

## Tanalian School Site Report, September 2020

**To: Superintendent Ty Mase  
and LPSD School Board Members**

**From: Nate Davis, Principal**

### Outstanding Activities and Events

- We are very grateful for in-person schooling! Teachers and students all doing well.
- We are very grateful for Lynx cross-country running and for Malamute cross-country running, so we have someone to run against, to test our metal, to celebrate justice (“may the best one win”), to show grace (“congratulations, you beat me”), and humility (“I can’t believe I won today... thanks for pushing me... see you next time”).
- We are excited about the potential of qualifying a runner or two to the State XC Meet this year.

### Personnel

- All teachers and all classified staff, except one, return to Tanalian for the 2020-21 school year, making us all very grateful. What a team!
- Welcome and congratulations to Jen Opland (say ope-land) for becoming our new PE Aide. Jen and her husband, Eric, come to Port Alsworth from being missionaries to Chile and Peru. They bring 6<sup>th</sup> grader, Noah, and 8<sup>th</sup> grader, Rachel, the last of their five children, to add to our great student body.

### Standards Based System/Curriculum Progress

- We have been calibrating student progress and how they finished courses from the 2020 distance learning due to our spring school closure. Most finished most courses last spring and some were very close. The new year shows students and teachers eager to make up lost ground and lean forward to more learning... grateful for in-person teaching/learning.
- K-2<sup>nd</sup> graders took a science field trip to the Davis Garden to explore how to survive hordes of no-see-ums and to take part in the harvesting of raspberries, potatoes, and carrots. Each one returned home with their very own dug potato and half-eaten carrot.



### Technology Progress

- In general, very strong: Student and teacher laptops up and running with enough to go around.
- The Internet was down for 2 days during Inservice. DRS agents visited on 9/11. Upon their fix-its and departure, Internet was uncannily speedy, but has since reverted to medium-fast, but happily stable.

### Facility Update

- All in good shape.
- COVID adjustments: desks spaced out as far as possible, equilateral triangle seating at lunch, limited to 3 people per table, extra tables and chairs set up at lunch, 20 additional cleaning and disinfecting

hours per week employed, spray bottles and wipes in every classroom, disinfectant gel available in several locations, almost all recesses outside with reduced numbers of students, smaller cohorts.

### LSAC Activity

- Meeting on Sep 1, 2020 held to share and discuss the results of COVID-19 precautions, including daily health screening, return to school protocol, in-person schooling precautions, and Green, Yellow, and Red Zone training.

### Volunteer Report

- Volunteers are not currently invited to school due to COVID, though we could use a library volunteer. We appreciate Staff sometimes volunteering beyond their hours in a different area to help the school out. We are looking forward to getting more parents and volunteers and events back into school. We are getting school done in the Green Zone, but it's not the warm, inviting, friendly, and community place that we have all come to love. We can't wait for the return to the Normal Zone.

### Professional Development

- A huge thanks to Bill Cornell and his crew to present a great opening Inservice to us all via distance delivery. It wasn't "Katmai Learning," but it was "GetMy Learning": They gave us all we needed to know to make a Smart Start. PTA missed some great sessions when our Internet was down for two days- but we kept working away and got ahead on some other things.

### Pupil Attendance

- PTA enrollment is at 47 K-12 students (and 5 pre-school students), down from last year after graduating 10 seniors and importing only 1 Kindergarten student. We also lost a couple to another district's homeschool program, but gained a couple of boarding students and three more students with family moves to PTA.

### Student and Staff Safety

- This year has been all about COVID-19 precautions. With masks recommended but not required at PTA, any given day shows a couple staff members and a few students with masks for all or part of the day. You would also find daily health screenings, small cohorts, outside recess when possible, and social distancing at lunch tables and PE. So far, we have been symptom-free, except for one student going home sick part way through the day. State out of travel mandates have also kept students and staff out of the building for a few days here and there.



### Subsistence Calendar

- While PTA still enjoys the Subsistence Calendar for all of its benefits, there is much concern about the additional likelihood of missing school this year: for Noon-Start Mondays, Mondays Off (if we

have to go Yellow), and 10 days Off for every student who has any of the main COVID-19 Symptoms (even if he/she does not have COVID-19. CDC estimates that young children often have up to 8 common colds a year... for that average child, he/she would miss up to  $8 \times 10 = 80$  more days of school in a year. Even if he/she eventually tested negative each of the eight times, he/she would be out several days each time waiting for cold symptoms to subside and eight different test results...  $8 \times 5 = 40$  more days out of school, for example. This makes Annual Yearly Progress impossible for most children and nearly impossible for all children.

## Other

- See [Tanalian Common Sense Approach to COVID-19](#), below. Students and staff have been circling around these concepts this fall to build safety, peace of mind, community unity, and hope & purpose for tomorrow!

