

THE LEOPARD LEGACY- BY NIKKI FLINN

The Importance of School Attendance



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Superintendent
USD 298

Education is one of the most significant building blocks in a person's life. It molds individuals into what they will become for the rest of their lives. Education develops skills, values, and knowledge that will serve them throughout their lives. The importance of education in a student's life is immeasurable, as it empowers them to reach their full potential, overcome challenges, and create a positive impact in the world around them.

Despite the importance of education, one aspect remains a challenge for many students – regular school attendance. The seemingly minor act of missing just two days of school a month can accumulate rapidly, creating a significant disruption to academic progress. Though it is easy for students and parents to think that just missing a day here or there is not a big deal, it can quickly add up to significant amounts of time in the student's academic success.

Let's consider the impact of missing two days a month. While this might seem inconsequential in

the short term, the consequences compound over time. Missing a single school day means missing discussions, lectures, and practice that reinforce learning. Student's also miss out on peer and teacher interaction, collaboration, and problem solving.

The numbers tell a striking story and it's not just one day. If a student misses two days per month, that's about 20 school days a year. The student will miss approximately 30 hours of math over the school year. They will miss about 60 hours of reading and writing in that year. If this same student continues this habitual act they will miss over 1 year of school by the time they graduate. In most cases, these absences lead to gaps in knowledge and understanding and make it increasingly difficult to catch up with peers. Could you imagine if we continue to think it is just two days of school a month? The numbers tell a different story.

While one missed day might seem insignificant today, the consequences stretch far beyond the classroom. When students miss school regularly, they begin to develop poor habits that can carry into adulthood. Could you imagine missing two days of work a month? Not only would it impact your pay-

check it would most likely impact your job. It is important as adults, parents, and educators we teach our students the importance of attendance in everything we do. Students need to understand that being dependable, being on time, and be present are all skills that are taught in the school setting, but are used throughout the rest of their lives.

When the reasons for missing school seem small, the long-term impact should not be overlooked. Regular school attendance is the cornerstone of academic success and personal development. We must encourage and prioritize regular attendance to ensure that every student has the opportunity to thrive. By making school attendance a priority, we give students the tools they need to succeed in both their academic endeavors and in life beyond the classroom.

Regular attendance helps students develop a strong work ethic, responsibility, time management, and commitment. The next time we think it's just one missed school day, let's remember the numbers add up quickly and decisions today can have a lasting impact on our student's lives tomorrow.

It's always a great day to be a Leopard!

Proverbial wisdom: ‘One kind word can warm three winter months.’

By J. Basil Dannebohm
When news begins to spread that Jack Frost is planning a visit, prudence prompts us to prepare. Bread, milk, and tissue become hot commodities. Those who are especially vigilant take it a step further, purchasing cat litter for automobile traction and ice melt for slippery sidewalks. At some point during the latest arctic blast, you probably heard a great piece of advice: “Bring your pets inside.” For most of us, our pets are like family. Thus, ensuring their safety is paramount.

While we rightly have concern about the welfare of pets, something often overlooked in the litany of storm preparedness advice is perhaps the most noble: checking in on your neighbors. Even as the snow is melting and clouds give way to sunnier skies, the advice is still timely. Checking in on your neighbors doesn't merely mean making sure they have the essentials for surviving a snowstorm.

We've arrived at the time of the year that is sometimes referred to as “the bleak midwinter.” These are often the coldest months with the harshest weather. Though the winter solstice has passed and the sunsets are slowly beginning to arrive later, our hearts are growing restless awaiting spring's awakening. This is the time of year when even the most optimistic people sometimes find themselves weighed down by the cold void of the season.

There's an old Japanese proverb that says, “One kind word can warm three winter months.” As luck would have it, there are roughly three months of winter remaining.

Lebanese-American writer Kahlil Gibran once noted, “Tenderness and kindness are not signs of weakness and despair, but manifestations of strength and resolution.”

Kindness is not the same as unconditional acceptance. It's a step above tolerance and a step below love. It has been proven remarkably beneficial for the health and well-being of your body, mind, and soul. Kindness can be ex-

uded by anyone, to anyone. You can demonstrate it to friends and strangers alike. You can even extend kindness to your enemies. Likewise, it can be given to those with whom you don't agree with politically, who profess different creeds, hail from a different background, and even those who are from a different social status.

In this age of putting forth a tough guise, often for the sake of perceived self-preservation, we tend to regard kindness as weakness. President Franklin Roosevelt echoed Gibran's wisdom when he said, “Human kindness has never weakened the stamina or softened the fiber of a free people. A nation does not have to be cruel to be tough.”

Just as there is a broad definition of kindness, it's similarly worth noting that the term neighbor doesn't exclusively apply to the people on your block. Perhaps a more fitting word would be community. Neighbors include the people who are often overlooked: the shut-ins, the sick, the single mom, the widow or widower, the homesick college student, the veteran, the first responder. Nobody is immune to the seasonal effects on the heart and mind that tend to accompany winter — especially in par-

ticularly polarizing times.

