



Mitákuyepi



Mitákuyepi is a publication for employees of St. Joseph's Indian School and its outreaches like **Trista Medicine Crow, Community Relations Coordinator** at Native Hope, recognized for volunteering to teach St. Joseph's Indian School high school girls how to make ribbon skirts. Thank you, Trista for giving of your time, and honoring and sharing a valuable cultural tradition.

PROBLEMS? PLEASE LET US KNOW! CHANGE LABEL AND MAIL BACK TO US.

- ___ Misspelled name
- ___ Wrong address
- ___ Received more than one
- ___ Remove my name from the mailing list

This employee newsletter is named Mitákuyepi because it speaks the mission of St. Joseph's Indian School. Mitákuyepi is a Lakota word used to say, "my relatives." Also it is the address to an audience that means, "I have something to say." This is the voice of our thiyóšpaye.

Its masthead has a backdrop of sacred sage to remind us that our work is Wakhán.



St. Joseph's Indian School
We serve and teach, we receive and learn.

Mitákuyepi

WINTER 2019

VOLUME I NUMBER I

Family, Mission, Faith: This Is St. Joseph's Indian School

Results are in and strong from the Employee Engagement Survey conducted over a two-week period in early October. Consultant Paul Omodt and the Communications Department put together the survey to measure the organization's engagement on a scale designed for comparison with mission-based institutions.

The measurement is significant at this time because of the new emphasis on organizational communication. It provides a baseline for future planning. Ninety-four percent of employees participated, which demonstrates a high level of engagement and provides solid data.

Omodt and Director of Communications Clare Willrodt shared outcomes during the final week of November with mid-level managers, directors and the management team. Three takeaways stand out:

Family—More than anything, St. Joseph's Indian School employees value spending time with family, and they generally feel positive

about how the organization respects family time and how leadership models good work/life balance. (Enjoy the family stories on page 3 of this newsletter.)

Mission—The second priority for employees is their commitment to work here because of the mission. They also identify a strong sense of this mission in leadership.

Faith—Employees say that faith motivates their work. St. Joseph's Indian School scores higher than other mission-driven organizations on the faith score, and higher than the population in general. They also note that the faith witness of leadership is important to them.

Work continues to define more specific, department-level profiles that soon will be shared with employees by their supervisors.

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SACRED SIGHTINGS

Sacred Sightings is a pictorial celebration of God's presence and signs of hope at St. Joseph's Indian School.

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MESSAGE FROM MIKE

IT'S ABOUT THE MISSION

Recently, two members of the Facilities staff worked tirelessly through the night on the weekend to make sure that the heat kept working on campus. There was no fanfare. This led me to wonder, "How many 'regular' actions and 'extra-ordinary' deeds take place each day, each month and every year because of our important mission here at St. Joseph's Indian School?"

Our school is composed of many committed individuals. Everyone from donors to employees, from

students to families and those in between makes a conscious choice to act. This is the result of an ideal—our mission that is so powerful that it motivates so many to action.

Our mission works best when everyone believes and hopes that their actions will lead to something positive. Thanks for the part you play, large or small, seen or unseen. What you do contributes to our blessed mission—one of hope.

Remember this mission originates from the vision and foresight of Fr. Dehon, as

we are an apostolate of the Congregation of the Priests of the Sacred Heart.

On another note, the holiday season—Thanksgiving, Christmas and the New Year—is upon us. Thanks for the hard work over this time frame. It is my hope that you can be touched by a spirit of kindness, generosity and thanksgiving throughout the season.

God Bless!



Mike Tyrell
President
St. Joseph's Indian School

2 Guys, a AND A THING CALLED HOPE



Last summer Josiah, a student in his tenth year at St. Joseph's Indian School, conducted a research project in his hometown of Lower Brule. He began by creating a film about the positive aspects of reservation life through interviews with program directors and others in the community.



