teams will enter into a national competition on March 19th. Wish you students good luck with their team build!



1ST AND 2ND GRADE

BY MRS. RITCHIE

Gary and Kathy at Trotter's Greenhouse gave 1st & 2nd grade a mushroom growing kit. First and second graders have been taking turns watering the mushrooms twice a day. They love seeing the growth and changes in the mushrooms!



PROM

BY MRS. SLOCUM



Prom season is almost here! Prom will take place in Litchfield this year. We are so excited to host this exciting night for high school students! Please take a look at the flyer and if you have any questions please let me know- amanda.slocum@litchfieldps.org. Also, I have included that out-of-town date form (can also be found in the office). Students- Please make sure that you have a form turned into Danielle by Monday, April 6th. Post Prom: The post prom will be held at The Big Apple. Buses will leave Litchfield around 11:30. We are looking for adult chaperones to ride the bus and/or supervise at the Big Apple. Mrs. Smith in Ansley is looking for parent chaperones to help make the night fun. If interested please email her aspsmith@ansleyps.org

JAG NEWS

BY MICHEAL CORLISS

On Thursday evening, JAG students hosted their year-end celebration, welcoming more than 100 students, staff members, and community guests to recognize the accomplishments and growth of the program over the past year.

The event was entirely planned and organized by the students themselves, showcasing the leadership and teamwork they have developed through the program. Throughout the evening, JAG members took turns speaking and presenting while guiding guests through a slideshow highlighting their experiences, activities, and achievements from the year.

The program began with a welcome and the introduction of the high school and junior officers. Student speaker Koy Zulkoski then shared what JAG means to her and many of her classmates, using the powerful analogy of climbing a ladder alone versus having others there to steady and support it along the way.

JAG President Micheal Corliss followed by delivering the speech that earned him 2nd place at the state Career Development Conference (CDC). In his remarks, he reflected on the many lessons he has learned through JAG and how the program continues to help him grow as a student and leader.

Guests also heard from JAG Specialist Dr. Brenda Petersen and watched the chapter's Outstanding Chapter presentation, which highlighted the many projects, activities, and successes achieved by students this year.

The evening concluded with inspiring remarks from keynote speaker Becca Bradley, JAG Nebraska Regional Director, who shared stories about the impact JAG students across the state are making in their schools and communities.

Guests enjoyed a taco bar meal while celebrating the students' hard work and dedication. The event was a wonderful success and a proud showcase of the achievements, leadership, and growth of the JAG students throughout the year.



MEET THE NEW PRINCIPAL

BY JAG STUDENTS AND MR. CARLSON

I was born and raised in Watertown, South Dakota, where a lot of my best memories growing up involved being outdoors. Hunting, fishing, and spending time outside is what my friends and I did all the time, and they're still some of the things I enjoy the most today. After high school, I attended the University of South Dakota, where I earned my degree in education. When I graduated, I headed south to Phoenix, Arizona, where I began my teaching career and spent thirteen years in the classroom. I learned a lot during that time, but I eventually realized how much I missed the seasons, cooler weather, and the outdoor lifestyle I grew up with. I missed fall hunting, winter ice fishing, and honestly just seeing snow! So I made the move back closer to home, settling in Omaha where I taught for five years at Washington Elementary before becoming the Dean of Students at Kennedy Elementary in North Omaha for two years. After that, I was fortunate to accept the principal position at Central Valley Elementary, where I've been ever since and have truly enjoyed working with great students, staff, and families.

Outside of school, you'll usually find me outdoors whenever I get the chance. I've always loved the cold and the snow, and ice fishing is one of my favorite ways to spend time in the winter. I'm also a big sports fan and consider myself a true "Jaysker," cheering for both the Nebraska Cornhuskers and the Creighton Bluejays. I'm also a huge fan of NASCAR and love traveling to different tracks around the country to catch races whenever I can. I'm incredibly excited to be joining the Litchfield community and getting the chance to work with the students and staff here. Thank you to everyone who has already been so welcoming and kind, as it truly means a lot. I'm really looking forward to getting started and will work as hard as I can to help make sure our students and staff have every opportunity to be successful.

