

The Dreamer

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



February 2023

Stories Take Students on Some **WILD ADVENTURES**

Storytelling has always been centric to the Lakota (Sioux) culture. Stories were, and remain, a way to pass down history and knowledge from one generation to the next.

Historically, Native American storytelling has taken on several forms: myths and legends, dreams and visions, chants, songs, trickster tales and more.

Now, in a modern era, young Native American children are using their storytelling skills to formulate their own tall tales ...

You see, there is a place at St. Joseph's Indian School where gummy bears magically come to life, a sneaky pup attempts to get its paws on some yummy cupcakes, poetry is written, books are exchanged ... Do you know where we are?

Of course, we are talking about the library!



But, the library at St. Joseph's isn't just a place filled with rows and rows of books written by well-known authors and illustrators of the world. While most rows feature such books, one shelf displays something else ... something a little more special ... **Stories written by our very own students!**

Another fun part: the stories can be checked out just like any other book at the library.

Claire, St. Joseph's librarian, said seeing their peers' books on the shelves has motivated other students to start writing their own stories.

"One of our students, Aurora, has four graphic novels available for checkout, based on the lives and adventures of her favorite animals: cats and wolves," said Claire.

Popular student-written titles include:

- *Snacks on the Run*: A short chapter book about gummy bears that magically jump to life and have to do a lot of maneuvering to not be eaten.
- *Defend Afra Home*: As the title suggests, this book is a Halloween book where the girls living in the Afra Home at St. Joseph's must defend their home on the spooky holiday.
- *Ho Waŋná Wóglaka (Use Your Voice Now)*:

(over, please)



This book is a collection of poems written during Native American Heritage Month.

- *I Come From*: An anthology of poems written by eighth grade students about the places they came from before coming to St. Joseph's.

Claire keeps several blank books on the Library Incentive Shelf that students can earn.

"Kids earned, literally, hundreds of notebooks and blank books to make their creations!" she said.

It's a testament to the children's vivid imaginations, but also their cultural roots. While stories of the past surrounded the themes of plants, animals, humans, water, air and earth, surely the stories will mature as the children age.

But for now, it sure is fascinating and fun to see where their imaginations take them.

Philámayaye — *thank you* — for your monthly support that allows children the opportunity to dream of a brighter future — real or imaginary.



Your Generosity Hits the Road to Spread Joy of Reading to SD Reservations

Libraries are often a rarity in reservation communities, and the closest one may be more than 50 miles away!

Each summer, St. Joseph's Bookmobile travels approximately 3,000 miles across South Dakota and into reservation communities distributing free reading materials to children and families in need.

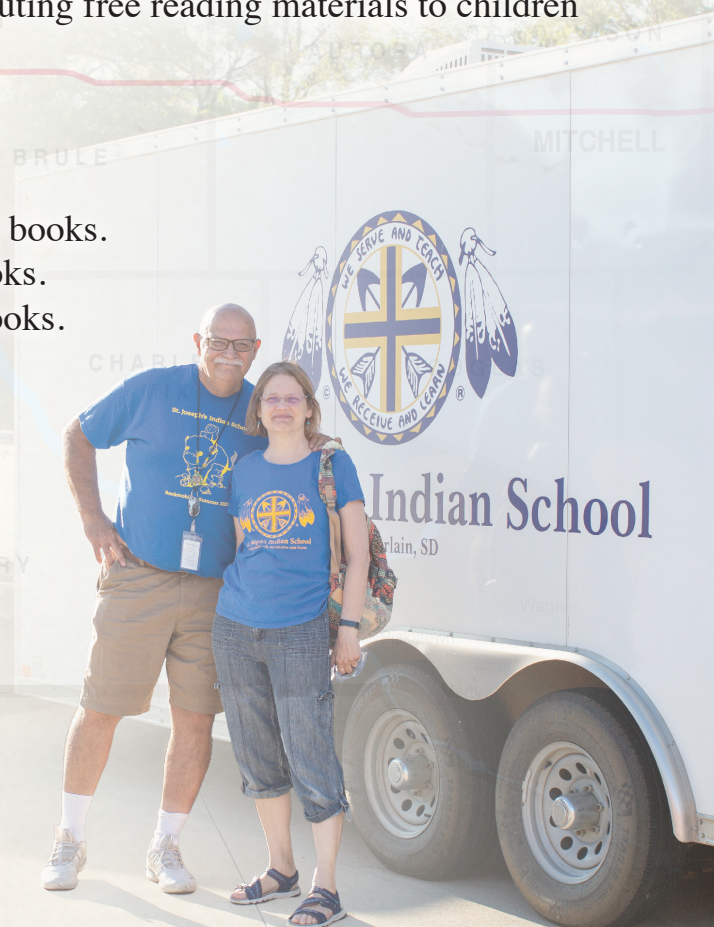
The Bookmobile's 2022 Impact:

- 499 preschool-3rd grade children were given FREE books.
- 198 students in 4th-6th grade were given FREE books.
- 214 students in 7th-12th grade were given FREE books.
- 500 adults were given FREE books.
- 55 adult alumni were given FREE books.
- **A total of 18,518 books given to 1,466 people!**



To learn more about the Bookmobile and see it in action, scan the QR code and watch the video!

While you're watching, don't forget to click subscribe to never miss a video we post!



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

Dear friend,

Thank you for donating to St. Joseph's,
The things I like to do is play Basketball and
a bit of Volleyball. It's my first year here, and
I love it so far.

What I want to be when I grow up is a cop
or I might want to travel the world. I want to
live in Tokyo, or Japan, I heard that Tokyo is
really fun and has really cool places. When I go
there I want to go to a cat café.

My favorite classes are math and Art
I think that I'm really good at math and
Art, they are my favorite subjects. I mostly
like to do Art, because I love to draw and
paint, but I might want to be an artist.

Thank you for supporting my school.

your friend
Lashanti