

The Dreamer

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



October 2023



St. Joseph's Celebrates 47th Annual Powwow

Our 47th Annual Powwow went off without a hitch! Read all about it!

No other event captures the Native American spirit like the powwow.

Powwows began mainly as religious ceremonies to gain wisdom from and give thanks to **Wakǰáŋ Tǰáŋka** — *Great Spirit*. Though many of today's powwows have evolved into social and contest-oriented dances, and although the dance styles and content have changed, the meaning and importance of a powwow has not.

Since 1976, St. Joseph's Indian School has hosted an annual weekend to celebrate the rich Lakota culture on our campus. We celebrated our 47th Annual Powwow on September 14-16, and what a special moment in time it was!

On Thursday, guests started arriving and registered at our Aktá Lakota Museum & Cultural Center and then gathered for a Meet and Greet at our Rec Center. Friday morning began with cultural activities at the Museum and Rec Center, followed by tours of the Equine Therapy Center, school and Health Center, an assembly at the Rec Center and the Thiyóšpaye Banquet at Arrowwood Resort in the evening.

However, Saturday was the day everyone was most excited for ... powwow day! After tours of student homes and Our Lady of the Sioux Chapel, the big show began with Grand Entry at noon! The rest of the afternoon was filled with sounds of drumming, sights of dancing, smells of warm fry bread sizzling and feelings of warmth as our **thiyóšpaye** — *extended family* — gathered together.

Of course, the main highlight of the powwow festivities included the drumming and dancing. Typically, the powwow grounds at St. Joseph's include approximately

(over, please)



seven drum groups that play for over 100 dancers in varying age and gender categories for the Grass, Jingle, Traditional and Fancy Dances. Other powwows held around the United States can be much larger in scale and competition.

Students and families enjoy St. Joseph's powwow, as it's a friendly, beginner powwow while still hosting competition for strong and experienced dancers, as well.

“At the **wačhípi** — *powwow* — I drummed and sang songs. Listening to the drum made me feel very happy,” said Mario.

“I like watching the dancers because I like when their feet move to the beat of the drum,” said Ezmiah.

While the powwow tends to focus mainly on the competitive dances, there are several social dances that are always a crowd and participant favorite!

“At powwow, I did the Potato and Rabbit Dances. I enjoyed both very much!” said Secret.

The memories made at powwow live on for many weeks, months and years to come in the hearts and minds of our students.

“If I could do it all over again I would,” said Kaylee. “That day was fun and special to me. **Líla wóphila** — *I am grateful* — for you helping make our powwow so great and wonderful this year.”

If you missed this year's powwow, and want to join us in person next year for our Annual Powwow, stay up-to-date on event details that, once finalized, will be shared at stjo.org/powwow. We hope to see you there!

Are you scratching your head at what in the world is a Potato or Rabbit Dance?

The Potato Dance is traditionally a dance for couples (or in our case, friends) where they hold a potato between their foreheads while attempting to dance with the beat. The last pair remaining with the potato still between their foreheads wins.

The Rabbit Dance is a time for the tiniest of dancers — typically toddlers and very young children — to have a turn in the powwow spotlight. They do their very best, teetering along to the music.



St. Joseph's Indian School
We serve and teach, we receive and learn.
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Printed at Tipi Press Printing

Dear Friend,

Thank you for helping st. joe's the things I joined this year is Football and it is fun, I'm wide receiver. The classes I take are easy mostly except science. I Kind of like it, but it's kind hard. Math, Reading, and social studies are easy peasy.

This year we made WATER ROCKET'S, we would have one person pump the pump and the other person pulled the string and it would launch.

when i grow up i'm going to try and get into the NBA, I hope I can play for the Brooklyn Nets, I also might travel the world. After that I'll Move to L.A. Where it's cool and full of Awesomeness.

Sincerely,
Brayden

Thank you!

