

# The Dreamer

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



June 2023

## When We Think Summer, We Think Day Camp!

*School may be out, but Rising Eagle Day Camp keeps us busy in June!*

Since Rising Eagle Day Camp came into existence at St. Joseph's Indian School in the 1980's, it's made a big difference. Thousands of children from nearby reservations have had magical summers.

You see, day camp is more than just a fun camp experience for children from the Lower Brule and Crow Creek reservations. It's a time children are given a safe place for a few weeks out of the summer to be just that — children. Children with less worries. Children with full bellies of good food. One child at a time, camp makes a real difference.

So, what do children do while here for camp? What is your generosity providing? We're here to tell you!

Each day of camp begins with the Lakota Flag Song and other traditional Native American songs. Each child then rotates through classes where they learn the Lakota (Sioux) language, make arts and crafts, and listen to traditional stories and discuss their meanings.

"I teach Lakota culture at summer camp. I loved watching the children from Crow Creek and Lower Brule embrace their culture and language," said Nancy, a camp teacher. "Teaching at summer camp is my favorite thing to do. The little ones especially liked singing around the drum. It makes my heart full when I see them in the community and they tell their parents, 'That's my Lakota teacher!'"

Of course, outside of the classroom setting, there is ample time for movement and activities. All students have plenty of time

*(over, please)*



to swim in the Rec Center pool, play games, participate in sports in the gym and outdoors, and play on our beloved playground.

“Swimming is the best part of camp. I wanted to swim all day!” said Jordana, a child attending camp.

“I love the playground here,” said Travis, another camp attendee “There are a lot of friends my age here, and I like when we get to play games, like basketball.”

Being blessed to host a camp completely free-of-charge to children is very gratifying and humbling. Everyone is thankful!

“The kids were outstanding and had a great time, staff were engaged and great relationships were made,” said Mark, camp director. “We appreciate all of the support we receive for summer camp and can’t wait for next year!”

**Philámayaye** — *thank you* — for opening your heart to our students and children from South Dakota’s reservations who benefit from this outreach service of St. Joseph’s Indian School.

## DID YOU KNOW?

According to the Lakota Language Consortium, there are only 2,000 first-language Lakota speakers remaining on and around the reservations of North Dakota and South Dakota. This number represents less than 2% of the total Lakota population. Learn some of the same phrases Native American children learn at camp by joining us at [www.stjo.org/Lakota](http://www.stjo.org/Lakota).



**St. Joseph's Indian School**  
We serve and teach, we receive and learn.  
PO Box 326  
Chamberlain, SD 57326  
1-800-762-2162 • [www.stjo.org/Dreamer](http://www.stjo.org/Dreamer)

Printed at Tipi Press Printing



Name: William

**If I ate** lollipops.

**I would look** rainbow.

Blank handwriting practice lines consisting of a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line.

Dear Donor,

My name is Jasleen and I'm in 4th grade. My favorite subject is reading. I like reading because you get to read and write and read. I like St. Joe's because the houseparents are fun and nice and we get to do fun activities. I want to be a teacher when I grow up. Thank you for donating to our school.

Your  
friend, Jasleen