

Small Town News

Litchfield Public Schools

500 N. Main

446-2244

May 2021 issue

lynette.finley@litchfieldps.org

Litchfield Summer School

Reading 📖 Writing 📖 Math 📖 Science

1

June 21-24 PLANTS

Learn about plants and help design and plant the downtown planters!



2

June 28- July 1 WEATHER

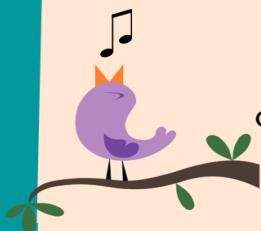
What does it take to fly a kite?



3

July 12-15 BIRDS

Can you identify a bird by its beak?



4

July 19-22 CHEMISTRY & MATTER

Why do lava lamps work?



<http://bit.ly/signupsummerschool>

May Spartan Activity Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4 2 PM JH Track FK C @ Elm Creek	5 Seniors last day	6 9:30 AM V Track @ Broken Bow, Spartan Invite	7 Registration for June ACT No Preschool	8 Litchfield HS Graduation 2:00 PM
9	10 9 AM JH Track @ Elm Creek Preschool Graduation 2:30 followed by Elementary Honors ceremony 2:45	11 6:30 PM FFA New Officer meeting Last day of Preschool Litchfield HS Honors night 6:00/NHS Induction Ceremony	12 Varsity Track Districts @ Broken Bow TBA No School District track	13 6:00 Athletic Banquet in Ansley Nebraska Strong Presentation 10-1:30	14 Elementary Track @ Litchfield 10:30	15
16	17	18	19 State Track Last day of school 1:00 dismissal	20 State Track	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Litchfield's Brian Johnson is the FFA Advisor of the Year

May 2021 Lunch Menu

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	2 3 Hamburger Potato salad Baked beans Grapes Milk	4 Pork Sandwich Sweet potato fries Green beans Pears Milk	5 Popcorn chicken Mashed potato bowl w/corn Dinner roll \Fresh pineapple Milk	6 Goulash Corn on the cob Garlic bread Peaches Milk	7 Fajita Refried beans Peas Applesauce Milk	1/8
	9 10 Teriyaki chicken Fried rice Stir-fry veggies Dinner roll Fresh pears Milk	11 Tater tot casse- role Beets Dinner roll Mixed fruit Milk	12 No School	13 Sub sandwich French fries Green beans Pears Milk	14 Grade School Track meet Cookout	15
	16 17 Taco Tater tots	18 Chicken tetrazzini Broccoli	19 Pizza	20	21	22
23/30	24/31	25	26	27	28	29

Track season half way over, Districts in 3 weeks.

At the time I am writing this article, the track season has reached the halfway mark. Districts is 3 weeks away and at this point in season we have many kids that have reached personal bests and are among the area and state leaders. We are seeing an increasing number of kids medal and place at meets that have schools participating from classes B and C. The last meets we participated in was at Burwell on April 15th and Axtell on the 20th. Although the weather was cool and cloudy with a high temp of 46 with intermittent snow showers and mini blizzards, it was the best day yet the kids had for a meet. We saw a total of 26 kids have performance records and personal bests. The boys scored 96 points in the meet, just getting edged out of runner-up by Riverside by 4 points. The girls also scored a team best of 59 points ended with a 6th place team finish. At the Axtell meet on the April 20th, the boys finished runner-up with 138 points while the girls finished 4th with 72. The girls also had 6 PR's and 6 of 10 girls medaled and placed throughout the day.

Some individual highlights from the Burwell & Axtell Track Meet include:

Calvin Finley: 2nd 400 M. 54.35; 2nd 800 M. 2:08.8; 3rd 1600 M. - 5:15

Girls 4x4 Relay-2nd; Taylor Haines, Peyton Henry, Kaylee Rohde, Carli Bailey

Girls 4x8 Relay-4th; Katherine Paitz, Kaylee Rohde, Peyton Henry, Chancey Hobblyn

Kaylee Rohde: 7th 400 M. 1:11 (performance record)

Katherine Paitz: 4th 3200 M. 15:25 (performance Record)

We see extremely high competition among the schools we compete with. The district will be tough again this as some of the fastest times in Class D are our District. FKC track meet will be a great day to watch some very competitive events as some of the state top leaders will be competing against each other.

