


# Children of the Prairie

Your seasonal newsletter from St. Joseph's Indian School

Fall 2023



“Líla wóphila — I’m grateful — for you helping make our powwow a good powwow!”

— Consuelo, St. Joseph’s student

### Greetings from St. Joseph's Indian School!



Fr. Greg, Chaplain

Thank you for your continued support of our mission to provide Native American children in need with a quality education, cultural opportunities, spiritual formation and more!

Thanks to your generosity, last month we were able to organize a memorable

powwow that all our students enjoyed.

The 47th Annual Powwow celebration was a significant event where our students showcased their skills through dancing and drumming, and they even had the opportunity to share their knowledge with the community — caring people like you who traveled from all across the country to St. Joseph's Indian School.

Gathered together with the hundreds of supporters who made the trip were our students' families, St. Joseph's alumni, the general public and others. Seeing everyone together on common ground reminded me of the Lakota phrase, "**mitákuye oyás'įn**." It means *we are all related*. We are one big **thiyóšpaye** — *extended family*.

Thank you for being a part of our family. Your support is vital to our mission, and it shows our students they are valued and loved. We appreciate your continued partnership and look forward to making a difference in the lives of more Native American children.

Peace and Blessings,

Fr. Greg

Fr. Greg Schill, SCJ  
Chaplain

### ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: Richard Two Two

Richard Two Two has had many titles already during his young life. He's been called son, brother, student, husband, dad, corrections officer and more. But, recently he added another title to that list — one he wears with humble acknowledgment: Chief of Police in Kimball, SD.

Richard, a St. Joseph's Indian School alum, attended school here in first through eighth grades and again in ninth and tenth grades. He and his wife, Danielle, also a fellow St. Joseph's alum, recently moved back to the area. That's when Richard, who has an older brother in law enforcement, was inspired to go into the same

field. Little by little, Richard attained more responsibilities through his hard work. Eventually, it led to his new role as Chief of Police!



"I try my best at everything I do," said Richard. "I want to be someone people can trust and talk to. I'm here to help."

We're so proud of our alum, Richard, who has accomplished so much thanks to the help of St. Joseph's, our supporters and his family!

## The Lakota Culture Came Alive during 47th Annual Powwow

*No other event captures the Native American spirit quite like a powwow.*

Since 1976, St. Joseph's Indian School has hosted an annual weekend to celebrate the rich Lakota (Sioux) culture on our campus. Last month, we celebrated our 47th Annual Powwow, and what a special moment in time it was.

Campus was buzzing with excitement during the celebration! Donors from all over the country attended, as well as our alumni and families from the far stretches of South Dakota. All came from different places, and all were eager to immerse themselves in the vibrant display of Lakota culture.

In the days leading up to the powwow, we opened

our doors to those eager to tour our facilities and meet the students. Many of the visitors were surprised at the depth of care and education our school provides — from the comfortable homes to the state-of-the-art health center and Equine Therapy Center.

One supporter named Elaine was touched by the Equine Therapy Center, saying, “I am so excited for this. As an Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning, I have seen how life-changing this can be for so many. As a horsewoman, I know firsthand.”

Another highlight of the pre-powwow festivities was the opportunity for donors to participate in a hands-on dreamcatcher-making workshop. Guided by cultural staff and students, donors carefully

*(over, please)*



wove together intricate webs of string, beads and feathers. Each one became a unique expression of their own creativity and connection to the Lakota culture. Several noted how they planned to go home and hang their creations as a reminder of this special weekend at St. Joseph's.

Finally, the big day arrived, and the sound of drums and singing filled the air as the 47th Annual Powwow began. Dances such as the Grass, Traditional, Fancy and Jingle Dress were carefully performed by student dancers. Each step was executed with precision and grace as the dance circle became a kaleidoscope of colors in the sunlight. The students performed wonderfully, their pride in their culture evident in every step.

“At the **wáčhípi** — *powwow* — I drummed and sang songs. Listening to the drum made me feel

very happy,” said Mario, a St. Joseph's student.

As the sun began to set, the powwow drew to a close and the last notes of the drum echoed through the school grounds next to the glistening Missouri River. There was a sense of fulfillment and appreciation. Visitors left with a deeper understanding and respect for the Lakota culture and St. Joseph's Indian School.

“I'm so glad we could witness this,” said Sharon, another supporter.

The 47th annual powwow was truly a celebration of tradition and community, a testament to the dedication and passion of everyone involved.

“If I could do it all over again I would,” said Kaylee, a St. Joseph's student. “That day was fun and special to me. **Líla wóphila** — *I am grateful* — for you helping make our powwow so great and wonderful this year.”

## DID YOU KNOW?

Powwows began mainly as religious ceremonies to gain wisdom from and give thanks to **Wakháŋ Thánka** — *Great Spirit*. Though many of today's powwows have evolved into social and contest-oriented dances, and although the dance styles and content have changed, the meaning and importance of a powwow has not. To learn more about the Lakota culture, visit [stjo.org/culture](http://stjo.org/culture) today!



# BLESS OUR LAKOTA CHILDREN

What was your favorite  
powwow moment?



“At powwow, I did the Potato and Rabbit Dances. I enjoyed both very much!”

— Secret



“I like watching the dancers because I like when their feet move to the beat of the drum.”

— Ezmiah



“Listening to the drum made me feel free, and I could feel the good energy.”

— Kaylee

Do you have a question to ask the Lakota children? Email it to [saintjosephs@stjo.org](mailto:saintjosephs@stjo.org).



## Earn Income for Life

Are you looking for attractive income rates? A St. Joseph's Charitable Gift Annuity offers wonderful rates and helps provide a brighter future for the Lakota children in our care.

Here are three easy ways to request additional information on Charitable Gift Annuities:

1. Fill out the included form and return it in the enclosed envelope.
2. Visit online at [stjo.org/annuity](http://stjo.org/annuity).
3. Call toll-free at 1-800-584-9200 or email Denise Hyland at [dhyland@stjo.org](mailto:dhyland@stjo.org).

To establish an annuity, you must have your check, money order or securities postmarked by December 31, 2023 to receive a tax deduction for 2023.



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

