



DECEMBER 2025

HALLWAY HAPPENINGS

LITCHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS - PO BOX 167 LITCHFIELD, NE 68852
PHONE: 308.446.2244 - FAX: 308.244.6608



ELEMENTARY SPOTLIGHT-1ST AND 2ND GRADE

KEGAN RITCHIE, MASON BEHMERWOHL, MRS. RITCHIE, AND MRS. MOSER

1st & 2nd graders participated in decorating Nebraska ornaments with their Spartans Buddies (8th & 9th graders) on November 4th to pass on to Veterans across Nebraska. This is part of a larger effort where over 1200 veterans will receive an ornament. 1st & 2nd graders also participated in the Pep Rally in Ansley on November 5th to support and cheer on our high school volleyball team as they advanced to the state tournament. Go Spartans!

First grade continues to learn about similar stories that come from different lands, such as: Cinderella, Billy Beg, & The Girl with the Red Slippers. They are also learning about "Tricky Words", words that cannot be sounded out like other words in the English language. As of now, they have learned over 40 Tricky Words!

Second graders are wrapping up their math unit on representing addition and subtraction problems. They have learned how to write and solve equations, write and use bar diagrams, and write and use part-part-whole mats. They are doing amazing things!

On November 13th, they went on another trip to the local Greenhouse to continue their learning and hands-on activities. Greenhouse is one of the classroom favorites!

RED RIBBON WEEK BY GRACIE REITZ

Red Ribbon Week is put on by our Litchfield TADA organization. During the week, kids can dress up with the themes that the high school students select. TADA stands for Teens Against Drugs and Alcohol. These students in TADA are raising awareness for living drug and alcohol free. Red Ribbon Week is all about high school students teaching young kids about the importance of living drug and alcohol free. Some things the student really loved are being able to dress up in PJs, camo, Hawaiian clothes, and their Halloween costumes. Some of the things the students loved were: we got a pajama day (Emmy Moser). We got to dress up (Hope Reitz). We got candy (Wyatt Fletcher).

GRANDPARENTS DAY BY GRACIE REITZ

Grandparents Day is a special event dedicated to helping elementary students spend their day with either their grandparents or their special friend. This day allows students to show their grandparents/ special friends what they do in a day to day life at school. Time with grandparents, special guests, and cousins. The students also got to make arts and crafts with their guests. They also got to color and take pictures with the guests. I loved all of the activities we got to do with our grandparents (Scarlett Nutt). Our grandparents got to see our costumes (Kesslyn Kusek). I loved all of the things we did with our grandparents (Hudson Varah).

VETERANS DAY BY GRACIE REITZ

On Veterans Day, our school came together to honor the brave men and women who have served our country. The 7-12 band and the high school choir performed patriotic songs, filling the gym with music that reminded everyone of the importance of this day. The elementary students also sang, and their performance was especially heartwarming. After the ceremony, the veterans who attended were recognized for their service and invited to enjoy lunch with the students. It was a special moment to see everyone, young and old, sharing stories, smiles, and appreciation. This day reminded us how lucky we are to have people who have fought for our freedom, and it brought our whole school community closer together.

HALLOWEEN PARADE BY AUBRI CORBIN

On Friday October 30th we had grandparents day followed by the Halloween parade. Grandparents day was a lot of fun, the pep-band played a couple of songs before heading down main street for the parade. The marching band played to the end of the street with Sparty. There were amazing and creative costumes during the parade and everyone enjoyed their day.



STATE VOLLEYBALL NEWS

BY ALISON HOLM AND JAMEE SMITH

On Thursday November 6th our Spartan Volleyball team traveled to Lincoln to compete at the State Volleyball Tournament. Our Spartan girls battled all the way to the end. They had a heartbreaking loss to EMF in the quarter finals. They ended their season with a record of (25-7)! Before the tournament we got an interview from Head Coach Jamee Smith!

Coaches Interview- Jamee Smith By Ali

How have your girls done this season? They've done very well. We've had a very good season. We've won a lot and hit many goals. Overall, we've done a very good job.

What is one thing you really cherish about your team? One thing is how well they get along. When we're on the court you don't see the snippyness or hear the come on. Even if they're helping each other move here, move there. They all respect each other and I really like that.

How do you think your girls will do at state? I'm hoping very well. It doesn't really matter to me the outcome as long as they perform to their best ability. As long as they're happy with their performance then so am I. Win or lose I'm still so incredibly proud of them and all they have accomplished. My seniors are one of the best groups of leaders I've had. They will be deeply missed.

Thank you to all our fans for your dedication to Spartan Volleyball.