Some finishes and individual highlights and honors are listed by athlete below:

Calvin Finley was listed in the OWH Class D State Track Leaders in the 400 and 800. He has posted times of 54.4 in the 400 at Burwell which earned him a 2nd place, and 2:08 in the 800 behind teammate Colin Arehart. Both Calvin and Colin are sitting at the top of the District in the 400, 800, and 1600 but will have very close competition to qualify for the state meet.

Other Spartans listed in the state leaderboard were Hunter Arehart, Colin Arehart, Carli Bailey and Taylor Haines. We are looking forward to nicer weather to finish the last half of the season

Student Poll

This year has seemed to have flown by considering all the changes everyone here has had to adapt to. We asked various students and a few teachers how they think the school year went considering that it was a little strange. Responses are below.

Senior Sydnee Sweley: "I think the school year went well considering we had to wear masks. Even though we had to wear masks, I think it was a good year."

Junior Calvin Finley: "I thought it was a good year. I didn't think COVID affected this year as much as people think."

Junior Kaylee Rosentrader: "It feels like everything went by faster."

Sophomore Kaylee Rohde: "Overall I don't think this year has been too bad considering all the changes we had to deal with, it's still much better than having classes virtually."

Sophomore Katherine Paitz: "I think this year went pretty well given the circumstances. Very different from anything we've experienced before."

Sophomore Brandi Slocum: "I think it was okay, but I would agree that it was a little strange."

Mrs. Slocum: "I think this school year has gone wonderfully. I am so thankful that we are able to spend the year here at school together. Kids have done amazing with the uncertainty, mask wearing, and keeping up with school activities. The flexibility and perseverance of everyone from students to administration has been unsurpassed. Looking forward to seeing what the next school year brings."

EducationQuest Foundation

College Planning Bulletin

A monthly college planning guide for Nebraska high school students

May 2021

Seniors ... borrow wisely for college!

Review these tips before you decide how much to borrow in student loans:

- Borrow only what you need, even if it's less than the amount offered in your award letter.
- Use your student loan money *only* for tuition, room and board, books, and fees. Get a part-time job to pay other expenses.
- Apply for financial aid each year you attend college by completing the FAFSA.
- Continue to look for scholarships while in college.

To learn more, read “What [You Need to Know About Student Loans](#)” and see “Paying for [College](#)” at [EducationQuest.org](#).

Juniors... complete these tasks to stay on track to college

Narrow your college choices to three or four. Visit your top choices either in person or virtually.

Become familiar with the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). You and your parents can complete this form on or after October 1 to apply for college financial aid.

Update your *Activities Resume* at [EducationQuest.org](#).

Look for scholarships using *ScholarshipQuest* at [EducationQuest.org](#).

May “To Do” List

Seniors

- ___ Apply for student loans, if necessary.
- ___ Register for new-student orientation at your college.
- ___ Start a list of dorm room essentials.
- ___ Get a summer job to help pay college expenses.

Juniors

- ___ Register by May 7 for June 12 ACT.
- ___ Register by May 6 for June 5 SAT.
- ___ Continue campus visits.
- ___ Get a summer job and save for college.

For free help with college planning, contact EducationQuest Foundation:

Omaha	Lincoln	Kearney	Scottsbluff
402-391-4033	402-475-5222	308-234-6310	308-708-7199
888-357-6300	800-303-3745	800-666-3721	800-666-3721

EducationQuest.org

Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) – you might win a \$500 scholarship!

Your Journey to College Begins with Us

May/June 2021 Counselor Corner

What a 2020-2021 school year!

Resources for your students:

How We Pay for College

Senior Timeline

Countdown To College -- for 8th, 9th, and 10th graders

Middle School College Planning Bulletin

College Timeline -- for 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th graders

End of the school year

As we end this school year, I reflect. We began the year wondering each day how we would get through the year. We wore masks and socially distanced to protect ourselves and others. Some of us were quarantined and had to “zoom” into class. We persisted and overcame. With guidance from our local health department and administration, cautiously, we began to hold and attend events. Veteran’s Day program was virtual. The Christmas program had limited attendance. We now attend events wearing masks and are aware of being socially distant. Remember, together, we can conquer the challenges that lie ahead.

Family needs

If your family is in need of additional services, please do not hesitate to let us know.

Virtual Visits

Several classes have participated in virtual college and career events. EducationQuest hosted Career Chat Live for middle school students featuring speakers from many different occupations. The 7th graders participated in this event on April 14th. The 8th graders participated in virtual college visits. We visited Wayne State College and Northeast Community College.

