

TIYOSPAYE CLUB

St. Joseph's extended family of monthly donors

October 2018

Greetings Tiyospaye,

The summer months have given way to **Ptanyetu** – *fall* and we are officially in the season of the moons of change on the South Dakota prairie! Leaves have begun changing from their bright green hues to dark oranges and reds, and the winds have a bite of coolness. We are always thankful for the warm summer months, but also appreciate the coming of the cool autumn weather and a change of pace.



The boys are bundled up for the cooler weather!



Angela loves to participate in the Jingle Dress dance.

Although we welcome October and everything it brings, we also look fondly on our experiences in September – one of our busiest months! One of the biggest highlights of September was our 42nd Annual Gathering of the **Wakanyeza** – *little beings* – September 13-15. Since 1976, St. Joseph's Indian School has hosted a weekend full of Native American culture on our campus. It is always a wonderful time!

As soon as our students arrive in mid-August to begin the school year, preparations also begin for the **wacipi** – *powwow* – festivities! Students who do not have their own regalia to wear during powwow find the pieces they need in St. Joseph's supply. We are blessed to work with a local seamstress who keeps the regalia in good repair and makes alterations to help improve the fit for each growing child. Our drum group, **Paha Makha ska Olowanpi** – *Chalk Hills Singers* – learn and practice the art of the drum and song under the guidance of local elders and staff members.

Powwow dance practice, which takes place weekly at the Rec Center, gives our students opportunities to practice matching their steps and movements to the beat of the drum. Our staff is always busy preparing things behind the scenes. Denise and our Planned Giving staff spend time planning our Thursday reservation tours and the Tiyospaye Banquet on Friday evening. Family Service Counselors work with our students' families to assist them with lodging and travel to and from the powwow if needed. Our maintenance staff works extremely hard to get the powwow grounds set up for our visitors and students' families. The remainder of our staff pitches in however they can – it's truly a team effort!

During powwow weekend, we typically welcome over 400 visitors. It is truly one of the



Our Chalk Hill Singers drum group do a great job!



most wonderful times of the year! At St. Joseph’s **wacipi** – *powwow* – there are four main dance styles: Traditional, Fancy, Grass and Jingle Dress.

TRADITIONAL DANCE – Male dancers combine drama and grace to tell their stories. Female dancers, with a fringed shawl over one arm and a feather fan in the other hand, make slight yet regal movements.

FANCY DANCE – Male dancers, adorned with heavily beaded, feathered regalia, make high jumps and have quick footwork, all while twirling sticks, hoops or other items they carry. Female dancers, often imitating the movements of butterflies, carry a brightly colored shawl in their outstretched arms that flutters around them as they jump and spin.

GRASS DANCE – Only males participate in the Grass Dance. The regalia is covered in colorful yarn fringe and dancers imitate the swaying movement of the grass as the breeze blows across the prairie.

JINGLE DRESS DANCE – Only females participate in the Jingle Dress Dance. Regalia is covered in metal cones that ‘jingle’ as the dancer moves and steps to the beat of the drum.

In the midst of all this excitement, our school year is in full swing! The students take core classes that meet state and national standards, along with classes in Native American Studies, Personal Living Skills, Art and Religious Education.

As summer changes to fall, our extracurricular activities shift too! While our students take part in football, cross country and volleyball during the late summer months, we have begun transitioning into basketball, gymnastics and wrestling. Our Rec Center staff does a phenomenal job in giving our students ample opportunities to identify their likes and passions, and to get plenty of exercise!

While our students are kept quite busy with school and extracurricular events, St. Joseph’s also thinks it’s important to simply let kids be kids. During the fall months, students can be found all over campus shooting hoops, playing catch, riding their bikes and skateboarding. Everyone needs time to relax.



Basketball is a student favorite!

Wopila tanka – *many thanks* – for your generosity! Your kindness blesses us with opportunities to serve and connect with the Lakota youth in our care each and every day. You are truly making a difference in their lives!

As our students give thanks for their blessings and work to do good in their communities, they continue to keep you in their prayers. May you and your loved ones be blessed with peace and love during the upcoming holidays.

God bless,
Fr. Anthony

Fr. J. Anthony Kluckman, SCJ
Chaplain

P.S. If you were unable to attend this year’s powwow, please visit our Facebook page, stjo.org/facebook for photos and videos of the weekend!



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