



Mitákuyepi is a publication for employees of St. Joseph's Indian School and its outreaches like Administrative **Assistants Cindy** Knippling and Sharla Krogman,

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

recognized for their 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 thiyóśpaye.

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



of God's presence and signs of hope at St. Joseph's Indian School.







SSAGE 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 famlies 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!



GRUYCP1 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.

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SPRING 2020

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.



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



attend a journalism conference this summer were dashed by the Coronavirus pandemic. But she picks up her mighty pen as our guest journalist and writes us about what life is like from her Rapid City home.

What is it like for me during this time? Being a student in high school during this time has its ups and downs. The main things I struggle with are the schoolwork and having the motivation to do it and finish it. Telling myself that I need to get it done and getting it done are two very different things.



VOLUME 2

NUMBER

VIRTUAL GRADUATIONS: LESS CELEBRATORY, YET CONGRATULATORY

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.

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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LEAD STORY

VIirtual 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

nat Are These

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.

Getting to Know Development IT

The six-person team of Development IT works in the Nagel Business Office in Chamberlain, S.D., and the Donor Care Center in Sioux Falls, S.D. This group is the behind-the-scenes machine that supports the many systems that make our mailing programs smart and effective. They provide this support to the Development Office, Personal Care Center, Donor Care Center and Priests of the Sacred Heart Development.

Under their care:

- While most of us are snug in our beds, they run nightly updates on donation and donor records entered by Mail Processing each day in order to ensure thank-you letters are mailed.
- The many reports and processes used by Development staff are maintained.
- The systems used in scanning and processing mail receive support.
- New and active donors who respond to acquisition mailings are processed and selected for mailings by several code sets on donor records based on what they tell us.
- Donor databases are maintained, updated, corrected and scrubbed.
- Mailing selects and mail processing for the Priests of the Sacred Heart Development runs on completely separate databases and systems.
- Programmers ensure that all systems flow smoothly.

Manager Kevin Blaalid says the job is rewarding because the team knows they are helping raise and use benefactors' funds wisely. Not only that, the work they do means we are responsive, good listeners to donor requests.

The team enjoys working with St. Joseph's Indian School staff members and knowing that what they do supports the mission.

Interesting fact: Every time we add, change or upgrade to a new application system it takes months and sometimes years of planning, gathering requirements, software development, testing and training for everyone on the new system.



Development IT staff in Chamberlain include, left to right: Miles Bradley, Mark Saxton, Balinda Schmiedt, Kevin Blaalid (and not pictured, Mike Dooley). Development IT staff based in Sioux Falls include Timon Reynolds (and not pictured, Jordan





(continued from front page)

possible because of COVID-19, family and friends celebrated online through the video premier.

PEOPLE

Twenty-three students achieved this milestone in their education including Julian Bruguier, Clarysia Cooke, Jackson Cutt, Addisson Desersa, Kaiden Fleury, Jordan Fool Bull, Jolissa Goodlow, Jeremy His Law, Taylor Jerry, Isaiah Keeble, Vincent Kills Plenty III, Sunni Langdeau, Juliana LaRoche, Javin Primeaux, Amiel Pretty Sounding Flute, Melissa Roubideaux, Everardo Skunk, Ezekiel Skunk, Eden Thigh, Eric Thigh, Landon Two Strike, Elron Walking Bull and Zaley Zephier.

Twenty of the graduates have chosen to continue in St. Joseph's Indian School's high school program. Residential Coordinator Frank Whipple organized the effort to create the special video for the graduates and their families. Also, staff wrote and mailed letters to each graduate sharing special memories of their time at St. Joseph's Indian School. Each student received their diploma, a collection of photographs, a yearbook, cards from donors and the profile cutout used to create the graduation video.

Students Kaiden Fleury and Juliana LaRoche were recognized for attending eight years.



Virtual Eighth Grad



Actual Eighth Grade, front row, left to right: Zaley Zephier, Ezekiel Skunk, Landon Two Strike, Sunni Langdeau, Javin Primeaux; second row, left to right: Addisson Desersa, Jeremy His Law, Eden Thigh, Julian Bruguier, Eric Thigh, Juliana LaRoche, Clarysia Cooke; third row, left to right: Kaiden Fleury, Amiel Pretty Sounding Flute, Jackson Cutt, Jolissa Goodlon, Melissa Roubideaux, Taylor Jerry; fourth row, left to right: Elron Walking Bull, Jordan Fool Bull, Fr. Anthony Kluckman, SCJ, Isaiah Keeble, Vincent Kills Plenty, Everardo Skunk.



