

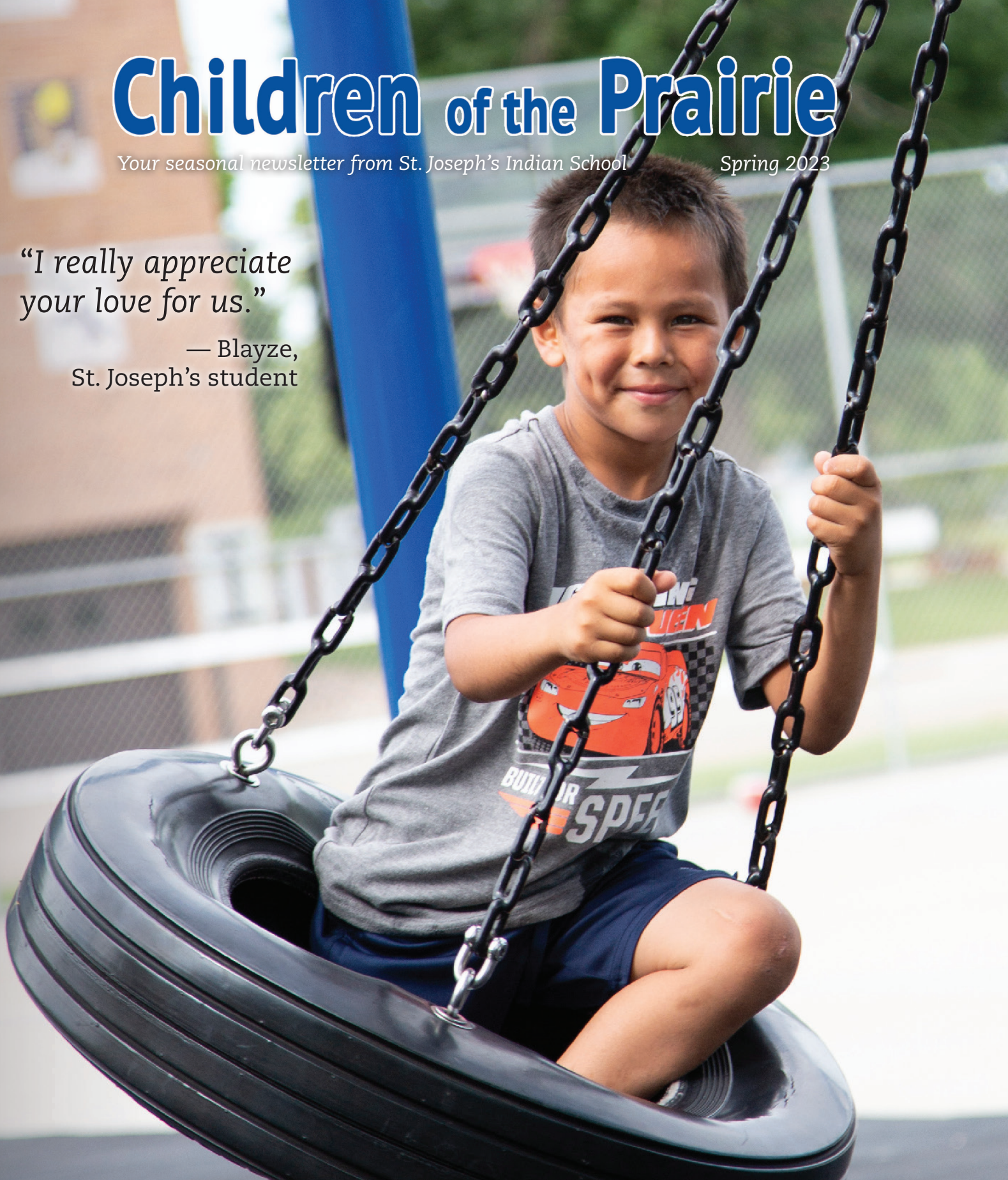
Children of the Prairie

Your seasonal newsletter from St. Joseph's Indian School

Spring 2023

*“I really appreciate
your love for us.”*

— Blayze,
St. Joseph's student



From the Desk of Fr. Greg



Fr. Greg, Chaplain

There are some days that come and go without making much of an entrance or exit. They slip right by with little notice, because so little changes.

But not April. April announces itself with warmer hints in the air, sprouting plants and the

exit of blisteringly cold days. April is the return of sunshine, gardening and a feeling that is so hard to describe — a feeling of renewed spirits.

