



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



Mitákuyepi is a publication for employees of St. Joseph's Indian School and its outreaches like Mark Schoenhard, recognized for leading the drum group and his dedicated commitment

to student health and continued quality programming for the Rec Center.

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.

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

___ Misspelled name

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___ Received more than one

___ Remove my name from the mailing list



St. Joseph's Indian School
Chamberlain, SD 57325-0888
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(605) 234-3300 • www.sjis.org



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FALL 2021

VOLUME 3

NUMBER 4



Two St. Joe's Colleagues Recognized

A sincere sense of self is the character trait shared by two St. Joseph's Indian School colleagues that made them standouts to win national awards announced at the Coalition on Residential Excellence (CORE) Banquet in Mooseheart, Ill., Wednesday evening, October 13, 2021.

LaRayne Woster received the Catherine Hershey Award "Educator of the Year," and Tayeden Seeking Land of Bad Nation on the Crow Creek Reservation was honored as Catherine Hershey "Student of the Year." Woster is in her 19th year teaching Native American Studies at the school. Seeking Land is a 2021 graduate of the school's High School Program and attended the school since fourth grade.

we would do reasonably well to call him a wise and gentle soul." His family service counselor said, "What makes Tayeden special is that he is one of the kindest, most thoughtful and level-headed students with whom I have ever worked." He brings a deliberate sensitivity to his problem-solving and decision-making that is wise beyond his very young adulthood.

During his junior year in high school, Seeking Land added training to become a certified nursing assistant (CNA) to his already well-disciplined educational load. He completed the rigorous program. For the rest of his high school year's he provided excellent care for those who could not do their activities of daily living.

He is currently working as a CNA at Sanford Health Long-Term Care, Chamberlain, S.D. He plans to begin studies in the medical field at South Dakota State University, Brookings, S.D., or the University of South Dakota, Vermillion, S.D. St. Joseph's Indian School salutes these two remarkable people who bring so much to the organization and to all whose lives they touch.

CORE is the only national organization exclusively representing children's homes and residential schools providing residential (home-like) non-treatment-related services to children living away from their families.

Seeking Land's nomination said, "To describe Tayeden Seeking Land in as few words as possible,



1

LEAD STORY

Two Colleagues Recognized
Ribbon Skirts

2

MISSION IN MOTION

Getting to Know
Mission in Motion

3

PEOPLE NEWS

Welcome Aboard
Upcoming Events

4

MESSAGE FROM MIKE

Sacred Sightings

FALL 2021

4

MESSAGE FROM MIKE

Fall Wonder Leads to Mission Insight

Fall finally arrived this year. After a hot summer, a fairly windless October left autumn color hanging on the trees. Then it hit.

Mostly, I recall two or three days where leaves were dancing, coming off the trees in regular intervals. It was fascinating to watch and looked almost choreographed.

As we move into the holiday season, my wish for you is that you can take the time to step back and be fascinated.

With the difficulty of the past year and a half, I hope the spirit and awe of the season are not lost or dampened as we try to ascertain a

new normal here at St. Joseph's Indian School and in society in general.

When we take a little time to enter into wonder and awe, it teaches us. A recent Native Hope quote for the day said, "If we wonder often, the gift of knowledge will come." (Arapaho)

In my fascination with the choreography of the leaves, I was led to knowledge about our mission. This mission is played out like a well-rehearsed dance by many people. It happens in an inspired, organized and blessed way. Placed in the hands of St. Joseph, our protector, it has been synchronized to assist, inspire and bless those it

touches. Over time, the dancers may change, but the core of our mission does not.

On behalf of St. Joseph's Indian School, I want to wish you a blessed holiday season. May God bless you, your family and all who are a part of St. Joseph's Thiyóšpaye.



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.

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

Ribbon Skirts Build Cultural Identity

In North America, Indigenous women have adorned their clothing with ribbons for more than 400 years. Silk ribbons, brought to the land by European traders, inspired this uniquely Native American art form. It reached its peak by the beginning of the 19th century, moving out from its point of origin in the Great Lakes to tribes on the Prairies, Plains and Northeast. More recently, a renewed sense of humbly claiming one's culture is elevating the importance and value of ribbon skirts to affirm indigenous identity.

*"Our final stronghold is our sense of identity."
—Joseph Marshall III*

The Mission Integration Department set a goal to make and give a ribbon skirt to every female student in the grade school. The first step involves working

with students, beginning with girls in grades 7 and 8, to "vision" their skirt, representing their own identity. The department assembles packets of sewing materials and provides them to volunteers who create the skirts for students. If you are interested in supporting this mission-driven work, contact LaRayne Woster.

