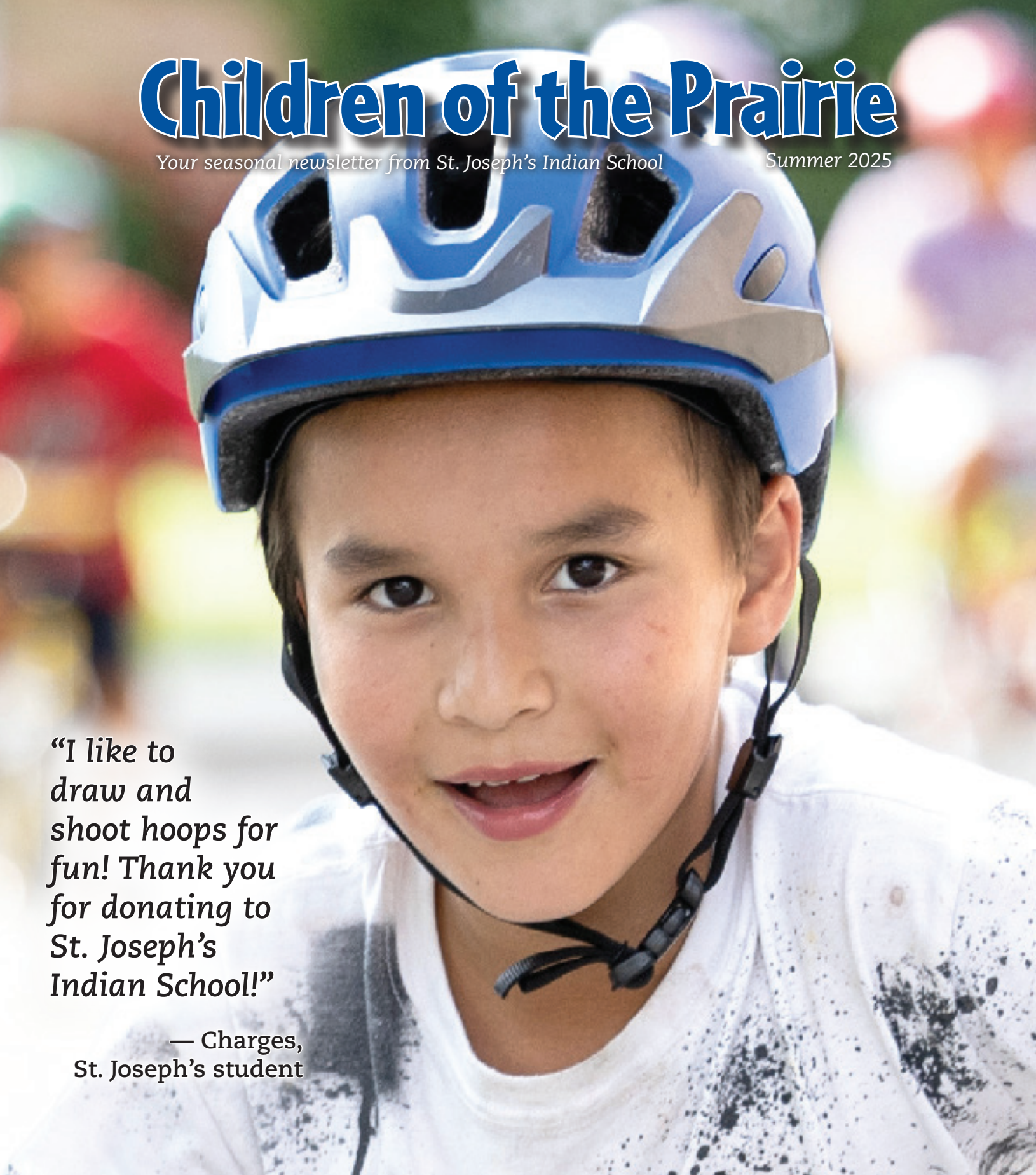


Children of the Prairie

Your seasonal newsletter from St. Joseph's Indian School

Summer 2025



"I like to
draw and
shoot hoops for
fun! Thank you
for donating to
St. Joseph's
Indian School!"

— Charges,
St. Joseph's student

From the Desk of Fr. Greg



Fr. Greg, Chaplain

The summer months are anything but slow at St. Joseph's Indian School. While many schools take a break, our campus buzzes with activity and excitement as we remain steadfast in our mission to nurture and educate the Lakota (Sioux) children in our care.

