



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

Mitákuyepi



Mitákuyepi is a publication for employees of St. Joseph's Indian School and its outreaches like Production Manager Mark Klein, recognized for leadership excellence in stewarding the production environment from design to shipping of successful Marketing Campaigns.

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 Wakháŋ.

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.



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SUMMER 2023

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Here Comes Hóčhoka, Season 4

On Monday, August 28, St. Joseph's Indian School launched Season 4 of the school's podcast, Hóčhoka. The endeavor aims to showcase the people and ideas that make the school a leader in Native American education and to discuss issues central to Native American education today. The season runs with weekly releases through December 4. It is available on Podbean, Apple, iTunes, YouTube and Spotify in audio and vlog formats.

Award for lifetime contributions to Western Literature. The two return during future episodes to discuss the issue of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women. Also contributing to that series of four episodes are Allison Morrisette, South Dakota's Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons Coordinator, and Mary Beth Holzwarth, Human Trafficking Coordinator.

Other thought-provoking guests include Fr. Vien Nguyen, who went from being a Vietnamese boat person to becoming the Superior General of the Priests of the Sacred Heart (SCJs) in the United States. The SCJs founded and operate St. Joseph's Indian School. Also joining the guest cast are Michele David Mechling, a frequent visiting artist at the school, and the school's Religious Studies Teacher, Kim Schneider, who gives insights into Lakota and Christian pilgrimage.

President Mike Tyrell said, "We have a remarkable season in store. Hóčhoka has become a positive vehicle for reaching out and sharing what we have with others and an opportunity to learn from the best of what our talented and unique guests share with us."

The season begins with returning guest Dr. Damian Costello, a Catholic theologian specializing in indigenous spiritual traditions. He asks, "Should the Catholic Church near you have a buffalo skull?" Listen to his surprising and well-argued answer. Later in the season, he rejoins for two more episodes, one on the Rosary as a Lakota prayer in its origins and the practice of Lakota holy man Black Elk, and one on sweetgrass, "the fragrant, holy grass."

During the season, host Scott Woster visits with experts on Native American literature, including Lily Mendoza, bookseller and founder of the Red Ribbon Skirt Society, and Joseph Marshall III, who was recently awarded the prestigious Owen Wister



A new tradition born of the pandemic continued at St. Joseph's Indian School under bright and shiny skies along the banks of the Missouri River. Nearly 200 students and dozens of staff from across the campus celebrated the fourth annual outdoor back-to-school parade.

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MESSAGE FROM MIKE

Embracing Possibility-Charged New Beginnings

Beginnings come in many shapes and sizes at St. Joseph's Indian School. This school year marks the start of our 96th year. For the Priests of the Sacred Heart (SCJs), who founded the school, this year begins the second century of serving our mission in the United States.

Beginnings mean possibilities, and that is what we are all about. Our supporters ask us to provide quality services for our students. Our terrific facilities back these services. Mix this with the ingredients of hope,

care and love the staff provides, and the possibilities become infinite. At least, that is my belief.

The beginning of the school year always includes a lot of anticipation. It's the bridging of past established relationships between many students and staff. It's the acceptance of new students in a caring and compassionate way. It's the excitement that goes with visiting graduates who continue their schooling or succeed in occupations they've chosen. It's the promise and hope of all staff.

Beginnings are part of the continuous circle of life to which the thiyóšpaye circle of St. Joseph's Indian School belongs.

Serve, Teach, Receive, Learn. That motto calls us all to celebrate beginnings and look forward to a never-ending mission that speaks of hope for our students and their families.

God bless the 2023-24 school year at St. Joseph's Indian School.



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

Welcome Back to School's Heart and Soul

"Our students are the heart and soul of campus," said President Mike Tyrell, "and when we begin a new year, everyone wants to turn out to welcome them back. They are the reason we are here. They are our mission."

Students began the route just outside Our Lady of the Sioux Chapel when they emerged from a Feast of the Assumption prayer service. They passed under a blue and yellow balloon arch. Indeed staff turned out in myriad ways to celebrate the return of the wakháŋeža. Some offered smiles, waves and cheers. Others blew horns and whistles or showered the students with bubbles. There were cookies and candy to sweeten the walk. Rec Center staff tossed footballs back and forth with passing students. The Bookmobile was on hand with free reading material. The school's equine therapy horses participated, as well.

"Hi, Mom," shouted one high school boy as he

passed in front of the Facebook-live camera."

"It is lovely here ... anybody watching this should come to St. Joe's," said fifth-grader Isabella Peneaux. The Facebook-live video provided the opportunity for friends and family members of St. Joseph's Indian School to be a part of the school-beginning event.

