

Lind–Ritzville Cooperative Schools Community Connection

www.lrschools.org

Lind–Ritzville GRIT

December 2024

Superintendent Message

As we reach the midpoint of the school year, I'm excited to share some of the remarkable progress and achievements across our district. The adoption of the Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA) curriculum for K-5 students is giving our youngest learners a strong foundation in literacy while enriching their understanding of history, science, and the arts. We've also continued to expand STEM opportunities with programs like Lego Robotics, which inspire innovation and teamwork among our middle and high school students. At the high school level, an on-site admission event with WSU and EWU led to several seniors being accepted into college—an accomplishment that reflects their hard work and the unwavering dedication of our staff.

Looking ahead, we are focused on expanding early learning and child care opportunities by pursuing funding for an early learning center. Our commitment to supporting mastery-based learning remains strong, as we provide professional development for staff and encourage curricular integration to make learning meaningful and engaging. Additionally, we strive to enhance mental health resources by strengthening partnerships with providers and training staff in trauma-informed practices and de-escalation techniques, addressing the social-emotional needs of all students.

These efforts are supported by levy dollars and grant funding—over \$900,000 secured in the past year alone. Together, they underscore our mission to foster both academic excellence and a sense of belonging for every student. For a detailed summary of our district's activities and accomplishments, I encourage you to read our "Annual Report," available now on the Cooperative website.

As the holiday season approaches, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to our families, staff, and community members. Your steadfast support and partnership are essential to our success. Wishing you a joyful and peaceful holiday season and a bright start to the new year.

Warm regards,
Dr. Don Vanderholm
LRCS Superintendent
dvanderholm@lrschools.org

Upcoming Dates:

December 2 - LRHS FAFSA Night / LRHS Commons / 6PM
December 2-6 - RGS Food Drive for Ritzville Food Pantry & Scholastic Book Fair
December 2-6 - LES Scholastic Book Fair
December 4 - RGS TK-4 Music & 5th Band Winter Concert / Gilson Gym / 6PM
December 5 - LRHS Bikes for Tikes
December 9 - Community Forum to Explore a 4-Day School Week /
LRHS Collaboration Room / 6PM
December 9-13 - LRHS Winterfest Week
December 10 - LES Tothsavers
December 10 - LRHS Knowledge Bowl at Odessa
December 10 - Community Forum to Explore a 4-Day School Week /
LRMS Collaboration Room / 6PM
December 11 - LES TK-4 Music & 5th Band Winter Concert / LRMS Gym / 6PM
December 13 - LRHS Winterfest Dance
December 14 - Candy Cane Lane / Ritzville Schools / 10:30-11:30AM
December 17 - LRMS LEAD Graduation
December 18 - RGS Tothsavers
December 18 - Winter Band Concert (6-12 Grade) / Gilson Gym / 6PM
December 19 - LRMS Eagle Watch
December 19 - School Board / LRHS Collaboration Room / 6:30PM
December 20 - Early Release
December 23 - January 3 - Winter Break
January 6 - Back to School!
January 6 - MS Boys Basketball Starts
January 9 - LRHS Knowledge Bowl at Washtucna
January 10 - MS & HS Pep Band at Basketball Games
January 15 - End of 1st Semester
January 15 - STCU FAFSA Night / LRHS Commons / 5:30PM
January 19 - LRHS FCCLA Regional Competition
January 20 - NO SCHOOL (Martin Luther King Day)
January 27 - School Board / LRMS Collaboration Room / 6:30PM
January 28 - LRHS Knowledge Bowl at Chewelah

****Dates & Times Subject to Change**

**JOIN US FOR A COMMUNITY FORUM
TO EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY OF A 4-DAY SCHOOL WEEK
FOR LIND-RITZVILLE COOPERATIVE SCHOOL**

Monday, December 9 / 6PM
LRHS Collaboration Room
Or Scan the QR Code to join by Zoom



Tuesday, December 10 / 6PM
LRMS Collaboration Room
Or Scan the QR Code to join by Zoom



If you are unable to attend, but want to learn more, share your thoughts, or discuss further, please contact one of the staff members listed below, who have both worked in 4-day school week settings.

Don Walker - LRMS Principal dwalkers@lrschools.org
Bryce Court LRHS - Social Studies Teacher bcourt@lrschools.org



Music Concerts

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4
RGS TK-4TH GRADE AND 5TH GRADE BAND
6:00 PM / GILSON GYM

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11
LES TK-4TH GRADE AND 5TH GRADE BAND
6:00 PM / LRMS GYM

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18
6-12 GRADE BAND
6:00 PM / GILSON GYM

Great Things Happening at Lind-Ritzville Cooperative Schools



As part of the Cooking Technique unit, Ms. Koch's HS Culinary Arts class made and enjoyed a Friendsgiving meal together!

