



LPSD SHINING STARS, APRIL 2024



NAME	LOCATION	REASON	NOMINATOR, POSITION
Stephanie Canning	Igiugig	During the basketball jamboree, I watched Stephanie Canning, run her classroom and the entire school as we waited for Leadership to travel in. And even upon their arrival, she was still an instrumental part of the massive success that was the jamboree. Regularly I would see principles and leaders directing each other towards Miss Canning for her leadership and guidance. She is always willing to take on more responsibility for the betterment of her students and community. She is the epitome of a shining star in our school district.	Nathan McArthur, EdTech
McKenna Fox-Campbell	Kokhanok	McKenna is always going above and beyond for her students, the school and community as well. Her students really look up and admire her. She is always the first person to help out. During Kokhanok's carnival she volunteered in the kitchen helping all weekend. She always has a smile on her face no matter. We are very thankful to have her as a teacher!	Krista Hobson, Teacher
Chariessa Askoak	Newhalen	Chariessa puts a great amount of effort into her work and serves as a role model for students. She is very talented and turns in advanced work that demonstrates her attention to detail and understanding of concepts. She comes into class prepared each day and is a focused and respectful student. Overall, she is an amazing student that every teacher would want in their class!	Sydney Boone, Teacher
Ed Lester	Newhalen	Principal Lester is supportive of all of his staff. He checks in with his teachers and helps them find solutions for problems they may be facing. Anytime I have needed help with something, I felt like Ed had my back. I am thankful for Ed and everything he does. Our school and our district are better with him on our team.	Elisabeth Ludwig, Teacher
Brandey and Carlon Voran	Port Alsworth	Most every Sunday evening for the entire school year, Brandey and Carlon Voran have opened their home up to any high school student who wanted to have help with math homework. They made the kids feel comfortable with lots of cookies and smiles. Both are really good at explaining math to teenagers. I think it is so cool that Brandey and Carlon are supporting all of the youth in Port Alsworth in learning math. Upper math levels can be very intimidating, and they both are happy to share their math knowledge with students. Thank you for making math fun and personal.	Nicole Metzgar, Teacher & Co-Curriculum Director
Sarah John	Newhalen	Sarah is an asset to our school, always ready to lend a helping hand whenever needed. Her unwavering dedication, creativity, and kindness have made a profound impact on our school community. Sarah consistently goes above and beyond her role, whether it's assisting in the classroom, creating captivating bulletin boards, baking delicious treats, or making sure Whacky Wednesday goes smoothly. She is always stepping up when needed, and her presence makes a difference. Sarah truly exemplifies the qualities of an exceptional paraeducator, and I wholeheartedly would not have made it through this year without her.	Alexis Pursell, Teacher
Dawn Wilcox	Anchorage	Dawn is simply the best. Her dedication, unwavering support, and extensive knowledge have made an indelible impact on my personal and professional growth. Dawn consistently goes above and beyond her role as a mentor, offering invaluable guidance, encouragement, and expertise. She is genuinely committed to my success and well-being, and has created a safe environment where I feel empowered to learn and grow. There is no judgment, only compassion, understanding, and a true desire to see me thrive. Although Dawn no longer serves as my Alaska State Mentor, she responds to my calls whenever I need assistance, brings sweet treats from Anchorage during her visits, and offers unwavering support in all my endeavors. I will forever be thankful for ASMP for pairing us up, and for Dawn making me into the educator I am.	Alexis Pursell, Teacher
Beth Hill	Kokhanok	Beth Hill has been amazing at organizing and supporting community events! She organized and lead the Kokhanok School moose harvest, she had local community members come and teach about skinning and cutting up the meat. She provides Yup'ik class for students. She comes in to school in the mornings and participates in the school's Morning Meeting in the gym. We are all grateful for Beth's hard work and dedication to the school and community! Quyanal!	Krista Hobson, Teacher
Colter Barnes	Kokhanok	Colter is a classroom aide this year, but he is a man of many hats! Whenever our school is short on staff he fills in and covers wherever he is needed, also with the best attitude. The students enjoy him working at the school and look to him as a role model. Quyanal for all your help Colter!	Krista Hobson, Teacher
Holly Matson	Port Heiden	Holly is a true treasure. She is such a wonderful cook; all of our students look forward to eating her delicious meals. She works hard every day to make something everyone will enjoy. I want to recognize her hard work and dedication. We love you Holly!	Katie Zimmerman, Teacher

