

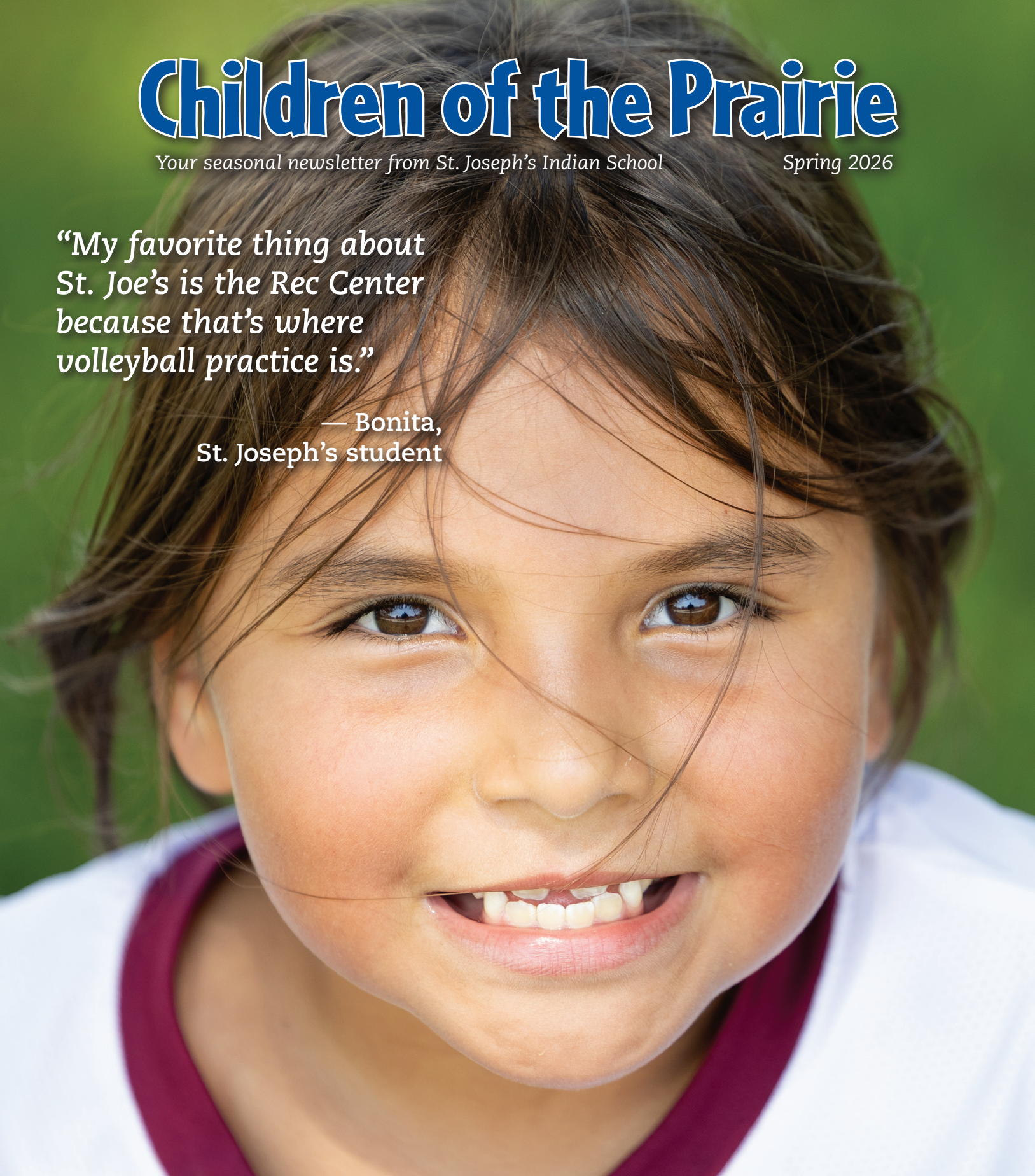
Children of the Prairie

Your seasonal newsletter from St. Joseph's Indian School

Spring 2026

“My favorite thing about St. Joe’s is the Rec Center because that’s where volleyball practice is.”

**— Bonita,
St. Joseph’s student**



From the Desk of Fr. Greg



Fr. Greg, Chaplain

As the chill of winter fades and the prairie awakens with new life, we feel the joy of a fresh season of growth and possibility emerging at St. Joseph's Indian School. Our Lakota (Sioux) students are anticipating warmer days and feel ready to gather outdoors, laugh with friends and embrace the changing light.

In this edition of our *Children of the Prairie* newsletter, we are delighted to share news of the completed renovation and expansion of our Recreation Center. This space has been fully reimagined: now featuring two full-sized gyms, dedicated workout rooms, a game room, conference space, offices, upgraded restrooms and showers and a welcoming new entryway.

