

★ LPSD SHINING STARS, FEBRUARY, 2025 ★

| NAME | LOCATION | REASON | NOMINATOR, POSITION |
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| JW Netwon | Port Heiden | JW is a great communicator and I very much appreciate this. Never do I feel that asking anything of him is asking too much. In fact, we've begun to set up recurring meetings every 3 or 4 weeks to discuss our shared students as well as life in general. I'm glad that he's with us. | Christian Meneskie, Distance Math Teacher |
| Sherri Davis | Port Alsworth | Sherri Davis has always been here for my class and for me. She knows what she is doing. She is patient, kind and gentle, yet firm with the kids. I have never worked with anyone who loves helping these kids so fully and wants them to learn so fully . I am so proud to have become her friend and when she is gone from class she is missed. She is a shining star, a good Christian, who lets her light shine! | Patti Brock, Teacher |
| Beth Hill | Kokhanok | I was inspired to see Board Member Beth Hill at the MOCHA training I attended in Anchorage. Beth always brings fresh ideas and heartfelt perspective to Board Meetings. It was wonderful to see district leadership on the ground contributing to the important work put into our language revitalization program completed through BBRCTE in partnership with BBNC. We all shared stories and a big happy cry and got to know each other's unique backgrounds and celebrate the contributions we each get to make at such a critical time in preserving the regions' cultures. Quayana! Chin'an! Iirpak for all the work you do to benefit our students and the generations to come! | Valerie Heinrichs, Accountant |
| Joann Lester | Iliamna | This week, Newhalen School hosted a Mix-3 Basketball Camp, and Joann generously volunteered her time to cook breakfast and dinner for our visiting teams. Her dedication and kindness ensured that everyone was well-fed and cared for. Quayana Joann for always being willing to lend a helping hand and showing up and supporting our students! | Patricia McCasland, Career Guide |
| Carl Adams | King Salmon | This past fall, our water heater went out and flooded our crawl space. Carl worked diligently to get temporarily get hot water back in our house, and when our new hot water heater came in a few days later, he spent many hours crawling around below our house getting it up and going again. In addition, he let me and my kids tag along and "help" and showed us how to solder the pipes and how everything works. He had a great attitude and was very kind to me and my family the whole time. I appreciate the quality work that Carl does to keep our district running - and he does it with kindness and a smile. Thank you! | Matthew Grossman, Teacher |
| Beth Hill | Kokhanok | Beth is an incredible role model in our district. She truly embodies our mission and vision of growing life-long learners who are grounded in their culture. Her genuine care and belief in the potential of every student is evident in everything she does. Beth's dedication to preserving and sharing cultural knowledge, values, and language is inspiring and creates a lasting impact in our communities. She approaches challenges with grace and determination, modeling what it means to lead with compassion and purpose. I am grateful for her passion and leadership, which continues to empower and inspire students and staff and community alike. We are incredibly lucky to have Beth as part of our district. Quayana for your leadership Beth! | Patricia McCasland, Career Guide |
| Beth Hill | Kokhanok | Beth, thank you for all of the ways you invest in our communities in LPSD. You bring beauty and light here through your art, as well as through your dedication as an LPSD board member and member of the language revitalization program. You inspire me regularly. Quyanavaa. | Kacy Lou Leyba, Student Services Coordinator |
| Nina Garner | Chignik Lake | Nina Garner goes above and beyond and is the foundation of everything in our school. She is consistent, thorough, warm and welcoming. She treats all those she comes in contact with kindness and respect and immediately makes those around her comfortable. She has a wonderful sense of humor and keeps all of us smiling in the school building. The work she does with our pre-school students is so important and the students are excited to be at school everyday. The students are engaged and learning as she prepares them for kindergarten. Ms. Nina also works in our elementary classroom with the kindergarten students. These students have their letter knowledge and the love of learning because of her. Her students often say, "I want to be Ms. Nina when I grow up!" This is probably the highest compliment anyone could receive. Ms. Nina you are appreciated for all you do. | Melody Schilke, Principal |
| Chelsea Nelson | Newhalen | I would like to nominate Miss Chelsea for a shining star. Last semester, she was working on getting her hours to get her certification to become a principal. She stepped up and took charge of many situations as head teacher. I really appreciate her leadership and positive attitude. Quayana Chelsea! | Evelynn Trefon, Staff/LSAC |

