



2010/11
Year in Review



“When I arrived on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation last August as president of Red Cloud Indian School, I knew I would be part of something very special. Indeed, I had spent much time on the reservation as a member of the board of directors for six years, but this would be something new.

My first few days were certainly rich—filled with the laughter of a six-year-old Lakota girl running into the kindergarten classroom on her first day of school. Full with the excitement of a visitor at The Heritage Center viewing a contemporary painting by a young Native American artist. Full with senior students beginning their college applications. Full with prayer and song rising from Our Lady of the Sioux Church on Sunday.

When I look back on the 2010/11 year at Red Cloud, *my* heart is full because much has been accomplished. What I love about this ministry is watching our community of “doers” *do* extraordinary things.

Wilbur Ferguson at Our Lady of Lourdes began an archery team that teaches responsibility and respect (and has brought home many trophies). Angie Stover facilitated spiritual formation through Sacred Heart Church’s Kateri Circle. Mike “Suds” Sunderland guided our seniors to nine Gates Millennium Scholarships—the most in the nation. Tyler Bruns started a soccer and softball program at Red Cloud Elementary because his students were not just interested in the sports—but showed they were committed to them. Carmen Fourd ’04 made more than 100 Lakota items available through The Heritage Center’s online store. The list could go on and on.

In the pages that follow, you’ll read about our people. You’ll also read about our place. And I hope that you, too, will be filled with inspiration and awe for all that’s happened because of your financial and prayerful support.”

Fr. George Winzenburg, S.J., President



Message from the President

Kindergartners love when Fr. George Winzenburg, S.J. stops by to read and learn with them.



Math and sciences are taught from an early age at Our Lady of Lourdes and Red Cloud Elementary School.

July

Twenty parishioners and Red Cloud staff from the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation attend the 2010 Kateri Tekakwitha Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The annual conference brings North American Indigenous people together once a year for prayer and conversation.

August

Fr. Peter Klink, S.J., former president of Red Cloud, is honored for 25 years of ministry on the reservation. More than 200 people attend a Mass of celebration, presided over by Fr. Rick Abert, S.J., superior of the Jesuit community. “In the Lakota language, there is no word for good-bye,” Fr. Abert said during his homily. “So we aren’t saying good-bye, but *tokša*—see you later.”

September

Tashina Banks, Robert Brave Heart Sr. and Tina Merdanian are invited to present at the National Indian Education Association’s 41st Annual Convention in San Diego, California. One of 70 invited to present, the group speaks of Red Cloud’s commitment to college readiness and their mentoring program successes.

October

For the second year in a row, the Red Cloud High School boys’ basketball team scrimmages at halftime of a Denver Nuggets game in Colorado. The invitation to play comes from the Nuggets administration, in recognition of outstanding academic achievement in the classroom and sportsmanship on the court.

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November

High School Senior Tiana Spotted Thunder '11 organizes a poetry night at Red Cloud to raise awareness of the need for suicide prevention. "I wanted to have the poetry night so that people could just get up and express their feelings...because a lot of people my age don't speak up," she says. "They need to be inspired to tell adults what they're feeling. They need to get what they feel out."

December

More than 100 students compete in the 34th Annual Lakota Nation Invitational in Rapid City, participating in a number of athletic, academic and cultural events. Our Lady of Lourdes Elementary brings an archery team for the first time in the tournament's history, and wins the team award. Students also bring home the Lakota Language Bowl championship.

January

Charles McGaa is the first Lakota lay leader to be named parish life coordinator at Sacred Heart Church in Pine Ridge. "With the help of the Holy Spirit, I want to do everything that is necessary to build up the church so that everyone, from a little baby to an elder, will have the fullness of life that Jesus promises," he says.

February

The Heritage Center is one of 12 organizations in the country to receive a Space for Change Planning and Pre-Development grant from Leveraging Investments in Creativity (LINC), in partnership with the Ford Foundation. The grant spurs a two-year planning process to explore space and programmatic growth.





Classrooms contain computers, and the newly-renovated Nolan Family Library and Media Center even has laptops for check-out.

March

High School Junior Tiarra Little '12 earns a scholarship from the U.S. State Department. She is one of 30 students selected to travel to Cambodia to explore other Indigenous cultures and their sustainability efforts. "I hope to inspire the younger generation," she says. "I want to encourage them to do great things and know it's not impossible for someone from Pine Ridge to see the world."

