



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

Mitákuyepi



Mitákuyepi is a publication for employees of St. Joseph's Indian School and its outreaches like **Wanda Bunker**, St. Joseph's Indian School Historical Coordinator, recognized by the South Dakota Department of Tourism and the Governor's Tourism Advisory Board for her outstanding customer service at the Aktá Lakota Museum. Thank you, Wanda, for elevating the work of St. Joseph's in the larger community.

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 Wakháŋ.



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WINTER 2020

VOLUME 2 NUMBER 1

It's not joy that makes us grateful, IT'S GRATITUDE THAT MAKES US JOYFUL

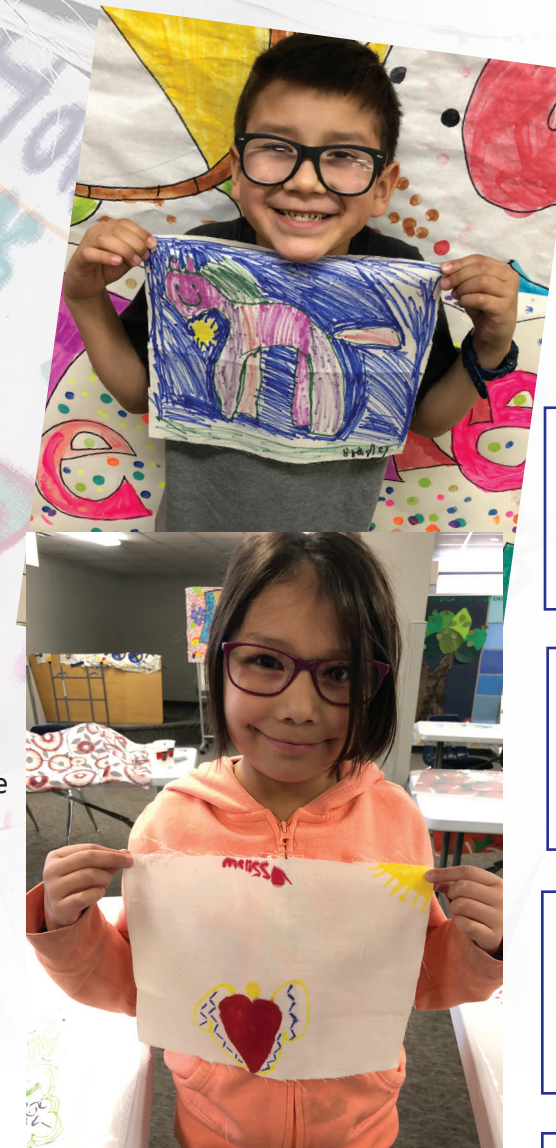
Claire Nehring, Library, and Gina McManus, Computer Studies, collaborated on a Gratitude Experiment during the first week back from winter break. Nehring says, "It is scientifically proven that expressing gratitude leads to increased happiness and well-being. Would this be true for our students?"

To answer her question, the two led a two-session experiment. During the first session, they talked about what the words "gratitude" and "taking things for granted" mean. After watching this brief video (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U5IZBjWDR_c), students wrote down things for which they were grateful.

In the next session, they used the lists they made previously to express their gratitude by drawing, writing and painting symbols on fabric flags. A few students wrote thank you notes, as well. To finish the experiment, McManus and Nehring asked how the students were feeling. The consensus was that making the lists and flags felt pretty good. The flags are on display in the school.

Bradley Gillette said, "I'm grateful for my horse because I get to ride him. He makes me feel so happy!"

Marissa Stead said, "It makes me grateful to think about my cousin who passed away. I miss her."



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She Knows that Words Are

Mighty

explore new places. Her busy itinerary will include sessions led by media greats from Fox 5 News, CNN, C-Span, the New York Times, The Washington Post and more. She'll go on a moonlight monument tour, meet members of Congress, explore the Smithsonian Museums and visit the Capitol Building. Some presentations focus career development, and others college admissions.

"The difference between the almost right word and the right word is really a large matter. 'Tis the difference between the lightning bug and the lightning."
- Mark Twain

Native Hope has provided Williams with a branded shirt. She plans to pop it on for photo opportunities and then write three blogs for the Native Hope website about her experience.