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| Katharine Smith | Palmer | Katharine Smith is the administrative assistant at BBRCTE. She is an AMAZING and invaluable asset to the BBRCTE staff. Katharine is often tasked with a wide variety of jobs, but she manages them gracefully. I don't know what all she has to do (seems like the list is always growing haha), but she is our point person for travel arrangements, setting up meetings, and general communications. She really does an excellent job at keeping our staff running with as few hiccups as possible, and we sure are a wiley bunch of folks to manage. Katharine is always so pleasant and friendly to work with, even when it's odd hours of the day, as well as patient and understanding. She is someone I know I can count on, whether professionally or personally. I really, truly appreciate getting to work with her. She is our Shining Star! | Noelle Bowe, Career Guide |
| Ed Lester | Newhalen | This past week, Newhalen School hosted a basketball camp, and Ed's leadership truly stood out. When the camp's coach had to cancel at the last minute, Ed stepped up without hesitation, taking on the role of coach and ensuring the camp went on seamlessly. Even though it made for really long days, he did it all with a positive attitude, humor, and a smile. Ed's adaptability and positive attitude made all the difference. His commitment to our students and community is nothing short of outstanding and we are so lucky to have him as a strong leader in our district. He truly embodies our mission and vision in our district. Thank you, Ed, for your hard work and heart. | Patricia McCasland, Career Guide |
| Micarlo Christensen | Port Heiden | I am nominating Micarlo Christensen for a Shining Star. Micarlo is a dedicated participant in our BBRCTE programming. Last week, there was a village-wide blackout in Port Heiden and Micarlo jumped right in and applied his electrician training he has received to help connect generators to community member's homes and the tribal building. Despite it being a high stress situation and navigating cold and challenging conditions, Carlo worked late into the night, working to ensure that his community acquired the power they needed in an emergency. Micarlo's leadership, quick thinking, resilience, and commitment to his community exemplifies the spirit of the Shining Star. We couldn't be more proud of you Carlo! | Patricia McCasland, Career Guide |
| Marcie Lester | Newhalen | I would like to nominate Marcie for a Shining Star award for her unwavering dedication and support to Newhalen School, especially this month during the Mix-3 Basketball Camp. She is an enthusiastic and positive presence, providing encouragement by cheering for all teams and fostering a welcoming and spirited environment. Her kindness and willingness to help makes such a difference. Thank you for being such a shining star in our community Marcie! | Patricia McCasland, Career Guide |
| Audrey O'Domin | Perryville | Audrey O'Domin is a key member of the community and staff for Perryville and Lake and Peninsula School District. She often goes above and beyond her job duties. For example: Audrey is continuing the cultural traditions of Perryville by volunteering her time, her beads, and her expertise to help students complete their capstone projects. She is committed to continuing the Alutiiq language and traditions that have been passed down for generations. Her goal is to strengthen and teach the importance to the next generation. She also continues to pour love and after school events for preschool students. Here classroom is fun and engaging. | Melody Schilke, Principal |
| Kylene Blossom | Igiugig | Kylene has stepped up to the plate more times than I can even count for not only myself but the entire school. She has subbed in every room, cooked lunch, taught interesting science courses, broadened our knowledge of fire, and lifted our spirits..... I could go on and on. She deserves to be recognized every day. | Stephanie Canning, Teacher |
| Igiugig's Tribal Stewardship Office | Igiugig | Mary, Bill, and April, our students and staff cannot thank you enough for the skills and lessons you are teaching us. What a great experience it was for our kids to help cater an event for the community. And the blackish! How awesome was it to be able to look at those creatures under the microscope thanks to you? I especially want to say quyanaqvaa for the opportunity for everyone to learn about fire and fire safety. It's amazing to see our kids showcase their knowledge to the community and be excited about it. The partnership you have developed with our student government, one I hope will continue for years to come, not only shows our students what they can do to be active in their community but also how to be proud of the work they are doing in their communities. Quyana! | Stephanie Canning, Teacher |
| Nicole Metzgar | Port Alsworth | Nicole Metzgar is not only an effective veteran teacher with delightful student projects portrayed around the school, but steps forward in so many ways to make our school and district better. She is our district Curriculum Director, guiding curriculum, training, and accurate records. She has just qualified yet another Tanalian student to the state championships Poetry Out Loud contest. She is our girls basketball coach, leading them to another great season and advocating for their future. Among other things, Mrs. Metzgar is also creating new writing contests for her students, instigating and leading Christmas programs, and is an all-around fully involved educator here at Tanalian. Mrs. Metzgar, Tanalian School salutes you as a Shining Star! | Nate Davis, Principal |

