



# LPSD SHINING STARS, DECEMBER 2022



NAME	LOCATION	REASON	NOMINATOR, POSITION
McKenna Conselyea	Perryville	This past week I had the opportunity to visit Perryville and visit McKenna's classroom. I was blown away by how organized and smooth her classroom ran. You could tell that her students respond well to her teaching style and have a deep love for her. McKenna puts in a lot of hard work before and after school to ensure that she is meeting the needs of all of her students. She also teaches four levels and as a first-year teacher that can be tough, but she handles it with grace. My time spent this week in her classroom was inspiring. Any teacher would be lucky to spend time in McKenna's classroom!	Dana Wolff, Teacher
Megan Maloney	Perryville	During my stay in Perryville, Megan was a gracious host and made sure I was comfortable and taken care of. Her hospitality was very appreciated and made my stay amazing. Thank you Megan for being amazing!	Dana Wolff, Teacher
Panigkaq Agatha John-Shields	Anchorage	We are extremely grateful for Panigkaq Agatha John-Shield's generosity in sharing with LPSD and BBBS during the Alyeska October 2022 Teacher Inservice in Girdwood, AK. LPSD staff was receptive and welcoming of Panigkaq's presentation which included Alaska native history and perspective of education. It was a treat to be able to sing, dance, and drum with her and her grandchildren. Thank you for coming Panigkaq. You were an inspiration to many.	Nicole Metzgar, Curriculum Co-Director
Atkiq Snyder and ANE team (Language Learning in LPSD)	Anchorage, Igiugig, Nondalton, & Newhalen	It was wonderful to have Atkiq Snyder and other members of the ANE team, join LPSD and BBBS at Alyeska October 2022 Teacher Inservice in Girdwood, AK. LPSD staff was responsive and excited to hear about the opportunities for LPSD students to learn and preserve the traditional languages spoken around our region. We are extremely thankful for their partnership and appreciate the support the work they are doing to help increase language learning in LPSD.	Nicole Metzgar, Curriculum Co-Director
Dana Wolff	Kokhanok	Dana consistently shows up as a shining star not only in Kokhanok School, but in the district as a whole! Thank you, Dana, for your willingness to present at October Inservice to your colleagues, and for doing it with such presence and grace. You are an amazing educator and we are so thankful you are willing to share your knowledge and skill with other staff members!	Kate Cornell, Curriculum Co-Director
Elisabeth Ludwig	Newhalen	Thank you, Elisabeth, for sharing your wealth of knowledge of elementary pedagogy with your colleagues at October Inservice! Your enthusiasm and caring for your work and your students shows in all that you do. We are grateful for you!	Kate Cornell, Curriculum Co-Director
Pete Tallman	Anchorage, Naknek	The hour with Pete Tallman during Alyeska Teacher October Inservice in Girdwood, AK, was raw and real. Teachers shared openly questions they were wrestling with. Pete shared from his experience and his heart which helped teachers process realities in a healthy and human way. Thank you Pete for encouraging our teachers and staff. The way you continually care and support LPSD and BBBS teachers is greatly appreciated.	Nicole Metzgar, Curriculum Co-Director
Cassie Broscius	Nondalton	Thank you Cassie for your fresh and energetic presentation on McKinney Vento training during Alyeska October 2022 Teacher Inservice in Girdwood, AK. Your willingness to jump in whenever and however is needed is noticed and greatly appreciated. Thank you for being a delightful team member to work with.	Nicole Metzgar, Curriculum Co-Director
Sara Erickson	Chignik Lagoon	Sara, we are so grateful for your leadership and willingness to share your wealth of knowledge with your colleagues. You continue to provide solid opportunities for other staff to learn and grow and it does not go unseen. Thank you for being awesome!	Kate Cornell, Curriculum Co-Director
Branden Hummel	Port Alsworth	Branden! Thank you so much for taking on a stellar leadership role with professional development this year! Your session at August Inservice was one of the most discussed sessions (in a good way!), and we so appreciate your facilitation of the Technology discussion at October Inservice. You have so much to offer your colleagues and it is so nice to have you provide them with an opportunity to learn from you. Thank you!	Kate Cornell, Curriculum Co-Director
Matthew Grossman	Port Alsworth	Matthew always bring such great discussion to the curriculum table, so I was so grateful when he said he would facilitate the open discussion on Social Studies at October Inservice. Thank you, Matthew, for leading the discussion with such tact and for making sure everyone was heard. We value your insights and are grateful for your leadership!	Kate Cornell, Curriculum Co-Director
