



Mitákuyepi



Mitákuyepi is a publication for employees of St. Joseph's Indian School and its outreaches like Scott Woster. A family service counselor, he is recognized for hosting and helping with the vision of the school's new Hóchocka podcast.

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?
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SACRED SIGHTINGS

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

SPRING 2022 **4**

MESSAGE FROM MIKE

Joy Felt in Graduation Season, Partnership

As another graduation season rolls around, it is a time of great joy here at St. Joseph's Indian School. Joy comes from seeing our eighth-grade and high school students celebrate success. And joy comes with realizing how difficult some of their journeys have been.

We all support our students in their journeys. As they succeed, we, too, feel a sense of pride. That sense speaks volumes about our mission, one that includes hope and a

shared sense of purpose.

Our Strategic Plan 2020-2030 – Decade of Inclusion continues to enhance the "spirit of partnering," a key theme of our mission statement. The partnership involves a wide net of our students, families, alumni, supporters and staff – our thiyóšpaye – all who share the season's joy.

I invite you to think of it this way in your mind's eye. When one of our students receives

a diploma, a handshake and a pat on the back from the organization, the partnership is there in those gestures. All of us collectively are the hands, feet and heart of our incredible mission. A great theologian once said that joy is the most infallible sign of God, and that truth makes God so manifest during this significant time.

Blessings of the season,



Mike Tyrell
President
St. Joseph's Indian School



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

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.sjskids.org or
www.stjo.org



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SPRING 2022

VOLUME 4 NUMBER 2



From left: Jeren Herron, ShyAnne Jumping Eagle, Andrew Bernie, Marques Standing Cloud, Josette Pretty Sounding Flute, Joaquin Black Lance

Six Graduate St. Joseph's High School Program

St. Joseph's Indian School announces the graduation of six seniors from its high school program, which partners with Chamberlain High School. Graduation is Saturday, May 14, 2 p.m., at the Chamberlain Armory.

"These students of diverse talent and experience have much to offer the world," noted St. Joseph's President Mike Tyrell. "A piece of our hearts goes with them into the future, and we are grateful to have them in our extended family."

Andrew Bernie has been at St. Joseph's since 2015. He enjoyed football and basketball games at Chamberlain High School. Currently, he plans to work as a Certified Nursing Assistant and save up for the future. He says if he could re-do his high school years, he might work for the grades to graduate early.

Joaquin Black Lance plans to be in the National Guard following graduation. He advises younger students to think more about the future, embrace it and use all they have and know to their advantage. His favorite memory is the time spent with friends.

Jeren Herron will attend Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colo. At Chamberlain High School, he

participated in football and basketball. He savors the memory of going to the state basketball tournament and advises future Cubs to put as much time into the classroom as they would their favorite sport.

ShyAnne Jumping Eagle plans to work after graduation. At Chamberlain High School, she participated in volleyball, basketball and Native American Club. She has happy homecoming and prom memories. "Work your hardest. It all will be worth it in the end," she advises. Her favorite quote is "Push yourself. No one else is going to do it for you."

Josette Pretty Sounding Flute plans to attend the University of South Dakota in the fall. She has favorite memories from being both a football and basketball cheerleader. She also ran cross country and played volleyball and basketball. She advises, "View each day as an opportunity, not an obligation."

Marques Standing Cloud plans to study Progressive Welding Technology at Mitchell Tech. At Chamberlain High he was involved in golf and basketball, especially enjoying the away trips. Marques quotes SpongeBob SquarePants, "If you believe in yourself, all your dreams will come true."

Despite the Weather, Importance of Sobriety Observed



St. Joseph's Indian School 26th Annual Sobriety Walk

Each spring for the past 26 years, students and staff at St. Joseph's Indian School walk for sobriety in April, starting on campus and splitting into the four sacred Native American directions. In addition to the health benefits of walking, to "walk the Red Path" in Native American spirituality means living in healthy balance.

