

# Lapwai School District Superintendent's Weekly Update

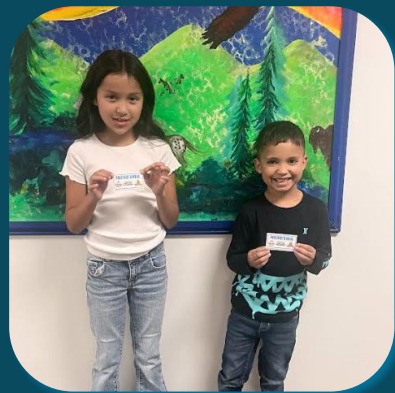
Friday, September 26, 2025



*Michelle Kipp & Senator Risch*



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



Jayda Sonneck 3rd  
Quintyn Murillo 1st



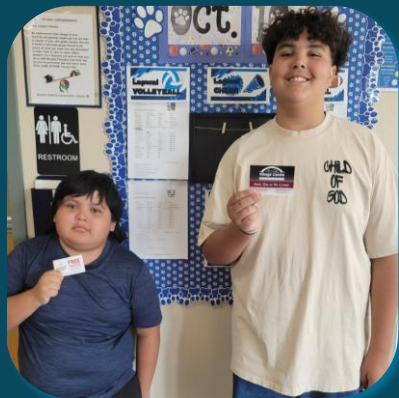
Makayla Ferguson 1st  
River Holt 4th



Seneca Powaukee 5th  
Teyonni Higheagle K



Dion Lawyer 1st  
Charles Tewawina 3rd



Lonnie Benally 7th  
Tyson Davis 8th



Tawny Kickingwoman 6th

Weekly Wildcat  
Perfect Attendance  
Winners!

# Lapwai High School Health Scholars & Native Health and Wellness Pathway



## Tribal Health Scholars Program:

- Demonstrate mastery of medical knowledge and professionalism
- Engage with tribal health mentors
- Explore careers in medicine, nursing, public health, and behavioral health
- Serve as health ambassadors and leaders in their community

Lapwai High School has established a strong and culturally responsive Health and Wellness Pathway that supports students from middle school through high school as they explore careers in healthcare, public health, and wellness. The program integrates academic rigor, cultural identity, and hands-on experiences to build a pipeline of future Native health professionals. This semester Junee Picard, Skylin Picard, and Madden Bisbee are participating in the Tribal Health Scholars program, gaining direct experience in Native healthcare settings.

As a senior capstone, Lapwai students participate in the Native Health Scholars program, a culmination of their academic learning, cultural wellness knowledge, and real-world clinical experiences. 14 students have completed prerequisites for the Health Pathway and are actively progressing. Students are earning college credits through dual enrollment, putting them ahead as they transition to higher education.

Junee, Skylin, and Madden will be graduating high school this year as Certified Nursing Assistants. These Wildcat Scholars are proud examples of the growing dual credit and advanced opportunities in the Lapwai School District. They have been excelling in courses including Fundamentals of Health Professions, Medical Terminology, and will be participating in clinical experiences.

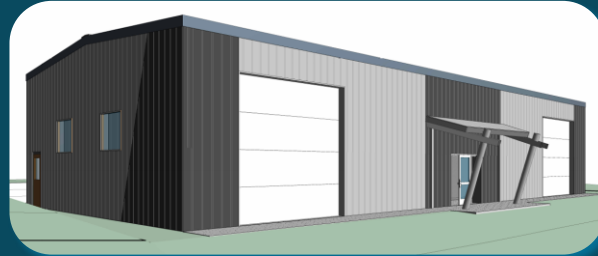




# Career & Technical Education

Enrollment in Certified Nursing Assistant training is made available through Lewis-Clark State College and the regional DeAtley Career and Technical Education Center. Outside of the Lewiston School District, Skylin Picard is the first and only student in Region II to access the DeAtley Center.

The Lapwai School District will be breaking ground for our own career and technical education center this year. Please join us in celebrating the support of the Nez Perce Tribe as our primary industry partners with \$20,000 in Local Education Program Fund assistance. This generosity is added to a state Idaho Career Ready Students award of \$1,278,843 and a building material donation from R & M Steel in Caldwell, Idaho totaling \$66,650. The facility will expand carpentry and fabrication instruction with a long-term goal of automotive technology. Welding will remain in the current agricultural building behind the high school.



# Thank You for Your Continued Support of Impact Aid

A team from Lapwai joined Superintendent Aiken last week to thank Idaho's Congressmen for their continued support of Impact Aid.

Impact Aid is approximately 31% of the Lapwai School District budget. 12 Idaho districts and over 14,000 Idaho students rely on this critical federal funding. Dr. Aiken also serves as the Idaho State Chair of the National Association of Federally Impacted Schools and represents all of the federally connected students and districts in Idaho.

Impact Aid is the Federal Government's reimbursement to school districts for the presence of nontaxable federal property such as military installations, Indian lands, federal low-rent housing, national laboratories, and grasslands. The presence of nontaxable property limits the ability of school districts to generate sufficient tax revenue to support growing shortfalls in K-12 education funding. Nationwide this funding supports 1,200 school districts and 10 million students.