April

Red Cloud Elementary students earn first-place awards at the 25th Annual Technology and Innovation in Education Conference in Rapid City. "It was pretty exciting and awesome to see and experience all the new technology that is out there," says Miranda O'Donnell '16, a seventh grader. "My favorite part was playing a learning game against my classmates on the computer."

May

Nine students are named Bill and Melinda Gates Millennium Scholars, the most in the school's history, the most in the state and the most per capita in the nation. "Receiving the Gates is a big accomplishment for me—it has saved my life," says DeAndra McLaughlin '11, who begins studies at Stanford University in the fall. "I am very thankful for this scholarship...a scholarship that gets me closer to my career dreams."

June

The Heritage Center celebrates Contemporary Native Arts Week with a series of events at the Dahl Arts Center in Rapid City. The weeklong celebration, part of the center's traveling "Making New Traditions" exhibit, includes film screenings, a panel discussion, an artist reception and a live paint auction.

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“We walk with our community in their times of triumph and their moments of suffering. From our parish priests to Lakota lay leadership and fellow parishioners, we are present for them every day, offering support and love and extending the good word of Jesus Christ.

But this happens because of the people of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation...the people who have made the commitment to our ministry. At the core of our work are people like Charles McGaa, who this year celebrated his 21st year at Sacred Heart Church in Pine Ridge. As the first Lakota lay leader of the church in Pine Ridge, he is a shining example of a sustainable model of parish ministry—an approach that addresses the reality that there is a shortage of priests while also empowering Lakota people to develop as leaders in the Church.

We believe strongly in healing ministry, and Fr. Phil Cooke, S.J. took an important lead in working to develop recovery ministry in Porcupine and Manderson. These programs provide safe, sober, supportive places for people to gather and share. A visit by Homeboys Industries this spring brought our work to other communities, schools and prisons on the reservation. In an environment where so much is hostile...where so much is affected by drugs and alcohol, people like Deb Iron Cloud '86, Joyce Tibbitts and Hope Villella have stepped up to support programs like Alcoholics Anonymous and codependency workshops, to aid our community toward a healthier lifestyle.

As we continue to grow these programs and cultivate new leaders, more professional development opportunities need to be available to our ministers to continue education and keep their ministry active. It's something they deserve, and it is something we look forward to offering in the coming year.

Fr. Steve Sanford, S.J., Pastoral Coordinator





“Last year, Red Cloud Indian School earned its Catholic school district accreditation by the North Central Association—the first in the nation to receive the distinction! I am so proud of our staff and students for their focused work toward our goals. It was a team effort, led by representatives from our high school, Red Cloud Elementary and Our Lady of Lourdes. The review and commendation undoubtedly takes us to the next level, encourages ongoing growth and guides the development of our curriculum for years to come.

We are seeing the fruits of our new course requirements—most notably in the record number of Gates Scholars named last spring. A \$420,000 grant from Toyota USA Foundation supported an enhancement to our science classes. And our Lakota Language Program, which completed its third year of development, has continued to evolve. With an evaluation finished and our teachers implementing the curriculum daily, our students are using the language more—and in spaces beyond the classroom, particularly with their families.

We welcomed two additions to our staff. James Mattern brought a wealth of experience as principal of the high school. He didn’t miss a beat—offering a stable environment for our students. Theresa Lessert returned as the new principal of Our Lady of Lourdes. Her years of teaching have served her—and our school—well. She’s a genuine ‘teacher’s administrator,’ teeming with new ideas and sensitivity for our students and parents.

I celebrated my 25th year at Red Cloud this past year and continue to feel renewed in our mission. To witness the tremendous progress we’ve made over two-and-a-half decades continues to motivate me. We will continue to further the hallmarks of our great Jesuit, Lakota, Catholic school—academic excellence, spiritual formation and Lakota studies—in the year ahead.”

Robert Brave Heart Sr., Superintendent

Teachers and staff are developing a comprehensive Lakota language curriculum with Indiana University.

The Schools

“From exhilarating exhibitions featuring contemporary work by emerging Native American artists to movement on a new strategic direction, The Heritage Center continued to play an integral part within our reservation community, and in the national Native art world. Relationships strengthened, artists were showcased in innovative ways, and planning for the future received a much-needed boost.

