



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



Alumni Outreach effort.

Mitákuyepi is a publication for employees of St. Joseph's Indian School and its outreaches like Andy Lepkowski, recognized for organizing and operating the St. Joseph's Indian School Bookmobile and

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.



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Chamberlain, SD 57325-0898
(605) 234-3300 • www.stjo.org



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SPRING 2021

VOLUME 3

NUMBER 2



You Say Goodbye, and I Say Hello

In 1997, Fr. J. Anthony Kluckman, SCJ, came to South Dakota to serve as the chaplain of St. Joseph's Indian School. He later worked with the SCJ ministries in Eagle Butte, S.D., and retirement communities in Wisconsin and Florida before returning to St. Joseph's in 2009. On April 11, after more than 50 years of dedication to the SCJ community and the poor and needy worldwide, Fr. Anthony celebrated his final Sunday Mass with students and staff. Two days later, he headed for his retirement in Hales Corner, Wis.

If you would like to send Fr. Anthony well wishes, direct them to St. Joseph's mailing address for forwarding to him.

On July 1, 2021, Fr. Greg Schill, SCJ, will become the new chaplain of St. Joseph's Indian School. We reached out to welcome him, and he sends this greeting: "I sincerely look forward to my new assignment at St. Joseph's as school chaplain and spiritual director for Development, as well as getting to know you all. If there is anything I can do for any of you, please do not hesitate to reach out to me. May God bless you."

Fr. Greg comes to St. Joseph's Indian School from the Sacred Heart St. Michael Community House. He is currently a member of the pastoral team

serving six parishes in northern Mississippi. He started there ten years ago, shortly after being ordained to the priesthood. Much has changed in that time, and Fr. Greg notes, "The challenges have also been a blessing for me as I have had much time to adapt, grow and learn from my confreres, parish staff and parishioners."

Fr. Greg was raised in San Antonio, Texas, and professes to be a fan of the St. Louis Cardinals baseball team.



Fr. Greg Schill, SCJ, blesses a pet on the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi.



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MESSAGE FROM MIKE FAMILY MATTERS



Mike Tyrell
President
St. Joseph's Indian School

In the past two Employee Engagement surveys, 95% of employees rated family as a central to their lives and 88% recognized the value of family time to other employees. I saw the importance of family first-hand recently.

It was Sunday, April 26, when our younger students received the sacraments. (See Sacred Sightings above.) Due to COVID-19, younger and older students received on separate weekends to allow for smaller crowds. The students seemed to enjoy being dressed sharply for the occasion. My heart warmed to see the pride in the faces of family members as their children received Baptism, First Communion and Confirmation

— a good reminder that we not only serve students but also partner with our families.

Among the families were several alumni. There were stories, a hug or two and a reminder that many of them consider St. Joe's an extension of their families. In one case, Alumni Liaison Andy met with an alumnus from 1983 who could not say enough about his positive experience here.

Many staff gave up their Sunday morning to assist with pictures, coordinate with families and make sure the day was special for our students. Personally, my wife watched the grandchildren, so Joe Tyrell's wife could run the

technology, freeing up Joe to help Fr. Richard — a mirror of the pitching-in and generosity that happen between staff and staff families for the many events that take place every single year.

These family connections bolster our workforce and even the relationships with our supporters. We are blessed knowing the importance of family and a feeling of attachment that binds us to our work. Belonging moves our work from "just a job" to a greater sense of mission.

God Bless!

QUESTIONS?

