

# The Dreamer

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



December 2023

## 2023: A Year in Review

*Some really wonderful events took place at St. Joseph's this year thanks to YOU!*

When we look back on 2023, a few words come to mind — words like growth, ambition, challenge, adventure. But another word that also comes to mind for 2023 is extraordinary.

While some may see that word and think of big progress, at St. Joseph's Indian School we see the extraordinary in the ordinary. A child coming from extreme poverty who learns to read is extraordinary. A child healing through trauma is extraordinary. And a child who was once reserved, but grows into a leader in the classroom — that is extraordinary.

We highlighted extraordinary events for each month of 2023 in the following Year in Review. We hope it fills your heart with joy knowing you helped accomplish these extraordinary moments.

### JANUARY 2023

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 each year with presents, food, fellowship and fun!

### FEBRUARY 2023

St. Joseph's Indian School awarded a record-breaking total of \$213,970 in college scholarships to Native American students pursuing higher education!

### MARCH 2023

Students celebrated College, Career and Military Month by exploring their options after high school graduation.

### APRIL 2023

Groundbreaking on the Rec Center renovation and expansion took place. The new addition will include a second gym to more seamlessly accommodate gymnastics, wrestling, archery and cheer. Volleyball and basketball can continue to take place in the current gym. The project will also include offices, restrooms, a multi-purpose

room and exercise spaces for students and staff while meeting the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements.

### MAY 2023

Seventh grade students went on the Annual Cultural Trip to sacred sites of their ancestors. Fifteen eighth grade students and six senior students also graduated this month!



### JUNE 2023

Rising Eagle Day Camp was hosted on campus! Each day of camp, kids were provided

*(over, please)*



transportation to St. Joseph's for the opportunity at a fun-filled summer that included daily meals, recreational activities, lessons in Lakota culture, arts and crafts, swimming and more!

### JULY 2023

Outreach programs were in full swing. Food box deliveries to reservations gave families healthy foods of meat, cheese, eggs, bread, fruits, veggies and more. At the same time, St. Joseph's Bookmobile safely delivered 16,990 free books to reservation communities.

### AUGUST 2023

Students returned from summer break and were welcomed with a parade — officially beginning the 2023-24 school year!



### SEPTEMBER 2023

We hosted our 47th Annual Powwow to the public! It was a weekend of cultural activities, campus tours, powwow dance competitions and more!

### OCTOBER 2023

Students celebrated Native American Day by focusing on their traditions, heritage and stories. St. Joseph's also hosted an animal blessing for the four-legged on campus, which included dogs from our Houseparents and Pets In (HAPI) Homes program and the Equine Therapy program.

### NOVEMBER 2023

Students celebrated Native American Heritage Month through activities like proudly wearing moccasins for Rock Your Mocs day. Students

also celebrated All Souls Day by making prayer ties for loved ones who have passed on.

### DECEMBER 2023

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

Thanks to the generous support of our DreamMakers — that's you — we were able to continue meeting the physical, emotional, cultural and spiritual needs of students and families throughout the whole year!

As another year draws to a close, St. Joseph's remains grateful for the ongoing support of our dedicated donors who make extraordinary things happen here every day.

### 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](http://stjo.org/culture).









Dear Donor,

Thank you for everything you do for St. Joseph's Indian School. Some of my favorite classes are math and reading. Things I do for fun here is basketball, cheerleading, and gymnastics.

What I want to be when I grow up is a mathematician at NASA. I want to work there because I've always been a nerd in science and math.

I would like to live in Houston, TX but if I have to I would also like to live in Cape Canaveral, FL,

Thank you again  
and good-bye

-LaRee