ACT Test Dates

May 7th is the registration deadline for the June 12, 2021, 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. *Juniors*, remember to use the John Baylor [OnToCollege website](#) or Khan Academy to review for your ACT test. Testing dates and sites may change so be sure to refer to the ACT website for further information and direction.

Dual Credit enrollment

Central Community College representative was here on April 15th to sign up incoming Juniors/Seniors that wish to take a college class in the fall. Many students are taking advantage of this opportunity. It is a great way to try out a college class with support from your high school instructors. These classes are taught by college instructors that are dual certified to teach at the secondary and collegiate levels so they are challenging and demanding. Our students that sign up are dedicated to putting their best foot forward in conquering these classes.

Sophomores and Juniors: 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.

Congratulations Seniors! I wish you all of the best in the next part of your journey of life!

Senior Spotlights: The Grand Island Independent will recognize seniors at the end of May. Watch the Custer County Chief, Sherman County Times, the Ravenna News, and the Kearney Hub for senior recognition in May.

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

Complete the FAFSA to apply for any Financial Aid for colleges.

Colleges will use your FAFSA results to determine how much they will award you in federal, state, and college-based financial aid. In this time of Covid-19, if this has caused a hardship on your family, be sure to contact the financial aid department of the college your senior is going to attend in the fall and discuss your situation.

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!**

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/>

eLearning page: <https://sites.google.com/litchfieldps.org/elearning-portal/staff/poland?authuser=0>

FFA NEWS

In March and April, members of the Litchfield FFA competed in virtual competitions. The Middle School Ag Quiz Bowl team consisting of Carter Wood, Caydence Feldman, Gracie Ritchie and Ava Paitz (top picture at right) placed 15th out of 83 teams. Carter and Gracie both earned blue ribbons. Faith Heapy, Caden Holm, Derik Linden and Nathan Wardyn participated in the Agricultural Technology and Mechanics competition. The team placed in the top half of the competition and earned a red ribbon. Individually, Derik Linden earned a blue ribbon and Nathan Wardyn earned a purple ribbon (pictured at bottom on right). Ashton Behmerwohld, Lyndsie McAuliff, Jacob Heapy and Hunter Sweley (middle picture at right) participated in the Agriscience competition. The team earned 3rd place out of 94! Individually, Ashton received 4th place a purple ribbon, Jacob earned 5th place and a purple ribbon, Hunter Sweley earned a purple ribbon and Lyndsie McAuliff earned a white ribbon.

During the virtual state convention the Litchfield FFA chapter also earned other recognition. The chapter was recognized for placing 4th in the I Believe in the Future of Agriculture program. The chapter must raise \$500 and complete tasks such as having guest speakers in class from I Believe sponsors in order to earn points. For the first time since the chapter was created in 2014 we received a Silver placing in the National Quality FFA Chapter competition. In order to be considered a chapter must have a program of activities built around three divisions which include: Growing Leaders, Building Communities and Strengthening Agriculture. The chapter will receive a plaque for their efforts.



Litchfield's Brian Johnson is the FFA Advisor of the Year

Article courtesy of The Ravenna News, April 14, 2021 edition

The Nebraska Farm Bureau Foundation selected two recipients for the FFA advisor of the Year award. Anna Lisa Estrela from Ashland Greenwood High School and Brian Johnson from Litchfield High School were honored on April 8th during the 2021 Nebraska FFA Virtual State Convention. The winning advisors received a plaque and a \$1,000 donation to their FFA chapter. The teachers were nominated by their students and chosen based upon their school and community involvement, leadership development in their classroom, and ability to keep their students involved with agriculture. "It is an honor to recognize two teachers who work each day to equip students for success." Said Meghan Schafer, executive director of the Nebraska Farm Bureau Foundation. "Ms. Estrela and Mr. Johnson contribute in the classroom and in their communities. Their emphasis on the continual learning will serve their students as they explore college and careers related to Nebraska agriculture." Johnson goes out of his way to make sure he puts his students in a position to succeed in life. The Litchfield FFA Chapter is active in the community and participates in community events including community clean up and teaching about farm safety during the "Bring Your Tractor to School" event where they teach elementary students about the importance of being safe around farm equipment. The chapter is also heavily involved in the Nebraska Farm Bureau Foundation's Connecting Chapters program where they increase agricultural awareness, knowledge, and appreciation in their community. "When I took over the Litchfield FFA program, my only experience with the organization was volunteering with the Broken Bow FFA chapter. My students and I have learned a lot over the past five years, and we continue to make positive changes each year. Winning this award helps to reaffirm that we are doing something right and that we are on the right track. We couldn't have gotten this far without the students buying into the program and wanting to succeed." Johnson said.