Our students had an extraordinary adventure with the South Dakota National Guard. I'm excited for you to read all about it! Hands-on experiences like this remind us that learning never stops ... it simply takes on new forms.

"And let us not grow weary in well-doing, for in due season we shall reap, if we do not lose heart."

— Galatians 6:9

This verse resonates deeply with our summer activities. Whether we're practicing reading skills, exploring science experiments or enjoying adventures, every moment we invest in the children is part of a greater process and plan.

None of this would be possible without your prayers, generosity and unwavering support. You are a vital part of our **thiyóšpaye** — *extended family* — that makes these life-changing experiences possible for our students. **Philámayaye** — *thank you* — for shaping their futures and ensuring they have opportunities to thrive.

Peace and Blessings,

Fr. Greg

Fr. Greg Schill, SCJ
Chaplain

SPOTLIGHT: Guest House

At St. Joseph's Indian School, family is at the heart of everything we do. That's why we proudly offer welcoming guest housing right on campus that provides a comfortable home-away-from-home for families visiting their children.

Our newest home features three cozy bedrooms, two bathrooms, a fully equipped kitchen, a living room and a laundry area. Families can stay for special occasions like birthdays or simply visit for a weekend to spend quality time with their beloved children.

These visits are essential during the early days of a student's time at St. Joseph's, bringing peace and comfort to the Lakota boys and girls. By fostering strong family connections, the guest house reflects our commitment to our mission to partner with Native American children and their families for life — *mind, body, heart and spirit*.

Take a virtual tour of the guest house by watching the video at stjo.org/guesthouse.



A Splashing Good Time with the South Dakota National Guard

At St. Joseph's Indian School, we make summer school fun!

When you think of summer school, the first image you might think of is a classroom with children sitting in seats, reading from a textbook. But who says summer school can't be an exhilarating adventure?

Summer school students at St. Joseph's Indian School embarked on an unforgettable adventure with the South Dakota National Guard. The day began with a fascinating introduction to the Guards' impressive machinery. Lakota (Sioux) students eagerly took notes as one **akíçhita** — *soldier* — explained the functions of their enormous trucks, marveling at their size and power.

But the real excitement began when the soldiers rolled their machines toward the mighty Missouri River, located right next to St. Joseph's campus in Chamberlain, SD. Eyes widened in amazement as the Guards expertly transformed heavy equipment into a massive, functional bridge. Each step of the process was fluent in teamwork and engineering.

The day's highlight came when the children buckled up their life vests and boarded the floating bridge. Their excitement grew when they realized this wasn't just a stationary bridge — it moved! Powerful boats propelled the structure across the water, giving the children a thrilling ride they would not soon forget. Laughter ricocheted across the river as students felt the water splashing upon them.

This unique adventure is just one example of the opportunities summer school offers at St. Joseph's. Students spend their mornings engaged in reading, math and science

(over, please)



activities, often venturing to the library or museum for storytelling and interactive lessons. Yet, experiences like the one with the National Guard show that learning can extend far beyond the classroom walls.

Jesse, one of the summer school teachers, shared, “I absolutely love teaching summer school. The best part is working with different students and incorporating fun activities they genuinely enjoy. The kids discuss about these experiences every time they see me on campus.”

This summer school adventure and so many others like it are only possible because of you, who loyally help care for our students — *mind, body, heart and spirit*. Your support ensures our students participate in unique, hands-on experiences that combine learning with joy and wonder.

This fun, splash filled day with the National Guard will surely be a story they’ll share for years to come.

Philámayaye — *thank you* — for making unique experiences like this a reality.

DID YOU KNOW?

St. Joseph’s Indian School has an Alumni Relations Team that helps recent graduates navigate college applications or career paths with personalized support and valuable resources. The team provides guidance to build confidence and knowledge for success. Even after graduation, the team stays connected, offering mentorship and celebrating alumni achievements. Learn more at stjo.org/alumni.



Watch this adventure
in action
at stjo.org/Guard.



BLESS OUR LAKOTA CHILDREN

What's Your Favorite Thing to Eat in the Summer



"I love to
eat slushies!"

— Cedar



"Milkshakes are
my favorite in
the summer!"

— Greyson



"I think my favorite
is vanilla ice cream
in a cone!"

— Jace

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 in your Will, you are directing a gift to support our work to help the Lakota children even after you are gone.

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

Start planning today by requesting our FREE Estate Planning Course booklets. Contact our Major Gifts Department at 1-800-584-9200 or visit us online at stjo.org/will to request more information.

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



THANK YOU  FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE!

