



Mitákuyepi is a publication for employees of St. Joseph's Indian School and its outreaches like Jaranya Nasomwat, recognized for her outstanding hospitality and cheerful service to the patrons of the Dining Hall —

young and older.

PROBLEMS?
PLEASE LET US KNOW!
CHANGE LABEL AND MAIL BACK TO U

- _Misspelled name
- __Wrong address
- __Received more than
- __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 thiyóśpaye.

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



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

SUMMER 2021



Why PATH?

Over the course of my tenure here at St. Joseph's Indian School, I have come to recognize the power of our mission for those with whom we partner. I have seen firsthand how safety, stability and a routine can allow a child to develop a solid foundation. Sometimes it is as simple as allowing a child to just be a child. I have seen our junior high and high school students acquire the skills necessary to succeed in college and beyond. Working holistically with a child speaks to the beauty of our mission.

I have also come to know that every student and alumni who attended St. Joseph's Indian School experienced things differently. Some passed their time more negatively than others. Those who discipline, abuse and "the stripping of culture." Recent discoveries of mass graves in Canada have placed the history of Native American Federal Boarding Schools at the forefront of many discussions.

Although St. Joseph's Indian School was not part of the federal

did not have a positive time as

students cite concerns of over-

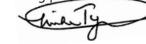
Although St. Joseph's Indian School was not part of the federal system and was founded for different reasons, we must study our history. We will look to identify practices and actions that strayed from our core mission. Knowing our history is not an entirely new endeavor. "Then and Now" by Kathryn Cravens and the historical center in the museum are two examples.

The founder of the Congregation of the Priests of the Sacred Heart, Fr. Leo John Dehon, calls us to be

"Prophets of Love and Servants of Reconciliation." In that spirit, we will look at our history and determine where we can aid those whose experiences fell short of the principles our mission is based upon.

As noted at orientation, we have a small committee called PATH (Process to Advance Truth and Healing). The first task is to review materials related to the history of the school. From there, we will take additional steps as we understand our history to include a healing component for those who were hurt.

We will update you on the efforts of the PATH Committee. Pray for all our alumni, particularly those who had bad experiences here, that we can help in the healing process.



AN SCHOOL ITS PUBLISHED QUARTERLY BY QUESTIONS?

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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St. Joseph's Indian School PO Box 89 Chamberlain, SD 57325 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



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

SUMMER 2021

VOLUME 3

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St. Joseph's Indian School
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PATH Opens Way to Truth and Healing

Our Strategic Plan Decade of Inclusion 2020-2030 lists Goal IV as developing a St. Joseph's Indian School-specific approach to addressing boarding school history. Goal IV involves all of the key strategies: Stand Firm in our Strengths, Recognize and Rectify Our Flaws, Reach and Partner and Think and Act Boldly. While the plan and the goals it outlines are relatively new—begun in 2019 and completed during the past year—healing is not a new topic for the school to embrace.

Process to Advance Truth and Healing

What is new is the formation of the PATH committee, which will work to advance the effort. You might ask, "Why engage in this now?" It can be helpful to think: "One-hundred-forty years ago, how free were my ancestors to be fully themselves?" Many of us can recount the difficult, sometimes perilous stories of our families trying to make better lives for themselves. In doing so,

we might come to understand how their experience still impacts our lives today. We can come to learn that trauma lives down through generations.

To best serve our students and alumni, we want to understand better the history of boarding schools and how it has impacted our students.

The PATH committee first will develop a fuller understanding of the history of the school by combing through publications and archives. Equipped with this information, they will draft a curriculum for staff so that we all can learn more about St. Joseph's history and the boarding school era. Healing begins with telling the truth with authenticity. This, in turn, opens us to listening with compassion to those whose school experiences were not as positive as we might have hoped.



1

LEAD STORY

Process to Advance Truth and Healing

Circle of Care

Getting to Know

NOITOM NI NOIZZIM

Mission in Motion

3

Student Benefits from Wraparound Services

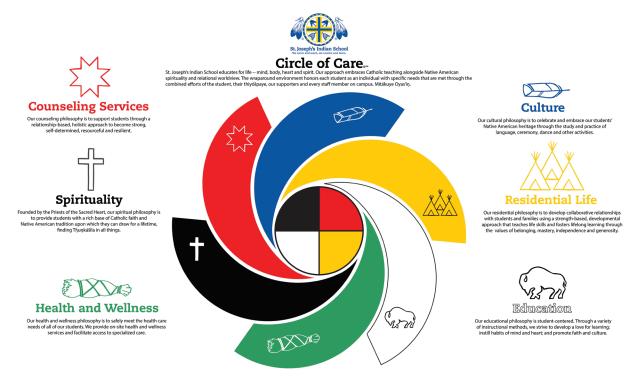
Welcome Aboard

PEOPLE NEWS

Circle of Care ctd.