Gracie Ritchie to Take Part in Envision's National Youth Leadership Forum: Explore STEM

This summer, Gracie Ritchie will join outstanding middle school students from across the nation to take part in a unique academic development experience, the National Youth Leadership Forum (NYLF): Explore STEM, taking place this summer at the University in Dallas, TX.

NYLF Explore STEM is one of the Envision by WorldStrides family of programs (www.envisionexperience.com) that enable students to explore their interests and experience learning beyond the classroom.

Gracie was nominated to attend the forum by her seventh grade teacher. Gracie enjoys horses, cattle, fishing, hunting, learning survival skills, being in the water, camping, and working hard. In addition to participating in FFA, Gracie has also played basketball, volleyball, softball, and is on the track team. Gracie is looking forward to gaining the hands-on survival skills and forensic science skills that the forum provides

Students Participate in FBLA State Leadership

Students in middle level and high school chapters of FBLA competed in the Virtual State Leadership throughout the month of March. April 12-14, students could take part in the virtual FBLA conferences, seminars, and awards ceremony. Seven students participated in the virtual testing during March. High School members Calvin Finley and Chloe Ellison participated in tests but did not place in the top 8 of their competitions. Four 7th graders participated including Jimmy Fletcher, Caydence Feldman, Ava Paitz, and Malynn Boyles. Malynn Boyes was the Champion in the Digital Citizenship event. Malynn also placed 9th in Career Explorations which placed in first in Honorable Mentions.

Congratulations to all the FBLA members for a great year. Everything was virtual this year for the students but hopefully next year we will be back to in person conferences and events.



*Pictured above: 7th grade competitors and placers:
Standing: Malynn Boyles, Ava Paitz
Sitting: Jimmy Fletcher (missing is Caydence Feldman)*

Principal/AD Report

Matt Drew

4.19.21

1. Elementary Teaching Change
 - a. Flip Mr. Ellison and Mrs. Vega
2. Beginning to work on Student Schedules for next year, will be finished before summer
 - a. Reformat each year
3. Scheduled CIP visit for November 8, 9, 2021
 - a. Will present to board in October
4. State Testing Complete
 - a. MAP testing in May
5. AD
 - a. District Track Volunteers, May 12
 - b. Scheduling for next year, just have track left

April Superintendent Report
Litchfield Public Schools
April 19, 2021

Computer Security System

We will be getting new computer security system. I have enclosed information on the system's capabilities. Mr. and Mrs. Moser will be attending the meeting as well to answer question on this.

ESU 10 Title I Cooperative Agreement

Cooperative agreement with ESU 10 for the Title Cooperative.

Rule 10 Safety Inspection

I have attached the Rule 10 Safety Inspection review. We will continue to addressing the listed items.

Summer Lunch

We have the opportunity to remain in the summer lunch program and offer free lunch if we open it up to all children in the community from ages 1-18. Otherwise, we can just serve the students going to summer school at a charge to the students. We would not deliver to the homes as we did last summer.

CARES and ESSER Funds

I will give the board an update with our CARES and ESSER federal funds.

Gym Project

-Painting of the Spartan gym will begin the week of April 26th.

-Gym Ceiling Update. I have enclosed the latest correspondence with Ross Gronau, contractor for EnergyCraft system, who is putting up the ceiling. He having troubles with an Air Force job in Arizona that was to be done in 2018.

-HVAC- I have enclosed an updated cost of the HVAC from Auxmann Heating and Air Conditioning. It is only \$500 more than last years was.

They will be able to do their work up to the inside duct work without having the ceiling done.

Football Field Care

-A-Z Lawn Pro will now be fertilizing the football field.

-Mr. Drew and I have discussed the possibility of getting extra mowing help for Mark again in the summer months leaving him more time for summer projects.

Personnel Update

We have a resignation that the board will have to accept. Cannon Blauvelt has accepted the Secondary Principal position at Ravenna. Therefore, he has resigned his position as our PK-12 PE teacher for the 2021-2022 school year.

