



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

Mitákuyepi



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Mitákuyepi is a publication for employees of St. Joseph's Indian School and its outreaches like **Alumnus and Houseparent Shawn Zepher**, recognized for bringing his gifted voice and

talent with the drum to powwow and ceremonies on campus.

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 thiyóspaye.

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

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



SACRED SIGHTINGS

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

FALL 2020 **4**

MESSAGE FROM MIKE

STRATEGY FOCUSES ON HOPE

What does a strategic plan represent for an organization? There are many things that one would commonly associate with strategic planning, such as looking forward, envisioning what's to come and planning for what's ahead. What I chose to focus on is hope. Hope is an act of faith, described by St. Paul in his letter to the Hebrews: "Now faith is the realization of what is hoped for and evidence of things not seen" (11:1).

What our new strategic plan lays out is simply "hope" for a future we can't yet see. What we do see is a future for

St. Joseph's Indian School. We plan for something better ahead with this optimism.

Our roots in the Congregation of the Priests of the Sacred Heart give us a mission based on Gospel values. With this foundation, we take on the challenges of our work with a strategic plan that emphasizes the hope that Gospel values give to all of us.

The Decade of Inclusion Strategic Plan focuses on "invitation" as we collaborate and partner with many others on this journey. Our important work, when done with greater involvement and

awareness of others, can make an even greater impact, so the plan includes reaching and partnering in our mission.

The plan looks outwardly and inwardly, inviting each staff person to evaluate and renew their daily interaction with our mission. The individual and collective challenge is to stand firm, celebrating our strengths and recognizing and rectifying our shortcomings.

We are excited about the new strategic plan and all its possibilities. Please join me in its vision to be national leaders in advancing the lives of Native Americans.



Mike Tyrell
President
St. Joseph's Indian School



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FALL 2020

VOLUME 2 NUMBER 3

We are national leaders in advancing Native American lives.

- We will stand firm in our strengths and knowingly maintain what we do well.
- We will recognize and rectify our flaws.
- We will reach and partner beyond our walls physically and digitally.
- We will think and act boldly and ethically -- and lead the way nationally.

HUMBLY BOLD STRATEGIC PLAN LAUNCHES

President Mike Tyrell and Consultant Paul Omodt led eight meetings from October 20 to 22 to launch the organizations' ten-year strategic plan, "A Decade of Inclusion." The plan results from almost nine months of work and hours of input from individuals across the organization.

- We will recognize and rectify our flaws.
- We will reach and partner beyond our walls, physically and digitally.
- We will think and act boldly and ethically – and lead the way nationally.

Underpinning the strategies are five "big, hairy, audacious goals":

- Development of new measurements of student achievement based on indigenous knowledge systems and St. Joseph's Indian School expertise in teaching.
- Development of partnerships with nationally recognized universities and foundations to share and increase knowledge, drive innovation, and build human capacity within St. Joseph's Indian School leadership.
- Continue to address the need for healing between St. Joseph's Indian School and some students, their families and communities.
- Development of a larger St. Joseph's Indian School-digital footprint to provide additional educational opportunities and social interaction space.
- Development of a national media strategy for our Development Office.

Why a plan? Investor Warren Buffet says, "Someone's sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree a long time ago." Think of the many blessings we share in our work today. Some of them are the beauty of our campus, the depth of our wraparound services, and the strength of our Catholic identity paired with Lakota culture's richness. None of these things would bless us today if someone did not plant their beginnings at some point in our history. And so we, too, must plan and plant for tomorrow.

"A Decade of Inclusion" is without a doubt bold, "humbly bold" says Paul. Its vision statement frames the future: "We are national leaders in advancing Native American lives." The vision takes shape in four strategies:

- We will stand firm in our strengths and knowingly maintain what we do well.