Celebrating Milestones

Employees from across the organization are celebrating service awards. Thank them for their committment to the mission!

EWS

Five Years

SPRING 20

Abby Bates, Teacher Kevin Blaalid, Director of Information Technology Larry Blasingame, Custodian Bette Bonjour, Houseparent Mike Bonjour, Houseparent Alyssa Hamiel, PCC Planned Giving Specialist Jordan Herting, Data Entry Supervisor Nancy Houk, Mail Processing Communications Specialist Sean Johnson, 4-6 Residential Coordinator Lanette Kotilinek, Custodian Kristin Lawrence, Houseparent Jeff Lepkowski, Family Service Counselor Jennifer Lien, Teacher Alisa Mauseth, Donor Care Center Specialist II Mandy McLaughlin, Human Resources Assistant Lori Ness. Teacher Christina Palmer, Accounts Payable Specialist Marjorie Payer, Planned Giving Associate Karla Priebe, Custodian David Schindler, Direct Mail Production and Postal Specialist Jessica Schoenhard, DCC Supervisor Neil Viereck, Houseparent David Willrodt, Houseparent Katy Wilson, Houseparent

Ten Years

Theresa Bubulka, Houseparent Amanda Hermeling, Family Service Counselor Allyssa Hoffer, Human Resources Associate Fr. Anthony Kluckman, SCJ, Chaplain

Fifteen Years

David Baldwin, Teacher Robyn Knecht, Director of Counseling Services Dave Meyer, Museum Assistant Curator Kevin Miller, Production Warehouse /Maintenance Tonya Peterson, Graphics/Preflight Linea Schoenhard, Teacher Mark Schoenhard, Rec Specialist

Twenty Years



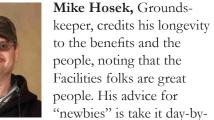
Luke Cosgrove, Houseparent, says he's lasted because, "It's a job where you feel like you accomplish something." One thing he would do differently is skip that April Fool's joke when he

substituted Fixodent for toothpaste.



Tom Hopkins, Tipi Press Printing Manager, says the most interesting change was watching the two-week disassembly of the old press and reassembly of its replacement. The secret sauce

of his success: faith, family and prayer, and for those he offers thanks.



day. He says he has no regrets.







He combines a love of fishing and joy of travel.



work-family.



of her adventure.



Thirty Years



involved.





SPRING 2020



Sue Kutil, Houseparent, has a student-centered philosophy that motivates her work and is the formula for her success and longevity. If you make a difference for just one student, she says, you have done your job.

Sherry Langle, Family Service Counselor, values the team in Counseling Services as well as teacher and houseparent staff who help her to do her job well. Over her years here, many things have changed. She recalls the challenges she faced because of her attitude when she started working with teenage boys 20 years ago.

LeRoy Naescher, Vehicle Supervisor, retired in March. The total "motorhead," was perfect for his job. A die-hard Chevy fan, he is the proud owner of several vintage Cameros, attended many NASCAR races and was known to race both cars and lawnmowers.

Amy Kenobbie, Production Supervisor, likes the people she works with and the new and updated inserting machines. Hard work and faith have been her career go-tos. She is grateful for her home-family and her

Lori Preheim, Programmer Analyst, reminisces about the days when helping people with technology was teaching them how to use a mouse. She loves the variety that her role offers working with people throughout the organization and thanks everyone for being part

Scott Woster, Family Service Counselor, says, "why not 25 years at St. Joe's?" calling the organization a family, a way of life and a dream job. He says listening is the chief factor for success at St. Joseph's Indian School. The best part of his job is building relationships, especially with students and families.

Mary Felten, Mail Processor, notes that there have been so many changes over the years in the way that mail is processed. She says the best part of the job is fulfilling donors' requests and cautions new mail processors to not become overwhelmed with all of the steps

> Sr. Charles Palm, OSB, began her ministry to Native Americans as a teacher at St. Joseph's Indian School. Currently she serves in Fort Thompson and Big Bend. Her best advice for new

employees is to seek training in the culture. She finds joy working alongside Native Americans in lay ministry, and commends the seven trained Native American catechists she knows who are certified by the Sioux Falls Catholic Diocese.



