



September  
2014



Shawna Paitz and Kayla Reynolds working on Spartan mascot, Photo by: Mrs. Varah

## School Improvements

Litchfield Public Schools went under major changes during the summer. The biggest change to the high school was the reconstruction of the office. A wall was taken out, new flooring was put in, it also got a fresh paint job, and brand new desks were added. The office secretaries are thrilled about their new office space. Tasha Fletcher said "It's amazing!" Danielle McAuliff commented "It's a warmer and welcoming environment." Another big change was the addition of the new mascots in the gym. These mascots were a team effort between Mrs. Varah's art class and the shop kids. The art class created the template of the new mascots and the shop students cut them out. Then the art students painted the mascots and made a background with the school name. The students also made a big Spartan that hangs on the west end of the gym and shows off Spartan pride. Students who participated in

the creating of the mascots were; Shawna Paitz, Kayla Reynolds, Corbin Snow, Riley Casper, Nicole Wardyn, Amber Howard, Paige Ernst, Mirissa Chitty, Caleb Unick, Ben Schrock, Nat Schrock, and Corbin Snow. Another improvement was new carpet and paint in Mr. Franzen's, Mrs. Kluender, and Mrs. Poland's classrooms. Some of the improvements that were made were not expected, in the middle of the summer a storm came through causing a tree to crash through the window of the history room. Windows in the history room had to be replaced and the roof of the high school had to be tarred after the storm. Many volunteers helped clean up the mess the storm caused. The school would like to thank everyone who donated their time to help. Now everything is in order and the school looks great thanks to everyone's hard work during the summer. By: McKenna Unick

## September Important Dates:

Sept 1 - No School

Sept 11 - Parent Teacher  
Conferences  
(Dismiss at 1)

Sept 12 - No School

Sept 13 - Homecoming Dance

## Calendar of Events

Don't forget to look at the calendars in the back of the Newsletter for a complete list of activities.

## Colophon

The Hallway Happenings is a forum of student expressions. The content decisions are made by student journalists.

Graphic Design: Angel Halouska  
Justine Pickar  
Wendy Brandt  
LaShaun Scheuffele  
Michaela Reynolds

Adviser: Allison Varah

Journalism: McKenna Unick  
Riley Casper  
Carlie Smith

Adviser: Bernice Yilk

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## New Mascots by the Art Class

The art classroom was crowded to the max with mascots in progress last spring. We will be completely up to date with new conference schools and multiple co-ops. "Students worked hard and have quality work they can be proud of for years to come when they visit Litchfield gym." commented Mrs. Varah the art teacher at Litchfield. When you see the mascots in the gym for the first time this year, please take a moment and admiror these students's handy work:

**Corbin Snow**- Anselmo-Merna Coyotes  
**Mirissa Chitty**- Brady Eagles  
**Kayla Reynolds**- Hyannis Longhorns  
**Shawna Paitz**- Stapleton Broncos  
**Riley Casper**- South Loup Bobcats  
**Nicole Wardyn**- Mullen Broncos  
**Amber Howard**- Twin Loup Wolves  
**Paige Ernst**- Sandhills-Thedford Knights  
**Spartan**-Combined effort of students listed above

By: Justine Pickar



Mirissa with Mascot Photo by: Mrs. Varah



Nicole Wardyn with Mascot, by: Mrs. Varah

## New and Improved Office

Tasha Fletcher and Danielle McAuliff were moved all around this summer as the office was remodeled. It now has an open floor plan. It is very welcoming to guests and visitors.



Tasha Fletcher and Danielle McAuliff, Photo by: Justine Pickar



Paige Ernst with Mascot Photo by: Mrs. Varah



Corbin Snow, Shawna Paitz, Mirssa Chitty, Kayla Reynolds, Paige Ernst, and Riley Casper  
 Photo by: Mrs. Varah



Storm clean up with: Andrew Reynolds, Trevor Kohls and John Kohls, Photo: Jennifer Mostek

### Milk Break Pricing

Litchfield Public School offers an extra milk break during the school day for grades Prek-6. If you wish for your child to take part in the program, the milk break price for each semester is \$35.00, which is approximately \$.39 per day. Milk is paid for by the semester.