This year, weather washed out the walk, but that didn't keep the school from observing the day on April 29. Students gathered in the Rec Center for a "Hoop of Life" presentation by Kevin Locke consisting of flute songs, prayers and sign language. Locke is of Dakota descent of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and Anishinaabe of White Earth. He is a preeminent player of the Native American flute, a traditional storyteller, cultural ambassador, recording artist and educator.

Kevin ended his performance with a participatory hoop dance. "I found that interactive participation is the way to make ancestral wisdom and teachings come alive and take root in the hearts of the students," he said. "My primary inspiration comes from the sense of wonderment and awe in the children." He added.

The event was followed by dinner in the Dining Hall. Each student wore a T-shirt designed by seventh-grade student Makaia Hurley that said, "Live balanced. Don't do drugs."

The day's program is one of several yearly events created by St. Joseph's Indian School's Substance Abuse Prevention Committee to show students how to enjoy life without drugs and alcohol.



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MESSAGE FROM MIKE

Sacred Sightings
Joy in Graduation Season

CONGRATS GRADUATES!



Danielle Arpan, a St. Joseph's Indian School High School Chamberlain, graduates with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and a minor in American Indian Studies from South Dakota State University in May. Danielle is an Indian Health Services scholar and is hoping to complete her service commitment in Phoenix, Ariz., at the Phoenix Indian Medical Center or another area medical center. She plans to continue her education at the master's and doctoral levels in the future.

Danielle is an Indian Health Services scholar and is hoping to complete her service commitment in Phoenix, Ariz., at the Phoenix Indian Medical Center or another area medical center. She plans to continue her education at the master's and doctoral levels in the future.



Aaron Box, a St. Joseph's Indian School High School alum, graduates in May from Mitchell Tech with a diploma in the power line construction and maintenance program. He has accepted a job with the city of Pierre working in underground residential distribution work.

Father-son inspiration was the energy behind Box's decision to undertake a degree as a power lineman. He follows in his father's footsteps in pursuing this career, and when his son Oliver was born with partner Erica Donner, class of 2015, he says it kick-started his future plans.



Hope McCloskey, a St. Joseph's Indian School High School alum, graduates with a Bachelor of Arts in Media Studies from Augustana University on May 21. Hope

served as an intern for St. Joseph's Indian School and Native Hope during summer 2021 and occasionally co-hosts the Hóčocka podcast. She plans to continue to work and live in the Sioux Falls area following graduation.

Fourteen Graduate Grade School Program

May 27 marks the day when fourteen students will be honored as they finish their grade school years at St. Joseph's Indian School. One of the most joyful celebrations of the year, the graduation is always a whirl of brightly colored star quilts, eagle feathers, smiling faces and quick photo poses with the President and Executive Director of Child Services.

This year, St. Joseph's alumnus and recent graduate of Augustana University in Sioux Falls, S.D., Hope McCloskey, (pictured below left) will address students. Her message: "You can make what you want out of life. You can make mistakes. You can achieve so much more than what you realize. Do what you want to do, not what everyone else thinks is right, or cool."

The school also will honor Kory Annis who attended St. Joseph's from 1986 to 1989. Athletic and bright, Kory is fondly remembered as a positive leader of good character. Today, Kory has a loving family. His career spans police work, youth work and his current job as a mechanic in Bismarck, N.D. Kory is an apprentice Lakota wíchhása wakháq, seeking to follow in those sacred cultural footsteps.

Graduates include Donald Big Eagle III, Jules Bruguier, Delante Charger, Armand Comes Flying III, Jose Comes Flying, Shayla Flute, Waniyetu Hollow Horn, Kansas Honomichl-Rouse, William Johnson, Akicita Left Hand Bull, LaShanti Marshall, Ezmiah Middletent, Latoya Stead and Kaylee Summers.



Eighth grade graduates are (first row): Latoya Stead, Donald Big Eagle III, Shayla Flute; (second row): William Johnson, Jules Bruguier, pictured with Fr. Greg Schill, SCJ, LaShanti Marshall; (third row): Armand Comes Flying III, Waniyetu Hollow Horn, Ezmiah Middletent, Kaylee Summers, Jose Comes Flying; (fourth row): Kansas Honomichl-Rouse, Delante Charger, Akicita Left Hand Bull.