Giles Home houseparents Tia and David Fontenot have been instrumental in helping

her to think of fundraising ideas and make them happen, she says. She also credits Krista Lepkowski, transition specialist, with being very supportive. A recent bake sale of brownies, peanut butter cookies and lemon bars – all made by Williams – raised her first \$350 of the more than \$2,000 needed for the trip.

Asked if she was thinking of making a career of journalism, she replied that she is "keeping her options open." And she does have options. Besides being a writer and excellent baker, Williams is in training to become a certified nurse assistant at Sanford Chamberlain Care Center.

The center employs nurse assistants to help with the activities of daily living for the residents. Nurse assistants train at the Care Center to be certified by the State of South Dakota. This training includes a knowledge portion as well as skills necessary to provide safe care for the residents. Nurse assistants must pass an exam that confirms competency in these areas to be licensed by the State.



Trudy

Williams is soft-spoken, but she knows the power of words. She feels that writing allows her to express herself more than speaking, something of a recent discovery for her. In fact, Williams, a junior in St. Joseph's High School Program, wasn't sure she wanted to take Journalism. But since she started this past fall her teacher, Susan Gieseler, identified her writing talent, so much so that Gieseler nominated her for the Washington Journalism and Media Conference this summer at George Mason University.

The conference welcomes high school students from all over the country as National Youth Correspondents. They join students and faculty from all over the world. Mason is both the largest public university in Virginia and one of the most culturally diverse universities in the nation.

Williams says she looks forward to the opportunity to meet new people and

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MESSAGE FROM MIKE THINKING STRATEGICALLY IN A NEW DECADE

Ringing in 2020 means more than a new year. It also represents the end of one decade and the beginning of a new one. Here at St. Joseph's Indian School, the "turning of the page," so to speak, means looking ahead.

It's time to begin a new round of strategic planning. We need to align our strengths, neutralize our weaknesses, look for opportunities and mitigate threats as we plan for the future of serving our mission. We hope to share some information on our strategic planning effort with

you over the course of this year.

Since 2000, a number of strategic plans have been introduced. All have influenced the organization, with some having a major impact on our efforts. For example, in early 2000 the strategic plan placed an emphasis on high school and high school graduation. Twenty years later, the effort has not only succeeded, but also grown to encompass support for students far beyond high school graduation.

Finally, our busy holiday season has passed. From our student's

Christmas celebration, the Christmas store, a busy mail processing season, snow removal, many contacts with our donors, student transportation to and from break and everything else, we now move into the winter part of our calendar year. Stay warm and thanks for your past and future efforts supporting our mission!

May you and your families have a blessed 2020!



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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www.stjo.org

The twenty hardworking members of the Facilities Department have a long list of duties: moving, fixing, remodeling, wiring and electricity, moving, plumbing, handling keys and locks, moving, landscaping, pest control, construction, heat, moving, snow removal, contacts with outside vendors and contractors, moving, coordinating work and schedules across the organization, budgeting, moving and building projects. (You get the idea – they do quite a bit of moving!)

They say the most enjoyable aspects of being part of this busy and handy group are the teamwork they experience from start to finish of a project and getting to know people across the organization. They see the mission-value of their work as contributing to make St. Joseph's Indian School a better safer place for students and employees.

Should you drop in on them when they are taking a break, you might find them cooking together, celebrating a birthday, playing cards or even doing a puzzle.

Importantly, if you want to keep them happy – and we do – use the Service Request Program instead of grabbing one of them when they are "on the move." They are moving, and they aren't likely to remember your request when they have a chance to sit still.



The Facilities Crew: Back row, left to right: Jeff Tichy, painter; Mark Adamson, maintenance technician, Vic Twamley, plumber; Joe Wall, carpenter; Quentin Myers, plant operator; Britini DeHaai, associate; Justin Thomas, carpenter; Tom Thomas, manager; Eric Storms, electrician; LeRoy Naescher, vehicle supervisor I. Front row, left to right: Roger Steckelberg, carpenter; Nick Parent, groundskeeper; Mike Hosek, groundskeeper; Sandi Plooster, specialist; Gary Harris, supervisor; Russ Skustad, carpenter; Gary Dominiack, lead electronics technician; James Nesladek, auto technician.

Not pictured: Chris Pazour, vehicle supervisor II; Jackie Bottomley, custodian; Terri Powell, housekeeper, cook; Foster Iverson, grounds supervisor.



