



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

Mitákuyepi



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We serve and teach, we receive and learn.
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energy and willingness to do whatever it takes to get the students the schoolwork they need.

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 Wakháŋ.

PROBLEMS? PLEASE LET US KNOW!

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



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

SPRING 2020

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MESSAGE FROM MIKE

THE JOURNEY

A lot is written now to say these are strange times. They talk about time itself as if it is moving slowly in some strange manner. I would characterize that movement with the term "surreal."

It is May, usually a time for celebrating milestones. For us, in the past, that meant students finished a grade; homes and classrooms took trips, and eighth-grade and senior students graduated. This was our normal for more than 90 years. We would hear kids on the playground, see them bike across campus and

note many smiles. This year, we miss being part of that.

What can we take away from these uncertain times? For me, it is a time to reflect on how blessed we are to work for a mission-based organization. This spring, we see around us many selfless acts done on short notice amidst uncertainty. Development and Facilities staff adapt to the present situation to get the job done. In Child Services, genuine concern for our students and families means creative ingenuity expressed in calls, mailings, videos, care packages and more. Donors continue to express care and concern for our work.

We long for a sense of "normal" to return, even though it will be different. Perhaps this provides perspective about what is really important – family, faith and a commitment to something greater than ourselves. That is what we are all about here!

We miss our celebrations. But because we are resilient, perhaps today's uncertainties and hardships will remind us that celebrations are a small part of something bigger – the journey itself. Let us not forget, we are blessed in our journey, even when it seems difficult and uncertain. God Bless!



Mike Tyrell
President
St. Joseph's Indian School



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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:
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SPRING 2020

VOLUME 2 NUMBER 2

VIRTUAL GRADUATIONS: LESS CELEBRATORY, YET CONGRATULATORY

High School seniors Nicholas Stands and Diana Williams officially graduate Chamberlain High School at the end of June. A video posted on the St. Joseph Family Connections Facebook page celebrated their accomplishment on May 15. Both worked hard and met the requirements for graduation, according to 7-12th Grade Residential Director Travis Hallock.



Nick plans to begin basic training in the United States Marine Corps in the fall. Graduation is the finale of a journey that began when he came to St. Joseph's Indian School in the second grade in 2009. A fun fact about Nick is his nickname "Doc" given to him as a baby. He has an older brother, Wyatt, so the connection is Doc Holliday and Wyatt Earp.

He expressed gratitude to his parents for being there for him, Tim and Jess Sams for never giving up on him, Leonard and Aleece Montoya for making him feel welcome and Rob West for helping him through. He advises younger students to not act like they know it all and to be open-minded, mindful and persistent. He says to them, "Stay focused on school work, and work

hard." Nick is an enrolled member of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe.



Diana plans to attend South Dakota State University in January 2021 where she will study to be a traveling Neonatal Intensive Care nurse. Diana started St. Joseph's Indian School in her freshman year. She notes fond memories of Crane

Home and the impact the girls and houseparents had on her life.

While in school, Diana worked as a Certified Nurse Assistant at Sanford. A fun fact most don't know about her is that she has eight siblings. Her mother and sister, Trudy, have been her biggest supporters. She would love to have dinner with her grandma who passed because she always made her laugh.

If she could be someone famous for a day, she would be Oprah Winfrey because of her ambition and drive to do good. This echoes her advice to younger students, "You are the only person who can push yourself to do good and be good. No one else is going to do it for you." Diana is an enrolled member of the Crow Creek Sioux Tribe.

May 22, 2020, was the eighth-grade graduation celebration. An "Almost Graduation" video created by St. Joseph's Indian School staff to mark the transition was shared via Facebook that day. Although an in-person ceremony wasn't

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What Are These Times Like?

Another struggle is my sleep schedule and maintaining a good, healthy one. I am getting better at fixing it day by day.

Even with the time I have on my hands, it takes a lot to get things done. Stress plays a big part in life right now. I stress about a lot of things, whether it is schoolwork, or if I'm going to pass my junior year or if my family will have enough to get through this time.

I was looking forward to going back to school in May – believe it or not! I thought that if I did, I would be able to get caught up. I feel it is easier to work at school than it is at home. Getting the news that school is over for the rest of the year was a little exciting because who wouldn't like an early summer vacation? But it also was a little hard to hear because



now I am learning how big of a role school plays in our education.

Other than trying to focus on my schoolwork, I enjoy staying home all the time and trying new things out with my family, such as games or a recipe we found online. Even cleaning the entire house now and then! I like relaxing with them and binge-watching a new Netflix show every week, even though we get tired of each other because everyone is always home now. I love being able to spend time with them and catching up on the latest news in our lives.

I do miss a huge amount of the staff from St. Joe's and Chamberlain High School. The amount of support that I had and still get from them is amazing. I look forward to going back and reuniting with my St. Joe's family.

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YOUR INFORMATION

LEAD STORY

Virtual Graduations
What Are These Times Like?

PEOPLE NEWS

Getting to Know Development IT
Graduation, (continued)
Service Awards

PEOPLE NEWS

Service Awards (continued)
Welcome Aboard, Kudos
Distinguished Alumnus

MESSAGE FROM MIKE

The Journey