Family Service Counselors Darcy Belitz and Amanda Hermeling hosted a ribbon-skirt-making event on November 20 with girls in the High School Program. In addition, Native Hope is working with the Red Ribbon Skirt Society to provide Red Ribbon Skirts for the high school girls representing awareness of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women.

Students can wear the skirts for any occasion, but always to say, "I belong here and I claim my identity as an Indigenous person." They can be worn to school, ceremony and church.

Getting to Know Tipi Press

What do you get when you take 4.9 million press sheets of paper, 5,000 pounds of printing ink and the talented team at St. Joseph's Indian School's own Tipi Press?

Well, you get a lot of amazing things — at minimum, 4.9 million bright ideas and 5,000 pounds of equally dynamic creative genius mixed with generous doses of fun and laughter. But in solid metrics, the team generates 27 million printed and finished pieces each year.

The Tipi Press team includes Print Shop Manager Tommy Hopkins, Photographer and Creative Technician Emily Swanson, Graphics/Preflight Ann Lenz and Tonya Peterson, 5-Color Press Operator Jim Graves, Press/Bindery Operators Justin Keatts and Lance Forester and Press Operator-in-Training Duane Schleder.

Swanson is the one all-over campus and behind the lens snapping inspiring photos for promotional campaigns. She also takes senior photos, class and home pictures, museum gift shot photos and more. Swanson designs the school's yearbook. She takes her job of making all of us look good very seriously.

Lenz and Peterson create amazing, one-of-a-kind designs used in direct-marketing campaigns. They also assist the school, museum and Marketing to bring their creative visions to fruition.

Graves is the one feeding the large and complex 5-color press, whose appetite is an average of 70,000 sheets of paper a day. Schleder, new this October, is training on the 5-color press to be relief operator.

Keatts and Forester wear many hats. Both operate the bindery equipment that finishes print material to the proper specs. If you have never watched that bindery equipment slice and dice printed pieces to size, you might want to schedule a visit. Just keep your fingers out of the way. Keatts runs the 2-color and Ryobi presses, and Forester is training on both. The two imprint \$.01 on 13 million envelopes a year with the stamp machine.

Hopkins manages the shop and keeps the creative juices flowing steady. He makes folders and job tickets, schedules jobs for pre-press, press and bindery departments and orders paper and supplies. In addition, he researches, purchases and implements equipment upgrades.

Swanson, Lenz and Peterson each have degrees in their fields of specialty. The rest of the team is on-the-job trained.

Tipi Press prints and finishes notepads, coasters, brochures, inserts, newsletters, booklets and posters on a variety of paper stocks and weights.



The sharp-looking Tipi Press crew photographed on a crisp fall morning includes (left to right): Emily Swanson, Ann Lenz, Duane Schleder, Tommy Hopkins, Jim Graves, Tonya Peterson, Justin Keatts and Lance Forester.

FALL 2021 MISSION 2

IN MOTION



American Indian Catholic Schools Network Summit

“Let us put our minds together and see what life we will make for our children,” instructed Húŋkpapha Lakota leader Sitting Bull. In much the same spirit, the American Indian Catholic Schools Network (AICSN) board gathered for its Fall Summit at St. Joseph's Indian School October 20-22.

The board heard three talks presented by Damian Costello, theologian and Director of Post-Graduate Studies at NAIITS. Author of Black Elk: Colonialism and Lakota Catholicism, he used Black Elk as the guide to reflect on the potential to be fully Native American and fully Catholic.

Members of the board in attendance included representation from Red Cloud, Pine Ridge, S.D.; St. Augustine, Winnebago, Neb.; St. Joseph's, San Fidel, N.M.; St. Charles, San Carlos, Ariz.; St. Mary's, Red Lake, Minn.; and host St. Joseph's Indian School. Also in attendance were William Newkirk, Director of AICSN, Sr. Kathleen Carr from the Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE) and Andreas Hipple of the Better Way Foundation.



Blessing the Animals at St. Joseph's Indian School

On October 4, Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, patron saint of animals and the environment, Chaplin Fr. Greg Schill, SCJ, led staff and students in prayer and blessed some of the animals who grace our homes and campus every day. It was a way to recognize, “All animals should be treated with kindness and the dignity they deserve.”



Artist Captures Character, Caricatures of Students

Hector Curriel, watercolor expert, cartoonist and book illustrator, worked with each of six classes twice during the week of October 4. In the first session, he showed students how to sketch their model, the Dignity statue. The drawings guided the washes of watercolor applied to

bring her to life. Even the younger students captured the grace, pride and movement of the statue, their own cultural character illustrated by their hands.

As students worked, Curriel moved about the classroom making caricatures of each. Above, Rayne Grassrope shows hers.