On September 2, St. Joseph's Indian School accepted the invitation to join the American Indian Catholic Schools Network (AICSN) at the University of Notre Dame. St. Joseph's Indian School is the eighth school to be welcomed to the network. Membership gives our school a unique place to build community with colleagues in Native American Education, an opportunity to collaborate professionally and a depth of resources for education and leadership building. President Mike Tyrell noted,

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MESSAGE FROM MIKE

Strategy Focuses on Hope

A list of sub-goals further develops the plan to ensure its implementation. In the weeks and months to come, you will regularly hear about "A Decade of Inclusion" as it moves forward. Meanwhile, you can revisit Mike and Paul's presentation at <https://youtu.be/vdJDyfysERY>.

St Joseph's Indian School Reaching and Partnering With University of Notre Dame

"Participation in research and curriculum building also are benefits. Belonging is a tremendous honor, and we are excited to have already begun the reaching and partnering envisioned by our strategic plan."

Here are just a few examples of the reach and partner strategy beginning to happen:

- This past summer, some staff accessed continuing education credit through the network's offerings. Currently, the Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE) offers weekly continuing education on topics such as teaching diversity and virtual learning.
- School leadership is participating in a session in November on distance and hybrid learning.
- Twenty-eight students in grades 4 to 6 are in a fall book club. They will read one of three books by a Native American author and provided free-of-charge

by Birchbark Books & Native Arts of Minneapolis, Minn. AICSN will share students' reflections and art about the books on a private website, along with pieces created by students from other AICSN schools.

- Once in a panel and once through a call with two Notre Dame students, the network invited us to share our truth and healing efforts.

Mission Integration Director Joe Tyrell and Communications and Outreach Director Clare Willrodt are on the AICSN core team, and appropriate staff can participate in various activities relating to their work and interests.

Learn more about AICSN and the network schools at <https://ace.nd.edu/american-indian-catholic-schools-network/>.



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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.sjiskids.org or
www.stjo.org

Getting to Know The Aktá Lakota Museum

The team at the Aktá Lakota Museum is anything but the dusty, retiring group you might find shut away in another museum in a town the size of Chamberlain – and their work shows it. Six year-round staff make up the group: Museum Director Dixie Thompson, Assistant Curator Dave Meyer, Gift Shop Supervisor Kyndra Hosek, Historical Center Coordinator Wanda Bunker, Museum Support Assistant Vickie Brennan-Dykes and Museum Technician Beth Hess. Seasonal staff support when summer hours extend to meet visitors' needs.

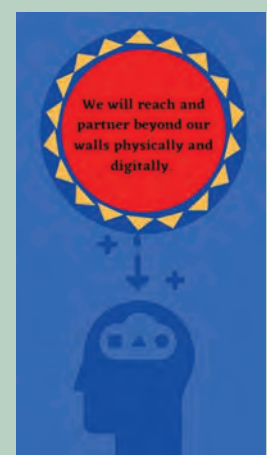
Not only is this staff energetic and fun-loving – self-describing as “work hard, play hard” – but also they hold themselves to relatively high standards. They practice the same policies and procedures of museums the caliber of the Smithsonian or Metropolitan History of Art because their work is preserving the art, history and culture of the Native Americans of the Northern Plains for future generations.

Visitors from all over the world cross the museum's threshold yearly and add to the staff's work enjoyment. The museum averages 25,000 visitors a year and regularly receives high rankings by tourism sites such as Tripadvisor.com.

You might ask why a school has a museum on its campus. The Aktá Lakota Museum directly “educates for life – mind, body, heart and spirit” – not only our students but also as the first contact point for visitors. It is an educational outreach of St. Joseph's Indian School.



Museum staff include (left to right): Dave Meyer, Beth Hess, Vickie Brennan-Dykes, Dixie Thompson, Kyndra Hosek and Wanda Bunker.



Museum Reaches and Partners

The Aktá Lakota Museum is committed to promoting access to knowledge and materials on the Northern Plains Indian Culture worldwide. In 2021, local and national exhibitions will feature artwork from its collection.