Germany Bound

Josiah Estes, Andrew Bernie, Jeren Herron and ShyAnne Jumping Eagle have some packing to do because this summer they will take part in the thirteenth year of world-as-a-classroom exchanges with the SCJ school in Germany. There they will learn more about the life and culture of the founder of St. Joseph's Indian School, Fr. Henry Hogeback. Joining them for the trip are chaperone's Tia and David Fontenot of Giles Home.

Eight Students Inducted Into Beta Club

Thursday, January 23, marked the induction ceremony into St. Joseph's Indian School Beta Club. **Donald Big Eagle III, Aubrea Charger, Clarysia Cook, Addison Desersa, Jordin Hawk, Aja Flying Horse, Javin Primeaux and Caprice Shields** were celebrated at the event. Beta Club exists to promote the ideals of academic achievement, character, service and leadership among elementary and secondary school students. National Beta Club is the largest independent, non-profit, educational youth organization in America.



Catholic Schools Week Observed

Catholic Schools Week launched Monday, January 27, with a prayer service that celebrated the organization's children and leaders. Students handed each leader a bundle of new prayer books to distribute to staff members. All present were reminded that it is a gift to pray together and encouraged to use the prayer book to begin meetings, in the homes and in the classroom.

Additional activities during Catholic Schools Week included faith-based movies, collecting food donations for the local pantry, pajama day, bracelet making, a history challenge with other SCJ schools and more.

Nurses to Nashville

Jenna McDonald, BSN, and Kim Thomas, BSN, are heading to Nashville in April, but they won't be attending the Grand Ole Opry. The Dehon Health Center nurses are going to Mayo Clinic's 5th Annual SKIN Conference: Practical Dermatology for the Generalist 2020, a 3-day dive into management of moles, skin infections, cancers, rashes, lumps and bumps, and simple dermatologic procedures. A significant number of student visits to the health center are related to skin issues. Congratulations to these two nurses for pursuing professional development.



"I Hate Winter Day" Celebrated

In a winter-blues busting initiative, the elementary school celebrated its annual "I Hate Winter Day" on February 7. Festivities included a scavenger hunt, face painting, mini golf, a Rice Krispie Treat sand castle building contest, a coloring contest and trivia. Tasty accompaniments to the events of the day were Sno-Cones and a popcorn snack.

Constituting America Team Visits St. Joseph's, Lyman Eighth Grades

February 12 marked a day-long educational visit in the Central Offices Conference Room from Constituting America. The session brought together nearly 50 eighth grade students from St. Joseph's Indian School and Lyman Middle School. **David Baldwin**, middle school teacher, arranged for the visit. The mission of Constituting America is to educate about the Constitution and the rights and liberties it provides and protects.

REAL PATCHY



St. Joseph's CATCH TO GO is a new service available to homes. Each box contains a recipe and all the ingredients for a healthy meal to serve at least 14. Homes order meals in advance for pick up. Enjoy trying some new dishes and seeing some old favorites without the need to spend extra time doubling or tripling common recipes. When you make a healthy choice the easy choice, everyone wins. And, kudos to Giles Home houseparents Tia and David Fontenot for conjuring up the tasty meals.

Welcome Aboard!



Ashley Korzan is Native Hope's new Media Editor and is excited about the creative aspect of the job and making a difference for others. A seasoned photographer, she enjoys camping and cheesecake, and if you are looking for the ranch dressing, it's in her refrigerator – always. Ashley and her husband Corbin have three daughters.



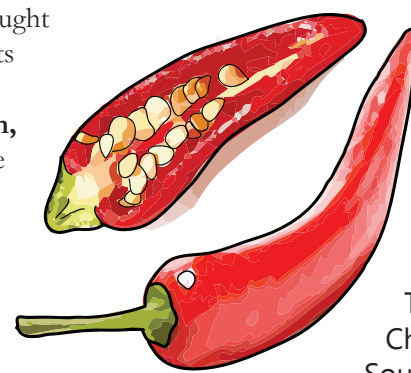
James Nesladek looks forward to the routine work of being our new Auto Technician. If he comes to dinner, serve steak. He enjoys watching DIY shows and boating or hunting with his family.



