

**Date:** November 27, 2024

**To:** LPSD School Board

**From:** Kacy Lou Leyba

**Regarding:** November / December Student Services Report

While it has been a short span of time since our last report, so much has happened in the world of Student Services. The second week of November, Tanalian School hosted the Regional Volleyball tournament. It was great to connect with so many of our student athletes in person. Patty also visited PTA and did a phenomenal job of organizing an alumni panel during which current LPSD students had the opportunity to hear from LPSD graduates about their post-secondary journeys in the workforce, at trade schools, certificate programs, and at in-state and out-of-state universities. Eileen Lester from Newhalen (student athlete at Ottawa University), Daniel Wardell of Port Alsworth (private pilot currently pursuing his commercial rating in Florida), Devin Kosbruk from Perryville (studying refrigeration at AVTECH), Gwen Aaberg from Nondalton (studying aquaculture at UAS), and Angela Anelon of Iliamna (studying nursing at UAA) all joined us remotely and shared their experiences. Volleyball regionals also gave Patty and I an opportunity to begin meeting with freshmen, sophomores, and juniors about the Alaska Performance Scholarship to ensure that our students are aware of the new opportunities available to them, while also ensuring that we are in compliance with recently passed legislation.

The week after Regionals, Patty and I were able to attend the Alaska School Counselors' Association (AkSCA) Conference in Anchorage. I am excited to announce that Patty and Zach Stenson both won the prestigious AkSCA Counseling Advocate of the Year award this year for their exceptional work within BBRCTE and LPSD. It was so fun to get to watch Patty accept her award and to celebrate all of her hard work. (If you're interested in hearing what LPSD community members, alumni, current students, staff, and parents had to say about Patty in their nomination recommendations, I have a recording of the speeches from the awards ceremony that I would love to share!)

The days surrounding the conference have been filled with difficult conversations as our staff has walked alongside so many in our communities who have been impacted by loss and hardship over the past several weeks. We continue to meet with individual students for SEL, mental health check-ins, grief work, post-secondary planning, and more; it is astounding how many of those topics can weave together in a short half-hour conversation, small group, or lesson...

Many of these difficult conversations and moments of intervention with students this semester has helped to forge deeper partnerships with BBAHC & SCF Behavioral Health providers. Knowing who to call at each organization, for each site has been a work in progress for our team over the last several years and it has been sweet to begin to see the fruit of these many inquiries, as I now feel like I have made allies in both of these organizations across the district.

Similarly, we are continuing to partner with DEED and our area's public health nurse to press into topics such as trauma-engaged learning, threat assessment, and how to best talk to students of all ages about healthy relationships, violence prevention, and more. The work that we do is heavy, but I am so grateful to be a part of such an exceptional team as we carry the weight of our students' burdens and celebrate their successes everyday.

For the kids,  
Kacy Lou Leyba

Your 2024 Alaska School Counseling Advocates of the Year!



We loved celebrating our Senior student athletes at Volleyball Regionals.



A few snapshots from the awards ceremony. Congratulations to the Nondalton Warriors and Levelock Vikings – your Mixed 3 champions – and the Tanalian Lynx – your Mixed 6 champions!





Thank you, Patty and LPSD Alumn for the amazing Post-Secondary Panel at Regionals as well!