Hannah Ward	Nondalton	Hannah, thank you so much for leading the professional development around Reach for Reading! You continue to be a leader in the district with your knowledge of our standards based system and our curriculum. We value your work and thank you for being willing to share with your colleagues!	Kate Cornell, Curriculum Co-Director

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Christian Meneskie	Monessen, PA	Christian is an all star on many levels--he is a stellar online educator, he cares for his students and their success in his classes, he makes himself available for his colleagues and his students after hours, and he consistently works on professional growth, both his own, and providing it for his colleagues. Christian, I am so grateful for the work you do on such a consistent basis!	Nicole Metzgar, Curriculum Co-Director
Marli Nikolaus	Salmon, ID	To put it simply, Marli is one of the best ELA teachers I have ever had the pleasure of working with, and she does it all in a completely distance format. She is engaging, she cares deeply for her students and colleagues, she is highly motivated to make her teaching better and better, and she is so very kind. I appreciate her willingness to engage with her colleagues and work with them to help the distance program grow in a positive direction. Thank you, Marli, for being you!	Kate Cornell, Curriculum Co-Director
Jim Dube	Anchorage, Chignik Bay, Chignik Lake, Chignik Lagoon, & Perryville	Jim was positively instrumental in making sure that everyone got to October Inservice in one piece, was able to make their flights out of Anchorage, learned all about everything PowerSchool related, remembered to check out the new progress reports, and the list goes on and on. I don't know what we would do without Mr. Dube, but the district would not be the well-oiled machine that it is without his help. :) Thanks for all you do, Jim! We appreciate you so very much!	Kate Cornell, Curriculum Co-Director
Chrystal Adams	Newhalen	Chrystal is a first year teacher in Newhalen and she is rocking it! We are so grateful to have her here and her students are so lucky to have her as their teacher. Thanks for being awesome, Chrystal!	Kate Cornell, Curriculum Co-Director
Nate McArthur	Newhalen	Nathan McArthur has stepped in to lead LSPD staff in Schoology. His training sessions are efficient, effective, and well received by staff. Thank you Nathan for all of the PD trainings you have given LPSD teachers this semester. We appreciate you.	Nicole Metzgar, Curriculum Co-Director
Patty McCasland	Newhalen	Patty McCasland volunteered to lead a Secondary Collaboration session during Alyeska October 2022 Teacher Inservice in Girdwood, AK. Her ability to reflect and share openly and honestly has lead the secondary teachers into some great conversations. LPSD appreciates her willingness to help and her passion to explore. Her leadership has helped make LPSD stronger and healthier. Thank you Patty for everything you do.	Nicole Metzgar, Curriculum Co-Director
Gabbie Cruz	Igiugig	Gabbie Cruz happily volunteered to co-lead an Elementary Collaboration session for teachers during the Alyeska October 2022 Teacher Inservice. Her willingness to take a leadership role is greatly appreciated. LPSD staff respond well to her positive energy and appreciate the insight she has gained from her years of experience working with LPSD students.	Nicole Metzgar, Curriculum Co-Director
Josh Jenks	Kokhanok	Josh Jenks happily volunteered to co-lead an Elementary Collaboration session for teachers during the Alyeska October 2022 Teacher Inservice. His willingness to take a leadership role is greatly appreciated. LPSD staff respond well to his positive energy and appreciate the insight he has gained from his years of experience working with LPSD students.	Nicole Metzgar, Curriculum Co-Director
Moon McCarley	Anchorage & Nondalton	Moon McCarley did a great job training LPSD staff during October 2022 Teacher Inservice. The two sessions she presented on were Assessment Literacy and MAP Growth Reports. Understanding how to read and use assessment data helps teachers better support LSPD students and families. Thank you Moon for all of the engaging and relevant assessment trainings you have offered the staff this fall semester. It is very much appreciated and helps strengthen and grow LPSD.	Nicole Metzgar, Curriculum Co-Director
Tracey Thomas	Montana & Perryville	The saying, "laughter is good medicine," proved true during Tracey Thomas's SPED 101 training session during Alyeska October 2022 Teacher inservice. Staff left the training with merry hearts and big smiles. Thank you Tracey for bringing your spark of energy into teacher training. We appreciate you and are happy to have you as a member of team LPSD.	Nicole Metzgar, Curriculum Co-Director
