



2008/09 Year in Review

Each school day, I take time to walk around campus—to stop into the kindergarten classroom and read a Dr. Seuss book with the students, or talk to the high school seniors about their plans for college. And with each visit, I see students realizing their potential, going after their dreams, reaching accomplishments even they thought impossible. Indeed, they are a testament to hope. Hope *realized*.

It is an honor to share our 2008/09 Year in Review with you, and I hope you read it with the knowledge that you play an important role in the ultimate success of Lakota students on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. Whether you’ve offered prayers or gifts to our students, you have contributed to the formation of talented young men and women poised to go out and set the world on fire.

Last year, our students made impressive strides in the classroom. In this “look back” at the academic year, you’ll read about the seven women who earned Gates Millennium Scholarships and our graduating seniors who went on to post-secondary education. And our athletes took the lead on service initiatives in their communities.

Service extended from the classroom to the community, with parishioners taking an active role in furthering the Church’s mission. At Our Lady of the Sioux in Oglala, for instance, the faithful engaged in youth ministry initiatives and worked with local leaders to aid those in need with food and clothing drives.

And our beloved Heritage Center continued to welcome artists and visitors to the museum with the annual art show. This past year, the cataloguing of more than 7,000 pieces of three-dimensional art neared completion.

Thank you, for continuing to share your talents, prayers and gifts. We depend on it. *Lila wopila tanka!*

Fr. Peter Klink SJ, President



Message from the President

In 2008/09, Red Cloud Indian School served 600 Lakota students on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.

July

The Heritage Center hosts the 41st Annual Red Cloud Indian Art Show, with more than 160 pieces of original artwork from nearly 60 artists. “The art, in a subtle way, breaks a few stereotypes,” said Peter Strong, director. “In changing people’s views about Native Americans, the art also bolsters the spirits of the children who attend the school.”

August

Three Red Cloud students are chosen to represent the Oglala Sioux Tribe when they are crowned royalty at the 2008 Oglala Nation Powwow Pageant. Daisa One Feather, Stephanie Garnier and Sidney Richards go on to share their talents and knowledge of Lakota culture at events across the reservation, and country.

September

Students are the first to turn earth at the ground-breaking for the \$2.5 million addition and renovation to Red Cloud High School. “As I stare out into this group today, a group that spans several generations, I am full of the hope and joy we mutually share,” said Robert Brave Heart Sr., superintendent. “Red Cloud is not just a campus, or a set of buildings, or merely a mission. It is people. It is community. It is each and every one of us.”

October

The Student Council hosts the Oglala Sioux Tribal Presidential Debate. Candidates answer questions the students have about economic development, public safety, government relations, health care and education.



November

Director of Transportation Linn Cross Dog and Lakota Teacher Ivan Long are honored at the opening of “Lakota Warrior Traditions,” an exhibition of artwork at the College of Mount St. Joseph in Cincinnati, Ohio. The exhibition includes art on loan from The Heritage Center.

December

Students compete and take home a number of awards at the annual Lakota Nation Invitational in Rapid City. Student Tiana Spotted Thunder gives an inspired performance in the storytelling category, choosing to share her message of health and wellness in the Lakota language.

January

Senior Juliana Brown Eyes receives the Horatio Alger Scholarship, one of only 105 high school students nationwide to receive the honor and the only student from the State of South Dakota to be recognized nationally. “She is an example of what students can achieve when they work hard, both in and out of the classroom,” said Nick Dressel, high school principal.

February

Students celebrate National Catholic Schools Week by completing small works of service on campus and around the reservation. Students also take the time to thank their teachers for their commitment to their education.



March

The boys' and girls' basketball teams make repeat appearances at the South Dakota State Basketball Tournament, representing the school with a spirit of sportsmanship unmatched. *Rapid City Journal* Sports Editor Kevin Woster publishes an editorial about the "spirit of the game" Crusader Student-Athlete Carl Swallow plays with.

April

Cardinal Theodore Edgar McCarrick, Archbishop Emeritus of Washington, DC, meets with Red Cloud High students. The visit marks the first time in the school's history a Cardinal of the Roman Catholic Church has visited the reservation. Cardinal McCarrick listens to the students about issues important to them, and discusses their plans after high school.

