

Date: March 16, 2023

To: LPSD School Board

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

Regarding: February / March Counseling Report

February passed quickly this year as I was LPSD's solo acting counselor while Stephen was out on paternity leave. Which, congratulations to Stephen, Annie, and their oldest daughter Rory on the birth of the newest little Fink– Irene. She is a cutie!

Stephen graciously came back from his leave a week earlier than planned when tragedy struck Port Alsworth and one of our Tanalian alum passed away in a snowmachine accident. Stephen was able to cover distance counseling for both of our sites that first week after the accident so I was able to be present with students and community members in Port Alsworth. He was able to fly to Port Alsworth the following week for two days to continue supporting our students and staff. This face-to-face time also allowed us to start making plans for this year's SNAP Meet Career Fair and National Honor Society ceremony. We are so excited to have all of our district's secondary students together for these events! If you have any suggestions for Career Fair presenters, please feel free to email either Stephen or I as we are currently sending out invitations.

Earlier in February I was able to help train the LPSD Special Education team and the majority of the Tanalian staff in the Crisis Prevention Institute's (CPI) verbal de-escalation model. Earlier this week I traveled to Igiugig to train their certified staff in verbal de-escalation for their inservice. I was also fortunate enough to spend time with several of the Igiugig secondary students and Ms. Gabbie's class while I was in Igiugig; I had a blast teaching the younger students about more complex emotions using NAMI's *Meet Little Monster* activity book. I have been incorporating this resource into several of the elementary classes that I meet with and it has been a hit thus far.

I'm looking forward to visiting Nondalton later this month for a site visit and to check in face-to-face with our soon-to-be-graduates there. I had planned to visit Port Heiden the week of the tragedy in Port Alsworth and chose to reschedule that trip to April.

As I write this update, Stephen is down in Perryville supporting their students and school community following a tragic loss there earlier this week.

While our communities have walked through some incredibly heavy things this month, I am continually astounded by the resilience of our students. It is an incredible honor to walk alongside them each day as they continue to step into a deeper knowledge of their strengths and abilities.

For the kids,
Kacy Lou Leyba