Josiah
Student, St. Joseph's Indian School

Next he surveyed members of his oyáte (tribe) about life and hope on their reservation. Following the first survey, he showed them the positive video he created about the programs and events offered on their reservation. After they viewed his video, Josiah asked them to take a post survey to see if their levels of hope rose. The video apparently gave participants hope as their scores increased in positivity after they viewed it.

Currently for a school science project, Josiah is partnering with a friend and Native Hope to take the experiment one step further on the neighboring Crow Creek Reservation. After conducting a similar experience there, the pair hope to compare and contrast the two communities.

Native Hope is assisting the students to obtain footage of positive programs and events in Crow Creek. Interviewing inspirational people such as the suicide prevention specialist and elders of the community are at the

top of the list. The partnership between Native Hope and the students fits Native Hope's belief in the power of storytelling to bring about healing.

"Hope" is the thing with feathers -
That perches in the soul -
And sings the tune without the words -
And never stops - at all -
-- Emily Dickinson



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Mitákuyepi IS PUBLISHED QUARTERLY BY ST. JOSEPH'S INDIAN SCHOOL. ITS PURPOSE IS TO COMMUNICATE ACTIVITIES AND ISSUES PERTINENT TO THE SCHOOL, TO SHARE IDEAS AND INFORMATION USEFUL IN PERFORMING THE MISSION, TO ASSIST IN FOSTERING A COMMON CULTURE AND TO REINFORCE THE MISSION AND CORE VALUES OF ST. JOSEPH'S INDIAN SCHOOL.

comments,

QUESTIONS?

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For additional information about St. Joseph's Indian School, its outreaches and the Priests of the Sacred Heart visit:

www.stjo.org

Artist, Akta Lakota Share Mission

On a crisp Saturday morning in November, Jeremy Red Eagle pored over the articles in the Akta Lakota Museum's collection, less like he was viewing historical artifacts and much more like he was reading a story, a story of which he is very much a part. Selected by the Minnesota Historical Society as a member of their 2019 Native American Artist-in-Residence Program, Red Eagle is mentoring two young Dakota men in their shared culture while he uses the society's resources to further his knowledge of the crafts and history of area tribes.

Alongside him was Akisha Peters, his nephew, who has particular interest in the war clubs in the collection. Admiring the metal inlays, horse hair and beading in the Lakota clubs, the two pointed out the differences between the Lakota clubs and the wooden and decorated Dakota clubs. They research quill work, lacrosse sticks, tools, weaponry and dance regalia, with the goal to keep traditional methods meaningful to future generations and preserve Dakota identity. Their discernment of modern and traditional work, modern works that preserve the traditional and those which depart from it is studied.

Some of the discussion centered on bows and arrows in the collection. There are bows of all sizes, some smaller and clearly for children. Some arrows are blunted for shooting birds or playing games. "There is a lot to tell from them," noted Red Eagle as he "read" how particular artifacts were probably used in war or hunting, teaching youth or playing games. He pointed out buffalo and sheep horn composites added to some bows in the collection to make them heavier, have more give and be less likely to break if overdrawn.

The visit of Red Eagle to the Akta Lakota Museum was poignant in their shared mission. A longing for tradition brought Montana-born Red Eagle back to Waubay, S.D., some five years ago. An enrolled member of the Sisseton Wahpeton Oyáte, he wanted to learn his language and, as an artist, both preserve and pass on traditional Dakota culture to Dakota youth. The Akta Lakota Museum shares this objective and is grateful for the partnership.



Akisha Peters and Jeremy Red Eagle look over one of the trays in the collection at the Akta Lakota Museum & Cultural Center. The museum has one of South Dakota's most comprehensive collections of Northern Plains Indian artwork and historical artifacts.



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Mission

IN MOTION

Lakota Nations Invitational Team

December 18 marks the date when two middle school teams will travel to the 43rd Annual Lakota Nations Invitational to participate in the Lakota Language competition. Students studied diligently to receive a spot on the team.

