



**2009/10**  
**Year in Review**



First impressions typically aren't too far from the truth. As I walk the hallways of Red Cloud Indian School, as I visit our parish communities across the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation and step inside our beautiful, renowned Heritage Center, the first impressions of our outstanding organization are reinforced time and time again—more than expected, really. Our community of Lakota men and women, of Jesuits and laypersons from backgrounds too numerous to name, is a community fully committed to our mission: to provide an environment that embraces learning, spirituality and cultural awareness.

Hope is certainly alive and well on the reservation. I am so proud to be part of this fine institution.

In my first year as president of Red Cloud, it is an honor to share our 2009/10 Year in Review with you. The stories are inspiring. The work is remarkable. It gives me great confidence that this institution is in wonderful hands—in the hands of people, young and old, who believe that what we do is important. And is necessary. I believe this mission is a call given to us by God to answer.

I hope you read this annual review with the knowledge that you play an important role in the ultimate success of Lakota students and families on the reservation. We cannot do it without you.

In the pages that follow, you'll read the stories and see the faces of our community—of people like Autumn White Eyes '10, Gloria Two Crows, Kiley Weston '11, Nakina Mills '98 and Mary Bordeaux. You'll bear witness to their impact, their goals and aspirations...their contribution to our world. Please celebrate them!

And know we also celebrate *you*, for your talents, prayers and gifts. I hope our paths cross soon.

Fr. George Winzenburg SJ, President



## Message from the President

Each morning, buses travel hundreds of miles to transport Lakota youth to Red Cloud's three schools.



### July

Fifteen parishioners from the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation's Catholic churches attend the 70th Annual Kateri Tekakwitha Conference in North Carolina, a gathering of Native American and Aboriginal people that empowers participants to deepen and affirm their Catholic identity and pride in their cultural and spiritual traditions.

### August

"Encounters in Native Arts," a 38-piece traveling exhibit from The Heritage Center's permanent collection of artwork created by Native American artists as they interacted with Western culture, opens at the Betty Strong Encounter Center in Sioux City, Iowa. Curator Mary Bordeaux says, "This is a great opportunity to share our history and culture with other parts of the country."

### September

The boys' golf team moves through the season undefeated, wins the regional tournament for the first time in school history, and eventually finishes second in the South Dakota Class A State Tournament. And they do so despite the fact that their home golf course is 40 miles away. The boys spend most days hitting balls in the fields behind Red Cloud's campus.

### October

Red Cloud dedicates a \$2.5 million addition and renovation to the high school, which boasts state-of-the-art facilities for the sciences and Lakota studies. Norma Tibbitts, chairperson of the board, says the building "represents a collective commitment to a holistic approach in educating the mind and heart, a commitment first made 120 years ago by the Jesuits and Chief Red Cloud...and still living today."

A bigger, better Red Cloud High School opened its doors last fall, part of a \$2.5 million renovation.

**2009/10 Year in Review**



## November

Elsie M. Meeks, state director of the United States Department of Agriculture–Rural Development in South Dakota, announces \$941,000 in federal funds for Red Cloud. Part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the funds allow Red Cloud to move forward with much-needed improvements for the campus, including new teacher housing, an energy efficient heating and cooling system and a sewer lift station.

## December

Mackenzie Casey '04 and Christian McGhee '08 speak before several hundred Native basketball players at the Lakota Nation Invitational, both recalling their playing days at LNI and inspiring the high school youth to work hard so that they can excel in school and play at the collegiate level.

## January

Students at Our Lady of Lourdes raise funds for The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society through Pennies for Patients. The fundraiser is in honor of a young Native student undergoing treatment for leukemia.

## February

The Heritage Center launches an online store featuring Lakota-made artwork, beadwork and quillwork created each day on the reservation. The gift shop and online store play an important role in the local economy, reselling more than \$100,000 worth of art annually. “The more we sell, the more we are able to put back into our community,” says Myrtle Cedar Face, gift shop manager.





### March

Students from Red Cloud Elementary perform a talent show to benefit Haitian earthquake victims. Religion Teacher Nicole Gutierrez says the kids came up with the idea themselves, recognizing that in that moment, other people needed help. The show included 20 acts, from comedians to dancers to young magicians.

### April

The accolades start rolling in at Red Cloud High, with college acceptances to Dartmouth, Stanford, Marquette, Creighton, University of Loyola-Chicago and more. Six students receive the Bill and Melinda Gates Millennium Scholarship—the highest in South Dakota and the highest in the nation for a school our size—eliminating financial constraints that often keep students from college.

### May

Thirty-nine students from Red Cloud High walk across the graduation stage, all of whom have plans in place to begin further education or training in the fall. The graduation ceremony is also the last for Fr. Peter Klink SJ as president, who announces after 25 years of service he will be going on a sabbatical in the fall.

### June

Lakota children participate in vacation Bible school. “It is a great way to engage our young people in activities centered around our Creator,” says Nakina Mills ’98, a co-leader of the program at Sacred Heart Church. “The youth and their families who attended this year’s activities were able to grow with God and each other. It is a gift that brings all of us closer together.”