Celia Rogers, 1-3 Residential Coordinator, is grateful for thirty years of listening to the children, appreciating the families and their culture and knowing that there is always something new to learn. She marvels that the girls'

high school home, which was closing due to low numbers when she started, has grown in size and success.

Thirty-Five Years



Shirley Basting, Personal Care Recurring Specialist, recalls how the Internet opened a whole new world of communication with donors and programs. She enjoys the sense of family that comes with being a staff member

of St. Joseph's Indian School and the lifetime of friendships that has come with it. She recommends keeping a sense of humor!



Denise Hyland, Planned Giving Manager, credits her longevity with knowing that what she does makes a difference and feeling part of the St. Joseph's Indian School family. The survivor of two

donor database conversions, she advises new employees to not be shy, ask a lot of questions and rely on folks who have been here awhile.



Michael Lockett, has enjoyed his "stable but challenging" job as a houseparent. He has seen staff training greatly improve during his tenure. "Have a strong work ethic and try to improve every year," is his advice for

success. One thing he would do differently is hone his computer skills sooner.



Mike Renbarger, Food Services Coordinator, like many staff with longevity, says he came for a year and is here more than 35 years later. In that time, the campus, programming and staff have all grown considerably.

Mike wishes he had learned about Native American culture sooner.

Forty Years



Peggy Thomas, Teacher, says of her forty years here, "This is where I have felt I was to be." Each year brings new challenges, and she loves a challenge. She's been around long enough to have witnessed the transition

from dorms to homes and from the round school to the current facility. Also, she has students whose parents, even grandparents, she taught.

Welcome Aboard!



Amelia Blasingame started work as Mail Processor. She enjoys seafood and juice and the people at her new job. She likes to read, hike and

travel. Her family consists of her parents and a younger brother.



Cassidy Hickey joined the staff at Personal Care as a Specialist and says she looks forward to working with new amazing people. In her free time, you might find her eating pizza and hanging

out with her family, which includes husband, Lane; daughter, Brecklynn; and dog, Beau.



Nicola Obeney is the new Family Service Counselor on staff. Originally from England, she indicates her favorite is chips and salsa, not fish and chips. She looks forward to

helping students out and getting to know others in the school's community. In her free time, you might find her fishing, hanging with her parents, her fiancé or dog and cat.



Jordan Jaqua joined the staff at the Donor Care Center as a Software Developer. Her favorite food is spinach-artichoke dip bread bowl. She enjoys attending concerts with her

family and reading in her free time. She is excited about programming for an organization committed to helping others.





We lift up Private First Class Zachariah Joseph Benson, sole recipient of the Honor Award of Outstanding Leadership at the Foxtrot

Company, 1st Battalion – 48th Infantry Regiment graduation in Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., on April 9, 2020.

This prestigious award recognizes honor, initiative and loyalty. Benson was one of six individuals from his class of 215 who graduated with honors. He also received a Challenge coin presented by his commanding officer to honor his service above and beyond the call of duty. Benson is a bindery operator in the Tipi Press print shop. He currently attends AIT in Fort Huachuca, Ariz., to become an Intel Analyst.

Goodlow Named Distinguished Alumnus



Marilyn Goodlow is the 2020 Distinguished Alumnus. She and husband, Weylin Roubideaux, also an alumnus, live in Rapid City, S.D. They have three children, the oldest graduating this spring from Rapid City Central with high honors.

Marilyn attended fourth grade at St. Joseph's Indian School, was a St. Joseph's Indian School scholarship recipient and earned a degree from Western Dakota Technical Institute. She currently works in Medical Records at Rapid City Regional Health.

Her nominations describe her as a positive role model throughout her schooling and in her adult life. In addition to her involvement in her children's academic life, she and Weylin make their own regalia with them and participate in wachipi and other traditional activities. Due to the COVID-19 outbreak and the canceled eighth-grade graduation ceremony, arrangements are in the works for a Rapid City visit from Andy and Julie Lepkowski. They will present Marilyn with a plaque and star quilt.