MESSAGE FROM MIKE

Why Path



Circle of Care to Measure Student Growth

Responding to the Strategic Plan 2020-2030: Decade of Inclusion, Communications and the Child Services Teams began work this summer toward developing new measures of student achievement based on indigenous knowledge systems and the school's expertise in teaching. Different from generally accepted ways of evaluating student progress, the idea is to meet students where they are in a culturally thoughtful way.

Indigenous ways of knowing reflect a way of being in the world based on the relational worldview. In our world today, there are two predominant worldviews – linear and relational.

The linear worldview is rooted in Western European thought. It is the worldview of most European Americans. It is rational, logical, and systematic. Time is progressive and sequential. In general, Native Americans, whatever their place from traditional to assimilated, tend to adhere to a relational worldview, which has its roots in tribal culture. This worldview is intuitive and imaginative and sees life and time as a circle moving through cycles.

The Circle of Care seeks to measure student growth not in the linear Western European way but through the relational worldview appropriate to their culture.

To meet the strategic goal, the Child Services Team and Communications immersed themselves in studying indigenous ways of knowing. They read from Robin Wall Kimmer's "Braiding Sweetgrass" and other Native thought leaders. They listened to lectures from the National Indian Child Welfare Association on the subject. Over the summer, they honed their thoughts to be as accountable as possible to the culture of our students.

The resulting graphic, the Circle of Care, illustrates our approach to educate for life – mind, body, heart and spirit. We embrace Catholic teaching alongside Native American spirituality and the relational worldview. The wraparound environment honors each student as an individual with specific needs met through the combined efforts of the student, their thiyóšpaye, our supporters and every staff member on campus. Mitákuye Oyas'iŋ.

(continued on page 3)



Seven service-oriented people make up St. Joseph's Indian School's Food Services. They keep the Dining Hall delicious and the Grocery well-stocked. Food Service Coordinator Mike Renbarger leads the effort with right-hand Assistant Manager Lance Spears. Assistants include Jaranya Nasomwat, Janet Morgan and the newest team member Sharon Lundberg. Custodian Mark Nesladek and Grocery Assistant Dusty Lachette round out the effort. Houseparent Rigo Garcia supports part-time.

Our culinary team members are more than good cooks. They are magicians turning every lunchtime into a feast for the eyes and pleasure for the palate. "It's a challenge to make healthy food that the students love to eat," says Renbarger. But it's what he most enjoys about the job.

Renbarger monitors the menus and spends a fair amount of his time placing orders. He is wellknown for getting good deals. Spears plans the menu and supervises the meal preparation. Nasomwat's main domain is the salad bar, and she also helps prepare lunch and keep the kitchen clean. Morgan is the dishwasher, snack preparer and one of the servers. Lundberg assists in all areas as needed. When he isn't helping serve, Nesladek is responsible for the sparkle, keeping the entire place, including the entryway and bathrooms, spic and span. Lachette is the primary grocer. He stocks the shelves, fills and delivers orders and handles check out. Garcia helps in the grocery and cleans.

What makes the team work? Renbarger says, "It's the teamwork. We get along and tolerate each other well. Everyone is willing to help out." He says that to a person, the Food Services staff is there because of the kids. "That is our purpose." Perhaps at no time is this more evident than on holidays. Few teams have more fun on Halloween than this one. And what would Read Across America Day be like if they didn't serve green eggs and ham? "We try to make it as enjoyable for the students as possible," explains Renbarger.

It's no secret that the first-grade table is closest to the serving line — in full view of the staff — on purpose. "That's our entertainment," Renbarger confesses.



Dusty Lachette, left, fills orders with care. A cheery Food Services team, left to ight below: Mark esladek, Ja asomwat, Rigo arcia, Sharon undberg and Mike Lenbarger. Not tured, Lance Spears d Ianet Moroan





Welcome Back Parade Sizzles

Staff from all over St. Joseph's Indian School's campus and Native Hope turned out for an outdoor parade on Tuesday, August 10, to welcome back 133 first through eighth-grade students. The event started this past year with social distancing, and everyone so enjoyed it that there was no question it would happen again this year.

Laughter, music, colorful signs and bubbles filled the air as students walked the campus. Horses from the school's equine therapy program took up the rear, adding to the parade atmosphere.