Native American Day Celebration Fills Entire Week

On October 11, St. Joseph's Indian School students and staff gathered at the school's Wisdom Circle to pray the Four Directions Prayer to mark the beginning of a full week of celebrating Native American Day.

Events included:

- A scavenger hunt at the Aktá Lakota Museum
- Viewing and learning about the current museum exhibit “The Gift,” which through artwork, poetry and song, illustrates a traditional Lakota narrative on the seven Lakota ceremonies foretold by Black Elk

- and White Buffalo Calf Woman
- Visits to Our Lady of the Sioux Chapel to draw connections between the seven Lakota ceremonies and the stained glass windows that depict them
- A Friday afternoon cap of the week with a powwow featuring the rabbit dance, potato dance, switch dance and snake dance.



Throughout the week, students and staff enjoyed the Seven Essential Understandings of the Očhéti Šakóŋw, the state's Native American cultural curriculum studied year 'round at St. Joseph's Indian School.

45th Annual Powwow Brightens Campus Life

The 45th Annual St. Joseph's Indian School Wačhipi was Saturday, September 18 on campus. It was not open to the public. More than 78% of the school's student population participated.

This year's royalty are Kaylee Summers, Miss St. Joe's; Marybella Archambeau, Jr. Miss St. Joe's; and Jevjuan Dion, Eagle Staff Bearer.



Powwow dance competition results were:

Grades 1, 2 and 3 Boys' Traditional: Misun Wamniyamni Monje (1), Caleb Farmer (2), Kayden Kirkie (3), Patrick Big Eagle (4)

Grades 1, 2 and 3 Boys' Grass: Jayden Munoz (1), Chantz Middletent (2), Roman Bear Heels (3), Angelo “Isaiah” Black Moon (4), Lennex Provancial (5), William Sazue (6)

Grades 1, 2 and 3 Girls' Traditional: Dominique Bear Heels (1)

Grades 1, 2 and 3 Girls' Jingle: Marlena Blaine (1), Roberta Colombe (2), Bresayus Day (3), K'AnndieLove Chasing Hawk (4), Antonia “Sophia” Black Moon (5)

Grades 1, 2 and 3 Girls' Fancy: Jaylena Blaine (1), Josephine Sazue (2), Doris Farmer (3), Isabella Peneaux (4), Rihannah Bordeaux (5), Jariah Packard (6)

Grades 4, 5 and 6 Boys' Traditional: Romeo Roubideaux (1), Hehaka Wambli “Tristan” Black Lance (2), Blayze LaRoche (3), Zenneth Driving Hawk (4), Tyson Naser (5)

Grades 4, 5 and 6 Boys' Grass: Tysin Cournoyer (1), Brayden Thunder Shield (2), Tywin Grassrope (3), Leonard “Yamni” Sharpfish (4), Braxton Drapeau (5), Alfred “Alex” Left Hand Bull (6)

Grades 4, 5 and 6 Boys' Fancy: Traevin Roubideaux (1), Gunner Big Crow (2), Caden Lopez (3), Watahkpe “Charges” Black Lance (4), Sevon Roubideaux (5)

Grades 4, 5 and 6 Girls' Jingle: Zuela Bernie (1), Chazlyn Middletent (2), Say'Dee Summers (3), Avayah Skunk (4), Kora Turkey (5), Marybella Archambeaux (6)

Grades 4, 5 and 6 Girls' Fancy: Trinity Kills Crow (1), Alayna Wilson (2), Kayley Cournoyer (3), LaKora Mills (4), Giselle Prue (5), Kayleigha Carpenter (6)

Grades 7 through 12 Boys' Fancy: Wawokiye “Oyate” Monje (1)

Grades 7 through 12 Girls' Traditional: Emilia Provancial (1), LaShanti Marshall (2)

Grades 7 through 12 Girls' Jingle: Josette Pretty Sounding Flute (1), Jade Cedar Face (2), Sunni Langdeau (3), Makaia Hurley (4), Ma Laina His Law (5)

Grades 7 through 12 Girls' Fancy: Diamond Left Hand Bull (1), Consuelo Summers (2), Lavella Kills Crow (3), Angelina Roubideaux (4), Kaylee Summers (5), Amelia La Pointe (6)

PEOPLE NEWS

UPCOMING

WELCOME



Jenna Hieb joins the organization as director of health and wellness. She brings a holistic approach to health and wellness to her work. She enjoys boating, ice cream and cheesecake, cooking, baking and time outdoors.



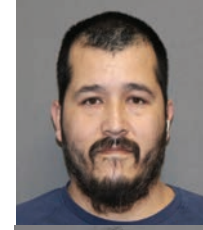
Elaine Kennedy recently assumed the role of payroll/HR associate. She is enthusiastic about her new coworkers, enchiladas and watching movies. She likes to garden and camp in her free time.