Pauleen Manning	Fairbanks	Paulene Manning's PD training sessions are well received and appreciated by LPSD staff. During October 2022 Teacher inservice, she co-lead the professional development session, "Including Special Education Students in the Regular Education Classroom." This training strengthens the partnership between special and regular education which in turn gives students the best support they need to be successful. Thank you Paulene for your willingness to collaborate and always the smile you bring and the authentic connection you make with those around you. The way you support LPSD is noticed and appreciated.	Nicole Metzgar, Curriculum Co-Director

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Bill Cornell	Newhalen	During October 2022 Teacher Inservice, Bill Cornell met with the new hire teachers for a New Hire Q & A session. Bill made this time together for new hires meaningful by connecting with each of them in a personal way. We appreciate Mr. Cornell's consistent openness to have meaningful conversations, and the way he encouraged the new hires to speak openly and honestly about ways LPSD can best support newly hired teachers to the district. Thank you Bill for helping to make LPSD a stronger and healthier place to work and live. We appreciate you.	Nicole Metzgar, Curriculum Co-Director
Marjie Waggoner	Anchorage	Marjie Waggoner lead several teacher trainings during October 2022 Teacher Inservice. Her topics included SPED Disproportionality and Including Special Education Students in the Regular Education Classroom. The way Marjie is supporting our new and veteran special education teacher and regular education teachers is greatly appreciated. Thank you Marjie for helping make LSPD an organization that puts students first. Your professional, yet approachable, spirit makes the work we do in LPSD fun and meaningful.	Nicole Metzgar, Curriculum Co-Director
Isiah Lincoln	Newhalen	Every time I've interacted with Isiah, I'm become more impressed with him. He is such an incredibly kind person, which is the most important thing someone can be in this day and age. He is friendly with everyone—students and adults alike—and is always sharing positivity. He's also constantly offering to help and rarely complains. Thank you, Isiah, for always being so kind and always sharing a smile!	Taryn Williams, Teacher
Jennifer Kalmakoff	Perryville	We are so lucky to have Jennifer as our cook! She is so flexible and always works through any challenges we have. Also, she is such a wonderful human being and always makes me feel at home; this makes life in the village much more enjoyable. I'm so grateful to have such a friendly colleague to work with every day. Thank you for everything, Jennifer!	Taryn Williams, Teacher
Calib Joseph	Newhalen	Calib really stood out at volleyball districts. He set a great example for younger students by always doing what he was supposed to and often lending a helping hand. He also maintained a positive attitude and was always friendly to others. Even though he is also an amazing player, these types of behaviors are even more impressive. It's incredible to see a student who has both amazing skills and wonderful sportsmanship!	Taryn Williams, Teacher
Shakim Blackwell	Nondalton	Shakim deserves to be recognized for his outstanding hard work not just as a volleyball coach, but also for his absolute dedication to his students while chaperoning at events. Shakim is constantly checking on his students and making sure their needs are met before his own. I am always impressed by Shakim and the way he presents himself at our school events. Shakim is always calm, cool, collected, and willing to have a great time. Not only does he chaperone his own students, but made sure to keep a watchful eye on our male students while traveling away from home. Shakim is not only a role model not just for students, but also staff. Shakim is a true team player, and I respect him deeply for all that he does!	Jordan Davis, Teacher
Lisa Rivas	Port Alsworth	Lisa doesn't just deserve a shining star, she deserves a Michelin Star! Ms. Lisa, and her exceptional culinary skill, kept not only bellies, but souls filled! Every meal was prepared with utmost care and love! The breakfasts, lunches, and dinners that Lisa prepared were honestly some of the best meals I've ever had. Ms. Lisa showed up before the rest of us considered waking, and left long after we had drifted off to sleep. Ms. Lisa, I cannot thank you enough for all that you have done for the students and staff of LPSD while we were your guests. Thank you for your hospitality and laughter! I am so very thankful for you!	Jordan Davis, Teacher
Janine Denny	Port Alsworth	I'd like to thank Ms. Janine Denny for her service to the school district during the last volleyball gathering. Ms. Janine was integral in making sure that our students were well fed and cared for. We are so thankful for the time and effort you put into our meals. Thank you for showing up, so very early in the morning to make sure we started our days with the best breakfast, working hard throughout the day to keep us going during our games, and staying way, way late into the night to make sure we went to bed with bellies full! Ms. Janie, thank you so much for being you!	Jordan Davis, Teacher