With the beginning of Spring announcing itself, it's a hustle-and-bustle season of starting fresh. During the busyness, one might forget to focus on what

truly matters — the people who truly matter.

You, as a supporter of St. Joseph's Indian School, are one of those people. We're blessed to have you as part of our **thiyóšpaye** — *extended family*.

While our paths may not cross in-person, you're here in spirit. Your friendship is felt in the moments we're blessed to have at St. Joseph's. For that, we say **philámayaye** — *thank you!*

Peace and Blessings,

Fr. Greg

Fr. Greg Schill, SCJ
Chaplain

SPOTLIGHT: Four from St. Joseph's Receive National Honors

The Coalition of Residential Excellence (CORE) is the only national organization exclusively representing children's homes and boarding schools providing residential (home-like), non-treatment related services to children. As members of CORE, St. Joseph's Indian School must meet rigorous standards in the care we provide.

Each year, CORE awards select members who go above and beyond the call of duty, and a student and three staff members

were included on the list of winners.

David and Tia of St. Joseph's High School Program received "Houseparents of the Year." Annie, a second grade teacher, was honored as "Educator of the Year," and recent high school graduate ShyAnne was named "Student of the Year."

We're so proud of these four individuals for their dedication to fulfill the mission of St. Joseph's Indian School. To

see a full list of awards St. Joseph's has received over the years, visit stjo.org/awards.



Annie, ShyAnne, Tia and David

Dogs and Horses: They're Important to the Lakota, and Important to St. Joseph's

Your support makes having animals on campus possible!

At St. Joseph's Indian School, a horse isn't just a horse and a dog isn't just a dog. There are deep historical connections between these four-legged relatives and Native American culture — particularly the Lakota (Sioux) culture.

These deep roots are the premise behind two programs at St. Joseph's. While students learn about these connections in their classrooms, they also experience them firsthand.

The Šúŋkawakhǎŋ — Horse

To the Lakota, a horse is a relative. A companion that provided transportation and friendship. The horse is revered for its grace and bravery.

The Lakota were nomads. Where the buffalo went, so did the Lakota. Horses made this nomadic lifestyle of moving from place to place much more efficient. Horses also revolutionized hunting and warfare. Horses gave men speed they had never had before, and the ability to get as close as possible to a running buffalo, or an enemy in war.

Because of its great impact, the horse was highly respected.

Q: How are horses incorporated today at St. Joseph's?

A: Through our Equine Therapy program.

“Students have the opportunity to connect with the horses through counseling sessions as well as guidance class. Horses are very in-tune to body language — this is beneficial to the students because horses respond at a sacred level. Students

(over, please)



feel connected spiritually and have opportunities to overcome challenges through means other than talk therapy,” said Robyn, Director of Counseling Services.

The Šúnka — Dog

Before the arrival of horses to the Great Plains, the Lakota relied heavily on dogs for a variety of tasks. Dogs helped transport heavy loads by pulling travois, or drag sleds. They helped move campsites as the village followed buffalo herds.

Along with being useful hunting and traveling companions, dogs took on several other roles. They watched over children, helped keep people warm during the winter and warned the camp of intruders. Dogs also alerted the Lakota (Sioux) of the dangers of rattlesnakes and other predators nearby. Simply put, they were part of the Lakota family and accepted their role with pride.

Q: How are dogs incorporated today at St. Joseph’s?

A: Through our Houseparents and Pets In (HAPI) Homes program.

Through HAPI Homes, dogs provide emotional support that may decrease anxiety, which in turn has the potential to increase overall academic achievement.

“We’ve seen students

who have a hard time speaking to adults or other children open-up to a dog,” said Maija, HAPI Homes coordinator. “Over time, that communication the student has with the dog spills over to others in the home and classroom. Before you know it, that quiet kid you worried about is a leader in his or her home and classroom ... and it started with a dog.”



HAPI Homes also teaches students the responsibility that goes into caring for an animal.

Learn more about important Lakota animals by visiting stjo.org/culture.



Q & A

If you were President,
what would you do?



“I would invite my family to live in the White House.”

— Braxton



“I would give great speeches. I am honest with people and I am good at giving directions.”

— Raylius



“I would tell the truth. I’m a leader and I love my country!”

— Millie

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

BLESS OUR LAKOTA CHILDREN



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.



St. Joseph's Indian School
We serve and teach, we receive and learn.

1-800-341-2235 6 stjo.org/cop