



LPSD SHINING STARS, MAY 2023



NAME	LOCATION	REASON	NOMINATOR, POSITION
Patty McCasland	Newhalen	Patty is always going above and beyond for her students and coworkers. While attending SNAP meet, there was never a time that I saw Patty unoccupied. She was either working on assignments with her students, helping delegate SNAP activities or working the snow-cone machine. The love that she has for her students and community is obvious by the way students and communities members comfortably approach her for help or casual conversation. Patty is an extraordinary educator, colleague, and friend to all.	Alexis Pursell, Teacher
Joe Ward	Levelock	I have had the privilege of working with Mr. Ward for the past two years. Since the day I arrived in Levelock, Joe has done anything and everything he can to help me personally and professionally while navigating life as a first/second year teacher in Alaska. He has always offered me support and advice to help me succeed. Additionally, Joe always puts the students first, and is willing to do whatever is needed to better the kids, the school, and the community. I'm very fortunate to have started my teaching career with a principal like Joe.	Alexis Pursell, Teacher
Kaylynn Hobson	Perryville	Kaylynn is my classroom aide here in Perryville. Kaylynn has continuously shown up to school with a smile on her face and is willing to do anything I may need her to in order to make our classroom successful. She has been such a positive role model for our class by always being kind, funny and a happy space for students. Kaylynn has been such a huge help to me as well by running centers, creating materials, working one on one with students, etc. Thank you Kaylynn for all that you have done and continue to do. You are so appreciated!	McKenna Conselyea, Teacher
Patty McCasland	Newhalen	I am so inspired by Patty standing up and speaking up at the last board meeting, and checking in during the weeks that followed. I wasn't expecting such strong support and I am so grateful for it. Feeling unappreciated while trying to work in a field like teaching can be very taxing, and every ounce of support is so meaningful; this is why it's important to be surrounded by colleagues like Patty who shine a positive light on those around them. I'm going to miss Patty once we both leave the district this summer and I'm so grateful that I was given the opportunity to get to know her!	Taryn Williams, Teacher
Stephanie Canning	Igiugig	Stephanie's words of support at the last board meeting were so eloquent and impactful and will stay with me for years to come. It's not every day that teachers get to feel that level of appreciation and I still get teary-eyed thinking about it. Her words were especially meaningful given that she has been experiencing challenges herself and it can be extra difficult to support others when you're going through things like that. For this, I am beyond grateful. I will miss being able to work with Stephanie after I leave the district and I hope Igiugig welcomes her with open arms!	Taryn Williams, Teacher
Stephen Fink	Newhalen	I don't know where to begin with everything Stephen has done for Perryville as of late. Showing up last minute to support us after a horrible tragedy is probably a good place, though. I know many may think that that's just his job, but the way that he went about it was much more than that. The after-hours calls to check-in with me and willingness to be there no matter what was well beyond his job description. Choosing to take a week away from his life and family to act as male chaperone so that PVL HS students were able to take their long-awaited trip also went beyond his assigned duties. Every time we have interacted with Stephen, he has been so impactful and supportive and I know I'll never forget that. My students really respect and like him and I'm so glad that they have such a positive male role model to look up to. Thank you for everything, Stephen.	Taryn Williams, Teacher
Dana Phillips	Perryville	When I first reached out to Dana, our LSAC president, after finding out that the district was going to move me away from the village I love, I expected some moral support and words of encouragement. What I didn't expect was for Dana to go out of her way to write multiple letters and speak at the board meeting in my favor. I didn't expect the many texts reminding me of how greatly appreciated I've been and the continuous support even after the meeting and school year ended. Understanding that community members are that supportive of the work I've done will allow me to move onto the next phase of my life knowing that I did the best I could. Thank you, Dana, for making me feel recognized and appreciated.	Taryn Williams, Teacher