1st Semester payment (\$35.00)

-Due by September 2, 2014

2nd Semester payment (\$35.00)

- Due January 6, 2015

Milk during milk breaks is not part of the Free and Reduced Meal Program.

## Kayla Reynolds Goes on a European Adventure

While some people stayed at home during summer vacation, Litchfield Senior Kayla Reynolds had the trip of a lifetime. Last year the school received a letter from an organization called People to People asking if they would recommend a student to travel around Europe for two weeks over the summer. According to People to People's website they take students from 5th grade to college students on life changing educational adventures, where students get to experience other countries' cultures. They try to prepare kids to be able to think beyond their own borders. To be eligible to go on this trip Kayla had to have two teachers and a community member write a recommendation. She was accepted and in July her travels began. For 20 days she would be traveling around Europe.

The group started off their trip in England, then to France, Belgium, Netherlands, Germany, Austria, and lastly to Switzerland. Kayla saw a lot of countries but her favorite was Belgium because of the old charm it had, and how well its age was preserved. While in Germany, Kayla got to experience what it would be like to live there. She stayed with a 15 year old girl named Polina for 4 nights. Polina took Kayla around the town and to a festival. Kayla said "It was just really cool to see what it would be like to be a teenager in Germany and how they spent their time." Another amazing experience Kayla had was in Austria where she got to go on an alpine coaster up the Alps. When they got to the top they walked half way down the 1800 meter mountain. She also got to zip line while in Austria. Kayla said she would highly recommend this trip to anyone. It was an amazing experience where she got to meet a lot of new friends who she can't wait to see again.

By: McKenna Unick



Kayla Reynolds on her trip to Europe.

## Fifth and Sixth Enjoy a Bountiful Harvest

On the first day of school, the fifth and sixth grade students were able to harvest some of the garden produce that was planted by last year's class. They harvested beans (both green and wax), jalapeno peppers, tomatoes, and cucumbers. The miniature pumpkins are doing well, and should be ready soon! Most of the produce is divided among the students to enjoy at home. We did, however, have to sample some at school! After the beans were washed and the ends snapped off, we tossed them in olive oil, added a little garlic salt, and fried them. The number of students taking seconds proved that this recipe was a huge success! Next up will be enjoying the tomatoes and cucumbers, along with attempting to make Jalapeno Jelly! Stay tuned...

By: Mrs. Janssen



First grade showing the tomatoes from garden. Photo by: Janice Reynolds

## Question of the Month

What are you most excited about this school year?

Mrs. Poland- "For New Adventures"

Mrs. Kluender- "The kids schedule being done and in the computer, that there are higher level classes that we are offering, I'm excited to see the kids, to see the seniors applying to colleges and get scholarships, finally I'm excited for the seniors to move on to the next step in their lives."

Rachel Linden- "To see my friends and the teachers"

Shawna Paitz- "Graduation"

Nicole Wardyn- "Find out where I will be going to school"

Justice Zentz- "Playing in P.E."

Kylee Zulkoski- "For my Birthday"

Lyndsie McAuliff- "Salad Bar"

By: Riley Casper

## Box Tops

Collecting box tops and labels was a legacy that Mrs. K our previous libraian was passionate about. With the help of our community cutting out and collecting requested items the school was able to buy balls for recess, books. an entire new playgroud, and much more! This is a tradition Mrs. Moser will be continuing. Please continue to collect and if you never have collected before please begin collecting for the benefit of our school.

By: LaShaun Scheuffele

## Carlie's Corner



Carlie Smith, Photo By: Justine Pickar

### Less is More?

This amazing weather brings out the county fair, hours at the pool, tornado sirens, and snow cones. It also tends to bring out scantily-clad girls, looking for a good time. Everywhere you look, there's a girl with barely-there shorts, or a bustier crop top on, flaunting her stuff. Although there's absolutely nothing wrong with that, when did wearing virtually nothing become "In style?" In the 1920's, showing your ankles was considered scandalous! Fast forward to 2014, all of the latest fashions have cutouts, higher and higher shorts, and shirts that might as well double as a scarf. As teenage girls, we are in the midst of dating, making new friends, and figuring out who we are. Every girl would love to hear that they attracted friends because of their personality, intelligence, or kindness. But when you're showing a little too much skin, people have a tough time focusing on anything else. Ultimately, by covering up a little during this warm weather, you're leaving a little mystery, and showing a lot of self-respect. After all, how can we demand respect from others, if we don't respect ourselves? For example, boys are only disrespectful if you allow them to be. If you want someone who's going to love you for