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Chamberlain, SD 57325

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

www.sjskids.org or
www.stjo.org

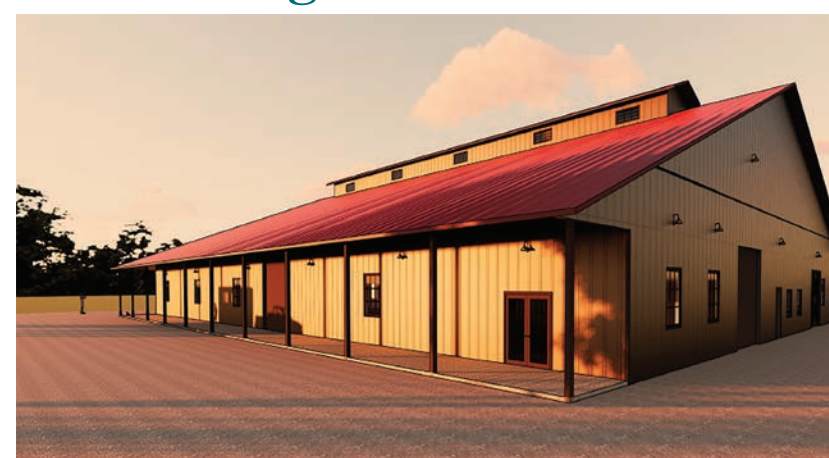


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Mitákuyepi is PUBLISHED QUARTERLY BY ST. JOSEPH'S INDIAN SCHOOL. ITS PURPOSE IS TO COMMUNICATE

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.



Just as the first blush of spring promises relief from the harsh cold of the South Dakota winter, another promise is emerging on the north end of St. Joseph's Indian School's campus — an Equine Therapy

We are blessed by the kindness of donors to be able to proceed with the project. The Equine Therapy program impacts our students beyond measure.

Center. Not only will the center become home-away-from-cold for the šuŋkawakháŋ who reside here, but also the 19,200-square-foot building will include a large riding area, tack rooms, a wash bay, a classroom, bathrooms, offices, an observation area and a kitchenette. The realization of the center means that the therapy program, like the U.S. Mail, can go on despite snow, rain, heat and gloom of night.

The addition of the Equine Therapy Center allows St. Joseph's the opportunity to host OK Corral Training for staff and area therapists interested in the series. The three-day seminars encompass various equine therapy topics, including the basics, team building, employee assistance with an emphasis on veterans, crisis management, mental health issues and group dynamics.

Other equine therapy facts:

- More than 50 students participated in equine therapy during the past school year.
- Plans are underway to host two or three family camps this summer, each serving up to three families.
- By publication of this newsletter, the school's first-owned horse, Grandma, will give birth.

Getting to Know Accounting

St. Joseph's Accounting Department, located in the Freimann Business Center, has five capable staff steering the organization's bottom line. **Cathy Dale** directs the group, and Finance Manager **Becky Larsen** heads up the day-to-day processes. Other team members include Accounts Payable Specialist **Christina Palmer**, Accounting Associate **Darcie Gaulke** and Accountant **Gwen Toering**.

Accounting's work consists of several yearly, recurring projects and occasional special projects. Once the December books are closed, the budget process begins with 16 directors and numerous departments from across the organization. That's a lot of collaboration carefully timed to meet the Province's deadline.

The team strives for an unqualified (extensive) audit each year, which requires in-depth preparation before auditors arrive for a week on campus to dig through receipts, review data and interview staff. Imagine what it was like going through a virtual audit this past year.

Christina's unique role is preparing bills and invoices for payment by verifying, classifying and recording accounts payable data. Check requests sent through PaperSave go to her, and she processes checks and automated clearing house (ACH) payments twice weekly. Christina also manages magazine and newspaper subscriptions. She enjoys spending time with her family, fishing, golfing and outdoor activities.

Among Darcie's many duties, she heads up reconciliation of the Chamberlain Food Center charge account, petty cash accounts and the majority of Wells Fargo pCard accounts. Turn in receipts for all of these purchases to her along with receipts of revenue cash, miscellaneous cash and checks for reconciliation and deposit. She also checks out the commercial Walmart and Menard's charge cards and donated gift cards. Accuracy is her specialty and probably what makes her an excellent dart player. She also enjoys playing cards, yard work and refinishing furniture.

Most of Gwen's responsibilities are focused on outside affiliations: Native Hope, Sacred Heart Center, Lower Brule Ministries and the SCJ's. For Native Hope and Lower Brule Ministries, she takes care of accounts payable and the credit card expense reporting. For Sacred Heart Center, she handles credit card expense reporting, accounts payable; billings to the state for childcare services; accounts receivables for childcare services; billing; cash deposits; compiling, submitting, and reconciling all state and federal grant reimbursements; sales tax; and assisting with budget and audit work. For the SCJ's, she processes accounts payables and accounts receivables. When applicable, she also does 1099s for the outside companies. Some of her other responsibilities are for St. Joseph's. In her free time, she enjoys playing volleyball, reading and spending time with her family.