Students Dance at American Island Days

A temperate sun danced on the current of the Missouri River, and gentle breezes teased rustling from leaves above. Emulating the grace and motion of the natural world, six St. Joseph's Indian School students enjoyed displaying the powwow dance styles of their cultural heritage to festival-goers at Chamberlain's American Island Days on Saturday,

Native American Studies Lead LaRayne Woster, who led the girls, commented on the historical significance of joining the event. "I feel that it was time to bring back a piece of history from the people who were a part of American Island in the beginning. I know that the relationship between tribal and non-tribal community members in Chamberlain dates back to the original American Island. To have our audience applaud and thank our dancers for sharing a piece of powwow dancing culture with them made the performance valuable. It is my passion to show my students how important that is for the future of our world. Dancing for American Island Days attendees was a demonstration of that goal."



Equine Therapy Hosts

Friday, June 4, marked equine therapy program. In its second vear as a therapeutic option for students, the program hosted a first-ever camp for stu-

dents and their families. A family of four attended



Thank you to everyone for the thoughts and prayers. during the time of my mother's passing. Thank you for the beautiful cross sent in her honor. God bless everyone. - Miles Clark



The Gift Comes to the Museum

The Aktá Lakota Museum & Cultural Center and the Center for American Indian Research and Native Studies (CAIRNS) are partners in showcasing a state-of-the-art exhibit called "The Gift." This exhibit is currently on display through November at the museum.

CAIRNS organized the exhibit based on a traditional Lakota narrative into seven passages, each interpreted and illustrated by a Lakota artist. Contributing artists are; Angela Babby, Dwayne Wilcox, Renelle White Buffalo, Roger Broer, Athena LaTocha, Keith BraveHeart and Andrea Lekberg. This exhibit also explains the seven ceremonies — "Gifts"— that Black Elk said White Buffalo Woman foretold. A Lakota musician or musical group composed a song for each gift, a Lakota poet wrote a poem, and two Lakota visual artists each created an artwork. The creative works of these 21 Lakotas constitute the Gifts section of the exhibit.



Starbase Takes off in the Fifth Grade

To step into the 5th-grade classroom the week of August 23 at St. Joseph's Indian School was to step into anything but business-as-usual. Buggs Bunny, Wildcat, Sponge Bob, Yo-Yo, Neon Kangaroo and Burnt Toast were among the 26 students and staff intensely engaged in the Department of Defense (DoD) Starbase curriculum. The program provides 25 hours of "hands-on, minds-on" activities in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). The "call-signs" are just one way the DoD representatives who conduct the program promote a learning environment intended to motivate students to explore STEM opportunities, set goals and

On Thursday morning, Capricorn (AKA Trinity Kills Crow) and Fly Like an Eagle (AKA Brooklynn Bear Shield) summed up the week in one word, "fun," accompanied by one gesture, a thumbs up. The pair were busy programming their Lego robot to go from school to the Sphero Factory on a large floor mat without running into any of the other buildings and parks on the way.

The weeklong curriculum includes working with solar fountains, a buoyancy and density activity involving clay boats, creating compounds using a digital app on an iPad, metric system activities, physics, chemistry, technology, energy, engineering, and mathematics adventures.

Starbase instructors Lori Jeffrey-Kirk and Mary Larscheid Christensen have presented Starbase at the school for several years. Their repartee punctuates the lesson, teasing even the squirmiest student to remained focused.

Teachers Sunny (AKA Brock Sundall) and Bald Eagle (AKA Ron Byers) actively participated in the learning experience. "The program takes the student's natural curiosity and leverages it to make enjoyable what might otherwise be challenging to learn," said Sundall. Byers added, "We appreciate the caliber of the instructors. Not only are they knowledgeable, but also they are good role models."



ELCOME

John Anderson, houseparent,

enjoys crab and oysters. He

looks forward to helping the

students by being a positive

role model. In his spare time,

he enjoys reading and family

houseparent, says family for

her is husband, John, their

three children, a cat and a

Emme Barrett joins Native

Relations Coordinator. Her

favorite foods are grilled

chicken and oven-roasted

veggies. She feels passionate

about the Native Hope vision.

Gage Basting joins Home and

Office as Supplies Transport.

it should be pizza or burgers.

He likes to hunt and fish with

Jean Blackwell is back in Mail

Processing. Her colleagues

there are happy to have her

rejoining their efforts.

Jesse Brownell joins the

Special Education team. She

is excited about being able to

work with the students. From

a big family, she is raising her

games, volleyball and softball.