### TANALIAN SCHOOL COMMON SENSE APPROACH to COVID-19

**BE ON MISSION:** *The Mission of the Lake & Peninsula School District is to develop PRODUCTIVE CITIZENS who are POSITIVE ROLE MODELS, self-directed learners, academically prepared and resilient.* COVID-19 gives us as the LPSD educational team an unprecedented opportunity to advance our mission. At the highest levels of professionalism, we need to both 1) BE productive citizens, positive role models, self-directed learners, academically prepared and resilient, and 2) TEACH students to be productive citizens, positive role models, self-directed learners, academically prepared and resilient. There are an infinite number of both prepared lesson plans and “teachable moments” available to educators, limited only by our own creativity, intent, and time. No matter what subjects or grades you teach, use your passion and enthusiasm to be on THIS mission: training up productive citizens!

**BE CAUTIOUS:** *Make a good faith effort to Disinfect, use Cough Protocol, 6-foot Social Distancing, and Quarantine with Symptoms or Positive Test.* Be cautious and teach caution to your students as this may help slow the spread of the virus so that there is always room in hospitals for those who need medical help.

**BE COMPASSIONATE:** *Consider others as more important than yourselves.* No matter what you think about COVID-19, be compassionate toward others. Some are more at-risk. Some will be more fearful than others. Some think the government is doing way too much. Others will think that the government is not doing nearly enough. These discrepancies are human nature. POSITIVE ROLE MODEL leaders recognize these discrepancies and, while not driven to appease everyone (which is impossible), will do their best to understand everyone, to respect everyone in speech and thoughts, and to love everyone well. Be magnanimous, giving everyone the benefit of the doubt- give them a generous assumption.

**BE FLEXIBLE:** *Blessed are the flexible, for they shall not be broken.* What’s new today? Wait for it... wait for it... Some new thought or guideline or policy will land on our desk today... and if not today, then certainly this week. So, let’s put on our best attitude, get ready for it, stop our complaining, and get ready to flex. We can do this next thing grudgingly or we can do this cheerfully. In matters of principle, stand like a rock. In matters of preference, bend like a tree. In matters of policy, cheerfully respect like an army private.

**ACT ON THE FACTS:** *There is more information available to people than at any other time in human history, making it all the more difficult to find truth.* Test your motives. Are you acting out of feelings? Out of fear? Or out of the facts? What truths drive your whole person? Who are you? Take time for yourself. Center yourself. You face your fears all the time. You can do it with COVID-19, too. It is just another flavor of fear that we have to get used to eating. When you figure out how to face your own fears, teach it to those in your spheres of influence.

**AVOID THE BLAME GAME:** *When I get sick with the common cold, I usually have no idea who gave me the bug and, even if I was pretty certain who shared it with me, I certainly have no way of proving who it was.* It will be the same way with COVID, so we ACT ON THE FACTS. Blaming others is not something PRODUCTIVE CITIZENS and POSITIVE ROLE MODELS do. Instead, they accept that there are certain risks in life, agree consciously or subconsciously to take those risks, and then go on living life to the full. So, even before we or someone we love gets COVID, we can determine in our hearts that we will refuse to play the BLAME GAME, naming those who may have spread it. It is a virus that will go through the human population. With all of our precautions, we cannot stop it. We can only slow it. We will get it from someone at some point and we decide today that we won’t blame even a “likely suspect.”

**AVOID THE SHAME GAME:** *When someone around me gets sick after I've been sick with a bug, I could hang my head in shame, but the reality is they could have gotten that bug anywhere and we have no idea from whence cometh that bug.* **ACT ON THE FACTS:** there is no way to know where that bug came from. Agree ahead of time that you will not play the SHAME GAME with yourself or own the spread, even if someone close to you is playing the BLAME GAME on you—because we really have no idea if it came from you or not, even if you are a “likely suspect.” You are innocent until proven guilty.

**AVOID RECKLESS BEHAVIOR:** *Just because you are innocent until proven guilty, does not mean that you should be reckless.* **BE CAUTIOUS. BE COMPASSIONATE.**

**AVOID SPECULATION:** *Did you hear the latest conspiracy theory? “It’s all about the elections!” Or “Susie traveled yesterday and now Johnny’s sick! It’s Susie’s fault!”* There are ample conspiracies spinning all around us. Chasing and discussing all of these can drive a person mad, help you act on your fears, instead of **ACTING ON FACTS**, and be terribly distracting. Instead, until you find yourself on-mission in a leadership or journalistic position to ferret out the truth with appropriate resources to help make good public policy, focus on your mission. **BE ON your MISSION.** It’s okay to be a good listener about the theories, just to be informed, but don’t repeat what you don’t know to be the true facts. Find out enough to help you be a **PRODUCTIVE CITIZEN** in a democracy, but spend most of your efforts to **BE ON your life MISSION.**