

Site Report – Tanalian – December 2023/January 2024

To: Superintendent Kasie Luke
and LPSD School Board Members

From: Nate Davis, Principal

Outstanding Activities and Events

The Lynx played Volleyball at State and got third place! They also came home with the Sportsmanship award! Girls and Boys Basketball practice started the day after everyone arrived home from state VB.

On Dec 9th, Student Government did a pizza and root beer float fundraiser while hosting the community Christmas Bazaar. There are so many talented and crafty people in town!

Our staff Christmas party was presented as a traditional “White Elephant Party and Cookie Exchange”. But staff surprised Shane and Chloe when they took all their hard-fought gifts and put them at the feet of the engaged couple- turning it into a shower of gifts for their upcoming wedding on Dec 21.



The HS and JH classes had Christmas parties with gift exchanges too.



The Tanalian School Musical performance was on Dec 17. The students practiced quite a bit and, thanks to teacher Patty Alsworth, did a great job! Mrs. Metzgar and the HS students made Yarrow salve as their community gift this year - and handed it out to everyone after the performance.



Christmas break was Dec 21-Jan 7. Both staff and students were excited to enjoy all the wintery weather!

Jan 8 classes started back up with most families back from their holiday adventures. And Jan 10 all of our basketball players went to Anchorage for a 10 day road trip. Almost everyone got sick, but they did their best on the court.



Then on Jan 24 both basketball teams went to the Sockeye Tournament in Dillingham for 5 days.

Pee wee BBall is going well on Saturdays from 2-4pm. It's wonderful to have our little ones learning these skills and willing grownups to teach.



We had two new students join us for the spring semester: 10th grader Tyler Smith is back from Military Academy, and 9th grader Kaydi Sandford transferred from Idaho for the semester.

The first week back to school after break, Health Aide Kumi Rattenbury came by for several days to do health screening with the students.

MAPS Testing was Jan 15-18, Teacher Inservice was Jan 20, 26-29, and the LPSD Teacher/Principal Surveys were completed by Jan 31.

Personnel

Just before Christmas break, both our student teachers, Mckenna Oesterly and John Speyer, finished up their time with us and headed back to their hometowns - the kids and staff enjoyed both of them and hope they can return again. John even bought fancy cookies as a thank you to students and staff before he left!

Our new student teacher, Emily Pugliese, arrived from Pennsylvania on Jan 9. She'll mainly be working with Mrs. Metzgar in the HS English class, but plans to do some observing in other classes.

Cook Lisa was out for almost all of December taking care of her sick and dying auntie. Janine stepped in and did a great job filling in for her in the kitchen.

Standards Based System/Curriculum Progress

The Davis Family Homeschool took advantage of the early freeze over to work together to make an ice igloo, working on standards for Cultural Awareness and science (physics of structures).



Technology Insights

Both the Office and Library printers have had issues producing clean printouts, but recently started to work better. A new toner cartridge helped the Office printer, and we are still trouble shooting the library printer. Internet is working well and much more consistent and speedier than in prior years.

Facility Update

There was a scheduled village wide power outage on Dec 5th from 3:30-4pm - our emergency backup lights worked great. On Dec 8th and Jan 15th we tested the school Fire alarm - it's in fine working condition.

LSAC Activity

LSAC met on Dec 6th and voted their members into positions: Heidi Wilder - Pres, Leo Fowler - VP, Elisha Wegner - Sec, Eric Davidson - Seat C., Jen Opland - Alternate... they are gearing up for their annual Super Bowl pizza fundraiser to support the Linda Johnson Memorial Scholarship. Many of our LSAC members are also participating in the LSAC training from AASB.

Volunteer Report

Patty Alsworth resumed Music Mondays when the second semester started... students and parents and teachers are very thankful for this important training in the arts.

The Nahdee family and Shane Mullins are training up the next generation with a Saturday PeeWee Basketball club for elementary students.

Professional Development

About half of our certified teaching staff traveled to Anchorage for the RTI/MTSS conference, while the others participated via distance... though, with some limitations due to RTI technology. In addition, a couple of other teachers have been taking college classes on their own time.

Pupil Attendance

We started in January with many absences due to family vacations or sickness and sometimes both. We also had basketball students traveling on a school sponsored trip and so were not technically absent, but the school felt their absence. Much schoolwork was done by students on the 10-day school trip, as it was sent by teachers and work supervised by coaches.

Student and Staff Safety

We are just trying to stay warm! Port Alsworth has enjoyed about two weeks of below zero weather which froze over the entire Lake Clark... making all the winter lovers very happy with about 2-feet of ice after several days of 30 degrees below zero. Late January is about the earliest it freezes over, so there is much excitement in the village for traveling, trapping, firewood, and winter adventures.

Subsistence Calendar

Teachers always come back from Christmas break feeling the pressure of finishing all the standards before May as the semester-long lesson planning intersects with the school year subsistence calendar. We are gearing up for Battle of the Books and statewide testing before the week of SNAP.

Other



Students reading for the Wednesday Iditaread Club and just for fun in their free time.