

Vision: We grow self directed, life-long learners who are grounded in their culture and contribute to their communities.



Mission: We will nourish student growth by investing in partnerships and implementing culturally responsive, place based education.

Date: November 12, 2024
To: Lake and Peninsula School Board
From: Kasie Luke, Superintendent
Re: Report: November 14, 2024

Dates & Happenings:

- LPSD All sites Volleyball: November 12, Tuesday – November 15, Friday – Port Alsworth
- ASAA 5 person Basketball begins: December 4, 2024
- Mix-Six State Volleyball: December 5 – 7, 2024 – Palmer
- Bristol Bay Youth Leadership Forum (BBRCTE Sponsored): December 11 – 13, 2024 – Anchorage
- MAPS Benchmark Testing: December 16 – 20, 2024 – All Sites

Food Service Update

Updated tentative plans for each of our communities in transitioning to locally supported food service programs beginning January 2025.

Nondalton - locally supported menu and food provided by community

Newhalen/Iliamna - still making a determination

Port Alsworth - locally supported menu and food provided by community

Perryville - locally funding USDA food service program managed by LPSD

Chignik Lagoon - families will provide food for their students, no cook employed after December 2024

Port Heiden - locally supported menu and food provided by community

Chignik Lake - locally funding USDA food service managed by LPSD

Kokhanok - locally supported menu and food provided by community

Levelock - locally funding USDA food service program managed by LPSD

Igiugig - locally supported menu and food provided by community elected to begin this transition October 28, 2024 (see attached letter in Correspondence)

Once cost is determined for the continuation of the USDA food service program through December 2024, we will be putting forth a resolution for withdrawal from the Borough Assembly Endowment in support of funding this expense in Spring 2025.

Winter Vacation Dates:

Nondalton: Dec. 23 - Jan. 7 (return Jan. 8)

Port Alsworth: Dec. 23 - Jan. 7 (return Jan. 8)

Chignik Lagoon: Dec. 23 - Jan. 6 (return Jan. 7)

Chignik Lake: Dec. 23 - Jan. 9 (return Jan. 10)

Levelock: Dec. 23 - Jan. 7 (return Jan. 8)

Newhalen/Iliamna: Dec. 23 - Jan. 7 (return Jan. 8)

Perryville: Dec. 23 - Jan. 6 (return Jan. 7)

Port Heiden: Dec. 23 - Jan. 8 (return Jan. 9)

Kokhanok: Dec. 23 - Jan. 8 (return Jan. 9)

Igiugig: Dec. 23 - Jan. 10 (return Jan. 13)

Preserving Local Governance

In light of recent statewide policy trends, I want to highlight the crucial importance of maintaining local control over our schools and highlight the challenges facing Alaska's education governance. This sentiment has been shared by AASB Executive Director, Lon Garrison, bringing to light that since the last legislative session, there has been increasing pressure to centralize authority and diminish the role of local school boards. This includes proposals from state leadership (Governor and Commissioner of Education) that could allow the State Board of Education to bypass local boards, assuming the role of authorizing charter schools directly. Such moves are often justified by a claim that local boards are not supportive of parental involvement or are impeding families' rights in choosing their children's educational paths. Yet, as you know, the primary focus of the Lake and Peninsula School District has always been to support students, families, and communities by providing education that reflects and respects local needs.

Alaska's history has long valued the principle of local governance in education. Since the establishment of the first school boards in the early 20th century, community voices have been central to shaping our public schools. This foundation has allowed communities to control, oversee, and adapt their schools in response to their unique needs. Our board exemplifies this tradition, rooted in accountability to our students, communities and guided by a deep understanding of our local values.

However, recent policies from state policymakers are shifting toward a more standardized approach that may not reflect the distinct needs of every Alaskan school district, particularly in remote areas like ours. A "one-size-fits-all" approach to education does not align with the diversity of Alaska's communities. This centralization threatens the voices of families and communities who are best equipped to understand and address local educational needs.

In Lake and Peninsula School District, we know that our strength lies in our local knowledge and shared values. Local school governance allows us to make decisions that best serve our students, respecting our community's unique culture, perspectives, and aspirations. This commitment to local control has been shown time and again to be an effective model, one that is sensitive to the individual needs of students in our district.

As a school board, your role in maintaining and advocating for local governance is vital. As we face these challenges, it is important that we continue to champion the values of community-centered education and the right to self-governance. Our mission remains clear: to ensure each child in our district has access to a high-quality education shaped by and for the community in which they live.

I am confident that by working together, we can preserve the integrity and effectiveness of local education in LPSD. I appreciate your dedication and steadfast support of our students and communities.