PEOPLE

Celebrating Milestones

Employees from across the organization are celebrating service awards. Thank them for their commitment to the mission!

Five Years

Colton Anderson, Residential Liaison
Santana Andrade, Mission Advocate
Lucy Ashley, Houseparent
Preston Chmela, Production Equipment Tech
Jamee Keatts, Paraprofessional
Kim Kontz, Office & Community Relations Manager, Native Hope
Krista Lepkowski, Transition Specialist
Tammy Lovejoy, Mission Advocate
Jenna McDonald, Nurse
Ellen Moss, Houseparent
Mark Nesladek, Custodian
Cassandra Scholl, Videographer & Social Media Assistant
Denise Schroeder, Houseparent
Richard Schroeder, Houseparent
Lloyd Skustad, Carpenter

Ten Years

Jackie Bottomley, Custodian
Rachel Butzin, Art Teacher
Kody Christianson, Mission Advocacy Manager
Robin Helton, Special Education
Gina McManus, Computer Ed/Tech
Stephanie Peterson, Residential Trainer
Pam Shroyer, Personal Living Skills Teacher
Eric Storms, Electrician

Fifteen Years

Gary Dominiack, Electronics Supervisor
Darby Klein, Technology Manager
Teena Mosel, Special Education
Lloyd Siberz, Houseparent

Twenty Years

Miles Bradley, Principal Programmer Analyst, says he felt his background was a good match for the job, and it helped that the location was close to the Black Hills and the Badlands. Coworkers and the mission keep him here, along with his determination and faith. The IT conversion is the most significant change he has seen. He thanks Kory Christianson for the opportunity to work with a great team.



Deb Byre, Mail Processor, says coworkers and new procedures that make it faster and easier to process donor information have kept her on the job for 20 years. "Some days are challenging," she notes, "but that makes the job interesting. Just give your 100% effort, and things will work out in the end." She is grateful for Robin Mashek and her coworkers, calling them the best part of the job. She sees St. Joseph's as a place that updates departments to make things better for its workers.



Melissa Chmela, Special Projects Manager, says it is the mission of the Priests of the Sacred Heart that keeps her working at St. Joseph's Indian School. Asked what the best part of her job is, she responds, "coworkers."



Dee Handel, came here right out of college looking for service-oriented work. Before a four-year hiatus, she was a houseparent. She returned, and today, 20 years later, she is the High School Residential Coordinator. A strong proponent of teamwork, she says, "Watching new ideas expand into successful programming that results in successful students has been so rewarding."



Brock Sundall, Teacher, says Mary Jane Alexander took a chance on him when he was looking for a job to use his elementary education degree, and St. Joseph's has been a great place to work. He won't share the secret to his success because it wouldn't be a secret anymore, but what he likes most about his job is working with the students and seeing them "get" something for the first time.



Vic Twamley, plumber, joined St. Joseph's in 2001. The next time you turn on the faucet, take a moment to think about the team at St. Joseph's who keeps the water flowing and the plumbing in good working order.

Twenty-Five Years

Relatively new to the community, **Neoma Harris**, Director of Integrated Marketing joined St. Joseph's in 1997, having heard positive things about the organization and looking for a challenge. She says, "Fellow staff members and the work we do for Native American children, their families and relatives keep me striving for more fundraising success," which grew to exceed \$120 million this past year. Neoma expresses gratitude to Kory Christianson for his mentoring style.



Chris Pazour, Vehicle Supervisor, moved back to the area to help his dad farm and took the open position as a mechanic here. He enjoys the challenges of the job and the problem-solving that goes along with it, saying, "You need to enjoy your job to be happy." He's witnessed many changes in the vehicles he's worked on through the years. He is grateful to Clara Shields for alerting him that work was available at St. Joseph's.