Ryan King is a new houseparent in the Crane Home. The proud father of a U.S. Marine enjoys Chinese food and looks forward to helping young adults think and make decisions.



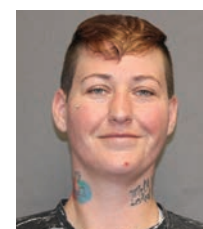
William Macone joins Residential as a houseparent float. Keep him happy with any kind of Italian food. He describes his family as “very competitive in a good way,” so watch out when he invites you to play a board game, a favorite family activity.



Jesus Sanchez and Rosa Razo-Sanchez are new houseparents in 1-6 Residential. They like Mexican food and keep the refrigerator stocked with fruit and vegetables. Jesus enjoys reading to his children, and currently, they are on their sixth “Harry Potter.” They look forward to their new role in helping students learn life skills to become successful adults.



Duane Schleder joins Tipi Printing as a press operator. Expect him to be energetic as he keeps his fridge stocked with Monster. His family just moved to the family farm to run it. He looks forward to the excitement of being part of the Tipi Press team.

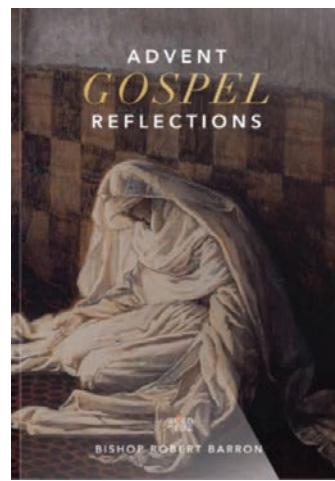


Robyn Tripp is a new houseparent in 7-12 Residential. Robyn has five brothers and three sisters. She is inspired by the message of hope that her new position brings. Find her playing with her cats in her spare time.

SurveyMonkey polls as St. Joseph's Indian School geared up for a Rec Center remodel. While the pandemic may have slowed the process, it didn't thwart the development of a solid plan, and now 7-8 Residential Coordinator Frank Whipple and Rec Center Coordinator Bryan Rinehart are unveiling it.

The remodeled Rec Center will include a second full gym added to the south of the current structure; a new entryway with capacity for coats, bags and boots; new office space for staff; two new locker rooms; a conference room; on-site storage for equipment; separate workout areas for staff and students; and the addition of RV and Bus parking to the west and south of the museum.

The two-phase plan means that the Rec Center will remain operational throughout construction. Whipple and Rinehart say if all goes well that shovels will hit the ground in July 2022.



Advent Faith Sharing

St. Joseph's Indian School staff are zooming together to observe the season of anticipation of the coming of the Christ Child in history, in the present and in time. Beginning the week of November 29, they will read

and converse on topics from Bishop Robert Barron's “Advent Gospel Reflections.” Thanks to this group who are taking the time to make holy this season of grace.

Human Resources Training

January 10 – 12 will mark the launch of training for supervisors and managers in the organization. The training is intended to ensure that these staff members have the knowledge, skills and abilities to carry out the responsibilities of their roles. Training will take a variety of formats and cover topics, including professional and management skills and organizational expectations. Opportunities will be offered several times a year.

Hóchoka Podcast Launch

Podcast fans get set. The New Year will bring the launch of St. Joseph's Indian School's own Hóchoka Podcast. Native Hope and the Communications and Outreach Department have been scripting, filming and editing and have an exciting lineup in production. You'll hear and see from experts on must-know topics such as our own Jennie

Schilling on Kid Whispering, Joseph Marshall III on Strengthening Lakota Identity and Damian Costello on Black Elk and the Convergence of Lakota and Catholic spirituality. Stay tuned.

Rec Center Remodel

Long ago, in a galaxy far, far away ... or at least in a faraway time before COVID-19, you might remember meetings, focus groups and

Beta Club Celebrates New Members



November 3 marked the induction of new members into St. Joseph's Indian School's National Beta Club Ceremony. The club promotes the ideals of academic achievement, character, service and leadership among elementary and secondary school students. Ours is the only fully Native American Beta Club and the only one in the state.

2020-2021 inductees include Myah Bagola (5), Zuela Bernie (5), Amiliani Bear Runner (5), Brayden Thunder Shield (5), Emilee Black Spotted Horse (6) and Kayleigha Carpenter (6).

2021-2022 inductees are Melissa Stead (4), Hehaka Wambli Black Lance (4), Kora Turkey (5), LaKora Mills (6), Emilia Provancial (6), Rylee Bagola (6) and Tywin Grassrope (6)

Congratulations to these students on this honor, and to all of Beta Club on your achievements.