

The Dreamer

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



June 2024

Empowering Native Americans All Summer Long

What happens during the summer at St. Joseph's? Keep reading to find out!

At St. Joseph's Indian School, every step is taken to ensure the success and well-being of the Lakota children in our care. While school may be out for the summer, so are we — we're literally "out" serving our students and families through a multitude of outreach programs. A few popular programs are the Bookmobile, Rising Eagle Day Camp and Food Box Deliveries!

The Bookmobile: Unlocking the Door to Knowledge

For children living in reservation communities, access to educational resources can be limited due to geographical isolation and financial constraints. However, thanks to the Bookmobile program, young minds can embark on adventures found in countless stories, completely free-of-charge. Stocked with books suitable for all age groups, our mobile library travels hundreds of miles to remote reservations, fostering a love for reading and learning among children who may not otherwise have access to

such opportunities.

An added bonus is that we sometimes see alumni who visit the Bookmobile to catch-up with staff and share memories.

"The Bookmobile impacted me ... it brings back a lot of memories," Charmaine, an alumna, said during a visit to the Bookmobile. She was one of 68 alumni who visited the Bookmobile last summer!

Rising Eagle Day Camp: A Safe Summer for Children

Every summer, Native American children come together at St. Joseph's from the Crow Creek and Lower Brule reservations to explore our campus through Rising Eagle Day Camp. Through an array of interactive activities like arts and crafts, sports and Lakota (Sioux) culture classes, the camp aims to instill confidence, cultural identity and pride into participants. Children are provided breakfast, lunch and a

(over, please)



snack each day — a huge blessing for many families! Thanks to the generosity of our DreamMakers, this camp remains free-of-charge for all children.

“I have nine excited campers. I appreciate you guys hosting camp and giving them something to do and look forward to. Thank you!” said Maureen, a grateful parent.

Food Box Deliveries: Combating Hunger, One Box at a Time

Food insecurity remains prevalent among Native American communities. While students are in school at St. Joseph’s, they’re provided three square meals a day. Why should that stop when summer starts? Well, we believe it shouldn’t. This is why St. Joseph’s organizes food box deliveries to ensure children don’t go hungry during the summer months. These boxes, packed with essential groceries, help relieve the burden of food scarcity while providing nourishment to countless families.

“We’re told over and over again what a blessing we are when we make these trips. Families are so appreciative, and we’re happy to provide this service,” said Colton, a staff member at St. Joseph’s who has traveled on countless food box deliveries over the years. “Seeing the smiles

on the kids’ and adults’ faces is the absolute greatest experience.”

A Wide Array of Other Programs

The three programs featured before only begin to scratch the surface of St. Joseph’s outreach programs. Others include the Sacred Heart Chacon Family Safe Shelter, Bare Necessities Thrift Store and an Adolescent Care Center all on the Cheyenne River Indian Reservation; the Aktá Lakota Museum & Cultural Center, reservation mission runs, college scholarship awards and more!

St. Joseph’s outreach programs, supported by our dedicated donors — like YOU — are instrumental in transforming the lives of Native American children and families. The programs empower them with resources to break free of the poverty that has plagued their communities for generations.

Wóphila Thánka — *many thanks* — to you for your dedication to the mission of St. Joseph’s!



DID YOU KNOW?

Wáčhántognaka — Generosity

The Lakota word for generosity, means to contribute to the well-being of one's people and all life by sharing and giving freely. This sharing is not just of objects and possessions, but of emotions like sympathy, compassion and kindness. It also means to be generous with one's personal time.

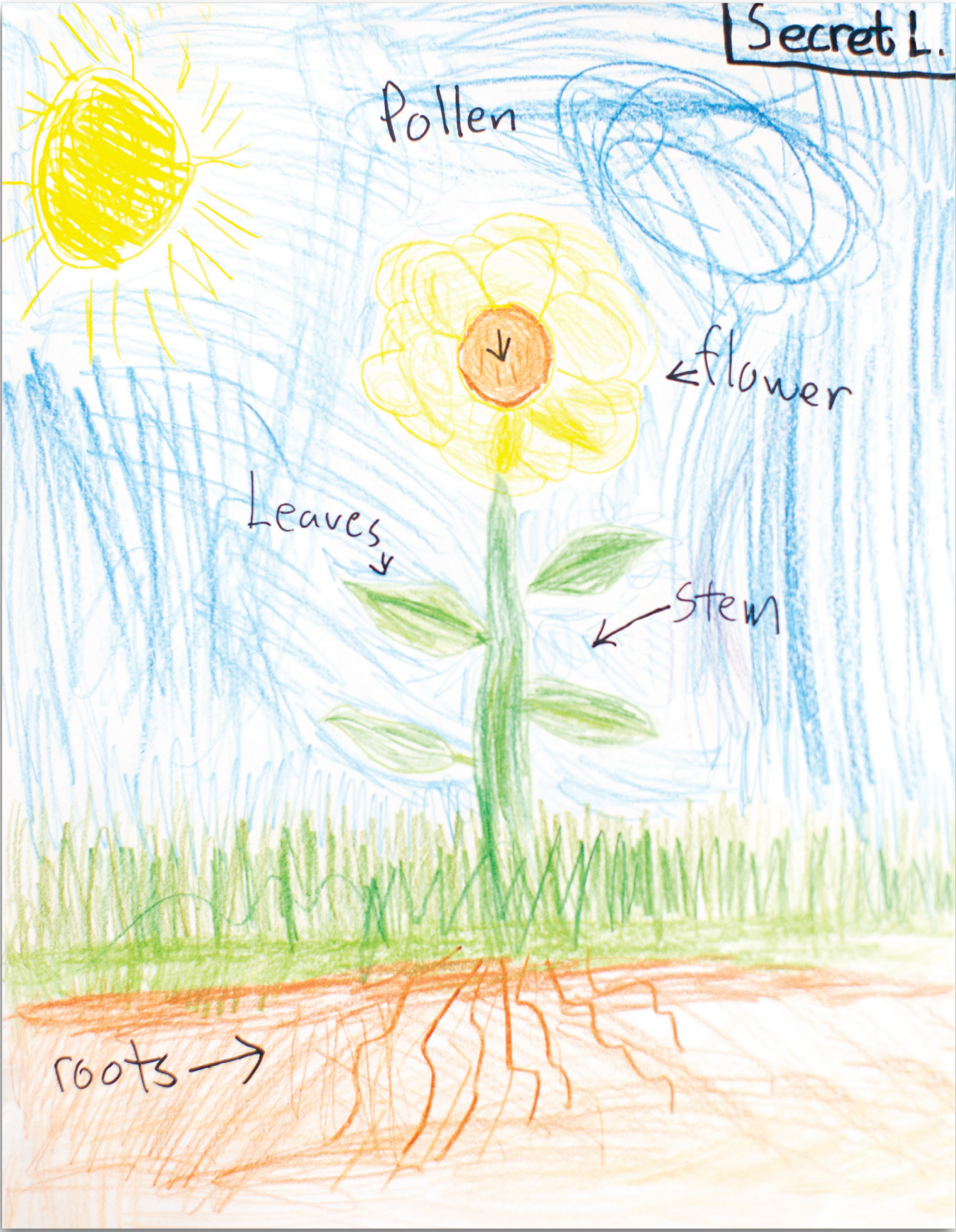
Learn more about the Lakota culture at stjo.org/culture today!



Dear Donor - How was your day thank you for donating to our School
This is what I like about ST. JO I like the house parent S and teachers they
are very nice. This is what I will love to do at ST. JO I like to go to the Pool and go to the
Park it is really fun. I love the food my house e Parents cook it is always good,

— Lamyaq

Secret L.



Pollen

flower

Leaves

Stem

roots