“Making New Traditions” was a unique collaboration with Rapid City’s Dahl Arts Center and the South Dakota Art Museum in Brookings. For the thousands who viewed the traveling show, it was an opportunity to see fresh talent spring forth—and opened the eyes of patrons to the impact these voices can have on artistic communities worldwide. For the eight Native American artists exhibited, it offered a forum to show their work, the chance to interact with peers and time to collaborate on additional pieces through special events.

An important historical piece from our permanent collection left our gallery and will be on display at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C. An enhanced online store now sells the work of local artisans. Also, a large number of pieces from the 44th Annual Red Cloud Indian Art Show were purchased, now gracing the walls of homes and offices around the country.

The Heritage Center continues to evaluate and plan for enhancements to its programming and historic building while strengthening its relationship with the reservation. A \$100,000 Space for Change Planning and Pre-Development grant from Leveraging Investments in Creativity (LINC), in partnership with the Ford Foundation, will help us do just that—supporting a process to help us celebrate creativity, serve our community and address future programming while ensuring a suitable location to preserve our irreplaceable collection.”

Peter Strong, Director





In 2007, the board of directors at Red Cloud Indian School voted to embark on a five-year initiative to raise \$10.5 million for efforts in pastoral ministry, the three schools and The Heritage Center. For the Lakota students and families served by Red Cloud's mission, they envisioned a renovated high school, an enhanced curriculum and an endowment that would provide a strong financial foundation for all of our efforts.

That vision has become reality. In 2009, a \$2.5 million addition and renovation to the high school was dedicated. New science labs were filled with state-of-the-art equipment. Lakota studies classrooms became multi-purpose spaces and led to a new curriculum, currently being developed in partnership with Indiana University. Energy-efficiency standards were put in place in our newly-renovated areas. School buses were upgraded. "Trailer Row," where teachers and staff once lived in dilapidated trailers, was replaced by new, permanent homes. Truly, bricks and mortar and programmatic enhancements spread across the organization.

But something far less tangible happened. Inspiration took on new meaning. Faith was strengthened.

Students laughed a little bit more on the playground. Healthy eating became a way of life during breakfast and lunch. Artistic creativity flourished. Partnerships across the country were formed. Scholarships were created. Hope has been realized.

The Hope. Alive. initiative closed one-and-a-half years ahead of schedule, and surpassed its goal by \$2.2 million. And that is something to celebrate! But what we celebrate most is *you*—because *you* believed in us, and rallied together with us, to make opportunities realities. *You* put the smile on the faces of our children. *You* ensured that our families continue to have a place to share their faith. *You* made certain a paintbrush will always be in the hand of a young Lakota artist. And for that, we say *lila wopila tanka*—many, many thanks.

Graduates have gone on to earn advanced degrees (even PhDs) in subjects as varied as Native American studies and chemistry.

The Hope. Alive. Initiative

When Chief Red Cloud and the Black Robes (Jesuits) envisioned a school for learning on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in 1888, they planned for a place that would withstand the test of time and a mission that would reverence the sacredness of the Black Hills and the barren canyons of the Badlands, standing proud as a beacon of hope for the Lakota children and families it would serve. Indeed, *their* hope became *ours*, and has been realized in ways we may never understand...may never fully appreciate.

With the unprecedented growth Red Cloud Indian School has achieved over the past few years, now is the time to take a look back—to reflect on the journey. And it is a time to look forward. In many ways, it's time to re-envision our future. To dare to dream. To share new ideas. And to determine a clear and confident direction.

Under the leadership of Fr. George Winzenburg, S.J., and Red Cloud Indian School's administrators, the organization will begin a strategic planning process in the fall of 2011. Guided by the Jesuit tradition of reflection and mission-driven efforts, the strategic planning team will gather circles of people from Red Cloud, the local community and across the country who are committed to pastoral ministry, education and the arts. Together, they will envision an even better tomorrow for the parishioners, students, teachers, artists, volunteers and friends who are the very heart of our mission.

If there's one thing we've learned in 123 years of fulfilling our mission at Red Cloud, it is this: the unachievable is achievable, the unimaginable is imaginable, and the wildest dream can surely become a reality. In this new year, we will ask you to walk with us once more. We will ask you to make your voice heard, to discern, to pray and to act with us.

Because like a family, we cannot do it alone. Because we are *all* Red Cloud.



Our Future

Kindergartners graduate from high school 12 years later and attend notable universities like Dartmouth, Princeton and Stanford.

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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.

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Hope. Alive.

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