1. I think I would do well during a zombie apocalypse. I'm a hunter, so I have the proper equipment needed to defend myself. I also don't mind canned food so I would have no problem staying indoors, watching movies, playing video games, reading books, and eating canned food for a long period of time.
2. Avatar - I went to this movie eight times in the theater. Six times IMAX 3-D, and two times Dolby digital.
3. Tracy Byrd - I'm From the Country.
4. I would want to mix a grizzly bear and a crocodile. It would be called a Grizzodile.
5. My favorite memory when I was in school was the holiday decorations that the teachers would put up. Especially the Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas decorations.



We wanted to ask Mr. Carlson some fun questions to get to know him better.

1. How long do you think you'd survive a zombie apocalypse?
2. Favorite Movie?
3. What is your favorite song to sing in the shower?
4. If you could create a new animal by mixing two, what would they be?
5. What is your favorite memory from when you were in school?

STUDENT COUNCIL CELEBRATES HONOR ROLL STUDENTS! BY MRS. VARAH

These students earned superintendent and principal honor roll 1st semester. Congratulations on your achievements!

SENIORS:

Malynn Boyles
Caydence Feldman
James Fletcher, Jr.
Ava Paitz
Brooke Fecht
Wesley Fowler
Ida Gross
Jori McNeil

JUNIORS:

Daevon Magner
Karson Moore

SOPHOMORES:

Kamden Barker
Micheal Corliss
Chance Evans
Cooper Fletcher
Alison Holm
Kegan Ritchie

FRESHMEN:

Addie Boyles
Taryn Cole
Jenna Drahota
Knox Feldman
Jenna Holm
Conrad Lichtenberger
Kinzlie McAuliff
Aaron Reitz
Koy Zulkoski

8TH

Blake Slocum
Braxton Fletcher
Jozzie Slocum

7TH

Hailey Fecht
Aiden Kearney
Taylin Kearney
Koy Kusek

6TH

Ryker Golter
Adelaide Moser
Ruby Slocum
Evelyn Varah
Huntley Zulkoski
Odette Pierce
Jayse Bennett
Lamar Vlieger

5TH

Kenna Feldman
Amelia Thomas
Kaycee Kramer

4TH

Emerson Moser
Hudson Varah
Denley Vlieger
Piper Ellison
Kesslyn Kusek
Emmett Pierce
Hope Reitz

3TH

Wyatt Fletcher
Hattie Snow
Ryker Harder
Scarlett Nutt
Kayleigh Siegel
EmmaLyne Wright

ART

BY MRS. VARAH

We are proud to announce that 20 artworks from Litchfield are State Bound! These pieces have been selected to be on display in Omaha for the next month, representing the creativity and talent of our students.

Being chosen for the Scholastic State Art Show is a significant achievement. The selection process is highly competitive, with five expert judges carefully critiquing and evaluating every piece submitted. Only a small fraction of the artwork entered is accepted, making this recognition especially meaningful. We are incredibly proud that 20 works from Litchfield will represent our school and community at the state level.

The highest honor in high school art is the coveted Gold Key. This year, six Litchfield artworks earned Gold Keys, an outstanding accomplishment. Gold Key winners advance to national consideration, where their work may be selected for the national exhibition at Carnegie Hall in New York.

We will learn on March 25 if any of our students' work has been selected for nationals.

Congratulations to all of these talented artists!

Malynn Boyles:

Mixed Media - Silver Key
Printmaking - Honorable Mention
Printmaking - Honorable Mention

Madisyn Spanel:

Photography - Honorable Mention

Kamden Barker:

Photography - Silver Key
WesleyGracie Fowler (Wesley):
Photography - Gold Key

Markus Bester:

Photography - Gold Key
Photography - Gold Key

Knox Feldman:

Mixed Media - Gold Key
Printmaking - Silver Key

Addie Boyles:

Ceramics and Glass - Silver Key
Printmaking - Honorable
Mention
Mixed Media - Honorable
Mention

Jenna Drahota:

Ceramics and Glass - Gold Key

Ava Paitz:

Painting - Honorable Mention

Micheal Corliss:

Photography - Silver Key

Jenna Holm:

Ceramics and Glass - Gold Key
Ceramics and Glass - Honorable
Mention

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

BY MADISYN SPANEL

Questions-

1. What are your plans after high school?
2. Favorite memory from high school so far?
3. If you could be any animated character what would you be?
4. How long do you think you'd survive a zombie apocalypse?
5. Would you rather always walk backward or talk backward?
6. Favorite Movie?
7. Favorite Band/Singer?



