

Date: November 3, 2022

To: LPSD School Board

From: Kacy Lou Leyba on behalf of the LPSD Counseling Team

Regarding: November Counseling Report

October has been a busy month all throughout LPSD, but through it all our counseling team has had opportunities to engage students in a variety of capacities. Stephen traveled to be “boots on the ground” and complete site visits at Levelock, Pilot Point, Chignik Bay, and Chignik Lake this month; he also had the opportunity to chaperone State Cross-Country travel to Anchorage. Both Kacy Lou and Stephen volunteered at Cross-Country Regionals in Port Alsworth at the beginning of October in an effort to make connections with students and families around the district.

Interested juniors and sophomores throughout LPSD also participated in the PSAT NMSQT (National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test) on October 12th. We are currently in the process of registering interested seniors and juniors for the December 10th ACT test, and are proud to additionally be supporting Igiugig School alumnus Kiara Nelson as she pursues the ACT in preparation for her collegiate journey down in the Lower 48.

Several students throughout the district have reached exciting post-secondary milestones this month such as earning their private pilots license (Congratulations to Daniel Wardell and special thanks to LPSD’s partnership with BBRCTE that helped guide him to this milestone!), applying for National Honor Society Scholarships, completing their FAFSAs, attending BBRCTE intensive weeks for college credit, and receiving acceptance letters to colleges of their choice.

We have continued to partner with the Alaska Commission for Post-Secondary Education by implementing their Pre-K curriculum at several schools and are looking forward to ACPE’s Shelley Morgan Zooming in to teach their “I Know I Can” curriculum at the elementary level. Similarly, Kacy Lou has been teaching lessons on post-secondary career and college options at Tanalian and Port Heiden this month using the new AKCIS 360 Platform and plans to continue these lessons at Nondalton and Igiugig Schools throughout November.

In the realm of professional development, both school counselors participated in the Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association’s Youth Mental Health First Aid course at Fall Inservice along with over 20 other LPSD educators. This course was a catalyst for many good conversations surrounding mental health support in our rural villages and our team is looking forward to hopefully hosting an LPSD Power Hour for teachers on this topic soon.

Looking forward, Kacy Lou will be traveling to the Alaska School Counselors Conference in Anchorage from November 16th through the 19th. She is looking forward to making connections with other counselors and collecting resources to help meet the unique needs of our rural students and families. Stephen will be in Port Alsworth during that time to volunteer at the Regional and District Volleyball tournament. He is also planning site visits to Kokhanok and possibly Perryville and Chignik Lagoon after Thanksgiving.

Best Regards,

Kacy Lou Leyba & Stephen Fink