

Site Report – Tanalian School – April/May 2026

To: Superintendent Kasie Luke
and LPSD School Board Members

From: Nate Davis, Principal

Photos & Description of Activities and Events

Six Jr.High and nine High School students went to the SNAP (Science, NYO, Academics, and Prom) Meet in Newhalen. Erik M, Noah O, Jordan A, Hazel M, and Jocelyn O, were inducted into the National Honor Society. Parents Elisha Wegner (LSAC member) and Jill Oettinger were female chaperones, along with parent/teacher Matthew Grossmann. Students represented very well, sharing awards with other district students in citizenship, prom royalty, NYO, speech, talent show, and the science fair. Malachi Grossmann was elected to LPSD District Student Government.



April 11 - Saturday school to make up for the March power outage.

April 19 - Graduation at Tanalian! Three seniors: Noah D, Ray C, and Mikiah L. And Kindergartener Joshua F. Brandey Voran's 3-5th class sang and signed the Alaska Flag song at graduation.



Alison's PreK class went digging in the playground for fossils, but found Easter eggs instead. Surprise! They had so much fun enjoying the spring weather with furry friends and a tire swing.



Personnel Update

Nicole, Hazel, and Augustine Metzgar's last day at Tanalian was April 10. They flew to their new home in Juneau so Hazel could start softball. Cam and Max will move when school gets out. We are so sad to see their family leaving, but excited for the new adventures ahead of them! At the SNAP Meet, Superintendent Luke paid eloquent tribute to the two twenty-year teaching couples who will all be missed greatly next year: Cam & Nicole Metzgar and Bill and Kate Cornell.



All Tanalian personnel:

Nate Davis - Principal

Sarah Wardell - Sped Teacher

Matthew Grossmann - Jr. High Teacher

Cam Metzgar - Jr. High Teacher (departing LPSD after 20 years- tons of gratitude and best wishes)- replaced by LPSD Alum Sasha Alsworth for the 26-27 school year)

Brandey Voran - 3-5th Teacher

Patti Brock - K-2 Teacher

Alison Fowler - Pre-School Aide

Darcy Lorentzen - General and Special Education Aide

Jill Oettinger - Special Education Aide

Sherri Davis - General Aide

Kacy Leyba - Counselor

Nicole Metzgar - Curriculum/PTH principal (departing LPSD after 20 years- best wishes and tons of gratitude)

Lisa Rivas - Cook and Custodian

Riley Morigeau - PE Aide and Custodian

Laura Wilder - Secretary

Sophomore Malachi Grossmann - Custodian

Freshman Autumn Oettinger - Custodian

Junior Jocelyn Oettinger - Cook

Thank you to our well-loved student-teacher, Mikayla McFadden, who will be returning to her home in New York. The 3-5th grade students dropped off their recommendations for Mr. Davis to hire her as a teacher.



Classroom Highlights

Middle School students enjoyed whittling and glueing wood stick cabins, boats, and supporting pieces, as they hacked away at Cultural Awareness standards.

They also worked on elaborate and detailed maps of Africa, with some outstanding work... see below!



Mrs. Alison's PreK class had 4 of their 5 Caterpillars hatch! The 5th one had a hard time getting out of the chrysalis so the High School kids tried to help. Unfortunately it hadn't developed all the way but they enjoyed the time together with the older kids and doing a little science! Even Mr. Davis got in on the action.



LSAC Activity

PTA LSAC met March 4th and April 15 - Heard reports and reviewed the district and school cell phone policy with staff and each other in recent meetings- seeking to understand, inspire, and support teachers and staff and students.

Community Engagement

April 10 - Goodbye to Metzgars & March Madness & BOB Awards. Most of the Tanalian families and staff, and many other community members, came to the school for the Metzgar goodbye, bball games, and celebrating all the first place district wins from 1st-12th graders in BOB (3/4th grade got 2nd place). The Metzgars were presented with a giant photo (with the option to choose a smaller size to be mailed to their new home in Juneau).

April 19- We had a full house of parents, students, and community supporters to celebrate three senior graduates: Ray Chmiel, Mikiah Lorentzen, Noah Davis, and our Kindergartner, Josh. During the ceremony we were able to once again highlight our school core values of Academic Excellence, Strength of Character, and Achievement in Life. A wonderful time of potluck and fellowship followed the ceremony.



Thanks to Moon McCarley and the CLSD Grant, there were many fun prizes and snacks for everyone after their basketball games. Students were also presented with plaques and very big medals for their district wins in Battle of the Books.. Great reading and competing!



Student Government provide pizza available for donation and a Fire Sale in the Lynx Lair.

Professional Development

Tanalian school lost two school days due to power outages in late March, so on one of those outage days the teachers and principal met at the church building and created an Inservice Day and traded our original Apr 20 Inservice day for a student day. During that Inservice, we worked on current events, data review, AK STAR prep, and discussions to plan next year's master teaching schedule, considering students grouped through data review. The other lost student/teacher day was made up on Saturday school, April 11.

Pupil % Attendance K-12

88.47 % Attendance rate for 25-26

Student and Staff Safety

Recurring flu-like symptoms and fatigue for both students and staff, as well as extended family care for sick ones, continue throughout the spring, ramping up the absences among some students and staff alike. Morale is still good, but the absences have cut into student learning in certain cases.

Other

Alumni Celebration Report 2026

Isaac Fowler, Bachelor's Degree, Film

Short Film- National Award (and a great message for all LPSD students)

Ellah Wardell, Bachelor's Degree, Commercial Pilot

Daniel Wardell, Commercial Pilot

Zoe Smith, Bachelor's Degree, Assistant Physical Therapist

Alexa Chertkov, Commercial Pilot and marriage

Malea Voran, Master's Degree, Athletic Trainer