High school students are offered a number of advanced-level courses in biology, chemistry...even calculus.

**2009/10 Year in Review**

It is the people of Red Cloud who amaze me most of all—the teachers, students, volunteers, alumni and friends from around the country who give tirelessly to our great institution. It is their commitment, dedication and passion to do what is right, in service to others, that has set this year apart from the past.

The year has been one of renewal, both in our curriculum and physical plant. We placed a focus on our science, mathematic and Lakota studies curriculum, strengthening the coursework and requirements to ensure each of our students is poised for a successful college career and fulfilling life after graduation. Students flourished in a renovated high school, with a \$2.5 million addition that provides state-of-the-art science laboratories, Lakota studies classrooms and common space to foster lifelong friendships outside of the classroom.

This May, 100 percent of the Red Cloud seniors who walked across the graduation stage had plans in place to attend college or go on to additional training, including serving in the United States military. Six young Lakota men and women were named Bill and Melinda Gates Millennium Scholars, which pays for any unmet financial need while in college. Senior Autumn White Eyes '10, our valedictorian, received full ride scholarships to attend prestigious institutions like Dartmouth and Stanford. Our athletes realized a number of conference and state tournament appearances, many also earning all-conference and all-state academic honors.

In the new academic year, we'll continue to work with our current students and graduates to ensure they are equipped with the tools and moral support they deserve to create a bright future for themselves—a future that many never realized they could, well, realize. We're so proud of them.

Robert Brave Heart Sr., Superintendent of Schools







“At the very core of Red Cloud are our Catholic, Jesuit, Lakota roots, lived not only in our schools but in our reservation community. Every single day, parishioners from Oglala to Pine Ridge, Manderson to Red Shirt Table, give their time and talent in faithful ministry to *Tunkasila*, to God our Father.

And they do so in a variety of ways. This year, parishioners like John and Judy Grass could be found in the kitchen of Our Lady of the Sioux Parish in Oglala each and every Wednesday making homemade (and very delicious) pizzas to support the parish’s programs. Nakina Mills ’98 and Jeannie Cuny ’86 of Sacred Heart Church in Pine Ridge coordinated summer vacation Bible school camps for reservation youth, bringing students and families closer to God. A group of parishioners packed their bags, loaded vans and drove thousands of miles to attend the annual Kateri Tekakwitha Conference, deepening both their cultural and spiritual faith. Students like Kiley Weston ’11 and Tiarra Little ’12 crossed an ocean through the Building Bridges of Peace program, visiting Israel on a cultural exchange that brings understanding, and just as important, peace...one conversation, one handshake at a time.

A number of young people from our parishes also celebrated the Sacraments of First Communion and Confirmation, with Bishop Blase J. Cupich from the Diocese of Rapid City confirming parishioners in April.

The people of our parishes—the Jesuits, Sisters and Lakota men and women who celebrate their faith in their own ways—continue to serve as our foundation. They are true examples of what it is to live a life of ministry, of self-determination and of hope. They represent God’s love in *action*.”

Sr. Connie Schmidt SSND, Coordinator of Pastoral Services

Stop by Our Lady of the Sioux for a homemade pizza made by John and Judy Grass. Delicious!

**Our Parishes**

The art, culture and rich history of the Lakota people, and Native Americans across the country, have been preserved as a result of The Heritage Center’s comprehensive effort to catalogue, professionally showcase and store decades of art and artifacts. Pottery, beadwork, quillwork, star quilts and tiny moccasins make up just a small part of the museum’s nearly 10,000-piece permanent collection.

This effort was no small task—the result of the combined work of Red Cloud staff, volunteers and supporters from across the country who have stood up and said that this work *must* happen, right now. It is imperative to the continued recognition of all peoples, all art, all culture.

Promoting local art and artists continues to be a priority of The Heritage Center, with more than 250 local artists represented in our gift shop. The shop—now available online as well—serves as a primary source of income for some residents, also establishing many of these artists regionally and nationally. An artist market during the Oglala Nation Fair provided another outlet to display and sell their traditional work.

The 43rd Annual Red Cloud Indian Art Show, held this past summer, boasted more than 210 pieces of fine art by 93 artists, 68 of whom were Lakota—our largest showcase to date. Artists like Don Montileaux have become staples at our annual summer show, exhibiting every year since the show’s inception. We also continue to expand our reach, with an exhibition in Sioux City, Iowa, last year, and collaborations with the Dahl Arts Center in Rapid City and the South Dakota Art Museum in Brookings happening in 2010/11.

As we look ahead, we will continue to discover new ways to showcase our local and regional artists, supporting and guiding them as they share their inherit artistic expression with the rest of the world.

Peter Strong, Director of The Heritage Center





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Fr. George Winzenburg SJ, *President*

**Our Mission** 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.

## Visit Us Online

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# Hope. Alive.

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