

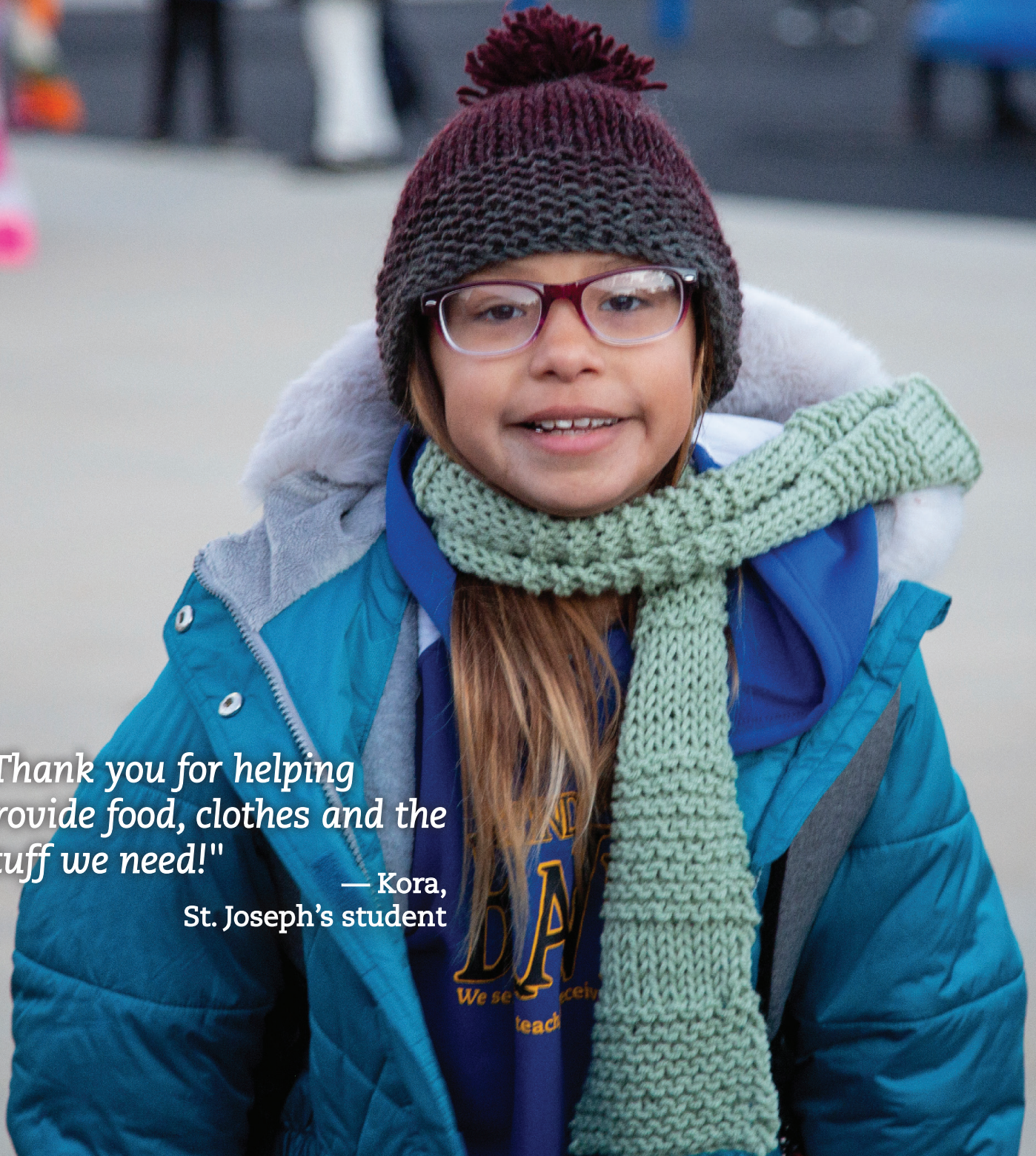
Children of the Prairie

Your seasonal newsletter from St. Joseph's Indian School

Winter 2023

*"Thank you for helping
provide food, clothes and the
stuff we need!"*

— Kora,
St. Joseph's student



From the Desk of Fr. Greg



Fr. Greg, Chaplain

As we begin a new year at St. Joseph's Indian School, I find myself reflecting a lot about the past year and our hopes for 2023. I'm sure you've done something similar. Time has a way of making us look back at the past and ahead to the future.

Another direction we look is up.

*Did I accomplish God's plan for me this year?
What is in store for me now?*

Two questions we ponder from time to time. Two questions that have an answer.

"For God is at work in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure." — Philipians 2:13

At St. Joseph's, that "work" is a mission for which you play a critical role. Caring for the well-being of approximately 200 Native American children — each so unique — is not an easy feat. However, it's made easier with you joining alongside us and God.

