

The Dreamer

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



February 2024

A Little Good Goes a Long Way in the Gold Card Store

There is a special store at St. Joseph's filled with goodies and prizes that would make any child's eyes widen at the sight. It's called the "Gold Card Store" and it's there for kids who do their best to go out of their way to shine bright.

As students go about their school days, they have opportunities for personal development and to help their peers and teachers. Whether that's holding the door open for someone, standing up for a classmate, or assisting someone who is hurt — the opportunities to do the right thing are endless.

To reward students who strive to do good, "I Got Caught Doing Something Good!" gold cards are awarded. Students can also receive gold cards by displaying the Circle of Courage virtues of belonging, generosity, independence and mastery. Depending on the good deed, the gold card is worth one, five or 10 points. Students can spend their gold cards all at once or save up to get bigger items if they desire to do so.

During the 2022-23 school year, over 26,000 gold cards were awarded to students in grades

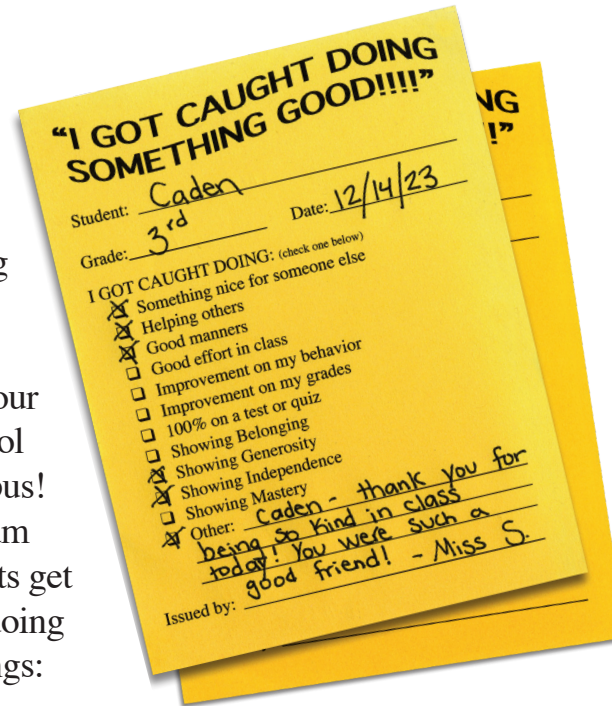
1-8, meaning there was a lot of good going on in our homes, school and on campus!

"This program helps students get noticed for doing the right things: going above and beyond, being generous, helping others, doing well on their schoolwork, and things like that," said Jennie, St. Joseph's Student Coordinator. "It helps take the focus off of the negative and gives props to those who are doing what is expected. This also encourages students to make good choices and learn positive skills."

Items are "priced" based upon their value. The most popular items in the store are Squishmallow stuffed animals, dolls, Legos, remote control cars, press-on fingernails, headphones, Bluetooth speakers, LED strip lights and bikes, just to name a few.

Yes, you read that right! For 120 gold card points, a student can earn their very own bike! Or, they can use their cards to mix-and-match

(over, please)



their prizes. For instance, students could get two packs of gum, a stuffed animal, three Beanie Babies, and a ball or craft set for 65 gold cards. Or, they could get one set of LED lights and a ball or other items of the same price range. It all depends on what the student is after.

While the gold cards are a great motivational tool for some students, they're often received after the child wasn't focused on getting a gold card at all. They just did what was right because it was the right thing to do.

"I like to hand them out when kids do those little special things they do and don't think about if anyone is watching," said Kim, St. Joseph's Religion teacher. "Once when the third grade class was praying the Rosary, I asked if anyone wanted to lead a decade. A boy raised his hand and I could see that because he stepped-up other kids felt brave enough to step-up to lead, as well. They weren't doing it for the cards and that's when I like to award them."

The store is stocked by an Amazon Wish List and in-kind donations that are received

from generous supporters. This list is updated periodically as supplies run low, which happens often considering all the good our students display! Visit stjo.org/amazonwishlist if you wish to help stock the store with special items!

Philámayaye — *thank you* — for supporting St. Joseph's Indian School with your monthly gift to provide students with ways to shine bright all across campus!



DID YOU KNOW?

Traditionally, the Lakota recognized seven traits that are listed as the Seven Lakota Values. These values displayed by our students would also earn them gold cards.

1. **Wačháŋtognaka** — *Generosity*
2. **Wowáčíŋtħaŋka** — *Fortitude*
3. **Waóhola** — *Respect*

Find out the other four values by visiting stjo.org/values or scan the QR code with your mobile device now!



Dear Friends,

Thank you for helping our school.
this is what I like about Stjo there
is a roof over my head and preparing
food for us. this is what I like to do
for fun, go swimming go to the park do
typing, and go on passes. This is what I
want to do when I grow up, to go to
college and study to be a nurse and
a dentist. I learned how to decompose/
break down math with multiplication
and tomorrow I'm learning lattice.
I like to do math and reading
Sometimes I like to read.



Merie Onna - 4th grade



Josephine