More than just a building, the Rec Center serves as the heartbeat of campus life. It's the place for basketball games, powwow dance practice, swim sessions, family game nights and casual gatherings. It's a place students connect, play and grow together.

We are also pleased to spotlight one of our gifted students, Marybella, whose recent space adventure reflects the ambition, creativity and courage we hope to inspire in every child at St. Joseph's.

"Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you receive it, and you will."

— Mark 11:24

With this in our hearts, we continue to lift our students and all our campus projects before the Lord, confident that the prayers offered in faith will bear fruit. As spring unfolds around us, a season of renewal and restored hope, we see its reflection in our school. This is a time to breathe deeply, to begin again and to trust what is asked in prayer will be received.

Philámayaye — *thank you.*

Peace and Blessings,

Fr. Greg

Fr. Greg Schill, SCJ
Chaplain

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: St. Joseph's Student Shoots for the Stars ... Literally



Marybella, a high school student at St. Joseph's Indian School, has long been fascinated by math. Last summer, she brought that passion to life. Driven by her dream of working with NASA, she earned a spot at the Advanced Space Academy in Huntsville, Ala.. To raise the needed funds, she handmade a ribbon skirt and ribbon shirt and raffled them to St. Joseph's staff, raising over \$1,200.

At camp, she trained like an astronaut: building and launching rockets, experiencing neutral buoyancy in the underwater trainer and participating in mission simulations. Her favorite parts were scuba diving and team missions.

"This trip encouraged me to pursue science even more," she said. "It was the highlight of my year."

Philámayaye — *thank you* — for helping students like Marybella reach for the stars!

A Dream Come True: Rec Center Renovation and Expansion Now Complete

St. Joseph's Indian School celebrates the completion and dedication of its fully renovated Recreation Center.

St. Joseph's Indian School dedicated its newly expanded and renovated Recreation Center during a recent powwow. After years of vision, planning and construction, the transformation is complete — and it's nothing short of extraordinary.

Since opening its doors in 1975, the Rec Center has been a campus favorite. It's a place for our Lakota students, staff and families to learn, play and grow together. Now, thanks to the generosity of our **thiyóšpaye** — *extended family* — of donors, it has been reimagined for today's needs

and tomorrow's generations.

Whether hosting a basketball game, powwow dance practice or a family game night, the new facility invites wellness and togetherness in every corner. Students and staff now enjoy two full-sized gyms, separate staff and student workout spaces, a game room, a conference room and offices, upgraded restrooms and showers and a welcoming new entryway. The entire space is now fully ADA-compliant, opening its doors further to all who come through them.

For many students, the Rec Center is already a highlight of campus life.

(over, please)



“My favorite building on campus is the Rec Center because I love to play basketball,” said John, a St. Joseph’s student.

“The Rec Center is special to me because we do a lot of fun things in it,” added Elaina, another St. Joseph’s student.

Their joy says it all. The Rec Center is more than a building. It’s a place to belong, laugh and grow stronger every day. It is a haven for healing, joy and connection. It’s a foundation for dreams and a symbol of what can be accomplished when compassion meets commitment.

The renovation has been years in the making, a true community effort made possible by faithful donors who believe in St. Joseph’s mission. Inside the new entryway, a donor recognition wall now

honors the many supporters whose generosity made this **wóihanble** — *dream* — a reality. Each name represents faith, hope and commitment to the Lakota boys and girls who pass by daily, reminding them people across the nation believe in helping them achieve a brighter future.

“Without the generous help of our outstanding donor base, none of this would be possible,” said Bryan, St. Joseph’s Rec Center Coordinator. “The new Rec Center will continue to be the heartbeat of campus for decades to come.”

As we celebrate this milestone, we extend our deepest gratitude. **Philámayaye** — *thank you* — to everyone who made it possible. Your generosity has turned a long-held dream into a living, breathing space for wellness, play and belonging.

DID YOU KNOW?

At St. Joseph’s, we celebrate Lakota culture in all parts of campus life — even in the Rec Center! Here are a few fun terms you can use in Lakota:

- **Onúŋwe** – *Pool*
- **Tǎbškátapi** – *Basketball*
- **Wičhóškate** – *Games*
- **Wáčhí** – *Dance*

Learn more Lakota words by visiting our Lakota Word Wednesday playlist at stjo.org/LearnLakota.



BLESS OUR LAKOTA CHILDREN

+

What do you like to do for fun?



“I like to swim and
do sports!”
— Aleighya



“I like to draw or
shoot hoops!”
— Charges



“I like to talk and
play basketball!”
— Ashlyne

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



Are you looking for a 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 Lakota (Sioux) 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 other ways to give.

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



THANK YOU FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE!