

Tac Titooqan Article
August 2015

As we quickly approach the new school year, I am proud to introduce some exciting new staff and programs in the Lapwai School District. I have been blessed the last four years to gather amazing input and suggestions from our parents, Tribal leaders, and community. I have taken these suggestions to heart and with the full support of our dedicated school board, we have some great news to report.

After a two year search for just the right candidate, we have located and hired an outstanding music teacher, Dr. Patrick Cleveland. This highly sought after music educator had several employment opportunities and chose the Lapwai School District. He is excited to rebuild our music program in kindergarten through 12th grade and integrate Nez Perce culture and language. Dr. Cleveland is known for his exceptional concerts and music productions. He is eager to get our students performing in both band and choir. Please join us for a music instrument demonstration by Keeney Brothers and meet our new music teacher on Thursday, August 13th from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the Lapwai High School Commons.

Please also join me in welcoming Dr. D'Lisa Penney-Pinkham to her new role as Lapwai Middle-High School Principal. It is with great pride I assist Dr. Pinkham in her transition from a remarkable 5th grade teacher to a knowledgeable administrator. Her gifts in curriculum, instruction, and cultural responsiveness will be an asset for the school. She joins this devoted staff as they continue to make improving teaching, learning, and student achievement their top priorities. We are all excited to witness Dr. Pinkham's urgency and dedication benefit the students and staff during the coming year. I am confident she will bring out the very best in everyone.

In order to provide our students and athletes with as much support as possible, we also created a Dean of Students position at Lapwai Middle-High School. David Kronemann will be joining us to fill this critical role which includes the responsibility of Athletic Director. Mr. Kronemann is already hard at work with our coaches to create a successful, consistent, and competitive athletic year. He brings eight years of teaching and coaching experience and is a certified administrator as well. He will be working collaboratively with Dr. Pinkham to ensure she has the time to work directly with teachers to improve instruction. I could not be more impressed with Mr. Kronemann's skills, patience, and dedication.

Thank you for joining the Lapwai School District in welcoming these three new amazing resources. I will be sharing other exciting changes and introducing additional new staff in the coming months. Dr. Pinkham and Mr. Kronemann had the following introductions to share:

Dr. D'Lisa Penney-Pinkham: I am excited to be joining Lapwai Middle-High School next year. I've been able to spend some time transitioning with Mrs. Shubert. The more time I spend at LMS/LHS, the more excited I become. They have been doing great things for student achievement, and I look forward to joining the momentum of academic rigor and best practices instruction.

I will be beginning my 12th year at the Lapwai School District. My passion is in curriculum and instruction, with an emphasis on Indigenous learning pedagogies. Ensuring that our students are learning in a culturally responsive environment in a culturally relevant way is paramount. Lapwai's schools are a model for this type of teaching. I am proud of the professional work and high standards that our elementary has built, and I am extremely excited to now be able to participate in that same work at the middle-high school level. The support of our community and families is one of the most important factors of student success. We are a TEAM: Community, Family, Teachers, and Students! Together, we will ensure that our students reach their full potential. Thank you for the opportunity to help facilitate teaching and learning in our community! Qe'ciyew'yew!

Mr. David Kronemann: I just want to start off by saying how excited I am to become a part of Lapwai Middle-High School and the Lapwai School District. I want to say thank you to Dr. David Aiken and the staff at Lapwai Middle-High School for giving me this opportunity to become Lapwai's first Dean of Students. For the last 8 years I have been a teacher and coach in Lewiston. I hope to bring my experiences and skills to this profession and plan to work with students, staff, parents, and community members to help enhance the success of all those who walk through the door of Lapwai Middle-High School. Together we can help all students succeed.
