

**Date:** January 26, 2023

**To:** LPSD School Board

**From:** Stephen Fink on behalf of the LPSD Counseling Team

**Regarding:** February Counseling Report

We are excited to be back working with our students after the Christmas break. First off, some exciting news that Kasie Luke has most likely already mentioned: we have received a School Based Mental Health Grant. This will allow for LPSD to hire an on-going mental health counselor to serve our students. In the past we have had to send students to Anchorage or Dillingham (BBAHC communities), or receive tele-counseling for certain crises, but this will allow more direct access for students in need. More details on this will be forthcoming.

Over the break, Kacy Lou was able to attend a Crisis Prevention Institute instructor's course in early January and will be teaching SPED and several site's teachers the fundamentals of Crisis Prevention throughout the remainder of the semester.

Coming up in February, Alaska Area Health Education Centers will be traveling to three of our communities to do a Health Career Camp for our high school students. We are thankful for our partnership with AHEC to provide these opportunities to our students.

We also are hosting a Zoom presentation by an Air Force recruiter and two other service members on February 7th. Middle and high school students from across the district will have the opportunity to ask questions and hear about various Air Force careers. The Air Force recruiter was our most popular presentation during last year's SNAP meet and a lot of students have shown interest in military career fields.

Another thing coming up in the near future is this year's School Climate and Connectedness Survey. We will be sending that to staff at each of the sites next month. Our plan is to compile data from all of our students and present our findings to the school board. We hope this data will be valuable in identifying needs and potential resources for increasing wellness in our communities. Our team has also been evaluating last year's data to better serve our schools throughout this school year.

We continue to meet with students for social and emotional needs, as well as career and academic counseling needs. Stephen is taking a break from traveling as his wife is expecting their second child any day now, but he will be back to doing site visits in late March. Kacy Lou is also planning to jump into site visits with trips to Igiugig and Nondalton scheduled for mid-March.

Spring semester is a busy and fast moving time for staff and students with sports and various activities throughout. We are looking forward to continuing to come alongside students to encourage success in social/emotional, career, and academic areas for the rest of the year.

Best Regards,

Stephen Fink & Kacy Lou Leyba