Ava Paitz-

1. Continue my career in the military and attend a university for radiography
2. Making it to state volleyball!
3. Mulan
4. My favorite movie is either Top Gun or The Notebook
5. My favorite band is queen and my favorite singer is Noah Kahan

James Fletcher-

1. Attend University and major in biology with a minor in public health and psychology. I plan to become a Physician Assistant after college.
2. My favorite memories have been attending state and national conferences with my friends.
3. Carmen Sandiego because I want to travel the world.
4. My favorite movie is Hidden Figures.
5. My favorite singer is either Billie Eilish, Lorde, or Sabrina Carpenter.



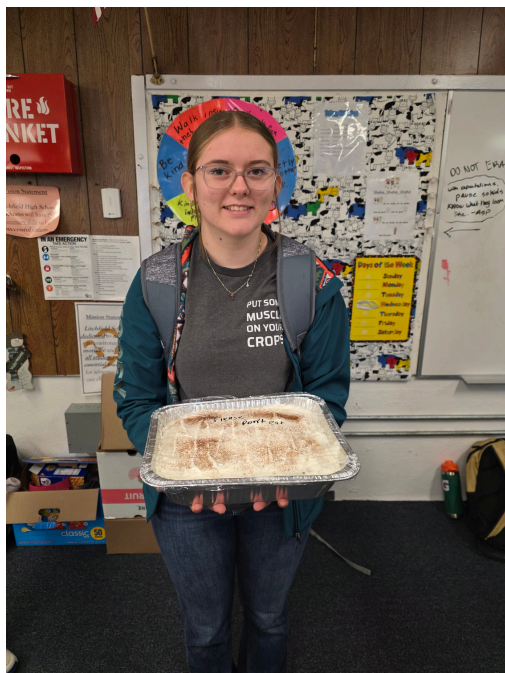
QUIZ BOWL BY MR. KASLON

The Litchfield High School Quiz Bowl team competed in the FKC competition on Monday, March 16. The team performed very well, earning third place in conference and going two-for-two in placing so far this year. They have one more meet coming up at UNK—best of luck to the team as they look to bring home another strong finish!



FIESTA DAY BY MRS. CURLO

The Spanish I-IV's had their 2nd quarter Fiesta Day with a lot of different foods. Amongst the dishes, Keagan Ritchie made fresh Birria Tacos, Cooper Fletcher-Catalan Coca, and Macie Slocum-Tres Leches Cake. They did a great job!



COUNSELOR CORNER
BY TOPANGA BOYLES AND MRS. POLAND
APRIL COUNSELOR CORNER 2026

Let Spring Begin!!

ACT Test Dates

May 8th is the regular registration deadline for the June 13th, 2026, National ACT Test date. Go to www.act.org to register. Remember to study with our OnToCollege ACT Test preparation. Some students may qualify for an ACT fee waiver. Please have your student contact Mrs. Poland to inquire. Remember to use the John Baylor [OnToCollege website](#) to review for your ACT, as well as utilize your MyACT account for review.

Congratulations to the Juniors for putting forth their best efforts in taking the ACT on March 24, 2026.

Congratulations, Seniors, finish your high school career strong!!

Keep applying for those scholarships!!

There is a scholarship opportunity for students taking dual-enrollment college courses. Students participating in dual-enrollment college courses or early admit programs are encouraged to apply for the Access College Early (ACE) Scholarship if they show financial need. This state and federally-funded scholarship will pay tuition and mandatory fees at participating Nebraska colleges.

Applications will be reviewed by Nebraska's Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education (CCPE). If you have questions, contact me or Ritchie Morrow, Financial Aid Coordinator, CCPE, ritchie.morrow@nebraska.gov or 402.471.0032.

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. [Litchfield Scholarship list](#)

Prepare for the FAFSA with free programs and resources

If you're a senior, it's time to start preparing for the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). You'll complete the form after October 1 and typically, before April 1, depending on your college's priority deadline. Colleges will use your FAFSA results to determine how much they will award you in federal, state, and college-based financial aid. Be sure to contact your college to inquire about financial aid packages.

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](#)!

