



# LPSD SHINING STARS, MAY, 2025



NAME	LOCATION	REASON	NOMINATOR, POSITION
JW Newton	Port Heiden	JW is the glue for the school and community. Though not officially the principal, he steps into that leadership role with grace, strength, and unwavering commitment whenever needed. His presence brings a sense of calm, consistency, and care that our students, staff, and families rely on. From ensuring that every corner of the school is running smoothly to being the first to notice and resolve even the smallest issue, JW is the person everyone turns to. His work often happens behind the scenes, but its impact is felt in every classroom and hallway. What makes JW truly shine is his deep and genuine care for all students, from the tiniest preschoolers just starting their journey to the seniors preparing to take their next steps in the world. He sees each child as an individual and is a steady source of support and encouragement for them all. As a parent and member of our local school advisory committee, I see firsthand the difference JW makes. His leadership is rooted in kindness, integrity, and a belief in every student's potential. JW is more than an educator, he is a guiding light in our school, and a true Shining Star.	Toni Christensen, Parent
Ed and Marcie Lester	Newhalen	Ed and Marcie put in long hours to make the SNAP meet happen. The work and time that they spend making sure that everyone is fed, organized, and taken care of, ensures a smooth SNAP meet. Thank you for all you do to give our students the opportunities that the SNAP meet has to offer.	Matthew Grossman, Teacher
Eric Lancaster	Perryville	Eric has been an outstanding support for so many of our Perryville students this school year. He is a dedicated and outstanding educator who will truly be missed as he transitions on to future endeavors.	Kacy Lou Leyba, Student Services Coordinator
Evelynn Trefon	Newhalen	In many ways, Evelynn is the glue that holds SNAP Meet together. From travel arrangement to staff coordination, to simply being a listening ear when problems arise, Evelynn has been an incredible blessing to the SNAP team and I over the last few years. We are so lucky to have her!	Kacy Lou Leyba, Student Services Coordinator
Alexis Pursell	Newhalen	Alexis suffered an incredibly terrible personal loss nearly halfway through the second semester. After navigating the grief of losing her dad in the lower 48, she not only came back to work, but continued her post-grad education. Alexis is a master's student through UAA and was working on her master's degree through a program affiliated with LPSD. On top of working on her personal affairs, Miss Pursell continued to show up for her students, and herself. She completed her master's thesis and graduated with her degree on May 3rd, 2025. She continues to be a great leader to her classroom and to our community. Her strength and perseverance in and out of the classroom are nothing short of inspiring.	Gabrielle Calhoon, Teacher