HEALTH AND WELLNESS FOR THE NEW SEASON BY BLAKE SLOCUM

During the winter months, illnesses such as colds, flu, and stomach viruses can spread quickly in school. To help keep everyone healthy, students should only return to school when they are fully recovered. This means they must be fever-free without the help of medication. Staying home until symptoms have completely passed helps prevent the spread of illness and ensures that we can all have a happy, and safe, year.



WEATHER CHANGES REMINDERS BY JOZZIE SLOCUM

As we move into a different season. The weather shifts, The weather can be full of surprises! One day can feel warm, nice and sunny and the next could be cold and snowy or even rainy. These quick changes can catch us off guard, so it is important to be prepared for whatever the day brings.

We encourage all students to dress appropriately. Try layers such as a t-shirt with a light jacket, sweatshirt, or hoodie- so they can easily adjust throughout the day. Mornings are often cool, while afternoons tend to warm up (sometimes). Layers make it easier to stay comfortable.

Please also make sure your student name is on the coat if they were to bring one so if it gets misplaced it is easier to find. Often keeping an extra jacket or sweatshirt in your kids backpacks can also be a big help for those unexpected weather drops as the seasons shift to winter it is often more cold.

With colder weather it is also important to remind students to take care of their health, like get plenty of rest, drink plenty of water and also wash hands often to help prevent seasonal colds.

Just a reminder if your child would like to play in the snow at school they will need to follow the rules such as

- Bring reasonable clothes such as Snow boots, heavy coat, and coveralls
- If they would like to play in the snow we ask for them to be safe with others no snowballs no throwing the snow

We love watching the seasons change around our school, and we want everyone to enjoy it safely and comfortably.

Thank you for helping us keep all students ready for whatever the weather brings!



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JAG NEWS

BY TARYN COLE AND KINZLIE MCAULIFF

This year, our JAG chapter is holding its 2nd Annual Toy Drive for Christmas. You can drop off new or gently used toys at the Bank, Community Center, or Elementary Building in Litchfield until Dec. 12.

On Dec. 14th from 11:30 to 1:30, we will have our Christmas Present Shopping Day. On Toy Shopping Day, you can pick as many gifts as you want/need. One of our JAG members will wrap or box the gifts so you don't have to. You can come in and look at all the toys and get them wrapped by a JAG member.

All of the toys and this project are free of charge, but we will also have a box there for our community food drive. Anyone can donate canned goods, boxed foods, and other non-perishables, or donate money if you want to help us give back to our amazing community!!

FBLA NEWS

BY KINZLIE MCAULIFF

The Litchfield FBLA Chapter is selling tickets for American flag-themed cornhole boards. Ticket prices are as follows: \$5 for one ticket or \$20 for five tickets. If you would like to purchase tickets, please contact a FBLA member or email FBLA@litchfieldps.org. A picture of the cornhole boards is displayed on the right. We look forward to seeing you at the Litchfield Community Club's Santa & Soup event on December 14th!



P.E. NEWS

BY MICHEAL CORLISS AND MR.SHIELDS

This past month the elementary classes just finished up their fitness testing and began their pickleball unit for the kindergarten-2nd graders and the pickleball tournament for the 3rd-6th graders. In high school, the students got 2 new games, including bucket golf and a modified frisbee golf game.

MUSIC NEWS

BY JENNA HOLM AND MRS.TURLEY

What was the most exciting thing about having the Ansley-Litchfield band play at State Volleyball? Mrs. Turley responded with, "I really enjoyed getting to support our team and pump them up! Many of the Litchfield volleyball players are also in band, so it's extra special to be able to go support them. It was also exciting just to play in that environment, in a big stadium, and hear the other pep bands a little bit."

How do you pick what songs the pep band performs? Mrs Turley mentioned, "Ms. Johnson and I have a song list of ones that both schools have. Generally, if it's an event at Ansley, Ms. Johnson makes the song list, and if it's an event in Litchfield, I make the song list. We keep in mind what players should be there, and which ones we know we'll be missing. Before state, we picked the song list together over the phone, and tried to pick the songs that sound the very best."

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

BY TARYN COLE

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?



Caydence-

1. I plan to attend UNL to study Broadcasting and Sports Media
2. Beating Amherst in the FKC vb semi-finals, Junior year
3. Kim Possible
4. I would die first. I have no survival skills
5. Walk backwards
6. All the Bright Places
7. Josiah Queen

Topanga-

1. Becoming a photographer
2. Being involved a lot more things
3. Bugs Bunny
4. Very Long
5. Walk backwards
6. Hocus Pocus
7. Jonas Brothers or Boys like Girls



COUNSELOR CORNER

BY TOPANGA BOYLES AND MRS. POLAND

Finish the semester strong!!