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Holly Matson	Port Heiden	I've known Holly for only 6 months now and she has shown tremendous dedication and hard work towards Meshik school. She is so selfless and has taken such great care of these students throughout the years. There have been numerous occasions where Holly has brought her OWN food from home to feed the students in times where there wasn't enough provided by the school. Despite any personal or school conflicts, Holly is reliable and shows up no matter what. Holly is a true shining star and deserves some honest recognition!	Julia Colucci, Teacher
Dean John	Newhalen	Dean is truly the glue of our school! He is always there to help no matter the task, and helps without hesitation. Dean goes out of his way to make sure staff and students have what they need to be successful, and his impact on both students and staff is immeasurable. His genuine care and dedication is evident daily. Thank you Dean for all that you do!	Alexis Pursell, Teacher
Ed Lester and the whole Newhalen Team	Newhalen	A hearty gratitude to Ed Lester, Evelyn Trefon, and the whole Newhalen team, including the community. Thank you for hosting the SNAP meet each year. The organization, effort, and sharing of duties is phenomenal. It is a great experience for our students and for all students around the district. Thank you for creating the worthy activities and networking with others around the state to give our students the best. On behalf of the whole district, thank you very much! We appreciate you!	Nate Davis, Principal
Nicole Metzgar	Port Alsworth	A huge shout out to Nicole Metzgar for going above and beyond in so many ways! She is a longtime teacher at LPSD, but also participates and/or directs so many other activities. As the district Curriculum Director, we thank her for her part in planning all our Inservices and answering all of our day to day questions. As our girls basketball coach, we thank her for all the hours she puts into planning and running practices and her travel for all the games. As our SNAP chaperone and Speech Meet guru, we thank her for inspiring our children and holding them to high standards. We also thank her for participating in the mentoring program and for leading our Writing Team and for all the other things she does for our school and district that are above and beyond.	Nate Davis, Principal
Matthew Grossman	Port Alsworth	We want to give a great note of appreciation to Matthew Grossmann, longtime LPSD teacher, but also helping out in so many other ways! Matthew volunteered for a second year to spend a week in Pilot Point where we needed students to take the statewide assessment. Since there is no school in operation there, we needed to fly in a teacher to test our homeschool students. Then, just a couple days later, Matthew was off to the SNAP Meet for another week away from home, as one of our chaperones (his wife and younger children need a Shining Star, too, for loaning him to us for two weeks)! In addition to these, Matthew is bettering himself and our district by completing his Master's Degree and he also takes responsibility for our live streaming events with nfhnetwork.com. Matthew, we recognize your hard work and are grateful for all of your above and beyond labors and inspiration!	Nate Davis, Principal
Patti Brock	Port Alsworth	Patti Brock is one of our longtime teachers here at Port Alsworth, but she is also working above and beyond in other areas to make opportunities for students and to make us all better. As Student Government Advisor, she spends extra hours in meetings and also before, during, and after every SG event that we host, being the first one there and the last to leave. You will also usually see her at the scorers table, keeping the scorebook for volleyball and basketball... hour after hour after hour! She is always well-planned, has a true servant heart, and just loves making life better for those around her. We appreciate Patti Brock as our Shining Star!	Nate Davis, Principal
Mark McGee	Port Alsworth	Mark is a local Lynx treasure. He volunteers to help run each of our home tournaments, often offering to help before the school has even asked. He helps coordinate brackets, get players to the right games, keeps scoreboard, and makes announcements. In addition, he is a certified volleyball and basketball official and officiates his share of games. But he also inspires alumni to learn the trade of officiating and takes them under his wing to train them and coordinate referee schedules. From taking care of officials, scoring, and helping supervise tournaments, Mark is a true Shining Star to us!	Nate Davis, Principal

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Brandey Voran	Port Alsworth	Aunt Brandey is a longtime elementary teacher at Tanalian School, but is always inspiring the whole K-12 school with her students. Together the 3-4-5 grade classroom team is always coming up with ideas to bless all the other students. They have cunning and clever ideas during holiday seasons (like creating handmade valentine's day cards for each student and staff member in the building) to make the school day sing. Just recently her high school geometry class hosted Pi Day, complete with a powerpoint presentation, team math activities, and a Student Government fundraiser Pie-in-the-Face for a teacher/staff volunteer. In addition, she coaches our Little Lynx in volleyball each year and host a Math Night at her house with her husband one night a week where students can rally around math and get a little help to finish homework for Monday. Thank you, Aunt Brandey for being such a Shining Star!	Nate Davis, Principal
Cam Metzgar	Port Alsworth	Cam is a longtime LPSD teacher plus finishing his 9th year here at Tanalian where he has taught everything from 2nd grade to 8th grade- often in the same year. In addition, Cam is our school's Tech Liaison and keeps us up and running with the support of the IT team. Year after year, his teaching methods produce high scoring students, but along the way- one of his methods- he also is inspiring them to enter statewide and national contests. This year he had two different students win Writing Awards from SCOPE Magazine. A few years ago, one of his students won an essay that gave her the privilege to name the next Alaska State ferry that was produced. If you ever see or get to ride the "Tazlina" ferry, you can remember our Shining Star, Cam Metzgar.	Nate Davis, Principal