Becky is responsible for the audit and budget for the Sacred Heart Center, Native Hope, Lower Brule and the SCJ's. She handles the 990 for the Sacred Heart Center and Native Hope and assists in maintaining accounting software such as GP, Papersave, Counterpoint, and Dynac. She enjoys walking, boating and hanging out with her children.



The Accounting Department staff (left to right): Cathy Dale, Darcy Gaulke, Becky Larsen, Gwen Toering and Christina Palmer

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From March 8 to 12, students and staff welcomed visiting artist and hoop dancer Starr Chief Eagle to campus as part of the South Dakota Arts Council Artist in Residency Program. Chief Eagle is a talented Lakota Artist and "Hoop Dancer Extraordinaire" who travels the world telling her story and sharing her knowledge about her culture.

"I want the students at St. Joseph's Indian School to see a positive role model who takes pride in their Indigenous identity. No matter what they may or may not have known about the Native culture, I want to help them to reconnect with it in one way or another, so that the culture can live on," said Chief Eagle.



From March 15 to 19, St. Joseph's Indian School students and staff found creative ways to celebrate the annual Feast Day of St. Joseph, the Father of Jesus. Students worked on a stained glass portrait of St. Joseph designed by Graphics/Preflight

Specialist at Tipi Press, Ann Lenz. March 19 is a special day for St. Joseph's Indian School to celebrate the school's patron but even more so this liturgical year as Pope Francis declared it the year of Saint Joseph.



March 17, students and staff participated in an annual "St. Joe's College, Military and Career Day." Two recent alumni and current college students, Lily Castrellon and Jeremy Herron, also shared their school spirit from their current schools through video conference.



On April 13, 2021, Child Services staff at St. Joseph's Indian School braved the high winds and cold to take pictures for Child Abuse Awareness month. Staff wore blue shirts with the motto "Strengthening Families and Communities." Below this were pictures of children playing, with the Lakota words Táku wanjáka čhán, tákeya yo/ye — See Something, Say Something.



Seventh- and eighth-grade students partnered with Native Hope at the end of the school day on April 22. They boarded buses and headed west to the tourist parking area across from Al's Oasis and Buche Foods in Oacoma, S.D., to remove trash and debris defacing Unčí Makhá's beauty. Native Hope gave each student a t-shirt designed by local Native American artist Dennis Metcalf to commemorate regard for care for the planet. Grateful for their effort, Buche Foods met students for a photo opportunity and shared a snack provided by the grocery store and Al's Oasis.



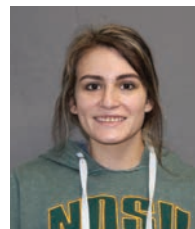
Other students identified a desire to save the Australian koalas. They researched the Wildlife Warriors at Australian Zoo Animal Hospital, who are involved in care for the koalas orphaned, injured and without food because of the past year's wildfires. The class decided to charge staff and students a small fee to have their photo taken at the "koala photo booth" during the week. Staff pitched in to construct the booth, and the proud students surpassed their fundraising goal of \$75 to earn \$125 for the hospital.



For the past 26 years, students and staff at St. Joseph's Indian School walk for sobriety in April. In addition to the health benefits of walking, to "walk the Red Path" in Native American spirituality means living in healthy spiritual, physical, mental and emotional balance. This year, the walk stayed on campus and practiced the social distancing the times demand. The school's equine therapy horses added spirit to the event, with one or two horses guiding each of four grade-level communities. Students wore T-shirts bearing the Black Elk quote, "May you always walk in beauty."



St. Joseph's Indian School is a "2021 Top-Rated Nonprofit" by GreatNonprofits, the leading provider of user reviews of charities and nonprofits. This is the fifth consecutive year that St. Joseph's has received this award.



Xarin Eagle Chasing is new to Production Support. She enjoys pizza, vitamin water and watching movies such as "Trolls World Tour" with her family. She looks forward to meeting new people at work. You might catch her napping in her free time.