- From January 14 to March 6 of next year, “A Heathen's Penance” by artist Dyani White Hawk, Sičąŋǵu Lakota, will be part of the Native Feminisms Exhibition at the Apexart Gallery in New York City, N.Y.
- From February 18 to May 16, “Connections” by the same artist will be on exhibit at the Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art in Kansas City, Mo.
- From February through May, pieces by artist Robert Penn, Sičąŋǵu Lakota/Omaha, will be in the Robert Penn Retrospective at the Dahl Arts Center in Rapid City, S.D.
- Beginning in November, “Indian Christ” by artist Oscar Howe, Yanktonai, is scheduled for exhibition at the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C. Then, it will travel to the Portland Art Museum, Portland, Ore. Venues in Denver, Colo. and Tulsa, Okla. also are under consideration.

MISSION PEOPLE NEWS

FALL 2020 2 IN MOTION

A Powwow Like No Other

The 44th Annual St. Joseph's Indian School Wáchipi was a powwow like no other any of us have experienced. St. Joe Strong, the show went on!

This year's royalty are Rico Fischer, Miss St. Joe's; Jalonna Eagle, Jr. Miss St. Joe's; and Jevjuan Dion, Eagle Staff Bearer.

On September 19, powwow staff converted the Wisdom Circle to the powwow grounds, and a virtual live-stream kept donors and families engaged. The súŋkawakhán participated in Grand Entry and graced the dancers at various times during the day.

Communities competed in these categories:

Grades 2 and 3 Boys' Traditional: Hehaka Wambli Black Lance (1), Romeo Roubideaux (2), Zenneth Driving Hawk (3)

Grades 2 and 3 Boys' Grass: Misun Monje (1), Jay Eagle Jr. (2)

Grades 2 and 3 Girls' Jingle: Aleighya LaRoche (1), Chazlyn Middletent (2), TateWin Cooke (3), Melissa Stead (4), Jasleen Archambeau (5), Lisa Sharpfish (6), Doris Farmer (7)

Grades 2 and 3 Girls' Fancy: Tayshia Pretty Sounding Flute (1), Dominique Bear Heels (2), Thea Prue (3), Isabella Peneaux (4), Dallas Hanson (5), Gabrielle Sharpfish (6)

Grades 4, 5 and 6 Boys' Traditional: Blayne LaRoche (1), Andrelazne Dubray (2)

Grades 4, 5 and 6 Boys' Grass: Brayden Thunder Shield (1), Payton White Feather (2), Braxton Drapeau (3), Tywin Grassrope (4), Gunner Big Crow (5), Leonard Sharpfish, (6) Sevon Roubideaux (7)

Grades 4, 5 and 6 Boys' Fancy: Oyate Monje (1)

Grades 4, 5 and 6 Girls' Traditional: Emilia Provancial (1)

Grades 4, 5 and 6 Girls' Jingle: Makaia Hurley (1), Vannah Battese (2), Kora Turkey (3), Waniyetu Burning Breast (4), Christine Patterson (5), Ma Laina His Law (6), Aurora Prue (7), Aubrea Charger (8)

Grades 4, 5 and 6 Girls' Fancy: Consuelo Summers (1), Alayna Wilson (2), Rayne Grassrope (3), Jayda Stead (4), Domonique Otter Robe (5), Adrianaja Gorneau (6), Amiliani Bear Runner (7), Myah Bagola (8), Deliah Medicine Crow (9), Tatiyopa Sharpfish (10)

Grades 7 and 8 Girls' Fancy: Rico Fischer (1), Angelina Roubideaux (2), Ezmiah Middletent (3), Mersayis Selwyn (4), Kaylee Summers (5), Brianna Drapeau (6)

High School Girls' Fancy: Paige Kills Plenty (1), Clarysia Cooke (2)

High School Girls' Jingle: Sunni Langdeau (1)



Houseparent Keylin Mallon and Dallas Hanson.

Native American Day

On October 12, St. Joseph's Indian School students opened Native American Day with a Four Directions prayer video. (Find the service on the sjisksids.org on the spiritual and cultural resources page.)