Fifth-grader TateWin Cooke admitted, "My favorite part of the parade was the Mexican candy because it was sour."

The parade, which lasted a little more than 11 minutes, is the culmination of three days of student return that began on Sunday when students headed to the Dehon Health Center for a quick check-in and then went to school to meet their teachers and enjoy a meal, part of an effort to build and keep strong relationships with families.

Getting to Know Program Evaluation

When you hear ask what Michelle Eggers does for a job, her go-to elevator speech is, "I do all the behind-the-scenes, background work that most people do not want to do, but I love to do – Policies, Data, Program Evaluation." Michelle is St. Joseph's Indian School's Data and Program Analyst for Child Services.

Eggers is a master's prepared Clinical Nurse Specialist by background, so you might know her from her former roles as a Health Center Nurse and then the Director of Health and Wellness before entering her current position. "I found my niche to be able to use the skills I have to help all our Child Services areas, not just health care. Focusing on data, standards, policies, change management, strategic planning, research and informatics was part of my master's education. Now I can expand upon that foundation and apply practices outside the traditional health care setting."

You can usually hear her talking about our new document management system, PolicyTech, which is being implemented organization-wide, chatting with our tech teams, which includes the Program Developers in Sioux Falls or the IT team in Chamberlain, or working on program evaluation through accreditation standards, data monitoring and system discussions with the Child Services Team of Directors.

"My job focuses not only on the actions within Child Services, but also it crosses with many team members in Corporate and Development. We are all connected. I like to think of it as, 'together we are pulling strings tighter.' Every part of campus makes this place run. The more we learn and lean on each other, the more we progress. Most of my job is uncovering what we already do and making it known in a usable way," explains Eggers.

She has seen a change in conversation during her two years as a Data and Program Analyst. "In both meetings and short conversations, I can hear people use our data, lean on policies knowing where to find them, look at how to improve programs and better understand how items connect or impact each other."

Sometimes data, policies and program-evaluation talk makes eyes gloss over, but not for Eggers. "I will never forget what one coworker told me, 'Keep going; you are doing great work and making things happen.'"



Bookmobile Wraps Another Super Summer

The St. Joseph's Indian School Bookmobile wrapped up a busy summer on July 6. The outreach made stops in 43 communities, crisscrossing South Dakota to serve nearly 1,700 children and adults. The Bookmobile crew distributed nearly 17,000 books free of charge, some of which were Native American books by Native American authors. A record 68 alumni visited with Alumni Liaisons and Andy Lepkowski and Krista Lepkowski.

Morgan Pulliam and Austin Harjo, undergraduates at the University of Notre Dame who participated in the six-week experience as summer interns, also joined the crew. The two speak about their experiences on Hóhchoka Podcast Season 4, Episode 7, which airs later this fall.



"Navigating Narratives" at the Aktá Lakota Museum

What happens when a team of sixty artists, poets and musicians seeks to interpret the tense moments of a worrisome intrusion that happened more than a century prior? The Aktá Lakota Museum & Cultural Center and the Center for American Indian Research and Native Studies (CAIRNS) announced the opening of "Navigating Narratives – The Corps of Discovery in the Teton Territory" on Monday, June 19, 2023.

CAIRNS organized the exhibit, which explores the daily journals of Corps members William Clark, Patrick Gass, John Ordway and Joseph Whitehouse. Their first-person accounts from September 23 to September 30, 1804, are the only known records of the events that took place when The Corps of Discovery, commonly called the Lewis and Clark Expedition, unwittingly entered the territory of the Tetonian nation as they navigated the swirling waters and shifting sandbars of the Missouri river.

The artists, poets and musicians read the journal entries and created works to interpret their findings in painting, poetry and song. Through their work, the exhibit ponders their perspectives about what must have been a problematic exploration.

The exhibit runs until October 31 and can be previewed on the museum's website.



International Gathering Fêtes 100 Years of SCJ Ministry in the United States

Priests and brothers of the Sacred Heart (SCJs) from around the world gathered at St. Mary's Parish on Sunday, July 30, to celebrate the beginning of their ministry in the United States one hundred years ago. Countries represented included Poland, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, the Philippines, Indonesia, Italy and Germany.

Fr. Stefan Tertünte, SCJ, provincial superior of the German Province, gave the homily. Fr. Vien Nguyen, SCJ, provincial superior of the United States, celebrated the liturgy. The German Province is the mother province of the SCJs in the United States. Fr. Mathias Fahrman, an SCJ from the German Province, first celebrated Mass at St. Mary's in 1923. The parish had been entrusted to the Priests of the Sacred Heart by the bishop of the then diocese of Lead, S.D.

One hundred years ago, the SCJ ministry in the United States was centered around that small parish in Lower Brule. Within four years, the SCJs opened St. Joseph's Indian School. Today the SCJ ministry in the United States extends from South Dakota to Wisconsin, Mississippi, Texas and Florida. And like the crowd gathered this past weekend, it reaches across ethnic, social and economic lines.



St. Joseph's Marketing Department Wins Awards

This was a summer of accolades for the Integrated Marketing Department of St. Joseph's Indian School. The recognition came from three top national sources.

Candid, a leading assessor of nonprofit organizations, announced that St. Joseph's Indian School achieved the Platinum GuideStar Seal of Transparency for providing comprehensive information about the school's programs, success measures and services. Platinum is the highest possible rating for a nonprofit organization.

The department also received special recognition of its public service announcement (PSA), "Path out of Poverty." The PSA is the winner of a Bronze Telly Award in the category Promotional Video: General-Public Service/PSA. It was one of only twelve bronze winners in this category. The marketing team worked with 1stdegree Marketing & Public Relations to script and create the PSA. The PSA tells a national audience about the school's students, staff and programs.

The Telly Awards annually showcases the best work created within television and across video, for all screens. Receiving over 12,000 entries from all 50 states and five continents, Telly Award winners represent work from some of the most respected advertising agencies, television stations, production companies and publishers from around the world.

Finally, the school was named a "2023 Top-Rated Nonprofit" for the seventh year running by GreatNonprofits, the leading provider of user reviews of charities and nonprofits. The rating and number of reviews that St. Joseph's Indian School received from



volunteers, donors and aid recipients are the basis for the Top-Rated Nonprofit Award.

Coleman Caldwell, residential liaison, says his musical taste is "all over the place." He thinks working at St. Joe's is awesome. He enjoys Indian tacos and reminds us that not every action needs a reaction. When he was younger, he played golf.



Kim and Lynn Chatman, houseparents, both enjoy music that solicits emotion. He prefers Southern Cooking in the Texas and Louisiana traditions, and she likes food from many cultures with their different spices and ingredients. Kim grew up in a small town in Louisiana that he likens to Mayberry. He says if he got into any mischief, his parents knew about it before he even returned home.



Alex and Regine Dowler join the staff as houseparents. Alex notes that failure is inevitable but also easily correctable and that success is found within perspective.

His favorite food is eggs. Regine prefers carbonara pasta. Alex tells us, "Don't be afraid to be happy." Regine advises, "Look at the brighter side." Regine feels that working at St. Joe's is like being a part of a

welcoming and loving family.



Alec Eaton, production support, enjoys a good homemade pot roast dinner. Best advice he's ever received? "Everywhere you go, there you are." He says, "No matter if its good or bad, its all about the mentality you put towards it."



Alex Engbarth, BS, family service counselor, has been riding horses since she was young. Food faves include chicken-fried steak and biscuits and gravy. She advises, "You can think anything you want, you just can't say anything you want."



Jerry and Shellie Fontenot, new houseparents, feel working at St. Joe's is one of the best opportunities they have ever had. Shellie's favorite food is gumbo, and her go-to music is country. She says, "Always mean what you say." He says, "Don't let anyone tell you that you can't do something." Jerry used to bull ride in his youth. For him, failure and success are two sides of a coin. Failure is giving up, and success is never giving up.



Hannah Harbour, art and music teacher, says she dreamed of being a teacher when she was young. She says, "Make sure your words are

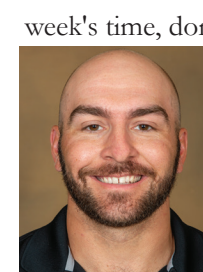


kind, especially when speaking about yourself."

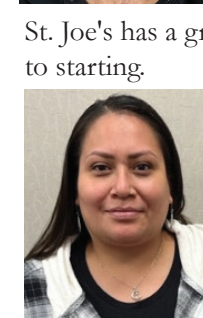
Chris Heinemann, fifth-grade teacher, is a CCR fan – that's Creedence Clearwater Revival for those who need an explanation. This "Fortunate Son" prefers medium-rare steak. Even when there is a "Bad Moon Rising," he says, "Show up. Do your best." When he was younger, he wanted to be an architect. Chris sees St. Joe's as an opportunity to better himself as a person and educator.



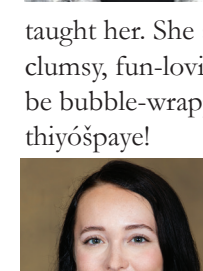
Abigail Martin, high school academic advisor, likes baked goods, sushi and "anything new" that she hasn't tried. She enjoys Harry Styles, and her "One Direction" for us is "If it is not going to affect you in a week's time, don't worry about it."



Brody Mathey, physical education teacher, is a country music fan. He advises, "It's better to be consistently good rather than sometimes great." When he comes to dinner, make it "anything with chicken." He thinks St. Joe's has a great atmosphere and is looking forward to starting.



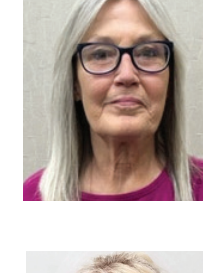
Kayla OtterRobe, data entry specialist loves all sorts of music, especially the upbeat music that gets her going each day. Her favorite food is Indian Tacos, made the way her mother and grandmother taught her. She says when she was younger she was the clumsy, fun-loving kid who was treated like she should be bubble-wrapped. Welcome this alum back to the thiyóšpaye!



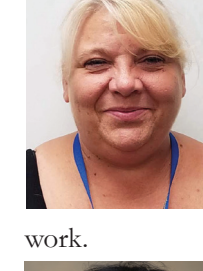
Aran Peterson, MSW, LCSW, family service counselor, joins our country-music-loving staff. For her, failure is a learning opportunity, and success is a stepping stone to beginning a new task. Her best advice: "Be present in your everyday life and appreciate the little things as you go throughout the day."



Denise Pike, data entry specialist, prefers blues and jazz. Her go-to food is potatoes. When she was young she loved to swim. Success for Denise is liking and respecting the person in the mirror.



Tricia Quarve, mission advocate, ranks Mexican food first, with Italian food placing second. Best advice, "Be patient. You don't know what a person has been through." To her, success is putting in the hard



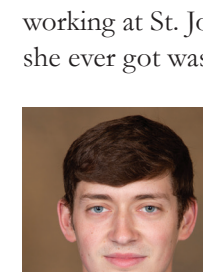
Trinity Sazue, carpenter, is a 2021 graduate of St. Joe's who recently completed his associate degree in Building Construction Technology at Mitchell Technical College. Welcome this alum back to



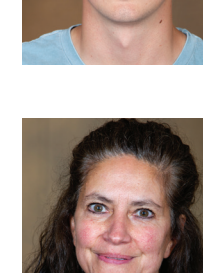
the thiyóšpaye! **Beth Schumacher**, resource teacher, enjoys all types of music. She likes seafood, particularly shrimp and says she rode a unicycle when young. She advises, "Everyday is a new day to learn something new."



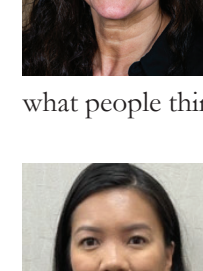
Kateri Schweitzer, school administrative assistant, votes country, too. When she was younger, she lived on the family ranch, which explains why home-grown steak is her favorite food. She finds working at St. Joe's rewarding and says the best advice she ever got was, "Work smarter, not harder."



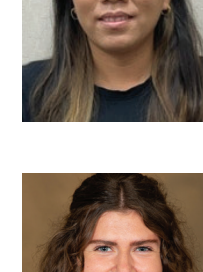
Sawyer Senska, warehouse assistant/production support, is with the country crowd, specifically, 90s country. He enjoys tacos. The best advice he ever got is, "Work hard and try your best."



Suzy Simpson, Postal Production Analyst, enjoys a favorite dinner of pork chops, mashed potatoes and cooked carrots, but her all-time favorite is pizza. For her, success is doing what makes you happy, regardless of what you make or what people think.



Stephanie Sithithongtham, data entry specialist loves R & B and Laotian food. Her best advice is, "Do what makes you happy." For her, working at St. Joe's is knowing that what she does is helping others, a goal of hers since her youth.



Kadi Terca, social media assistant, videographer, says her favorites are steak and anything homegrown and home cooked. When she was younger she loved to swim. She feels working at St. Joe's is more than a job. "It's a family and community. It allows me to learn and grow my skills. It is a great place to experience a new culture and connect with others."



Daniel Wright, houseparent, lists bacon, chocolate, steak and pork chops as favorites. He likes "old school, i.e., Tupac," and avoids "Mumble Rap." Daniel says he didn't know what he wanted to do when he was younger. He decided on service work and hopes St. Joe's turns into a lifelong career.