Kimberly Schneider took on the role of Religious Studies Teacher and is looking forward to the things she will learn from the students. She and her boss, Joe Tyrell, share Mt. Marty College as their alma mater. She likes being outside, camping and four-wheeling. If you want to make her happy, bring her ice cream.



Justin Thomas recently joined the Facilities Department as Carpenter and is looking forward to meeting new people and the work in general. He enjoys hunting and fishing with his family, pizza and the movie "Mr. Rogers."



Soup and Chili Cookoff Results

Soup: First - **Shirley Basting** for Kicked Up, Cheezed Up, This and That Soup; Second - **Nancy Nelson** for Chicken and Gnocchi Soup; Third - **Jeff Lepkowski** for The Sicilian. Chili: First - **Dixie Thompson** for Simple Southwest Chicken Chili; Second - **Jackie Bottomley** for Dot's My Chili; Third - **Patty Coleman** for Chili.



The Secret Is in the Sauce

If houseparents in first through eighth grade homes don't already know it, results from a recent survey of students can be summed up in part with these words: "The way to a student's heart is through his stomach." Here's what we heard from students in each home.

Afra resident **Jaylecia Powers** says that Michael makes her laugh and feel better when she's sad.

Raphael resident **Bradley Gillette** commends his houseparents for getting toys to play with that are fun for him and his fellow housemates.

Melissa Stead of **Dennis** notes that Kim can fix hair, Andy does the table fancy on the weekends, and Mike and Bette are helpful and make her feel safe.

Ambrose resident **Romeo Roubideaux** relates that the houseparents take them shopping and give them money to spend.

David resident **Alarice Flying Horse** writes that what she likes most about her houseparents is that they go skating with her.

Cyr resident **Julius Taylor** says his houseparent are good at cooking, and they do cool things. Housemate **Mario Bernie**

adds that he likes that they let the students play big screens.

Fisher resident **Tyler Naser** writes, "I like them because they take us sledding."

Treton Roubideaux of **Perky** says that what he likes most about his houseparents is how they cook, the activities and that they like to play and take the house on trips.



Houseparent Odis Cosgove works his magic.

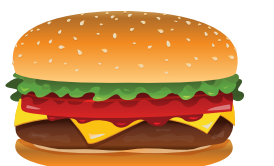
Pinger resident **LaRee Hardin** thinks her houseparents are funny and good people to hang out with.

Aubrea Charger of **Summerlee** touches the heart when she says, "Sometimes people are mean, but every time I look up, I see my houseparent right there beside me." Housemate **Makaia Hurley** adds she likes their cooking, especially Kennyn's rice pudding.

For **Latoya Stead** of **William** it's also the cooking, but she adds that her houseparents do fun activities and take care of her housemates.

Caprice Shields of **Mathias** agrees – it's the good food, as do **Richard Quigley** of **Rooney** and **Jacob Herron** of **Speyer**.

While **Mersayis Selwyn** of **Stevens** is also a food aficionado, she adds that her houseparents are funny, goofy, smell good and are always there for her.



ST. JOSEPH'S INDIAN SCHOOL CALENDAR

| 2020 | March | April | May |
|----------------------|--|---|--|
| March 6 | Third quarter ends Spring break begins | April 12 April 13 April 18 | Easter Sunday Homes open Family gathering for sacramental prep |
| March 15 March 16 | Homes open Fourth quarter begins Parent Advisory Committee | April 19 | Baptism, First Communion, Confirmation Liturgy |
| March 17 | St. Patrick's Day | April 24 April 25 | Spring Sobriety Celebration Senior Feathering Ceremony CHS Powwow |
| March 18 March 19 | Empty Bowls Benefit Feast of St. Joseph, father of Jesus | May 24 May 5 May 6 | Feast of St. Joseph the Worker Music recital Senior Prayer Service and Reception |
| March 23 | Employee Service Awards Banquet CHANGE OF DATE | May 10 May 13 May 14-19 May 16 | Mother's Day CHS Bacculaureate Seventh Grade Cultural Trip CHS HS Graduation |
| March 26 | Student/staff game | | |
| April 4 | Mentor Program trip to Pierre YMCA | | |
| April 5 | Palm Sunday | | |
| April 9 | Holy Thursday | | |
| April 10 | Easter break begins Good Friday | | |