

Date: December 5, 2022

To: LPSD School Board

From: Stephen Fink on behalf of the LPSD Counseling Team

Regarding: November Counseling Report

Earlier this month, Kacy Lou was able to attend the Alaska School Counselor's Association yearly conference in Anchorage. There, she joined with school counselors from all over the state to participate in training and networking. She returned with many resources that we are excited to offer our students, from post-secondary career options to new mental health strategies.

During that time, Stephen was in Port Alsworth for the volleyball regional tournament. Students attended from almost every village in the district, coming together to play volleyball and connect with each other. We are very thankful for all the hard work from that staff member that make these opportunities possible. They are so valuable to our students. We strive to make them positive and encouraging experiences for our students.

More recently, Stephen was able to make a site visit to Kokhanok for a few days to give classroom lessons on social/emotional topics and met with older students for post-secondary planning. Stephen's goal at the beginning of the semester was to visit each of his sites before the Christmas break. Unfortunately, there are still two sites—Perryville and Chignik Lagoon—he hasn't been able to visit yet, but that will hopefully happen soon after the break.

Thanks to Kacy, our website is back up and running at LPSD.COM. There is an updated Scholarship List, along with many valuable resources for teachers and students. Kacy has also been pioneering the newly updated AkCIS resources with her sites for some of their employability standards. While we have used this resource for years now, students seem to be responding positively to the updated, more user-friendly version. Along with this, we have both been continuing our daily responsibilities of responding to counseling referrals, meeting students one-on-one and in groups as needs arise, as well as meeting with students about college and career planning.

On that note we would like to Congratulate Aileen Lester from Newhalen and Ellah Wardell from Port Alsworth for being selected as semi-finalists for the Coca-Cola Scholar Award, chosen from over 91,000 applicants nationwide for their academic excellence, leadership, and service demonstrated in school and community activities. We hope the best for these ladies as they work to become finalists!

Coming up is the Bristol Bay Youth Leadership Forum. We will have a handful of students from Meshik and Perryville attending the three-day forum in Anchorage this week. Also, some of our students will be taking the ACT test on December 10. This is a great opportunity we are excited to offer our students who are interested in college after graduation. Next week some of our upper classmen will be able to virtually attend a seminar put together by the Department of Education and the Department of Labor about transitioning into the workforce after graduation.

Looking forward, we are putting together a few opportunities in January and February for our students. These include a presentation with an Air Force recruiter, and a Mental Health First Aid course with some professionals from Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association. We are grateful for the partnerships that allow for these opportunities.

Best Regards,
Stephen Fink & Kacy Lou Leyba