"And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him. A threefold cord is not quickly broken."

— Ecclesiastes 4:12

A cord of three ... we would not be one without you. We could not do this great work without you. As you look at our recap of 2022, we want to say **philámayaye** — *thank you* — for all you helped accomplish.

Peace and Blessings,

Fr. Greg

Fr. Greg Schill, SCJ
Chaplain

DONOR SPOTLIGHT: Donors Warm Hearts with Handmade Donations

Michele and Jim thought they were coming to Chamberlain, SD, in the summer of 2021 purely as a way to enjoy a road trip away from their Iowa home. They were in search of relaxation and connection with nature, which they found, but they also found something else — **St. Joseph's Indian School.**

"In conversation with Maija (a St. Joseph's employee), she talked about how some of the children

arrive and don't have very much to call their own," said Michele. "I thought, how special would it be to give some of the children a quilt — something to cuddle up with."

The one obstacle to that plan: Michele didn't know how to quilt. Neither did her mother, who planned to assist with the project. But, together the pair set out to learn as a means to bless the children, while also spending some precious

time together.

Read the complete story by scanning the QR code or visiting stjo.org/quiltproject.



Memories You Made Possible

2022 ... WHAT A YEAR!



After what felt like a two-year drought of activities due to COVID-19, 2022 became a year of safely reintroducing many of the things we loved from 2019 and before! Sure, some things looked different, but others looked the same, and that felt like such a blessing.

The following is a highlight reel including some of our favorite moments of 2022. We're heading into 2023 very thankful, as all of these events and more were possible thanks to the kindness of people like YOU!

January 2022

- 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 year.

February 2022

- St. Joseph's Indian School awarded a total of \$186,285 in college scholarships to Native American students pursuing higher education.

March 2022

- The gymnastics, wrestling and basketball seasons wrapped-up. Each activity helped students learn the skills of teamwork, endurance and leadership.
- St. Joseph's hosted an Archery Challenge. Overall, 26 students in grades 4-12 participated in the weekend competition.

April 2022

- St. Joseph's Indian School received the "Top-Rated Nonprofit" award from GreatNonprofits for the sixth consecutive year.
- Confirmation, Baptism and First Communion took place for 17 students with their families in attendance.

May 2022

- Seventh grade students went on the annual Cultural Trip to sacred sites of their ancestors.
- Fourteen eighth grade students and six senior students graduated.

June 2022

- Rising Eagle Day Camp returned! Total attendance this year was 730 with over 3,100 miles traveled and over 2,100 meals and snacks provided.

(over, please)





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- Food box deliveries took place, giving families in reservation communities healthy foods of meat, bread, fruits, veggies and more.

July 2022

- The Bookmobile outreach program safely delivered 18,518 books to nearly 1,500 people in reservation communities.

August 2022

- The new 2022-23 school year began.
- Our Rec Center hosted a triathlon for students and children from the broader community.

September 2022

- We hosted our 46th Annual Powwow, open to the public once again! It was a weekend of cultural activities, campus tours, the Equine Therapy Center dedication, powwow competition and more!

October 2022

- Students celebrated Native American Day by focusing on their traditions, heritage and stories.
- The school celebrated Red Ribbon Week by decorating campus trees with red ribbons.

November 2022

- Students celebrated Native American Heritage Month. Although already a primary focus, students took even more time learning about the Lakota culture all month long.
- Students participated in Rock Your Mocs to celebrate and embrace their culture.

December 2022

- Students selected presents for their siblings, parents/guardians and grandparents from our campus Christmas Store.

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.

BLESS OUR LAKOTA CHILDREN



If you were trapped in a snow globe,
what would you do?



“I would make a snow fort. I would bang on the glass for help. I would roast marshmallows. I would have hot cocoa. I would have a snowball fight.”

— Victor



“I would be happy about the snow falling. I also would be a bit cold. I would have so much fun having a snowball fight with my snowman. It would be so much fun. I would be making a snow angel with my Dad.”

— Trinity

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



Are you looking for an easy, cost-effective and convenient way to support St. Joseph's Indian School? You may want to consider sharing a gift through your IRA or Donor Advised Fund. You can help make a difference for approximately 200 Native American children who call St. Joseph's their home-away-from-home.

Please contact Denise Hyland at 1-800-584-9200 or dhyland@stjo.org for more information! Or visit our website at stjo.org/plannedgiving for easy ways to give.

Special giving options should always be researched and discussed with qualified individuals, so friends are encouraged to call St. Joseph's Planned Giving Department or contact their own legal representative.



WE WOULD LIKE TO SAY
- *Philāmayaye* -
THANK YOU
FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE!

