

Children of the Prairie

Your seasonal newsletter from St. Joseph's Indian School Summer 2022



"I thank you so much for donating to St. Joseph's Indian School. It's a really great school."

— Chazlyn,
St. Joseph's student

From the Desk of Fr. Greg



Fr. Greg, Chaplain

Dear friends, you are a critical part of our ministry. St. Joseph's Indian School could not be a home-away-from-home for approximately 200 Native American children without your love, prayers and generous support!

I'm happy to say we are embarking on something big — something special. Our campus Rec Center, which was built in the 1970s, is about to get a much-needed renovation and expansion. You'll read all about it in this issue of the *Children of the Prairie*.

With this renovated facility, exercise and recreational activities will be expanded for our students. It will allow multiple team sporting events and expanded use of the facility by more students simultaneously. The Rec Center is old, cramped and outdated. The renovations will change all of this while updating the facility to meet Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements.

But to do something this big and this special, your help is needed. With your help and generous support, our planned changes to the Rec Center will better meet the health, fitness and wellness needs of our students.

"Rejoice in your hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer."
— Romans 12:12

I hope you will prayerfully consider being one of our sponsoring donors and say a prayer as we maneuver through the building process. As you may well know, the changing times of supply shortages and rising material costs make projects like this daunting. However, I know the burden is lessened with friends like you by our side.

Peace and Blessings,

Fr. Greg

Fr. Greg Schill, SCJ
Chaplain

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: ShyAnne



When ShyAnne steps forward and takes precise aim with her bow and arrow, the whole room stops to watch ... **Because she is that good.**

Of course, the recent high school graduate would never say those

words about herself. Her actions and accomplishments speak for her.

In 2019, ShyAnne was the female high school champion at a competitive archery tournament in South Dakota.

"She is one of my more talented shooters and has always had good passion and dedication toward it," said Evan, St. Joseph's Rec Center staff and ShyAnne's coach.

As skilled as ShyAnne is, one might assume she's been an archer her entire life, but she only just began after arriving to St. Joseph's in the seventh grade. She took up the sport because it helped her feel connected to her Lakota culture.

We're so proud of ShyAnne for her dedication to her sport and for being a wonderful role model for younger students to look up to!

Rec Center: Changes Above and Below the Surface

It's a boy making a buzzer-beater shot to win the game. It's a girl learning to balance on a beam. It's a child learning to swim. It's children playing together, exercising teamwork and making lifelong friendships.

So much good takes place in the St. Joseph's Indian School Rec Center every day. Whether it's through organized athletics, a dip in the pool or a workout session in the weight room, Native American children and young adults are learning the importance of movement.

But, the building in its current state only allows for limited activities. The existing facility was constructed in 1974, almost 50 years ago. A nearly half-century old building means there are some shortcomings. In fact, the list of shortcomings is becoming longer than the list of positives.

There are nearly 200 students living and learning at St. Joseph's. When surveyed, 60% said there were times they would have liked to use the gym, but could not because it was full.

That's six out of 10 missed opportunities. That's six out of 10 attempts made by students to move their bodies, but could not. There is a lack of gym and storage space. Some areas also do not meet ADA requirements.

Therefore, it's time to renovate and expand. Planning is in the works and ground will be broken soon to not only take this 1970s building into the present, but also the future. The new addition will include a second gym to allow for more organized activities and open gym spaces for students of varying ages. The new addition will more seamlessly accommodate gymnastics, wrestling, archery and cheer, while volleyball and basketball can take place in the current gym. It will include separate offices, restrooms, a multi-purpose room and exercise spaces for students and staff. All of this and more while meeting ADA requirements.

Over the years, it's true to say this building was pieced together. Now it's time to make sense of the



(over, please)



puzzle. Our students are counting on us and you.

Louie, St. Joseph's alumnus said, "Basketball was basically what got me to finish school. I stuck through it and it was what kept me going — especially after my parents passed."



Stories like his would not be possible without the programs at St. Joseph's that accommodate children of all abilities.

On the surface, it may look like students are just exercising, but so much more is happening beneath the surface. The most important changes — the ones you can't see happening — are taken with them into other areas of their lives.

Students like ShyAnne said, "Some of us are really competitive [in archery]. We want to get better, and sometimes it just feels a little too cramped to really get a good practice."

Some kids don't always find their true passion in the classroom. Sometimes they first find it on the court, in the gym or in the swimming pool.

And then there are students like Zeke. "St. Joseph's helped me do something I really like and be out there with my friends," said Zeke, who was born with a spinal condition that impacts the way he is able to play basketball. "It felt good to be a part of the team."

If you would like to help make the Rec Center renovation and expansion a reality, please call Denise Hyland at 1-800-584-9200 or email her at Denise.Hyland@stjo.org.

God bless you for your generosity!



BLESS OUR LAKOTA CHILDREN



What's your favorite thing about the Rec Center?



"Playing on the
basketball court."

— Melissa



"Swimming at
the pool!"

— MerieOnna



"Basketball is my
favorite sport. I want
to play basketball
when I grow up."

— Mario

Do you have a question to ask the Lakota
children? Email it to saintjosephs@stjo.org.

A Will is the last statement of your ideals and values here on earth. You want to be sure it reflects the love and concern you hold in your heart for family, friends and special charities. By naming St. Joseph's Indian School in your Will, you are directing a gift to support our work, which will continue helping the Lakota children even after you are gone.

Any financial agreement allowing you to name a "beneficiary at death" can be adapted as a marvelous bequest to help future generations of Native American children. Some examples of financial arrangements are: life insurance, savings and investment accounts, retirement accounts or trusts. Establishing a Will offers a special opportunity for all of us to leave personal testimony to those we care for and love after our days here on earth are completed.

Would you consider the needs of the Lakota boys and girls at St. Joseph's Indian School when you plan your estate?

The first step to a meaningful legacy is a solid estate plan. Start planning today by requesting our FREE Estate Planning Course booklets.

Contact our Planned Giving Department at 1-800-584-9200 or online at stjo.org/will to request additional information.

You are under no obligation. We offer this information only as a service to help you.



THANK YOU FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE!