

The Dreamer

Exclusive news for the St. Joseph's Indian School DreamMakers



December 2022

2022 ... WHAT A YEAR!



After what felt like a two-year drought of activities, 2022 became a year of safely reintroducing many of the things we loved from 2019 and before — day camp, powwow, larger gatherings and more. Sure, some things looked different, but others looked the same, and that felt like such a blessing.

It feels so good to know the children at St. Joseph's Indian School received everything they needed this year ... food, clothing, a warm bed and, of course, an education ... all thanks to YOU!

JANUARY 2022

- Students returned from winter break and took part in Christmas parties within their campus homes. It's the most joyful way to begin the new calendar year.
- Some student powwow dancers put together a presentation for the local public school in an effort to share their culture with the broader community.

FEBRUARY 2022

- St. Joseph's Indian School awarded a total of \$186,285 in college scholarships to Native American students pursuing higher education.
- South Dakota artist, Michele David Mechling, visited campus to create a Medicine Wheel mosaic piece with students that will be on display in the Rec Center after its renovation/expansion.
- Fifth grade students worked hard to gather donated food items to give to the local food pantry as a way to show **wačháŋtognaka** — *generosity* — and give back to others.

MARCH 2022

- Students celebrated College, Career and Military Month by exploring their options after high school graduation.
- St. Joseph's hosted an Archery Challenge. Overall, 26 students in grades 4-12

- participated in the weekend competition.
- The gymnastics, wrestling and basketball seasons wrapped-up. Each activity helped students learn the skills of teamwork, endurance and leadership.

APRIL 2022

- St. Joseph's Indian School received the "Top-Rated Nonprofit" award from GreatNonprofits for the sixth consecutive year.
- Our girls had an impromptu talent show for the entire campus! Talents ranged from dancing and singing, to a comedy show about a missing shoe.
- Confirmation, Baptism and First Communion took place for 17 students with their families in attendance.



MAY 2022

- We honored Missing and Murdered Indigenous People with a prayer service and activity. The echoes of the drum could
(over, please)

be heard across campus and our prayers were lifted to **Ṭhupkášila** — *Creator*.

- Seventh grade students went on the annual Cultural Trip to sacred sites of their ancestors.
- Fourteen eighth grade students and six senior students graduated.
- Kory Annis, a member of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, was named St. Joseph's 2022 Distinguished Alumnus.



JUNE 2022

- Rising Eagle Day Camp was hosted on campus! Total attendance this year was 731 with over 3,100 miles traveled and over 2,100 meals and snacks provided.
- Food box deliveries took place, giving families in reservation communities healthy foods of meat, bread, fruits, veggies and more.

JULY 2022

- Food box deliveries continued.
- The Bookmobile outreach program delivered 18,518 books to reservation communities.

AUGUST 2022

- Students returned from summer break and were welcomed with a picnic for them and their families.
- The new 2022-23 school year began.



- Our Rec Center hosted a triathlon.

SEPTEMBER 2022

- We hosted our 46th Annual Powwow to the public once again! It was a weekend of cultural activities, campus tours, the Equine Therapy Center dedication, powwow competition and more!



OCTOBER 2022

- Students celebrated Native American Day by focusing on their traditions and heritage.
- The school celebrated Red Ribbon Week by decorating campus trees with red ribbons.
- St. Joseph's hosted an animal blessing for our four-legged friends on campus.

NOVEMBER 2022

- Students celebrated Native American Heritage Month.
- Students celebrated All Souls Day by making prayer ties for loved ones who have passed on.
- Students participated in Rock Your Mocs to celebrate and embrace their culture.

DECEMBER 2022

- Students will select presents for their siblings, parents/guardians and grandparents from our campus Christmas Store.
- Students will leave for winter break to spend valuable time with their families.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Lakota people marked the beginning of the next year in the spring, not the winter. Though calendar types vary from tribe to tribe, nearly all tribal calendars begin in the spring. To the Native American people, spring symbolizes the start of a new year through the birth of new plant and animal life.

Learn more about the Lakota (Sioux) culture by visiting stjo.org/culture.





Dear Donor,

My name is Josephine
and I am in 2nd grade.
Thank you for helping
my school. I love learning
math at St. Joe's. We
get to play the wii
after homework. I
want to be a chef
when I grow up.

Thank You
Josephine