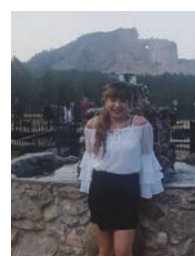


Chris Hopkins recently started in Facilities as HVAC Technician. He is a connoisseur of macaroni and cheese, and always keeps milk on hand. He enjoys playing video games and "hanging out and chatting" with family. Chris says he is looking forward to the challenges his new job will bring.



Vicki Sanders joined Mission Advocacy as a Data Entry Specialist. She keeps the refrigerator at home stocked with pie – lemon, pecan, strawberry, cherry, apple, chocolate – she loves them all. Special to her is family time around the dinner table with her two grown children who live in town. She enjoys the "detective" work that comes with her new job, sleuthing out elusive donor account numbers.

Celebrating Milestones



Lily Castrellon is graduating from the University of Denver in June with a Bachelor of Science in Physics with a concentration in Astrophysics. Lily is a 2017 graduate of St. Joseph's. She is applying for graduate school and taking a year off.



Jacob Lacota is finishing his service with the U.S. Marine Corps in July. He will begin college at South Dakota State University in the fall. Jacob is a 2019 graduate of St. Joseph's.



Wankiya Rios graduates from the Welding Program at Mitchell Technical College this May. A 2019 graduate of St. Joseph's, he will move to Rapid City this summer to find a job and live near his grandmother. "She always puts other people first. It is on my bucket list to take her to Paris someday," he said.

High School Program Graduates Five

St. Joseph's Indian School is proud to announce the graduation of five seniors from its high school program, which partners with Chamberlain High School.

Jacie Catches started St. Joseph's her freshman year. At Chamberlain High School, she belonged to the Native American Club, the fall play and was student manager for boys basketball. She will work this coming year before heading for college and a career.

Her favorite memories during her time here are going hammocking and for cruises during the evening.

This is **Carolina Fallis'** fifth year at St. Joseph's. Currently the Native American club president, she was in the fall play and was student manager for boys basketball. She will attend South Dakota State University in the fall.

Her favorite memory was the summer trip to St. Joseph's sister school in Germany. She advises younger students, "Stay rad and excel in school. If I could do this, then you definitely can."

Lillian Ferris attended St. Joseph's since her sixth-grade year. In high school, she played volleyball and was in the fall play and Native American Club. Travel took her from St. Joseph's to Boston and Germany, and she enjoyed meeting new people along the way. Lilly will attend South Dakota State University in the fall and expresses interest in pursuing photography as a career.

She says, "Don't take the easy way out. It won't benefit you in the long run. Get enough sleep, be involved, take leadership in things you do, and don't ignore the many opportunities St. Joe's provides."

Trinity Sazue started St. Joseph's in the first grade. Activities he participated in include basketball, football, cross-country, track, golf, softball and powwow. He plans to enter the Building Trades Technology Program at Lake Area Technical College in the fall.

He says, "The people of St. Joe's are my family. St. Joe's is my home." With lots of good advice for younger students, he includes, "Do what you need to do to achieve your goals. Taking any step is another step out of the way ... People are willing to help you. They never know to help you if you don't ask for it."

For eight years, **Tayeden Seeking Land** attended St. Joseph's. He played basketball, football, softball and track. Tayeden participated in Chamberlain High School National Honor Society and will make a final decision on a technical school shortly.

Tayeden advises, "Have fun and enjoy the things that seem fun to you, whether that be hanging with friends or sleeping. Yet, at the same time, focus on the senior year and the after-graduation phase of life."



Fourteen Graduate Eighth Grade

Graduating eighth graders include Brianna Drapeau, Neleigh Driving Hawk, Leslie Hanson, Jacob Herron, Landon Hurley, William Jandreau, Lars Lind II, Kenyon McCloskey, DeVarrell Mills, Richard Quigley, Angelina Roubideaux, Aiden Sazue, Loren Sazue and Mersayis Selwyn.

Bookmobile to Offer Native Books

There is a new twist to St. Joseph's Indian Schools' summer Bookmobile offerings - Native books by Native authors - one for every customer. Bird Cage Book Store and Mercantile of Rapid City, S.D. helped to make this innovation a reality.



Lily Mendoza, book store owner, helps load Native books onto the St. Joseph's Indian School truck for transport from Rapid City.