Keep using positive self-talk as we enter the final few weeks of the semester and the year 2025. It has been quite a busy fall with all of our activities, and everyone has done a great job managing their activities and schoolwork. Keep finding the good in our situation, others, as well as yourself. Take a moment each day in December to express gratitude to yourself and others.

Our food pantry families would like to thank the community that donated so graciously to our food pantry. During a time when so much is unknown, it is heartwarming to know our community has our back.

TADA Holiday Fun Day

TADA hosted the Elementary Holiday Fun Day on Saturday, November 22, from 9 am to 2 pm. This was a fun time for high school and junior high students to be leaders with our elementary students. We did crafts, played games in the gym, and ended the day with a holiday movie.

TESTING

PreACT testing (sophomores) were completed in October. PreACT results are in, and I am meeting with the sophomores individually to discuss their results.

ACT Test Dates

January 7, 2026, is the deadline for the February 14, 2026, National ACT. Go to www.act.org to register. Remember to study with our OnToCollege ACT Test preparation. Some students may qualify for an ACT fTee waiver. If your student receives free/reduced lunches, your student may qualify for up to 4 free waivers. Please have your student contact Mrs. Poland to inquire. Juniors and Seniors, remember to use the John Baylor OnToCollege website to review for your ACT.

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.

Susan Thompson Buffett Scholarship opened November 1, 2025, and closes February 1, 2026, at 5 p.m. (CST).

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. This is a link to Mrs. Poland's Scholarship list (Word doc) or Scholarship list (google sheet) for semi-local and local scholarships.

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). Be sure the senior applicant and parent/guardian each have an FSA ID prior to beginning the FAFSA application. FAFSA opened October 1 and is typically completed 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.

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!

Hands-on learning is best for me

College is not for everyone, but all juniors and seniors are encouraged to continue to work as if they will attend college. Visit with Mrs. Poland as you continue to juggle the thoughts of "should I go to college (2-year, 4-year, or trade school) or should I work for a year, then make the decision". Most 2-year colleges have programs that cater to hands-on learners. Be sure to check out NE Works, a Nebraska Department of Labor official website. Labor Market Analysis: This site includes current job information. We continue to encourage students to take steps to achieve their goals.

DECEMBER 2025

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

1

Winter MAP/Fast Testing
6:30 P.M. One Act Practice

2

Winter MAP/Fast Testing
6:30 P.M. One Act Practice

3

One Act Districts @
Gothenburg

4

5 P.M. Girls Wrestling @
Pleasanton

5

Joint Band Practice @ Litchfield
No Preschool
G/B WR 11 A.M. @ Southwest JV/V
G/B BB @ Eustis 3:30/4:30/6:00/7:30

6

JV/V G/B BB @ Litchfield
12:30/1:30/3:00/4:30

7

8

FFA District LDE @ Ansley
7:30 A.M FFA Meeting

9

V G/B BB @ Elba
6:00/7:00

10

Litchfield Winter Fine Arts
JV G/B FKC WR @ Ansley
10 A.M.

12

V Boys WR @ Sargent 10 A.M.
V G/B BB @ Ansley
4:30/5:30/7:00

13

V Girls WR @ Stapleton 10 A.M.
JV/V G/B BB @ Ansley
1:30/3:00/4:30

14

15

16

V Boys WR @ Axtell 11 A.M.

17

Joint Band Practice @ Ansley
V G/B WR @ Ansley 5 P.M.
JV/V G/B BB @ Ansley
4:30/5:00/7:30

18

No Preschool
JV/V G/B BB @ Ansley
4:30/6:00/7:45

20

21

22

No School

23

No School

24

No School
Moratorium
Christmas Eve

25

No School
Moratorium
Christmas Day

26

No School
Moratorium

27

Moratorium

28

Moratorium

29

No School

30

No School

31

No School



LITCHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
November 17, 2025

President Mitch Feldman called the regular meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

Members present: Mitch Feldman, Cole Lewandowski, April Gross, Marie Sweley, Katie Slack, and Alyssa Reynolds.

Visitors:

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.

Cole Lewandowski moved and Alyssa Reynolds seconded to approve board minutes from the Regular Board meeting from last month. Motion carried 6-0.

April Gross gave the treasurer report as General Fund Statement beginning balance of \$882,382.30, general funds receipts \$130,176.88, and actual cash available in general fund \$724,649.21 in the district treasury. Payroll and claims in the amount of \$251,615.35 were presented for payment. Marie Sweley moved, and Katie Slack seconded the approval of payment of monthly claims. Motion carried 6-0.