Students scattered across campus with lots of energy for a Native American themed scavenger hunt. They sought out different plants important to their culture. One clue led them to visit with the seven súŋkawakhán in the school's horse therapy program. Next to the powwow grounds where they danced before moving on. Still, more clues touched on spiritual places.



Red Sand Event Educates About Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women

On October 14, St. Joseph's Indian School and Native Hope staff led female students in grades 6 to 12 through an educational opportunity on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and the Red Sand Project. The event brought awareness and provided information on protective factors around sex trafficking. Sex trafficking is prevalent in South Dakota, and Native American women and children are disproportionately at risk.

Sessions included prayer, sharing statistics and a video created by Native Hope. Following the presentation, students made prayer ties while alumnus and houseparent Shawn Zephier sang a Native American suffering song.

Following the presentation, each student received a bag of red sand provided by the Red Sand Project. Students filled cracks in the sidewalk outside, an action demonstrating a commitment not to let anyone fall through the cracks because of a lack of awareness about sex trafficking.

The day closed with students placing red painted hands on the body of one of the súŋkawakhán that reside on campus. The handprints symbolize the voices of the women and girls silenced by trafficking.

Staff mental health counselors worked with students before, during and after the event.

Native Americans Empowered Through Scholarship

St. Joseph's Indian School recently awarded a total of \$90,200 in scholarships to Native American students across the nation for the fall 2020 semester. The school awarded 81 scholarships to 22 alumni, 17 family members of St. Joseph's Indian School alumni and 42 others enrolled in a federally recognized tribe and pursuing higher education.

The scholarship fund was created to benefit Native American students pursuing higher education.

Welcome Aboard!



Gabrielle Anderson is new to Production Support. “Gabby” is the one to drop in on for a bowl of ice cream because she always has some. She enjoys game nights with family and friends and is excited about the people at her new work. She likes to play video games and last watched “Spiderman: Far From Home.”



Mitzi Birse is excited at the possibility of “literally changing someone's life for the better” that becoming a Mission Advocate creates. From a family of gamers, she has a steady diet of Game of Thrones and similar shows. She likes tacos, ranch and outdoor activities.



Heather Brooks joins the staff as a Data Entry Specialist. Her favorite thing to eat is ice cream, and there is always wine in her fridge. She and her family love to spend a day playing cards or board games. She is excited to learn about St. Joseph's Indian School and the great work we do. In her free time, you'll find her reading or playing with her cats.



Aspen Burckhard is the new face you'll see at Health Center Reception. In her own words, “Chocolate is the way to my heart.” She is one of a family of seven, and her fiancé has more than 70 first cousins. She is excited to watch the students grow and enjoys their creativity and individual personalities.



Elizabeth Claussen, a new Mission Advocate, is a meatloaf-and-mashed-potatoes girl. Family is two daughters and two dogs. She enjoys walking the bulldog and Boston terrier, baking and trying new recipes. She is looking forward to her work helping support a great cause.



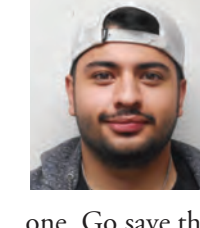
Tearsa Dougherty came from Florida to join the houseparenting staff. Her favorite food is French fries, and you will find her sewing, reading or watching movies in her spare time. She enjoys holidays with her family, which includes three sisters and a brother.



Ashley Estes returns to St. Joseph's Indian School as a Mail Processor. If you want to make this former student smile, get her a pulled pork sandwich from the Smoking Mule. Ashley has a beautiful young daughter whom she loves to teach new things. In downtime, she is a Grey's Anatomy fan.



Danyl Galvan is also new to Mail Processing. She loves cheesecake and keeps a stash of Thai Peanut Chicken on hand. She finds her new job pleasant. Free-time activities include sleeping, swimming and being outside. Danyl last watched “The Tourist.”



Juan Garcia Sosa enjoys tacos and playing soccer with his family. The last movie he saw is “Moana,” which is sure to make him a hit as a Houseparent. “[We've] got your back, chosen one. Go save the world.”