Family Night Festivities

The school community kicked off the holiday season in style with the 2019 National Family Night event November 13. Students and staff assembled in the Rec Center in family groups to participate in nine "4-minute-to-win-it" relays, including the ever-popular "Cookie Face." Laughter, sibling hugs and cheers filled hearts as the games unfolded. Pizza and cupcakes filled hungry tummies in the Dining Hall where a photo booth snapped pictures of happy siblings.



Sacred Heart Center Breaks Ground for New Shelter

The problem: Some 34% of women in South Dakota will face rape, physical violence or stalking by an intimate partner in their lifetime. For Native American women, 33% experience such violence every year. Their male counterparts are not immune. In remotely located Eagle Butte, S.D., Sacred Heart Center offers help. But the four-bedroom shelter is often outpaced by the need, so victims have to share rooms or be placed in unsecured hotel rooms.

The solution: The October 29 groundbreaking on a new \$3.5 million, 10,523 square-foot family safe shelter that will grow the current operation's capacity to provide compassionate, nonjudgmental care and advocacy through additional space, a state-of-practice layout and enhanced privacy.

Second Graders Visit

November 21 was the date of a campus visit by Chamberlain Elementary School's second grade class. More than 50 students attended through a grant that allows students to take off-site visits to learn about and experience the Lakota culture.



They were hosted by some 20 St. Joseph's students who performed and sang with the drum and exhibited dance styles. All took part in the rabbit dance and a question and answer period.

Recreation Center Planning

St. Joseph's Indian School is excited to start a process of updating the Rec Center. We need to decide what to include, renovate, rebuild and more. The school recently contracted Barker Rinker Seacat Architecture to guide a project team in a study to examine the condition of the existing building, determine short- and long-term programming goals and evaluate the cost of renovation versus new construction. The project team convenes for the first time this January. Stay tuned for more information!

This fall, the Rec Center partnered with Sacred Hoops for the boys Inter City Basketball Program. Third through fifth grade boys from St. Joseph's Indian School and the community began Sunday afternoons with a workout, followed by sixth through eighth graders. The focus was on offensive and defensive concepts. Sessions end at Christmas break, with the girls program starting in the New Year.



REAL CATCHY



From the day the grade school opened in August to the day students head home for Christmas break, they will have gobbled down more than 36,400 CATCHY healthy fruits and vegetable snacks at school. That's more than 225 servings per child. YUM!

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News

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PEOPLE



WHAT ARE YOU DOING CHRISTMAS EVE?

Welcome Aboard!



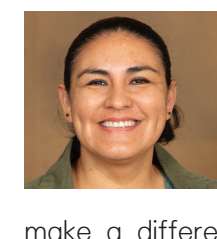
Shelby Evenson loves that her new job as **Donor Care Specialist** gives her the opportunity to make a positive impact for children. In her free time she runs a nonprofit dog rescue. She is a weight lifter who lists playing video games, baking, yoga and bowling among favorite activities.



Wendy Fox looks forward to helping others and contributing to education, things she feels come with her new position as **Donor Care Specialist**. She likes movies, broccoli and trying new places to dine out with her family.



Shandra Hanson says she is excited about all of the things she has to learn in her new role as **Donor Care Specialist**. She enjoys spending time baking with her family. A true Midwesterner, steak is the staple in her refrigerator. The last movie she saw was, "Girls Night Out."



Iris Huez is Native Hope's new **Digital Media Coordinator**, and she is excited about the creative aspect of the job and the opportunity it gives her to make a difference in the community. Newer to Chamberlain, she notes a day at the river has become a favorite family outing. Mexican food is tops for Iris.



Darla Milda is interested in talking with donors about St. Joseph's Indian School and the children who attend there as part of her new job as **Donor Care Specialist**. She and her son like "hanging out" watching movies, the most recent one: "Elf." She keeps the fridge stocked with cheese and "always snack foods. Lol."