Career planning

April is the time for Incoming juniors and seniors to consider taking dual credit college courses. Central Community College representatives will be visiting in April to talk about the enrollment process and/or enroll students in fall courses.

NAME: Susan Poland

SCHOOL: Litchfield Public Schools

CLASS: PreK-12 School Counselor

SCHOOL PHONE: (308)-446-2244 ext 204

Email: susan.poland@litchfieldps.org

Website: <https://sites.google.com/a/litchfieldps.org/mrspoland/>

APRIL 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Waffle Fajata	2 Breakfast pizza Sloppy Joe	3 No School	4
5	6 Muffins Chessebuger Mac	7 Coffee Cake Taco Soup	8 Oatmeal Rounds Pizza	9 Fench Toast Ham Sandwich	10 Donuts Crispito	11
12	13 Churro Lasanga	14 Omelette Taco	15 Biscuit/Egg Shepards Pie	16 Pancakes Pulled Pork	17 Donuts Hot Dogs	18
19	20 No School	21 Muffins Italian Duncckers	22 Pancake Dog Chicken Nuggets	23 Biscuit/Gavy Mixi Tots	24 Donuts Ribs	25
26	27 Strudel Hamburgers	28 Cinnamon Roll Popcorn Chicken	29 Hashbrown Hot Pocket	30 Waffle Nacho		



LITCHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
March 16, 2026

President Mitch Feldman called the regular meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Members present: Mitch Feldman, April Gross, Marie Sweley, and Katie Slack.

Visitors: Bevin Drew, and Amanda Slocum

President Mitch Feldman announced and informed the public that a current copy of the Open Meeting Law is posted on the wall of the meeting room and indicated the instructions for those who wish to speak during public forum.

Marie Sweley moved and Katie Slack seconded to approve excused absent board members Cole Lewandowski and Alyssa Reynolds. Motion carried 4-0.

April Gross moved and Marie Sweley seconded to approve board minutes from the Regular Board meeting. Motion carried 4-0.

April Gross gave the treasurer report as General Fund Statement beginning balance of \$396,648.74, general funds receipts \$437,382.72, and actual cash available in general fund \$596,472.46 in the district treasury. Payroll and claims in the amount of \$241,047.45 were presented for payment. Katie Slack moved, and Marie Sweley seconded the approval of payment of monthly claims. Motion carried 4-0

Matt Drew gave the Principal/AD Report, and action items; PLC Work with Ansley Continues, Working with Mrs. Miller on Preschool Calendar, MTSS and CIP Meeting Continue, The State has changed the Reading Assessment we use, Track has 15 Litchfield/ 21 Ansley, New Picture Company (Treffer) for 26-27, Will have more on bills passed by Legislative after Zoom meeting on April 15th.

April Gross moved and Katie Slack seconded to approve the 26-27 Calendar. Motion carried 4-0.

Marie Sweley moved and April Gross seconded the motion to approve the Teacher Contracts 26-27. Motion carried 4-0.

Marie Sweley moved and April Gross seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 p.m. Motion carried 4-0.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Education will be at 7:30 p.m. on April 20th, 2026. The agenda is a continuous agenda and is available for examination during regular hours at the office of the Superintendent. Public notice of the meeting will be given in the Hallway Happenings Newsletter and in the Sherman County Times.

Marie Sweley
Board Secretary

SPEECH

BY MRS. MOSER

Litchfield Speech has had a highly successful competitive season. We have traveled far and wide this year! Our 9 team members have all shown commitment and dedication to their events, and their work has paid off! The team also took time to host a successful public performance, allowing the community to experience the award-winning speeches firsthand. On March 21st, the team hosted 8 schools for D2-4 District Speech.

Here are our results from the year:

Broken Bow

Caydence - Extemp - 11th

Knox - Serious - 3rd

Caydence - Entertainment - 7th

James - POI - 11th

West Holt

Caydence/James - Impromptu Duet - 4th

Caydence - Entertainment - 4th

Knox - Serious - 4th

Alison - Persuasive - 5th

Caydence - Extemp - 7th

Burwell

Caydence - Impromptu - 1st!