Cheyenne Glaus joins the Health Center as Staff Nurse. Her favorite food is “anything I don't have to make.” Her husband is a fifth-generation rancher whom she met at SDSU. Their spunky 18-month-old daughter, Davy Linne, keeps them on their toes. She enjoys spending time with family and friends, and recently started leather working, wood working and quilting as creative outlets.



Kayla Rae Herrlein rounds out the team of new Mail Processors. She enjoys the less-stressful pace of her new job. Her family likes spending time outdoors. Also, she says you will always find cheese in her refrigerator. Her family includes 3-year-old Axl, Todd, a video gamer and their 9-year-old dog.



Travis Krogman's nuclear family is himself and wife, Kristen. An exercise enthusiast, this new houseparent loves barbeque beef brisket and keeps the refrigerator stocked with milk. He is excited to work as part of a community and to help young people succeed.



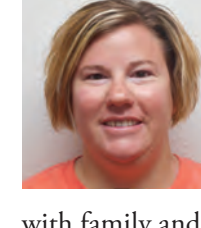
Darcy Lansing is a fan of Mexican cuisine. This houseparent enjoys taking walks with family, watching movies, gardening and talking with her friends.



Patrick Macone joins the staff as a houseparent. He likes tacos and always has hot sauce on hand. He enjoys the outdoors, gardening, walks, fishing, hunting, hiking and carving. He says what interests him about his new job is working with the kids and mentoring.



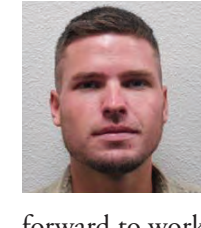
Kelli Meyer likes camping at new locations with her spouse and two sons. She joins the Sioux Falls team as Mission Advocate. Please leave her some of the pizza and spaghetti. She is interested in learning more about Native American culture in her new job.



Jeni Nesladek, houseparent, lists pasta and Mexican as her favorite foods. In her free time, you might find her in the garden or just doing “plain nothing.” She enjoys camping and hanging out with family and friends.



Emma Roberts, Mission Advocate, looks forward to raising the funding needed to educate Native American children. Fall for her means it's time to get her three daughters, Sheila, Sapphire and Serenity, in the kitchen baking red velvet cake or apple crisp. She is engaged to be married. Dog, Drake, rounds out her crew.



Elijah Schwarz is a new houseparent from North Dakota. A hunter and fisherman, his favorite food is deer meat. He is interested in the Chamberlain area and looks forward to working with the students. The last movie he saw was “Wonder Woman.”



Jerica Steckelberg, whom you might remember as the former Health Center Custodian, joins the Sioux Falls team as a Mission Advocate. She keeps Diet Coke in the refrigerator at all times and is a “hammocking” aficionado. Her favorite family activity is spending Christmas together every year.



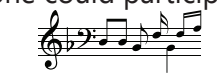
Kimberly Swanson joins the school staff as Academic Support. In this role, she enjoys targeting skills either one-on-one and in small groups of students. She and her family enjoy hiking and exploring nature. In her free time, she cooks, bakes and does furniture and decorating projects.

Students Enjoy "Music on the Trail"

From October 19 to 30, St. Joseph's Indian School welcomed visiting artist Donna Gunn as part of the South Dakota Arts Council Artist in Residency Program. Gunn is a pianist, singer and music educator from Lincoln, Neb. Her residency, “Music on the Trail,” is a multi-disciplinary program that focuses on American folk music and the Oregon Trail experience from the mid-19th century.

“During the residency, we learn about and make musical and cultural connections between ethnic groups that were affected by this piece of history. I then expose kids to classical genre piano music through pieces that were inspired by the folk songs we experience throughout the week,” said Gunn. During her stay, Gunn provided in-person

instruction and a virtual learning experience so that everyone could participate.



For Halloween this year, Health Center staff dressed as anti-COVID-19 ninjas. Beating off the foe are (left to right) Aspen Burckhard, Cheyenne Glaus, Jenna McDonald, Trond Peterson and Michelle Eggers.