

Tanalian School Site Report, January 2022

To: Superintendent Kasie Luke
and LPSD School Board Members

From: Nate Davis, Principal (Thanks to
writing by Principal Intern, Kacy Leyba!)

Outstanding Activities and Events

- The entirety of Tanalian School came together to bring student-written, student-directed skits to life in the school's Christmas Program just before Winter Break. It was a fun opportunity for our youngest students to be coached by their high school peers and showcase their acting and leadership talent. Kudos to Nicole Metzgar for instigating and to all teachers, staff, and parent/guardians for their support. Thanks to Tanalian Bible Camp for the use of their auditorium.
- Our elementary, junior high, and high school choirs also performed several songs for the community at the Christmas Program. After all, "The best way to spread Christmas cheer, is singing loud for all to hear."
- The Student Council put on our annual Holiday Shopping Bazaar on December 7th, providing local artisans and artists an opportunity to sell their work to the community.
- Teachers supervised students in the Grand Cookie Bake as Student Government paid for ingredients, students brought favorite recipes and mixed and baked cookies, and students packaged and delivered a cookie plate gift to every household in Port Alsworth! Merry Christmas, indeed!



Left: Grades 6-7-8 Christmas Choir with skit backdrops || Right: Grades K-4 Christmas Choir with skit backdrops



Left: The Grand Cookie Bake gets prepared for delivery (with a few participants) || Right: K-12 Christmas Choir leading the audience in *Feliz Navidad*

Personnel

- Mr. and Mrs. Davis hosted a fun staff party and Secret Santa afternoon for all teachers, aides, and classified staff the Thursday before break.
- On January 13th and 14th, the Tanalian Lynx are slated to host the first boys basketball tournament of the season; Coach Morgieau is excited to lead the boys onto the court as their season begins. Our girls plan to head to Newhalen under returning coach, Sarah Hummel.
- Tanalian School Alumnus, Glen (Sasha) Alsworth III has joined our team along with fellow student teacher Grace Kenna for the spring semester. Sasha and Grace will be student teaching with Mrs. Voran and Mrs. Brock, respectively.

Standards Based System/Curriculum Progress

- Tanalian School returned to instruction in the “Green” on Monday, January 10th after a well-deserved two and a half week break.
- All students participated in MAPS benchmark testing in early December and most continue to show remarkable progress toward their academic goals and next levels of curriculum.

Technology Progress

- After a bit of a struggle and extended weather delays in December, we are hopeful that we will have a technician come out and fix our media room copy machine later this month.

Facility Update

- Our maintenance and facilities team have been working diligently to keep everything warm and operational during this winter’s exceptionally early and prolonged cold snap.

LSAC Activity

- Our LSAC is continuing to meet regularly on the first Tuesday evening of each month. They are currently brainstorming ways to draw more of the community into meetings, elections, and “happenings” within the school.
- Mrs. Heidi Wilder was elected our new LSAC president, Leo Fowler was elected vice-president, and Kacy Leyba was elected Secretary in the December officer elections.

Volunteer Report

- A special thank you to Patty Alsworth for all of her hard work preparing the various Tanalian choirs for last month’s Christmas Concert.
- A shout out in advance to all the community and parent volunteers who always jump in to make sure hosting volleyball/basketball tournaments go smoothly here at Tanalian. From snacks to referees to those who come out to cheer, we couldn’t do what we do without you!
- We are excited to have Larry the Lynx (and the student within) back with us this semester. Go Lynx!

Professional Development

- Many staff members have signed up for the Alaska RTI Virtual Conference 2022 in January.
- Our administrative team is currently researching “growth mindset” professional development opportunities and curriculum for our staff to participate in and implement throughout this semester. We are excited about this movement toward fulfilling one of our 2021-2022 School Improvement Plan goals.

Pupil Attendance

- Attendance has been strong since the return from Winter Break. We had a new student join us this semester, bringing our total Pre-K to 12th grade enrollment up to 47 students.

Student and Staff Safety

- Our TCAG (Tanalian Covid Advisory Group) members-- Matthew Grossman (teacher representative), Patty Bilbrey (clinic representative), Sonnet Smith (parent representative), and Luke Wegner (local church representative) -- continue to serve our community as needed in conjunction with our LSAC and the LPSD Covid Committee.

Subsistence Calendar

- PTA teachers continue to deliver strong instruction whether in Green, Yellow, Orange, Red, or Subsistence!
- All teachers reported that they felt like they were at a good place “pacing-wise” for curriculum delivery as of the December LSAC meeting. It’s hard to believe we are already over half-way done with this year, but we are dedicated to finishing this year strong.
- Even with the shortened subsistence calendar, PTA continues to graduate students on time or early (Nezzie Fowler graduated in September and Kaiden Fowler last December) and on PEAKS statewide

testing, 65% of students are Proficient or Advanced in Math and 75% are Proficient or Advanced in Reading, compared to 40% and 34%, respectively, statewide.

Other

Merry Christmas from our house to yours. We are very, very blessed! Wishing you the best of all blessings! -The Davis Family