Julie Soulek, Residential Director, was drawn to St. Joseph's because of the mission. Having meaningful, mission-driven work has kept her here – along with fun coworkers, a bonus. Julie says, "Work hard and play hard – have fun with it!" She appreciates that the organization sees parents and guardians as partners in care and experts regarding their children.



Rob West, Family Service Counselor, dreamed of finding a position near the Missouri River in South Dakota and it landed him here. His relationships with students, families and fantastic coworkers have made him stay. Rob always finds the glass half-full and lists many transformations that he has seen. He greatly enjoys spending time with the students "in any capacity." "I have been very fortunate to have worked with many wonderful people," he concludes.

Thirty-Five Years



Tim Jording, Operator/PC Specialist, started his career here right out of college with the key benefit the opportunity to fish and hunt. His words of wisdom, "You don't have to do what you like, as long as you like what you do." He views the high school program as the most significant transformation he has seen and says his coworkers are the best part of his job.



Mark Klein, Director of Production, became an employee when the organization acquired Register Lakota Printing in 1994. "You treat me fair, and I do what is in your best interest – always," he says of why he has stayed. For Mark, every day is about leading by a good, hard-working example. Mark has been on board watching fundraising growth with a great team effort. He has genuine appreciation for the example of hard work, loving support, and compassion he has in his parents.

Forty Years



Tom Thomas, Facilities Manager, began his career here filling in for the injured mail truck driver at the request of Fr. Tom Cassidy. He moved into Carpentry from there. Career development meant attending electrician school and more. He names adaptability and a great team of coworkers as the keys to his success, adding that working for an organization that cares about students and staff has been a bonus. Tom has witnessed the transformation of the school's mission through its effects on the growth of the physical plant.

Thirteen Fêted at Goodbye Gathering

Now it is time to say goodbye to several people who have served our mission and our thiošpaye well. Child Services staff announced at a May 10 gathering include:

Residential

Alex Ashley
Evelyn Garcia
Travis Krogman
Sue Kutil
Al Renner
Danyel Vasquez
Katy Wilson

Counseling Services

Karen Haynes

Education

Robin Helton
Peggy Thomas
Becky Wahl

Health Center

Ronda Klein
Mary Willrodt



Brock Bowen, Houseparent, is a spaghetti fan. Activities include anything outdoors and card games. In his free time you will find him hanging out with friends or his nephews. Last watched: "Mrs. Doubtfire."



Cassandra Harmon, Health Center Receptionist, says, "I am very excited to meet everyone and be a part of St. Joe's." She spends her free time in nature, snuggling her puppy and spending time with her puppy. She enjoys fishing on the river and tacos.



Daniel Lauritsen, Warehouse Assistant/Production Support, is a Taco Johns fan who loves going to the Hills and watching movies. The last movie he saw was "The Dirt" about Mötley Crüe.



Myles Lo, Software Developer, loves macaroni and cheese. Both of his parents were born in Asia, and a favorite family activity is watching movies together. Last watched: "Everything Everywhere All at Once."



Lisabeth Massingale, Major Gifts Recurring Specialist, is a chocophile who likes to play outside at the family ranch. She loves to work toward a goal both at work and in her free time. She last saw "The Conjuring 3."



Kirstie Mattos, Houseparent, keeps blackberries and strawberries in her refrigerator and loves to cook. Paneer Tikki Masala is a favorite. In fact, she looks forward to family meals as a houseparent. She enjoys reading in her free time and last watched "Rush Hour."



Alan Sanchez, Houseparent, enjoys eating, most specifically, sushi. He is a video gamer who last watched "Treasure Planet." He looks forward to the "working from home" aspect of residential service.



Eric and Patience Williams, Houseparents, say their favorite family activity is eating out. They describe family as fun, loving and outgoing, adding, "You never know what is going to happen next." He looks forward to helping guide students in his new role. In his free time, he likes to workout and sleep. His favorite food is shrimp Alfredo. She is torn between mac and cheese and hot wings. She is excited about getting to know our students. In her free time, catch her binge-watching.