



2007/08 Year in Review

It is a delight to share with you the groundbreaking accomplishments occurring at Red Cloud Indian School. Truly, this is a historic time, and we recognize we are incredibly blessed by the friendship and support of the caring hearts that have joined in a vision to create a brighter future for Lakota children on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota.

I invite you to read our 2007/08 Year in Review knowing that you are part of an amazing and worthwhile endeavor. I pray the success of our students will continue to grow as they move beyond the walls of the school.

Once again, our students excelled academically. In the pages that follow, you'll learn about the record eight Gates Millennium Scholarships received by our students, and our athletic teams that were named All-Academic honorees for their work on and off the court. Most exciting, perhaps, is that 100 percent of our graduates came to graduation with plans in place to further their education after leaving Red Cloud.

You see, despite the challenges created by poverty and unemployment on the reservation, the students are making courageous and positive choices in their lives.

This good work extends beyond the classroom by strengthening families on the reservation with pastoral care. A youth ministry program thrived this past year, and volunteerism was at an all-time high.

With artists from across the country, nearly 10,000 visitors enjoyed the 41st annual art show at The Heritage Center, where the culture and heritage of Lakota people is preserved through a permanent collection.

Thank you for your support. Together, we spark the hope the students depend on. *Lila wopila tanka!*

Fr. Peter Klink SJ, President



Message from the President

In 2007/08, Red Cloud Indian School served 600 Lakota students on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.

July

Red Cloud unveils a sleek, sophisticated new Web site, with daily updates to news and events happening on the reservation, and allows users to make donations securely online. It also connects students and alumni together through social networking tools like Facebook, MySpace and YouTube.

August

The Heritage Center receives \$150,000 from the Federal Institute of Museum and Library Services and the Archibald Bush Foundation to complete the digital archiving and cataloguing of more than 3,000 pieces of Native American art and artifacts.

September

The Director of Student Achievement and Alumni Support position is developed thanks to a grant by the Emilie Kolat Hesemeyer Charitable Trust. The position assists students with the transition from high school to college, and is a resource for alumni throughout the rest of their life.

October

The senior class takes part in a two-day retreat at the Storm Mountain Retreat Center in the Black Hills, not only to build class unity, but to focus on finishing their high school careers strong, ensuring that the goals they've set for themselves are in reach.



November

The Lakota Language Program receives a generous \$20,000 grant from the Grotto Foundation, Inc. for “*Michante Etan Wowaglake: My Heart is in My Words*,” a series of planning sessions to streamline and improve the language program at Red Cloud’s three schools.

December

“*Akichitaki uni oniyuhanpi*” (We honor you, good soldier) wrote Red Cloud Middle Schools students to soldiers serving in Iraq, sending Christmas cards and care packages for the holiday season.

January

Red Cloud announces a \$2.5 million addition and renovation to the high school, which features newly-dedicated space to the science and Lakota studies programs, and common areas for extracurricular events.

February

High school senior Season Franks receives the coveted Horatio Alger National Scholarship, one of only 107 awards given nationally. The \$20,000 college scholarship recognizes her for excellence in the classroom, and her desire to continue her education in college.



March

With a conference championship and a state tournament appearance, the boys' basketball team is also a winner in the classroom, with all five starters holding an average 3.5 GPA throughout the season.

April

An anonymous gift of \$1 million is given to Red Cloud from a Washington, D.C.-area couple. It is the largest single gift from a living donor in the school's 120-year history, and goes toward the construction of the new \$2.5 million high school addition and renovation. The new building is slated to open in the fall of 2009.

May

Eight students from Red Cloud High receive the coveted Gates Millennium Scholarship, tying two other schools nationwide for the highest number of scholars selected from a single high school in the country. This is also the highest number of scholars from Red Cloud since the program's inception in 1999.

June

Red Cloud hosts its 41st annual art show, adding to its display more than 160 pieces of art from nearly 60 Native American artists. Participants from all over the country enter their works of art. "One fifth-grader walked in and said, 'Whoa,' in amazement of this kind of beauty," says Peter Strong, director.



“Dedicated teachers—more valuable than their paychecks suggest—work tirelessly everyday to ensure that our students receive the development in education, character and spiritual formation they need. Red Cloud Indian School continues to complete a circle that encourages the students to go out into the world and make a difference in their families, their communities, and Red Cloud.

The past year was outstanding for Red Cloud students—a groundbreaking year, as they achieved accomplishments that they may have never thought possible. Eight students received the Bill and Melinda Gates Millennium Scholarship for academic excellence, providing them a full tuition scholarship to the college or university of their choice. This was a record in the nation. Senior Veronica Watters received college acceptances to Princeton, Yale, Dartmouth and Duke (to name a few). If that is not enough to celebrate, there was more: Three students were named Horatio Alger Scholars and all 50 seniors came to graduation with plans to further their education beyond high school.

Our middle school students tested at the national level in the ACT Explore program, jump-starting their test preparation for college entrance before their high school careers even began.

On the athletic field, students made state tournament appearances in basketball, golf, track, cross-country and wrestling. Many Crusader athletes were recognized for their academic abilities and leadership off the field through All-Academic Honors.”

Robert Brave Heart, Sr., Superintendent of Schools



“The youth of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation continue to face a myriad of dilemmas, and the parishes across the reservation are continuing to foster a stronger faith foundation for the Lakota people. Through the newly-formed Youth Ministry Program, the Church has become a means for creating relationships between the social, spiritual, emotional and mental needs of young Lakota men and women.

Through the Youth Ministry Program, students are engaged in sacrament classes, diocesan and national youth conferences, faith rallies, and social events that include games, movies and various Lakota Christian activities. The students are also establishing healthy lifestyle choices to adopt in the home, on the athletic field and at Church.

Youth Ministry is just one aspect of our continually growing pastoral programming, with a number of examples of faith and outreach inspiring action everyday in our parish community. A simple but very real illustration is the work done by parishioners John and Judy Grass at Our Lady of the Sioux Parish in Oglala, who bake homemade pizzas for purchase every Wednesday. Their efforts keep the food pantry stocked for those in need of nourishment throughout the year, and allow Lakota families to share a delicious meal around the table.

Sr. Connie Schmidt, Coordinator of Pastoral Services



Our Parishes

Sixteen parishes serve the families of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, providing a center for spirituality.

“Red Cloud Indian School’s Heritage Center saw a revitalization of both participation by quality artists and sales of artwork throughout the year, capping the groundbreaking year with the 41st Annual Red Cloud Indian Art Show. One of the premiere Native American exhibits in the country, it displays national artwork by more than 50 participants. A diverse number of pieces are showcased, including oil paintings, watercolors, acrylics, drawings, photography, sculpture, carvings and traditional art forms of porcupine quillwork and beadwork.

More than 100 new local artists have begun selling high-quality, hand-made traditional art in the gift shop, with sales increasing nearly 50 percent from last year. At the same time, the ongoing cataloguing of our permanent collection continues to meet benchmarks, ensuring our completion of the project by August 2009.

Our efforts, through a professional approach, appeal to our visitors and artists from around the country, inspiring them to become involved in the fulfillment of our mission: to provide *the* preeminent showcase for Lakota and Native American art in the country.”

Peter Strong, Director of The Heritage Center



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Hope. Alive.

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The mission of Red Cloud Indian School and Holy Rosary Mission, a Catholic institution administered by the Jesuits and the Lakota people, is to develop and grow as a vibrant Church, through an education of the mind and spirit that promotes Lakota and Catholic values.