

Lapwai School District Superintendent's Weekly Update

Friday, April 12, 2024

*Celebrations & Pictures of Wildcat Scholars
& the Dedicated Staff Who Serve Them*



Lapwai Academic Success!



Congratulations to our Wildcats Scholars for demonstrating academic success on the English-Language Arts Idaho State Achievement Test last year! A Wildcat thank you to Genny Brown, Kiri Brown, and Ada Marks for their support with this celebration!

The following Wildcat Scholars were recognized by the Superintendent with open gym, Italian sodas, popcorn, and movies for academic success! Congratulations!

Olivia Allen
Julian Barros
Garrett Baumbaugh
Mackenna Baumbaugh
Hunter Brown
Kariana Covey
Andraeana Domebo
Amasone George
LaRicci George-Smith
MariJayne Gomez
Romelia Henry
Julian McConville
Skylin Picard
Jasmine Quintana
Faith Sobotta
Aubree Standing Rock
Jeneieve Wilson
Taya Yearout

Circle of Elders

Nez Perce Cultural Principle:
Experiential Learning



Qe'ciyew'yew' 9th grade student, Davi Jo Whitman, and Mrs. Boyer for presenting to the Circle of Elders with the Superintendent. They gifted the elders with flowers from the Lapwai Middle-High School Greenhouse grown by Botany students in Mrs. Boyer's class.



Since Mandee Taylor transitioned to our Speech and Language Program within the Special Education department, her contributions have swiftly become invaluable. Although Mandee is not new to our district, her recent move to Special Education has highlighted her exceptional talents and her deeply empathetic approach to student engagement. Her professional expertise, combined with a demeanor that radiates kindness and gentleness, creates a welcoming atmosphere where even our most reserved students feel comfortable and supported. Mandee's method of gently yet firmly encouraging students exemplifies her ability to inspire them to venture out of their comfort zones. This is particularly impactful as they work on overcoming articulation errors—a challenge that can seem daunting. Under Mandee's nurturing guidance, students are motivated to tackle these complex skills with determination and resilience. Her dedication to personal and professional growth is evident in her continual search for innovative techniques and strategies to enhance our students' support. Mandee's initiative in embracing and applying new methodologies underscores her commitment to the educational and personal development of our students. In celebrating Mandee Taylor, we recognize her significant contributions and the positive, inspiring influence she has on both her students and her colleagues. Her presence in our Special Education team has not only enriched our program but has also set a remarkable standard of care and excellence. We are profoundly grateful for Mandee's dedication and eagerly anticipate the continued positive impact of her work on our Speech and Language Program. **-Lori Ravet**



Staff Spotlight

Mandee Taylor

A Superintendent's Faculty Cabinet Action Plan Celebrating Our Dedicated Staff

When Mandee joined our team this year, she jumped right in with enthusiasm and heart and the students just love her! She has built great relationships with her students and they are always excited to come work with her. She has become an invaluable asset to our team! **- Bonnita Smith**

Mandee became a valuable member of our speech and language team in October, bringing with her a truly warm-hearted approach that resonates with the children. Her gentle interactions create a nurturing environment and her intrinsic motivation shines through. It's a pleasure to work alongside her every day and witness her continuous growth as a professional! **- Marika Renshaw**

Students may not remember what we've taught them, yet they will always remember how we made them feel. Mandee inspires smiles everywhere she goes with her positive presence and big heart for Lapwai students. I am proud to have this incredible professional in our district! **- David Aiken**

Nancy is truly the backbone of our Elementary Special Education Team, embodying the very essence of dedication and excellence in every facet of her role. Her exceptional case management and unwavering commitment to IEP compliance are the foundation upon which our team's success is built. Without her meticulous attention to detail, her profound understanding of our students' needs, and her ability to navigate the complexities of special education requirements, the rest of us could not perform our jobs with the effectiveness and confidence that we do. Nancy's contributions do not merely support our team; they elevate us, ensuring that we can provide the highest level of education and care to our students. Her role is indispensable, and her impact immeasurable. - *Lori Ravet*

Nancy is one of the first people students and staff see when they enter the building every morning. She is friendly and helpful, offering a hand to walk preschoolers from the bus to their classroom or open a door for anyone with full hands. There are at least 3 students who actively look for each morning to give her a hug and talk to her about anything. She always gives them her full attention, then sends them to the cafeteria to get breakfast. She then graciously and diligently spends her days doing the extraordinary specialized work of writing IEPs. Nancy has the incredible ability to walk into a classroom to observe, without disrupting the learning. She communicates with every person involved with each IEP, including interviewing the students to make certain their voices are heard regarding what they need. I've had the pleasure of knowing and working with Nancy in a variety of settings and workplaces, and I'm grateful every day for her calm and joyful presence. - *Jennifer Becker*