Consider carving out a little time to make a phone call, sending a handwritten letter or card, or a little thoughtful item to someone in your community. If you're a bit more extroverted, ask somebody out for a cup of coffee or invite an overlooked friend to dinner. Even the simplest act can make a meaningful impact. For example, if you see somebody in the grocery store, go out of your way to say hello and genuinely inquire how that person is doing. Smile and say hello to the stranger you pass on the street. Just as the definitions of kindness and neighbor are broad, so too are the ways you can, as the proverb says, warm the winter months for someone.

Take advantage of these remaining winter months to master the art of giving someone a portion of your heart rather than a piece of your mind. There's plenty of noise in the world. As the classic song goes, “What the world needs now, is love, sweet love. No, not just for some, but for every one of us.”

J. Basil Dannebohm is a writer, speaker, consultant, former legislator and intelligence. His website is www.dannebohm.com. He writes from the Washington DC metro in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Legal Notice

(First Published in Lincoln Sentinel-Republican on Wednesday, January 8, 2025)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF LINCOLN COUNTY, KANSAS

In the Matter of the Estate of)

)

DONALD DEAN WOLTING,) Case No.: LC-2024-PR-000018

a/k/a Donald D. Wolting, Deceased)

)

(Pursuant to Chapter 59 K.S.A.)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are hereby notified that on December 20, 2024, a Petition for Probate of Will and Issuance of Letters Testamentary Under the Kansas Simplified Estates Act was filed in this Court by Angela Haag, the sole heir and only child of Donald Dean Wolting, a/k/a Donald D. Wolting, deceased.

All creditors of the above-named decedent are notified to exhibit their demands against the estate within four (4) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, as provided by law, and if their demands are not thus exhibited, they shall be forever barred.

/s/ Angela Haag, Petitioner

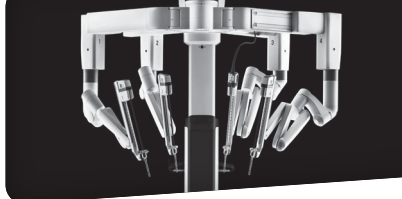
Submitted by:

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SURGICAL EXPERTISE.



Stacy Jones, M.D., Leah Speaks, M.D., Jesse Gray, M.D., Justin Klaassen, D.O.



The surgeons of Salina Regional Surgical Associates are highly skilled in general surgery and trauma care.

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- anti-reflux surgery.

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Legal Notice

(First Published in Lincoln Sentinel-Republican on Wednesday, December 4, 2024)

NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS

Notice is hereby given that the tax rolls of Lincoln County, Kansas, for the year 2024 have been placed in my hands and that I will attend to receiving of taxes in the Lincoln County Treasurer's Office in Lincoln, Kansas, beginning November 1, 2024.

The Lincoln County Treasurer's Office business hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday for the purpose of receiving taxes charged on the rolls for the year 2024. The law declares that each person charged with taxes, real estate, personal or intangible, on the tax rolls in the hands of the County Treasurer may, at his or her option, pay the full amount of such tax on or before December 20, 2024, or one-half on or before December 20, 2024, and the remaining one-half on or before May 10, 2025. Advance or partial payments will be accepted.

Leann Johnson, Lincoln County Treasurer

LINCOLN COUNTY, KANSAS 2024 TAX LEVIES

Population - 2,920									
STATE	K.S.A.	2024 Value	Value Comparison		2024 Levy	Levy Comparison		2023 Levy	Total Change
			2023 Value	Total Change		2023 Levy	Total Change		
State Educational Bldg	76-6b01	65,334,703	65,109,337	225,366	1.000	1.000	0.000		
State Institutions Bldg	76-6b04	65,334,703	65,109,337	225,366	0.500	0.500	0.000		
TOTAL STATE					1.500	1.500	0.000		

COUNTY									
General	79-1945	65,334,703	65,109,337	225,366	40.015	37.330	2.685		
Road & Bridge	68-5.101	65,334,703	65,109,337	225,366	26.510	24.230	2.280		
Spectal Bridge	68-1135	65,334,703	65,109,337	225,366	3.042	3.526	-0.484		
Noxious Weed	2-1318	65,334,703	65,109,337	225,366	1.158	1.640	-0.482		
Law Enforcement	12-11a01	65,334,703	65,109,337	225,366	0.896	0.910	-0.014		
County Health	65-204	65,334,703	65,109,337	225,366	1.879	0.521	1.358		
Ambulance	65-6113	65,334,703	65,109,337	225,366	4.835	4.738	0.097		
Employee Benefits	12-16.102	65,334,703	65,109,337	225,366	16.657	27.885	-11.228		
TOTAL COUNTY					94.992	100.180	-5.188		