COOP Update

Any discussion that the board wanted to discuss after our joint meeting with Ansley last week. I have attached the minutes.

LITCHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
April 19, 2021

Vice President Jim Holm called the regular meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Members Present: Bill Howard, Marie Sweley, April Gross, Cole Lewandowski, and Jim Holm.
(Mitch Feldman was absent and excused).

Marie Sweley moved to excuse Mitch Feldman. Second by April Gross. Motion carried 5-0.

Visitors: Brian & Jeralynn Moser.

Vice President Jim Holm announced and informed the public that a current copy of the Open Meetings Law is posted on the wall of the meeting room, and also indicated the instructions for those who wish to speak during the public forum.

The minutes of the last meeting were read. Bill Howard moved to approve the minutes from the last meeting. Second by April Gross. Motion carried 5-0.

The treasurer April Gross reported a General Fund Statement beginning balance of \$63,407.57, general funds receipts \$232,541.94 and actual cash available in General fund of \$54,786.10 in the district treasury. Payroll and claims in the amount of \$214,969.11 were presented for payment. Marie Sweley moved to pay the claims. Second by Cole Lewandowski. Motion carried 5-0.

Matt Drew's Principal/AD reported on Elementary Teaching Change, Beginning to work on Student Schedules for next year, Scheduled CIP visit for November 8,9, 2021, State Testing Complete, MAP testing in May, and District Track Volunteers, May 12, and Scheduling for next year, just have track left.

Wade Finley reported on Computer Security System, ESU 10 Title I Cooperative Agreement, Rule 10 Safety Inspection, Summer Lunch, Cares and Esser Funds, Gym Project, Football Field care, Personnel update, Co-op Update.

Marie Sweley moved to participate in the 2021-2022 ESU 10 Title I Cooperative. Second by April Gross. Motion carried 5-0.

Marie Sweley moved to accept with regrets the resignation of Cannon Blauvelt as the PK-12 PE teacher for the 2021-2022 school year. Second by Cole Lewandowski. Motion carried 5-0.

April Gross moved to enter into executive session to discuss personnel. Second by Bill Howard.
Motion carried 5-0.

Vice President Jim Holm reinstated the intent to enter into executive session was to discuss personnel.

The Board entered executive session at 8:56 p.m.

Marie Sweley moved to exit executive session. Second by April Gross. Motion carried 5-0.

Board exits executive session at 9:08 p.m.

Marie Sweley moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:09 p.m. Second by Cole Lewandowski.
Motion carried 5-0.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Education will be at 7:30 p.m. on May 17, 2021. 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 Small Town Times Newsletter and in the Sherman County Times.

Marie Sweley
Board Secretary

Vendor Name	Vendor Description	Amount
Checking Account ID 1	Fund Number 01 GENERAL FUND	
ANSLEY LUMBER AND SUPPLY		166.94
Ansley Public Schools		3,299.93
AREA SERVICES		327.00
Axmann Heating & Air Conditioning		43.00
BLACK HILLS ENERGY		1,883.03
Custer Public Power		2,554.05
DAS STATE ACCOUNTING - CENTRAL FINANCE		391.16
Educational Service Unit 10		7,536.60
ESSENTIAL SCREENS		41.95
Farmers Co-op Association		1,153.96
FIRST BOOK		254.12
HOWARD HAY COMPANY, INC.		3,320.52
Island Supply Welding Co.		372.60
Jostens		150.25
JW Pepper & Son Inc		260.69
Klein, Sherrie		37.29
Litchfield Hot Lunch		114.00
Menards		5.88
MYSTERY SCIENCE, INC		299.00
NCS PEARSON, INC		267.50
NE Assoc. Of School Boards		100.00
Nebraska Central Telephone		202.01
OfficeNet		567.64
P & D MARKET		162.98
PETTY CASH FUND		1,166.27
US FOODS		622.80
VERIZON		40.05
Village Of Litchfield		461.55
WEX BANK		969.03
WILSON, BRENT		10.00
WITT, LARRY		425.00
Yanda's Music		154.72
Fund Number 01		<u>27,361.52</u>
Checking Account ID 1		<u>27,361.52</u>

Litchfield Public Schools
PO Box 167
Litchfield, NE 68852-0167

Non-Profit Organization
US POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT #2
Litchfield, NE 68852

Have a great and safe summer