Nancy approaches high case management and growing compliance responsibilities with incredible patience, a distinguished work ethic, and the warmest of hearts for Lapwai students. Her hard work is a blessing! - *David Aiken*



*Staff
Spotlight*

**Nancy
Dahl**

A Superintendent's Faculty Cabinet Action Plan Celebrating Our Dedicated Staff

Nancy's presence on our team is a constant source of positivity. Her warm smile and readiness to assist uplift us all. Her special education case management expertise is remarkable and instrumental in keeping our preschool and elementary special forces teams well-organized, efficient, and legally compliant. Despite the complexities of special education, Nancy's meticulous attention to detail and adherence to the special education manual ensure that everything runs smoothly and that her students' files can pass an audit with flying colors. Nancy's Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) are masterpieces. She pays impeccable attention to detail and takes pride in painting a vivid picture of each student's journey, allowing anyone who reads them a comprehensive understanding of the student's current status, goals, and roadmap for achievement. Her dedication extends beyond her responsibilities, ensuring every student and their family receives the support they need for a meaningful educational experience. Nancy, your contributions are truly invaluable, and your efforts are deeply appreciated! - *Marika Renshaw*

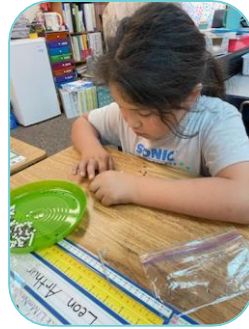
Nancy Dahl

Epic data collector, effective meeting facilitator, and IEP writer extraordinaire are some of the ways Nancy is a hero to our district. She has a stack of IEPs, Eligibility Reports, and Progress Reports to manage - each IEP is a legal document. Nancy's job entails a lot of responsibility to ensure those are written in a way that individually meets each student's need, incorporates parent input while also keeping the district in compliance. Nancy is so good at this, because of her experience, skill and knowledge of Special Education law. She advocates for students, ensuring they are served at the best of our ability and also ensures that we efficiently use our district resources, which are scarce. Nancy keeps our special education team organized, scheduling meetings with parents, facilitating those meetings and the legal requirements that are mandated by law which go with special education procedures. Nancy's skill set and management of this huge case load ensures that each student receives interventions delivered in a very efficient and effective way by Mrs. Bonner and Mrs. Cooley, which they are incredible at. Our student progress is directly impacted in a positive way by this efficient use of human resources and leveraging of individual staff abilities and talents. Thank you Nancy for all that you do, because your skill set is a key part of our success as a team in Special Forces. - *Julie Whitman*



I have witnessed the never ending compliance requirements, inequitable accountability, and exhaustive reporting grow exponentially in special education over the years. These unfunded mandates would discourage even the most dedicated hearts for students. Please join me in celebrating the Special Forces staff in the Lapwai School District. Regardless of a disheartening and challenging workload, this incredible team continues to advocate for their learners despite these unrealistic expectations. It will never cease to amaze me the lengths Special Forces consistently demonstrates to support student success. These unsung heroes and their dedication does not go unnoticed or unappreciated. Families regularly reach out to me intentionally celebrating their unprecedented support which rivals the largest districts in our state. It was not until the transition to administration when I fully comprehended the extent of their increasing responsibilities. I am so very proud of this bright spot worth recognition. Your resilience and dedication are a blessing. - *David Aiken*

1st Grade Native Arts



Qe'ciyew'yew' Jenny Williams, Rhonda Taylor, and Jenifer Williams of the Lapwai School District Indian Education Department for sharing your beading knowledge with Mrs. Paris' 1st grade class! The lesson included the use of patterns and mirroring each side to make a necklace. Thank you Mrs. Paris for sharing pictures!

Nez Perce Cultural Principle:
Experiential Learning

Regular & Punctual School Attendance!



Qe'ciyew'yew' DelRae Kipp of the Lapwai School District Board of Trustees for joining the celebration! All of our Trustee send their pride and congratulations!

Congratulations to Mrs. Rabaiotta's 1st Grade Wildcat Scholars! Each day an elementary class has everyone in attendance and on time, they receive a Wildcat Roar Card. Once the class achieves 10 cards, they earn the celebration of their choice. Mrs. Rabaiotta's class was the second to reach this goal! DelRae Kipp of the Lapwai School District Board of Trustees joined the Superintendent in celebrating their dedication to regular and punctual attendance!

This new system of celebrating success is an action plan created by the Superintendent's Faculty Cabinet. This team benefits from the generous support of Local Education Program Funds from the Nez Perce Tribe. Please join us in thanking them for making these rewards possible! What gets recognized, gets repeated. What gets celebrated, becomes a habit. Qe'ciyew'yew'

**PERFECT
ATTENDANCE**

OPAL

MCCORMACK

3RD GRADE



**PERFECT
ATTENDANCE
ARIANNA
MILES**

10TH GRADE



**PERFECT
ATTENDANCE**

Jacob

Arthur

9TH GRADE