Blackfoot
Bruneau-Grand View
Chief Tahgee Elementary Academy Charter
Kamiah
Lapwai
Mackay
Marsing
Mountain Home
Mountain View
Plummer-Worley
Snake River
Wilder



Representative Simpson Proudly Supports  
Lapwai Students in the Impact Aid Caucus!



Senator Crapo Proudly Supports Lapwai  
Students in the Impact Aid Caucus!



Please Encourage Representative Fulcher  
to Join the Impact Aid Caucus!




Senator Risch Proudly Supports Lapwai  
Students in the Impact Aid Caucus!

Please join me in celebrating the advocates who joined the Superintendent on behalf of over 14,000 students in 12 Idaho school districts who reply on Impact Aid!

DelRae Kipp, Trustee  
Michelle Kipp, Student  
Nathan Weeks, Business Manager



We joined the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Impact Aid celebration which is the oldest federal education program in the United States. We were honored to present Senator Crapo an award for his support!



# Help Us Hold the Federal Government Accountable for Their Obligation to Lapwai Students

Our Impact Aid allocation is based on the number of children who live on trust property as well as parents who work on trust land.

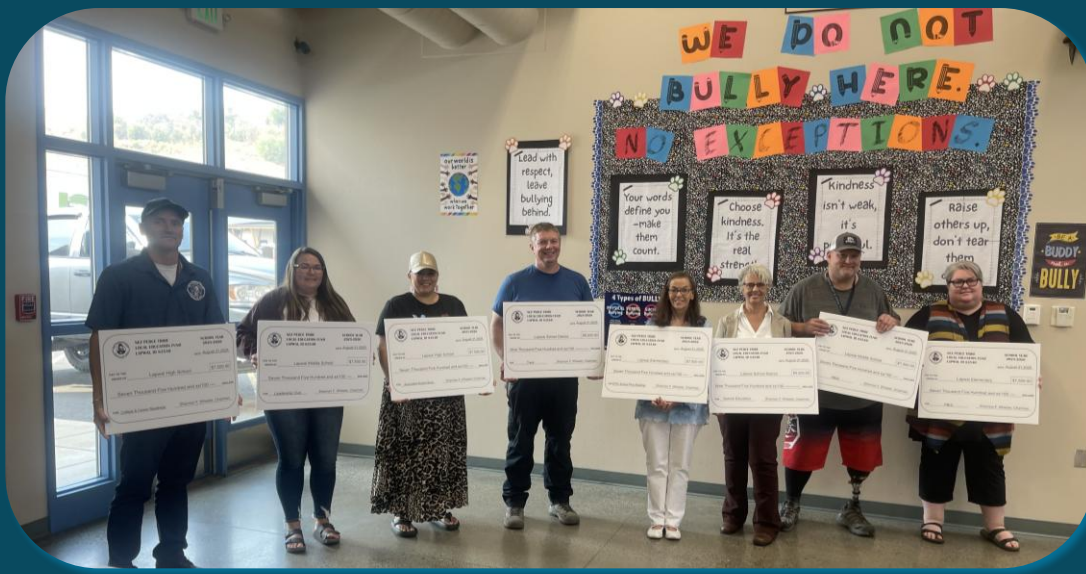
During Parent-Teacher Conferences, November 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, parents will be requested to complete residency and employment surveys to ensure the highest Lapwai School District allocation for Impact Aid. Your confidential responses hold the federal government accountable to their promise of ensuring a fully funded and equitable education for our students.

Impact Aid has not been fully funded since 1969, leaving \$1.05 billion in unmet needs for schools like ours across the country. On average, schools receive about 55% of what they are due. Your help with verification by completing the needed forms will assist us holding them accountable to provide this funding obligation to all Lapwai students.



qe'ciyew'yew!





# qe'ciyew'yew' Nez Perce Tribe!

Please join us in celebrating the generous support of the Nez Perce Tribe with Local Education Program Fund awards. Their caring assistance included \$64,000 in grant support for objectives with relevance to Nez Perce culture and history:

On behalf of our students, staff, and the Lapwai School District Board of Trustees, please accept our gratitude for your continued support with Local Education Program Funds. These resources will make a lasting impact on student success and expand opportunities for our learners. We look forward to featuring these projects in our newsletters and social media, celebrating your support of our Wildcat Scholars.

District Track Repairs:	\$9,500
Elementary EPIC Reading Resources:	\$7,500
Special Education:	\$9,500
Middle-High ASB:	\$7,500
Elementary PBIS:	\$7,500
Middle-High PBIS:	\$7,500
Middle School Leadership:	\$7,500
High School College & Career Readiness:	\$7,500

Lapwai School District Annual Districtwide Meeting: Monday, August 25, 2025



# Dr. Arthur Taylor, Jr. Culturally Responsive Teacher of the Year: Mrs. Jones

Mrs. Jones was honored by Nez Perce STEP as the Dr. Arthur Taylor Jr. Culturally-Responsive Teacher of the Year.

Congratulations Mrs. Jones and thank you for your big heart for Lapwai students! We would like to thank Joyce McFarland joining us to honor this deserving teacher!

## Congratulations Emma!



# Teacher Helper of the Year: Kristen Bateman

Mrs. Bateman was honored by Nez Perce STEP as the Teacher Helper of the Year.

Congratulations Mrs. Bateman and thank you for your big heart for Lapwai students! We would like to thank Joyce McFarland joining us to honor this deserving counselor and school psychologist!

## Congratulations Kristen!

Lapwai School District Annual Districtwide Meeting: Monday, August 25, 2025





qe'ciyew'yew'

Rebecca

Lehman!

Rebecca, thank you for joining us each year representing Nez Perce Tribe Social Services and Indian Child Welfare.

The critical student safety and mandatory reporting information you share with Lapwai School District staff is a welcome addition to ensuring a safe and supportive learning environment.

Lapwai School District Annual  
Districtwide Meeting:  
Monday, August 25, 2025



qe'ciyew'yew' ★

# Lapwai Education Association!

Thank you for joining us each year  
and surrounding our dedicated staff  
with your caring support!

Lapwai School District Annual  
Districtwide Meeting:  
Monday, August 25, 2025



A field trip is scheduled to the University  
of Idaho College of Law on October 1<sup>st</sup>

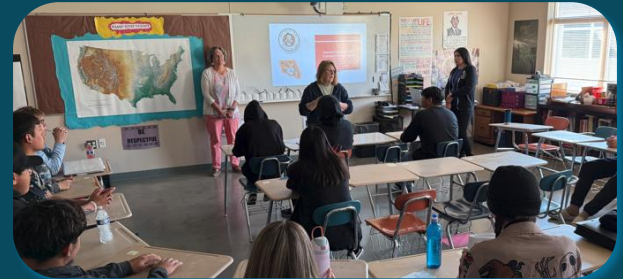
qe'ciyew'yew'

Julie Kane &

Jeanette Oatman!

Julie and Jeanette from the Nez Perce  
Tribe Office of Legal Counsel joined Mrs.  
Selstad's Wildcat Scholars to present on:

Tribal Jurisdiction  
Tribal Sovereignty  
Dual Citizenship  
Legal Career Pathways





qe'ciyew'yew'

Nez Perce Tribe!



Included in the generous Local Education Program Fund support from the Nez Perce Tribe is \$9,500 for much needed repairs to the track.

Please join us in celebrating their support!

A Wildcat thank you to Josh Leighton and Greg Hansen for their collaboration and planning to protect this district and community resource as well!





# Mrs. Arthur's 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Wildcat Scholars



## STEM Experiential Learning





# High School to College Transition

## Lewis-Clark State College Dual-Credit Class



Mrs. Selstad &  
Mr. Nellesen

## College Readiness & Career Planning





# Lapwai School District

## Superintendent's Community Cabinet

The Superintendent's Student and Faculty Cabinets consistently share such amazing input on our approach to student success! Their incredible contributions have inspired the creation of a Community Cabinet to expand this invaluable collaboration.

*Are you the parent or grandparent of a currently enrolled Lapwai School District student?*

*Does your role in the community support youth and families?*

If the answer is yes to either of these questions, this may be the focus group for you!

Community Cabinet Objectives Include:

- Direct input in district programming
- Family engagement event planning
- Celebrating student and staff achievement

To join this engaging collaboration or to learn more, please contact David Aiken, Lapwai School District Superintendent:

[daiken@Lapwai.org](mailto:daiken@Lapwai.org)

(208) 843-2622





2025-2026

# School Attendance Matters Challenge





# Nez Perce Language With Mr. Gregory

*Lapwai School District*



## Parent Portal



*www.Lapwai.org*

Please see the Nez Perce Language resources  
on the Parent Portal section of our website  
with learning tools for home.

# Nez Perce Tribal Employees & Community

*Please join us!*

**From Where the Sun Now Stands:**

## **Remembering Bear Paw 1877**

*Education session on Nez Perce history and importance of honoring our ancestors with commemoration days on June 17, August 9, and October 5.*

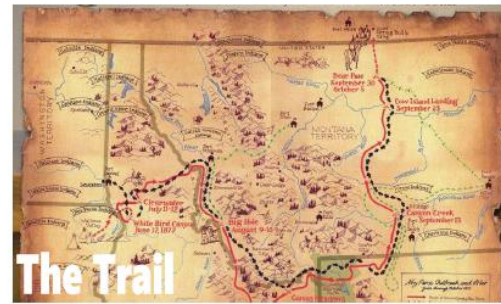


**October 5**

*Coordinated by tribal Education Department  
with Wilfred "Scotty" Scott,  
Nez Perce Elder/Veteran/Leader*

**Challenge: Read "Yellow Wolf: His Own Story"**

<https://archive.org/details/yellowwolfhisown002070mbp>



**The Trail**

**Two Sessions:**

**Tuesday, Sept. 30**

**9:30-11:00 a.m.**

**Wa-A'Yas, Kamiah**

**2:00-3:30 p.m.**

**Pi-nee-waus, Lapwai**