your personality, kindness, or intelligence, they'll be just as attracted to you (if not more!) in jeans and a T-shirt. Self-respect, independence, and compassion are beautiful, not skimpy shorts or super low cut shirts. When you dress inappropriately, it's a lot more difficult to make meaningful relationships, because it's hard for others to focus on anything but your clothes and body. Now, I'm not saying whip out your turtlenecks in this 80 degree weather if you want to find a nice boy, or quality friends. I'm just saying, put a little more thought into your outfit, and give it some balance, because after all, more really is more. By: Carlie Smith

### Shawna Paitz Attends National Leadership Conference for FBLA

Not many people get to experience Nashville, Tennessee and even fewer people get to experience National Leadership Conference. Litchfield High School's very own senior, Shawna Paitz did just that. At State Leadership Conference last April, Shawna placed 5th in Word Processing, qualifying her for Nationals in Tennessee. Shawna and Mrs. Dobesh flew thousands of miles to compete with the best of the best in her event. The conference was June 29th-July 2nd and Shawna said "It was just like SLC except everything was bigger and better!" Shawna was one of 10,000 people attending the conference. At National Leadership Conference, many different events go on. Shawna got to vote for national and regional FBLA officers, sit in on general sessions, listen to motivational speakers, and meet other FBLA members from Nebraska and all over the country. Some of the different places that Shawna and Mrs. Dobesh visited were the Ryman Auditorium, downtown Nashville, and the General Jackson boat tour. Out of all the places she went to, Shawna said the Grand Ole Opry was her favorite because the backstage was super cool. Mrs. Dobesh said "It was a fabulous conference with great

opportunities, Shawna and I enjoyed the Nashville hospitality very much." Shawna added, "National Leadership Conference was a great experience I will never forget, everyone should try and go next year because it was really enjoyable." By Carlie Smith



Shawna Paitz and Mrs. Dobesh at Nationals

### Child Find

Rule 92 NAC 51-006.02A states that: "All children with disabilities, including with disabilities attending nonpublic schools, regardless of the severity of their disabilities, and who are in need of special education and related services, are identified, located, and evaluated and a practical method is developed and implemented to determine which children with disabilities are currently receiving needed special education and related services. For infants and toddlers, districts shall demonstrate targeted efforts to meet the needs of children from historically underserved populations, particularly minority, low-income, inner-city and rural populations."

The disability may be physical, visual, auditory, developmental or mental. We are asking for help from the community. If you have or know of a child in the community who has a disability, please call the school and let us know.

Submitted By: Mrs. Eckhout

# New Teachers and Staff

The 2014-2015 school year is kicking off with some new faces roaming the hallways. With a few retirements last year, we had many positions open. To help you get to know our new staff. Here are just a few things they like about Litchfield Schools and a favorite quote of theirs.



**Mr. Cameron Sonnenfeld**  
Science

"I like knowing all my students and being able to build trusting relationships with them"

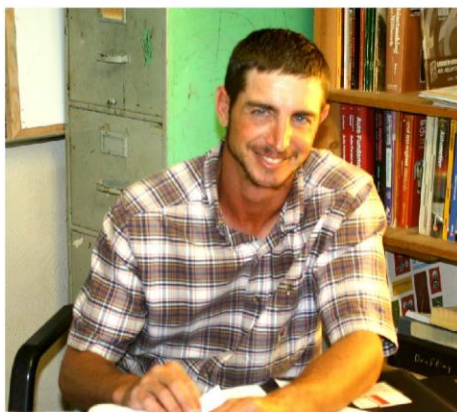
Favorite quote; "Don't give up. Don't ever give up." -Jim Valvano



**Coach Mariah Sekutera**  
Assistant Volleyball Coach

"I like working at Litchfield Public Schools because the administration and staff are very supportive and helpful along with the community. The group of student athletes I'm working with makes my job enjoyable as they are a great and hard working group. I love to see student athletes succeed on and off the court and this group has the drive to do just that!"