May

Seven students receive the 2009 Gates Millennium Scholarship. Representing 16 percent of the senior class, the students—all women—are now able to continue their education in college, with any unmet financial need covered by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Prior to this year, the Gates Scholarship had been awarded to 32 Red Cloud graduates since 1999.

June

More than 75 students take part in the school's summer program, which offers classroom instruction and extra-curricular activities for students in kindergarten through seventh grade. Most of the students' academic activities revolve around getting a jump-start on the upcoming school year.

Photo RYAN SODERLIN



“From outstanding accomplishments in the classroom to innovative outreach in the community and a spirit of sportsmanship unmatched on the athletic field, our students continue to strive for excellence while our teachers work humbly to foster the growth of these young Lakota men and women. Together, they carry on the circle as they learn and share amongst each other.

This May, 96 percent of the Red Cloud seniors who walked joyously across the graduation stage had plans for post-secondary education. Seven young women were named Gates Millennium Scholars, which pays for any unmet financial need while in college, and Senior Juliana Brown Eyes was the only student in the state to receive the National Horatio Alger Scholarship. These accomplishments are a testament to the tireless commitment teachers, parents, friends and the students themselves bring to ensure a brighter future.

As we look ahead to the new year, we are strengthening our curriculum, requiring two years of Lakota language studies, as well as increasing math and science requirements to four years. These efforts are necessities for our students so that they leave the doors of Red Cloud equipped with a foundation in both their heritage and the skills needed to excel in college and beyond.

And all of this comes on the heels of the opening of the addition and renovation of Red Cloud High School, representative of the commitment that people have made across the country to the Lakota leaders of tomorrow. Innovative partnerships with the likes of the Sieben Foundation, Grotto Foundation, Rural Development and the United States Department of Agriculture allow us to exchange ideas and continue our success.”

Robert Brave Heart Sr., Superintendent of Schools



Our Schools

A mobile science laboratory provides a day of experimental excitement for Red Cloud students.

“Youth ministry continues to sit at the heart of our Pine Ridge Reservation parishes, with students and parishioners taking the lead in promoting healthy lifestyles through work groups, Sacrament classes, retreats and Bible schools. Through this ministry, youth are empowered to grow into their best selves, finding a relationship with God, their families and amongst one another.

Red Cloud students took part in initiatives such as Building Bridges of Peace, which brought 16 teenagers from across the world—and as far as the Middle East—together at Red Cloud for a series of presentations, workshops and panel discussions to promote cultural understanding. And this summer, Jesuits like Fr. Phil Cooke SJ teamed young parishioners up with volunteers to improve parish facilities, giving Lakota youth an opportunity to earn money and learn about commitment while contributing to the betterment of the Church.

The people of our parishes—the men and women who humbly share their gifts with one another—continue to serve as our foundation. In their own special way, they are making a difference, from community outreach initiatives and providing families of the Pine Ridge with a food pantry to planning holiday celebrations and holding rummage sales.

Their work is tireless. Their impact, remarkable.”

Sr. Connie Schmidt, Coordinator of Pastoral Services



Our Parishes

Parishioners committed countless hours of community service around the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.

The responsibility to preserve past and present Native American art and artifacts propelled The Heritage Center through the past year, as staff members and interns from across the country converged on the campus of Red Cloud to complete the preservation and cataloguing of thousands of Native pieces. The project has been a collaborative effort with the Archibald Bush Foundation and the Institute for Museum and Library Services.

While The Heritage Center embraces the rich past of the Lakota people, it also has continued to look to the future—to the established and emerging artists of today who are making groundbreaking contributions to the art world. The 42nd Annual Red Cloud Indian Art Show boasted a record-breaking 71 artists showcasing more than 200 works. Patrons from across the country and around the world continue to flock to the museum and art gallery each summer to enjoy the show. This year, an outdoor artist market was inaugurated, allowing local residents to sell original Lakota pieces, including beadwork, quill work, star quilts and more.

Beyond the reservation, The Heritage Center has partnered with a number of galleries in the Midwest, curating traveling exhibitions that have appeared in the Dakotas, Ohio and this fall, Iowa. This is an important step forward in opening up continued understanding, and appreciation, of Native art on a national level.

Peter Strong, Director of The Heritage Center



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The mission of Red Cloud Indian School, 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.