Matt Drew gave the Principal/AD Report, and action items; Grandparents Day and Halloween Parade, Veteran's Day Celebration, Communication for newsletter and weekly bulletin, PLC, Teacher Work Day 11.14, Next year Volleyball schedule finished, Basketball schedule done but still working on some refs, and action items; update school Board picture, Election information, and Pavilion Update.

Cole Lewandowski moved, and Marie Sweley seconded to approve Policy 718.01; Motion carried 6-0.

Marie Sweley moved to enter into executive session to discuss personnel matters seconded by April Gross. Motion carried 6-0.

President Mitch Feldman reinstated the purpose of entering into executive session was to discuss personnel matters.

The Board entered into executive session at 7:57 p.m.

Alyssa Reynolds moved to motion to exit executive session and seconded by Marie Sweley. Motion carried 6-0.

The Board exited executive session at 8:12 p.m.

Alyssa Reynolds moved, and Marie Sweley seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:14 p.m. Motion carried 6-0.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Education will be at 7:30 p.m. on December 15th, 2025. 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.

Board Secretary

Marie Sweley

AM Vendor Name

Posted - All; Fund Number 01; Processing Month 11/2025

User ID: TDF

Checking Account ID	Vendor Description	Amount
125 CAFETERIA PLAN 1	Fund Number 01 GENERAL FUND	
A TO Z LAWN PRO & LANDSCAPING		200.00
ACTIVITY ALL CLASS		2,987.46
Almquist, Maltzahn, Galloway & Luth, P.C.		43.50
ANSLEY LUMBER AND SUPPLY		200.00
Ansley Public Schools		155.71
BLACK HILLS ENERGY		3,506.35
Colonial Research Chemical		413.43
Custer County Chief		154.53
Custer Public Power		70.00
EAKES OFFICE SOLUTION		3,439.20
Educational Service Unit 10		38.49
ESSENTIAL SCREENS		13,863.42
EWELL EDUCATIONAL SERVICES		123.00
Farmers Co-op Association		210.00
HAMILTON		1,164.38
HOMETOWN LEASING		106.17
Island Supply Welding Co.		341.51
Jerry M. Rolfsmeyer		157.27
JW Pepper & Son Inc		394.78
KORT TRANSFER LLC		129.99
LAMMERS ABEL & KAPS, CPA'S P.C.		1,036.70
Litchfield Hot Lunch		9,505.00
Menards		843.10
P & D MARKET		174.83
PETTY CASH FUND		29.86
Sherman County Times		1,636.25
Taylor Heating & Cooling		339.23
Taylor Heating & Cooling		267.50
U.S. BANK		1,871.36
Village Of Litchfield		506.76
WEX BANK		1,326.86
Yanda's Music		196.00
Fund Number		45,432.64

01

Checking Account ID 1

45,432.64



JAG Christmas Toy Drive

**Please Donate Gently Used or New
Toys to help a Child to have a Merry
Christmas this year!**

Drop Off boxes located at:

**Town and Country Bank, Village
Office, and the Litchfield
Elementary Building**

**Toy Donations
Close: Friday
December 11th**



December



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 MUFFINS GOULASH	2 CINNAMAN ROLLS RUNZA CASSEROLE	3 BISCUIT/GRAVY HAM SANDWICH	4 OATMEAL BAR CRISPITO	5 DONUTS CORN DOGS	6
7	8 MUFFINS MEXICAN RICE BOWLS	9 HASH BROWNS QUESADILLA	10 APPLE CHURRO POPCORN CHICKEN	11 PANCAKE DOG PULLED PORK	12 DONUTS WALKING TACO	13
14	15 WAFFLE TATOR TOT CASSEROLE	16 CHURRO CHICKEN SANDWICH	17 COFFEE CAKE CHRISTMAS DINNER	18 OMELETTE HOT DOGS	19 DONUTS PIZZA	20
21	22 NO SCHOOL	23 NO SCHOOL	24 NO SCHOOL	25 NO SCHOOL	26 NO SCHOOL	27
28	29 NO SCHOOL	30 NO SCHOOL	31 NO SCHOOL			



LITCHFIELD COMMUNITY CLUB & FRIENDS



Santa & Soup

SUN. **14** DEC.

11:30 AM TO 1:30 PM

WINTERS BUILDING
Litchfield, Nebraska

Enjoy a free-will donation soup lunch
provided by Litchfield FBIA
Get a picture with Santa
Shop the Litchfield JAG chapter's
Toy Drive Shopping Day



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