FIRE DISTRICTS									
Barnard	19-3610	6,212,470	6,322,746	-110,276	3.729	3.622	0.107		
Beverly	19-3610	12,922,584	13,246,643	-324,059	3.057	2.985	0.072		
First	19-3610	8,803,282	15,110,525	-6,307,243	4.128	4.131	-0.003		
Hunter	19-3610	15,121,077	9,001,011	6,120,066	2.773	2.671	0.102		
Sylvan Grove	19-3610	14,971,599	14,762,669	208,930	2.237	2.269	-0.032		
*Ottawa	19-3610	71,130	73,930	-2,800	1.887	1.877	0.010		

CEMETERIES									
Free Mission	17-1330	1,639,993	1,687,486	-47,493	0.366	0.356	0.010		
Rosette	17-1330	1,972,694	2,051,479	-78,785	0.483	0.464	0.019		
Spillman	17-1330	4,769,912	4,873,424	-103,512	0.452	0.443	0.009		
Vesper	17-1330	1,199,681	1,202,806	-3,125	1.668	1.663	0.005		

WATERSHEDS									
Salt Creek	24-1219	7,263,115	7,449,267	-186,152	2.641	2.538	0.103		
Spillman Creek	24-1219	16,550,383	16,685,330	-134,947	1.199	1.179	0.020		

MISC. DISTRICTS									
*Post Rock Ext Dist.	2-625	65,334,703	65,109,337	225,366	1.963	1.419	0.544		
*CKL General	75-2551	56,511,126	57,111,931	-600,805	1.287	1.273	0.014		
*CKL Employee Ben	12-16.102	56,511,126	57,111,931	-600,805	0.177	0.235	-0.058		
*Central Kansas Library Total					1.464	1.508	-0.044		

TOWNSHIPS									
Battle Creek	79-1962	1,476,491	1,551,079	-74,588	1.186	1.129	0.057		
Beaver	79-1962	2,462,908	2,467,217	-4,309			0.000		
Cedron	79-1962	2,979,450	2,970,486	8,964			0.000		
Colorado	79-1962	3,406,175	3,550,251	-144,076	1.854	1.794	0.060		
Elkhorn	79-1962	4,372,295	4,366,281	6,014			0.000		
Franklin	79-1962	1,942,617	2,012,517	-69,900			0.000		
Golden Belt	79-1962	2,074,441	2,066,345	8,096	0.483	0.484	-0.001		
Grant	79-1962	2,995,037	3,030,724	-35,687			0.000		
Hanover	79-1962	1,972,694	2,051,479	-78,785			0.000		
Highland	79-1962	4,133,666	3,965,596	168,070			0.000		
Indiana	79-1962	2,926,012	2,953,913	-27,901			0.000		
Logan	79-1962	1,268,840	1,314,184	-45,344	0.276	0.266	0.010		
Madison	79-1962	4,935,588	5,052,820	-117,232	1.419	1.386	0.033		
Marion	79-1962	7,156,056	7,110,240	45,816			0.000		
Orange	79-1962	1,790,462	1,902,938	-112,476			0.000		
Pleasant	79-1962	2,584,824	2,654,854	-70,030	0.958	0.985	-0.027		
Salt Creek	79-1962	2,248,610	2,283,003	-34,393	2.645	2.606	0.039		
Scott	79-1962	1,585,506	1,625,502	-39,996	1.924	1.886	0.038		
Valley	79-1962	1,341,081	1,342,250	-1,169			0.000		
Vesper	79-1962	1,963,350	1,956,476	6,874			0.000		

UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICTS					CITIES				
	USD 298	USD299	*USD 112	*USD 239		Barnard	Beverly	Lincoln Center	Sylvan Grove
K.S.A.	72-5142	72-5142	72-5142	72-5142	K.S.A.	12-101a	12-101a	12-101a	12-101a
General Fund Value	36,232,522	17,723,518	594,960	507,310	2024 Value	254,596	640,427	7,232,561	1,591,016
2023 Value	38,747,752	18,803,132	607,661	526,003	2023 Value	251,131	632,645	6,591,813	1,405,593
Total Change	-2,515,230	-1,079,614	-12,701	-18,693	Total Change	3,465	7,782	640,748	185,423
General	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	General	56,148	25,202	30,080	43,000
Other Funds Value	43,333,198	20,775,090	667,986	558,429	Bond & Interest	39,000		8,593	5,710
2023 Value	43,213,626	20,686,455	650,664	558,592	Employee Ben.		2,854	12,656	
Total Change	119,572	88,635	17,322	-163	Sp Liability Ins.				
Sup. General	20,911	16,879	10,677	16,176	Street				
Capital Outlay	7,498	5,977	7,862	7,719	2024 Levy	95.148	25.202	41.527	61.366
Bond & Interest				9,955	2023 Levy	96.815	26.698	45.563	69.462
2024 TOTAL LEVY	48.409	42.856	38.539	53.850	Total Change	-1.667	-1.496	-4.036	-8.096
2023 Levy	47.322	40.259	39.023	53.158					
Total Change	1.087	2.597	-0.484	0.692					

Big ads get noticed - small ads do too!