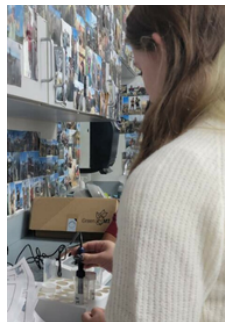
In Culinary Arts, students learn many important skills such as, food preparation techniques, food safety and sanitation, kitchen safety, equipment use, basic culinary terms, knife skills, nutrition, menu planning, catering, food garnishing, business operations and leadership development.



Mrs. Terris's 4th Grade Class from RGS, joined Ms. Koch's HS Culinary Arts class and helped make veggie quesadillas.



Mrs. Sanger's 2nd grade class at LES, celebrated finishing their Ancient Greece unit by participating in their own Olympic events. They competed in the cotton ball shot put, paper plate discus, straw javelin throw, triple jump, and a sprint. At the end, they had an award ceremony and received medals!



Thank you to the WSU Lind Dryland Research Station crew for visiting LRMS! They demonstrated how their equipment can capture and quantify the released Carbon Dioxide levels. This indicates the level of active and healthy microbes that are in the soil and is considered a good indicator of soil health.

They brought a machine that simulated rainfall and measured how the rain drained through the soil. They explained that vertical movement of water through the soil is best for plants and crops in order for it to be stored and used later. Our students also tested different soil samples for their pH levels to learn how acidic or alkaline soil is, which is important for plant growth.

Mr. Weishaar, LRMS Science teacher, said it was a fun and engaging day for the kids. The information was tied to our local area and helped our students understand that our soil is a valuable resource and that we need to take care of it for future use.



The LRHS robotics team, the Bionic Broncos, has been hard at work this season, building and programming their FTC robot under the guidance of LRMS teacher, Mr. Hatch.

Despite being a small team, these students have tackled every challenge head-on, showing incredible teamwork and perseverance. Each team member has stepped up to wear multiple hats—coding, engineering, and driving the robot during the competition.



Lind Ritzville FFA competed in the Washington State Potato Evaluation Contest, with teams finishing 4th and 9th place out of 49 teams from across Washington and over 200 contestants.

Team 1 placed 4th with Team members Amelia Clack placing 8th high Individual and Claire Wellsandt placing 11th. The team was rounded out by Hagen Carlson, Morrighana Duke, and Leland Bowman

Team 2 placed 9th, made Lind Ritzville to only chapter with two teams in the Top 10. Team members included Willow Lawler, who cracked into the top 25 high individual, Ava Fode, Parker Gordon, Kenadie Hays, and Case McBride.

Congratulations to
Zoe Galbreath & Saige
Galbreath for being selected
to the South NE2B Volleyball
All League Team!



LR FFA Trapshooting
team placed 3rd at
the Warden
Trapshoot.

Jon Stromberger
placed 1st highest
male score. He won
after having to do a
shootoff with another
contestant.



Fly-In Santa &
Candy Cane Lane
Saturday, December 14
Ritzville Schools

Santa will fly in at approx.
10:30 AM and will land in
front of RGS.

Once Santa has landed,
please enter Candy Cane
Lane from the bus lane on
Wellsandt Road.
(near the high school &
across from Gilson Gym)

In the event of inclement
weather, Santa will arrive via
a fire truck.



Thank you to Mrs. York and
the MS & HS bands for
performing at the Veterans
Day Assemblies!

LES Principal & Navy
Veteran, Sarah Dinkins,
spoke about her experience
and the life lessons she took
away (teamwork, resilience,
respect, and honor) that
have carried over into her
role as an educator.

Thank you for your service!



The Lind-Ritzville Cooperative complies with all state and federal rules and regulations and does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, veteran or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression, gender identity, disability, or the use of trained dog guide or service animal, and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts of America and other designated youth groups. Inquiries regarding compliance and/or grievance procedures may be directed to Lind-Ritzville Cooperative Schools Title IX RCW 28A.640 Officer, Don Walker, 209 E Wellsandt Ave., Ritzville, WA 99169 or 509-659-1660. Title IX/Chapter 28A.640 RCW Officer: Mr. Don Walker, Principal 209 E Wellsandt Ave Ritzville WA 99169 Phone: 509-659-1660 or Mr. Don Walker, Principal PO Box 340 Lind WA 99341 Phone: 509-677-3481

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