Caydence - Entertainment - 4th

Knox - Serious - 5th

Alison - Top Novice

Elm Creek

James/Malynn - Duet - 2nd

James - POI - 3rd

Caydence - Extemp - 2nd

Caydence - Entertainment - 2nd

Knox - Serious - 5th

Macie - Serious - 3rd

Fort Kearney Conference

James, Caydence, Malynn - OID - 2nd

James/Malynn - Duet - 4th

James - POI - 2nd

Caydence - Entertainment - 1st

Caydence - Extemp - 2nd

Alison - Persuasive - 4th

Aliza - Humorous - 6th

5th Overall Team Sweeps

Centura

James/Malynn - Duet - 4th

James - POI - 6th

Caydence - Entertainment - 3rd

District D2-4

James - POI - 5th

Knox, Taryn, Alison, Macie - OID - 6th Place

Alison - Informative - 7th Place

State Qualifiers:

James/Malynn - Duet - 1st Place

Caydence - Entertainment - 1st Place

Caydence - Extemp - 2nd Place

Malynn Boyles - 3rd Place

James, Caydence, Malynn - OID - 3rd Place

Qualifying speeches will be performed at State Speech on March 28th. Good luck team!

MUSIC

BY MRS. TURLEY

On Wednesday, March 18, the high school music students performed solos and small groups at our FKC music contest in Axtell. All of the students were well prepared from the practice they put in and represented the Spartans well!

Receiving a 1 (Superior) rating were:

James Fletcher - bari sax solo

Macie Slocum & James Fletcher - sax duet

Macie Slocum - alto sax solo

Caydence Feldman - trumpet solo

Caydence Feldman, Ava Paitz, & James Fletcher - vocal trio

Receiving a 2 (Excellent) rating were:

Alison Holm, Addie Boyles, & Taryn Cole - clarinet trio

Ava Paitz - trumpet solo

Women's Vocal Ensemble

Men's Vocal Ensemble

Alison Holm - vocal solo

Vendor Name	Vendor Description	Amount
Checking Account ID 1	Fund Number 01 GENERAL FUND	
125 CAFETERIA PLAN		100.00
ACTIVITY ALL CLASS		22.00
Ansley Public Schools		3,506.35
ASK Supply Co		445.60
BLACK HILLS ENERGY		2,873.03
Custer Public Power		4,539.62
DAS STATE ACCOUNTING - CENTRAL FINANCE		468.48
EAKES OFFICE SOLUTION		4,586.06
Educational Service Unit 10		9,445.88
Farmers Co-op Association		1,030.67
HAMILTON		108.07
HOMETOWN LEASING		341.51
INTELLICOM		2,711.47
Island Supply Welding Co.		188.17
Jerry M. Rolfsmeyer		382.48
JW Pepper & Son Inc		45.00
Litchfield Hot Lunch		756.20
NATIONAL ART EDUCATION ASSOCIATION		120.00
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SECONDARY SCHOOL PRINCIPALS		385.00
NICHOLS REPAIR INC.		
Pearson Education Inc.		3,021.44
PETTY CASH FUND		187.82
Taylor Heating & Cooling		1,644.78
TURLEY, KENDRA		819.00
U.S. BANK		18.46
US FOODS		928.63
Village Of Litchfield		1,378.68
WEX BANK		457.00
WEX BANK		1,405.02
Fund Number 01		<u>41,916.42</u>
Checking Account ID 1		<u>41,916.42</u>

2026

April

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
29	30	31	01	02 Early Dismissal 2:30	03 No School	04
05	06	07 JH NSCAS Testing JHTR@ Ravenna 1:00	08 JH NSCAS Testing	09	10 TR@ Arnold 10:00	11 Prom @ Litchfield
12	13	14 Elementary NSCAS Testing	15 Elementary NSCAS Testing	16 State FBLA TR@Ravenna 1:00	17 State FBLA No Preschool	18 State FBLA
19	20 No School - Teacher In- Service	21 TR @ Overton 9:00 JH TR @ Burwell 1:00	22 District Music @ Broken Bow	23 Spring Fine Arts & Music Program 6:00	24 Litchfield Spelling Bee	25
26 Baccalaureate at Ansley Community Church 7:00	27	28 ^{JH} TR @ Arnold 10:00	29	30 Preschool Field Trip Spartan Athletic Banquet 6:30 @ Litchfield	01	02
03	04	Notes:				

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

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