Facilities as a Carpenter. Feed

Dylan Dominiack joins

him steak! Dylan enjoys

"Space Jam 2021."

Kevin Hagen joins

computer.

hunting and last watched

Development IT as a Data

Entry Specialist. If you require

hot sauce, Kevin always keeps

it on hand. He's glad that his

new role has him working on a

Heidie Hishinuma comes on

board as a Custodian. This

grandmother has two grown

forward to working around our

grandchildren. She looks

motorcycle-riding

children and two

students.

7-year old niece. She likes card

family and play basketball.

If you go to lunch with him,

Hope as Community

graduate of St. Joseph's Indian

School's High School Program.

guinea pig. She is a 2009

movie nights.

Rozlyn Anderson,



Deb Macone, new

houseparent, keeps cheese and butter in the refrigerator. In her free time, she sews and hikes. Ask her what she thought about "The Chosen."



houseparent, enjoys New Mexican green chili. Free time for her means exploring or family game night.



Steve McLaughlin,

houseparent, likes chorizo and chicken tacos. You might find with family. He looks forward to learning from the students.



Amie Pies joins Development IT as a Data Entry Specialist. She likes Mexican food and going to escape rooms with



Mission Advocacy Center as an Advocate. Her go-to food is salmon and rice. Ask about her



houseparent, enjoys camping with family – even in their own backyard. Other family time involves playing games and gardening.







Nathaniel Vasquez,

houseparent, prefers pasta and always has Pepsi on hand. He video games. He grew up in a residential setting and brings

at Health Center Reception. Tacos are her food of choice. She and her husband, Weston, have two young daughters. She loves to camp with the family

(Circle of Care ctd.)

SPRING 202

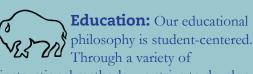
The Medicine Wheel at the center of the Circle of Care is the student. Each student is met there as an individual with specific needs. Students are honored wherever they find themselves in the continuum of the circle, whether they arrived yesterday and stayed for a day or are with us for 12 years.

The core elements contain the whole of the wraparound services we provide. They are a six-part harmony of sorts, each enhancing the others with its particular focus, each necessary for the holistic environment we provide.

The next step involves developing a system of student measurement built off of our current home and school logs with input from the student, family and staff who work with them. Staff input will inform the development of this system, which will take time. Watch for updates throughout the year.

Culture: Our cultural philosophy is to celebrate and embrace our students' Native American heritage through the study and practice of language, ceremony, dance and other activities. Culture is blue, like Father sky and represented with an eagle feather.

Residential Life: Our residential philosophy is to develop collaborative relationships with students and families using a strength-based, developmental approach that teaches life skills and fosters lifelong learning through the values of belonging, mastery, independence and generosity. Residential life is vellow, the color of the east where the



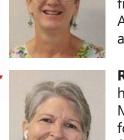
sun rises.

Through a variety of instructional methods, we strive to develop a love for learning; instill habits of mind and heart; and promote faith and culture. The thathánka represents education, and its color is white, symbolic of the south and the path that leads to true happiness.

 Health and Wellness: Our health and wellness philosophy is to safely meet the health care needs of all our students. We provide on-site health and wellness services and facilitate access to specialized care. Health and Wellness is green, the color of Grandmother Earth.

Spirituality: Founded by the Priests of the Sacred Heart, our Priests of the Sacred Heart, our spiritual philosophy is to provide students with a rich base of the Catholic faith and Native American tradition upon which they can draw for a lifetime, finding Thunkášila in all things. The cross represents spirituality, and the color is black, symbolic of the west where the thunderbeings live.

Counseling Services: Our counseling philosophy is to support students through a relationship-based, holistic approach to become strong, self-determined, resourceful and resilient. The Morning Star represents Counseling Services, and its color is red for power and courage to face the storms of life.



Rosemary McLaughlin,



him playing "Spite and Malice"



family. They enjoy hiking, cards and hanging out with the dogs. **Sonia Reynolds** joins the



pet turtle, Urtle.

Kim Rosenberger,



Jeanna Shaver is a new Advocate at the Mission Advocacy Center. Her favorite foods are pasta and Mexican. In her free time, you will find her shopping for knick-knacks.



Emily Sinkie joins Mail Processing. She moves to her role from temporary to permanent full-time.



Zachery Steffen is a Software Developer. A French Dip sandwich makes him happy. He enjoys creating useful tools and solving complex problems.



enjoys swimming, reading and that perspective to his role.



Shanell Waugh is the new face and spend time with her girls.