

# Children of the Prairie

Your seasonal newsletter from St. Joseph's Indian School

Fall 2024



*“I love St. Joseph’s because they have powwows, food and friends. God bless you!”*

*— Jaylena,  
St. Joseph’s student*

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



Fr. Greg, Chaplain

As the seasons change, so does life at St. Joseph's Indian School. The passing of time is often marked by moments. The moment that takes front-and-center in autumn? Our annual powwow! It is a vibrant celebration reflecting the ebb and flow of time.

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*“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven ... a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance...”*

— Ecclesiastes 3:1, 4

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And oh, what laughter and dancing was had by all as we celebrated our 48th Annual Powwow! As you'll read in the coming pages, we celebrated these

moments by honoring the Lakota (Sioux) heritage, culture and traditions. It was a time we rejoiced in our blessings, shared in our joys and danced in celebration of life.

Your continued support allows St. Joseph's to host this special event year after year. We are grateful for your generosity and its impact.

**Philámayaye** — *thank you* — for being a part of our **thiyóšpaye** — *extended family* — and for journeying with us through the seasons of life.

Peace and Blessings,

Fr. Greg

Fr. Greg Schill, SCJ  
Chaplain

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: Charity

In an era abuzz with teacher shortages, one Native American scholarship recipient aims to make a difference by achieving a teaching certificate. Her name is Charity, and she hopes to complete her bachelor's in Early Childhood Education at Sinte Gleska University.

An alum of St. Joseph's Indian School, Charity was named one of the recipients of a St. Joseph's scholarship. The scholarship program was started in 1985 to support Native Americans pursuing higher education. During the 2023-24 school year, St. Joseph's awarded \$233,214 to Native American students!

Charity said receiving the scholarship helps alleviate some of the financial stress that comes with pursuing a degree.

“Being a parent and doing classes is challenging,” Charity said, but she does it out of love for her four daughters.

To learn more about what our alumni are up to, visit [stjo.org/alumni](https://stjo.org/alumni) today!



## St. Joseph's Celebrates 48th Annual Powwow

*The powwow event at St. Joseph's explores and celebrates the Lakota culture.*

As the sun sets on another successful powwow, we at St. Joseph's Indian School are reminded of the power of unity and community. The annual gathering serves as a beacon of hope and a testament of the resilience of the Lakota (Sioux) people.

The impact this event has is why St. Joseph's holds a powwow each year in celebration of the rich and vibrant Lakota culture. This year's 48th Annual Powwow was no exception, with attendees from all walks of life coming together to participate in the festivities.

One of the highlights of the **wachípi** — *powwow*

— celebration was the dreamcatcher making workshop, where visitors learned about the history and significance of this traditional Native American craft. The intricate designs and careful weaving of the dreamcatchers serve as a reminder of the importance of dreams and aspirations in the Lakota culture.

Another popular event was the hand games demonstration, where participants learned about the traditional games that have been passed down through generations. These games not only provide entertainment, but also serve as a way to connect with the past and preserve the heritage of the Lakota people.

For those interested in seeing our school, homes, Equine Therapy Center and more, guided tours of  
(over, please)



the campus were also available. Visitors had the opportunity to see firsthand the impact of the school on the lives of the Lakota children who call it home.

But the main event of the powwow was, of course, the powwow competition, where dancers of all ages and abilities showcased their skills and talents. The colorful regalia and rhythmic drumbeats created a mesmerizing sight.

What makes the powwow at St. Joseph's Indian School truly special is the diversity of attendees. People of all ages and backgrounds come together in celebration of the Lakota culture. It is a reminder that no matter where we come from, we can all find common ground in our shared humanity and appreciation for the traditions of others.

Your generosity allows St. Joseph's to continue our mission of preserving the Lakota culture and providing a safe and nurturing environment for each and every child in our care.

“What I really want to tell you is that I’m thankful for friends like you who give to our school,” said Tywin, a St. Joseph’s student. “**Philámayaye** — *thank you* — for what you do for me and the kids here.”



## DID YOU KNOW?

If you missed powwow in-person, you can watch a video with highlights from the event. Visit [stjo.org/powwow](https://stjo.org/powwow) and start planning your trip to St. Joseph's Indian School next year for our 49th Annual Powwow!

# BLESS OUR LAKOTA CHILDREN



What was your favorite part about powwow?



“Listening to the drum was pretty cool. I liked listening to the drummers sing.”

— Aveyon



“I enjoyed watching the little kids dance.”

— Consuelo



“Watching the dancers dance was cool. I enjoyed the memorial we had, the food and being with my friends.”

— Emilia

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, 2024 to receive a tax deduction for 2024.



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