Favorite quote: "If you play your heart out for what your jersey says on the front, everyone will remember what the jersey says on the back."



**Mr. Layne Kirby**  
Industrial Technology/Agriculture

"I really like all of the friendly people at Litchfield Public Schools."

Favorite quote: "Pain is temporary. Pride is forever."



**Diane Wendt - Bus Driver**

"I like working here because I like being around the kids. I need to have something to do in my spare time"

Favorite quote: "Everything will all work out."



**Joel Ratzlaff - Technology Specialist**

"I like working and meeting with new people. So meeting and working with students is probably my favorite thing."

Favorite quote: "To give anything less than your best, is to sacrifice the gift."  
-Steve Prefontaine



**Mrs. Jeralynn Moser**  
Media Specialist

"My favorite thing about working at Litchfield would have to be the amazing students and the helpful staff"

Favorite quote: "You can never get a cup of tea large enough, or a book long enough to suit me." -C.S. Lewis



**Deb Bruce - Cook**

I like working at Litchfield Public Schools because Janice has been a great help and very patient with me. I live in Ravenna and its close by and it has that small town feeling like Ravenna."

Favorite quote: "I may not be where I need to be but I thank God I am no longer where I used to be." -Joyce Meyer

# FBLA NEWS

## SCHOOL ACTIVITY PLANNERS

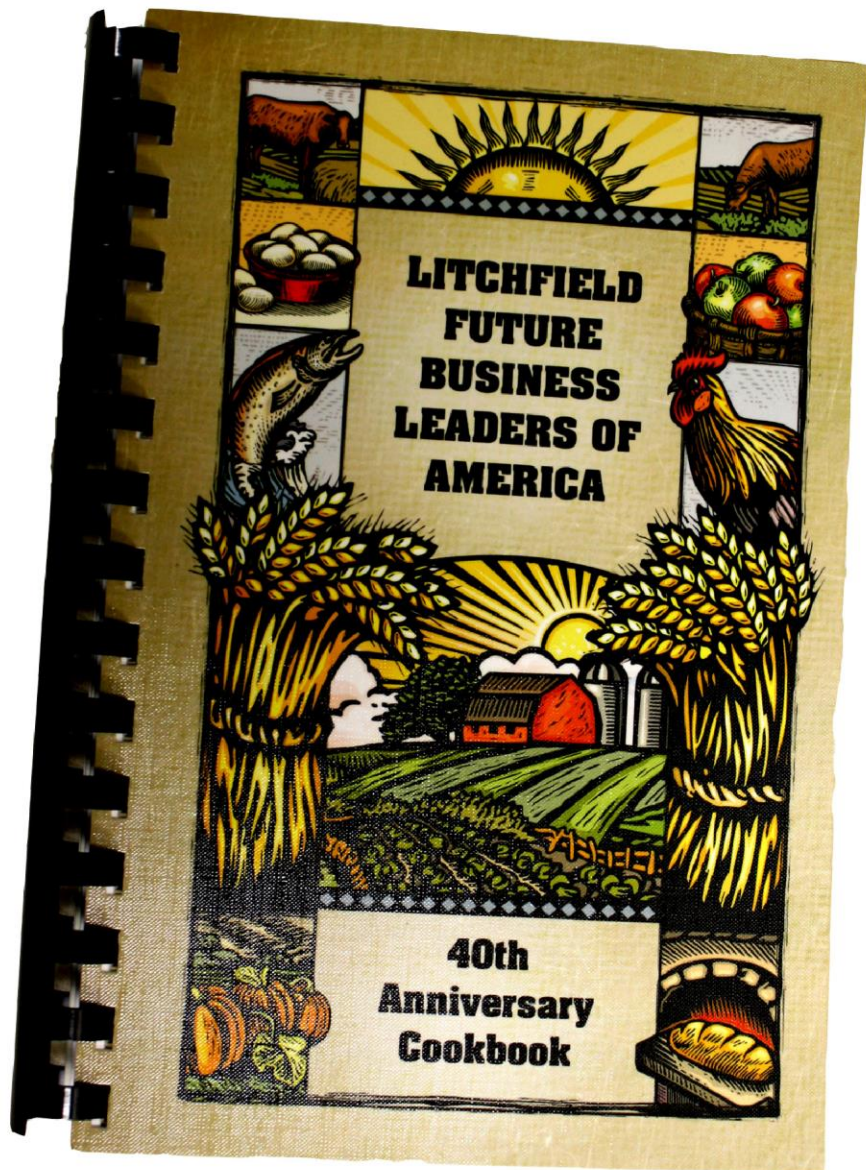
The FBLA is again selling school pocket planner calendars. Full school information including sporting events, programs, holidays, etc., is included. The planners are \$6 and are available in the school office and from any FBLA member. They will also be available at the first athletic events of the fall. Your support of our fund-raising project is greatly appreciated.  
Aluminum Pull Tabs Collection

## Pull Tabs for Ronal McDonald House

The FBLA is again collecting aluminum pull tabs from aluminum cans for donation to the Ronald McDonald Houses. Please leave your tabs off at the school or send them to school with students. Thank you for your support.

## FBLA COOKBOOKS

FBLA 40th Anniversary cookbooks are still available. If you would like to purchase one, they are available in the school office, Town and Country Bank in Litchfield, and from any FBLA member. They include 300 recipes from Litchfield students, alumni, and community members. The cost is \$10. If you pre-ordered a cookbook you may pick it up in the school office or contact Mrs Dobesh. Thank you for your support of our 40th anniversary project. Submitted by: Mrs. Dobesh



# SPORTS EXTRA

## Volleyball Updates

Who is excited for the Volleyball Season? The Ansley-Litchfield Volleyball team is! According to Coach Hoblyn, one of the teams goals is "to Increase competitiveness, to see people improve and to have fun." This improvement started during the summer by the volleyball girls attending several camps and leagues. Some of the camps and leagues include: Ord's Summer League, Burwell's Summer League, Spartan Team Camp, Ansley's Summer League, and the Top Ten Camp at UNK. According to Coach Hoblyn, the biggest improvement of the summer was, "that the team touched the ball more." Coach Hoblyn said that the team will have high expectations, she wants the girls to do well, and hopes to have no injuries. This year the Ansley- Litchfield volleyball team has a total number of 27 players. Best of luck Ansley- Litchfield in the upcoming season.

Story by: Riley Casper



Head Coach: Pat Hoblyn, running drills



Volleyball girls working hard at practice. Volleyball photos by: Riley Casper



Spartan football players practice hard to get ready for games, Photo by: LaShaun Scheuffele

## Football Practice Begins

The football season is just starting and already the team and coaches are excited for what the season might bring. According to Assistant Coach Smith, one of the team's goals is "to improve and to get better every day and learn to be a good teammate." This improvement started during the summer by attending several camps. Some of the camps include: UNK Team Football Camp and Spartan Team Camp. Another way the boys improved over the summer is by lifting weights. According to Coach Smith, the biggest improvement over the summer was "being more familiar with the coaches' expectations and the system." This year the Ansley-Litchfield football team has 24 players. The coaches have the expectations that the players will work hard and get better every day. Good luck this season football boys. By: Riley Casper

## Cheerleading

The Spartan cheerleaders not only cheer they wash buses too! To help get Litchfield and Ansley Schools ready for the school year, the cheerleaders washed and cleaned all the school vehicles. They didn't do all this fundraising for nothing, the money will help pay for their new uniforms! Cheerleader, Courtney Bailey said "I love the new uniforms! They all fit perfectly and look awesome!" The cheerleaders have been working hard all summer getting prepared for the upcoming year. They have done everything from having practice two days a week, to learning a dance to perform at homecoming. Courtney Bailey also comments "Cheer is going great and is definitely worth the time we put in to it!" So when you come out and support the teams check out how great the cheerleaders look this year! By: McKenna Unick



Cheerleaders get new uniforms