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| Lisa Rivas | Port Alsworth | Lisa Rivas is the region's famous cook and she not only blesses Tanalian students with delicious foods, but also blesses all their sports guests. In addition, when the lunch program was cut, Lisa demonstrated an it's-okay-we-can-do-this attitude from the very beginning. She is a great team player with our Lunch Bank committee and goes above and beyond in Lunch Bank fundraisers. We created a Lynx 50/50 Cafe' as a school team approach to raising funds for our new lunch program, whereby Lisa brainstorms the menus, and then the Student Government helps in the kitchen, decorations, serving, and cleanup. Lisa also loves to bless others with big parties and she just spearheaded a very successful Lynx 50/50 Cafe' Sweetheart Banquet, making it a night to remember for dozens of community members. Lisa Rivas, Port Alsworth salutes you! You are a Shining Star! | Nate Davis, Principal |
| Brandey Voran | Port Alsworth | Brandey Voran is a longterm well-loved "Aunt Brandey" successful teacher... well-loved by students, parents, and colleagues alike. She is a great part of our educational team, adding great insight and helping us work out difficult scheduling situations. In addition, she is always going above and beyond. For example, most know of Tanalian school's high school volleyball team's success, but few outside Port Alsworth know that it starts with Coach Brandey as she annually coaches our 4th-7th graders for a six-week season, giving them the instinctual skill they will need for high school. She also spearheads our school Spelling Bee, coaches very successful Battle of the Books teams, and is always ready to say, "yes" to mentor a student-teacher to aide our teacher recruiting efforts. Brandey Voran, LPSD salutes you! You are a Shining Star! | Nate Davis, Principal |
| Patti Brock | Port Alsworth | Patti Brock is a longtime LPSD teacher who achieves great learning results in her K-2 classroom, managing aides and student teachers to best effect. In addition, she puts in long hours on many evenings and weekends supervising our high school Student Government's many activities. She has also just earned her Science of Reading endorsement after extra classes, while in the same year she has also jumped in as our first mentor in the new Teacher Apprenticeship program. This program allows her to directly mentor our pre-school teacher, but also requires Mrs. Brock to take extra college classes and attend group meetings and assignments. Where does she find the time? Patti Brock, LPSD salutes you! You are a Shining Star! | Nate Davis, Principal |
| Cam Metzgar | Port Alsworth | Cam Metzgar is a veteran teacher who has earned great success in the classroom, demonstrated in part by his students scoring some of the highest scores in the state on state and national assessments. In addition, Mr. Metzgar is frequently inspiring his students to participate with their best efforts in a variety of academic competitions, producing many award winners: from naming an Alaska State Ferry "The Tazlina," to a state championship in Battle of the Books, to winning state and nationwide writing contests, you can find Mr. Metzgar behind the scenes- the wind beneath their wings! Also, Cam is our resident Tech Liaison and jumps in to help wherever asked. Cam Metzgar, LPSD salutes you! You are a Shining Star! | Nate Davis, Principal |
| Mark McGee | Port Alsworth | Mark McGee is one of our super-volunteers. For years, he has been helping with all of our home games and tournaments as an organizer and scorekeeper and in recent years as a certified official. He still does all that and is constantly watching video clips and frequenting officials training websites to improve his own game on his own time. In addition, he is mentoring younger officials, Tanalian alumni, and teaching them as much as he can, encouraging them to be involved and to give back to the games they love. He has also taken on the task of statistician for our volleyball and basketball, spending hours and hours watching students and giving coaches valuable insight through actual gam stats- as well as saving them time by loading stats into MaxPreps. Mark McGee, LPSD salutes you! You are a Shining Star! | Nate Davis, Principal |
| Teagann Smith | Port Alsworth | Teagann Smith is a superstar servant leader for Tanalian School. She has not only excelled in learning by meeting all graduation requirements, but has also taken several college classes as well. Teagann has done all this while serving on Student Government for several years, including as our President for these last two years. She has co-led our transition to a local Lunch Bank to feed students, by strategizing with our Head Cook for hours at a time on 50/50 events, just finishing a fabulous Sweetheart Banquet by the Lynx 50/50 Cafe'. Also, as SG President, she has spearheaded, with much intent and energy, the building of a weightlifting/fitness room, including research, funding, and acquisition. LPSD salutes Teagann Smith! You are a Shining Star! | Nate Davis, Principal |