Fr. **Bernie Rosinski, SCJ**, tells how on Christmas Eve day, his family fasted. In the evening, they shared a meal that began with receiving a square, four-by-six-inch wafer (oplatek). At the father's invitation each person placed their wafer upon the neighbor's wafer and broke both in two so that each had half the neighbor's wafer and half their own. That continued around the table so that, at the end, everyone had part of everyone else's wafer. They then ate it with a glass of wine. It was a symbol of family unity and the closest the children got to the Eucharist until they actually made First Communion.

Alicia Rausch, Data Entry Specialist, says her family gathers together on Fridays beginning with Black Friday for cookie days. Instead of shopping and spending money they make favorite family cookies and send them to family members who live at a distance. This is now a five year tradition that has allowed mother and grandmother to share family recipes and memories with children.

Wanda Bunker, Historical Center Coordinator, goes the cookie route with her family, too. In a generations' long tradition, baked, cut-out sugar cookies are decorated with frosting, candies and sprinkles. Sometimes cookies are subject to a contest to see who did the best job. With grown children who have families of their own, Wanda still does this every Christmas for company who might drop by.

Hannah Ruhlman, Development and Child Services Liaison, loves stringing popcorn and cranberry garland for the Christmas tree. She reflects that, as a child, no matter how many times she poked herself with a needle or how much popcorn ended up on the string or in her stomach, this was part of the fun. It's a tradition she hopes to continue with her children.

Karla Herman, Executive Assistant, says her family launches Christmas Eve Day with a full-fledged birthday celebration for two grandsons. Evening brings homemade chicken noodle soup and hors d'oeuvres, Christmas Eve Mass, a Nativity Story re-enactment complete with costumes, then gift opening followed by themed gift swap game. The merriment ends with a game of Bunco. Christmas morning starts with checking the stockings filled by Santa, homemade caramel rolls, egg bake and mimosas for breakfast. Later its prime rib for Christmas dinner and playing games with the family.

LaRayne Woster, Lakota Studies Lead, and her family have an inipi/sweat ceremony over the holiday to pray for the people and for the strength to walk a path that is strong to help others, just like the buffalo heading into a storm. If not able to have inipi, they have ceremony with their pipes for the same reasons. In their tree, they place a bundle of sage in red cloth to remind of the special gifts they have to offer, just like the three wise men offered gifts to baby Jesus. She also enjoys making traditional foods over the holiday for celebration: soup, jerky and wózápi.

Joe Tyrell, Director of Mission Integration. Every Christmas Eve, Joe's parents would make the entire family watch "It's a Wonderful Life" in black and white. The Tyrell children always would fight the parents about watching the "old" movie, but they never won. About twenty minutes into the movie, at least one Tyrell kid would be asleep. By the end, Mike Tyrell was the last man standing. As the children grew older, they began to stay up later and finish the movie, which now they can all quote from start to finish. That "old" movie is one of Joe's favorites, and he is thankful his parents forced the family to watch. Carrying on what he now calls a wonderful tradition, he watches it with his own family—the colorized version.

2019-2020 ST. JOSEPH'S INDIAN SCHOOL CALENDAR

Dec 20	Christmas break begins Staff Christmas Party	February 26	Ash Wednesday
Dec 25	Merry Christmas!	March 2	Read Across America Day
Dec 27	Break homes open	March 4	Gymnastics Showcase
Jan 2	Homes open	March 6	Third quarter ends Spring break begins
Jan 5	Student Christmas liturgy, dinner and party	March 16	Homes open Fourth quarter begins
Jan 26	Catholic Schools Week begins	March 17	Parent Advisory Committee meets
Jan 28	Employee chili cook-off	March 19	St. Patrick's Day Feast of St. Joseph, father of Jesus
Feb 7	Sobriety Valentine Celebration	March 24	Employee Service Awards Banquet
Feb 14	Valentine's Day		
Feb 19	Staff Appreciation Breakfast		
Feb 20	Grade school parent/teacher conferences Dance recital		