

# AROUND THE REZ: RED CLOUD BRIEFS

**Red Cloud's Science Program Continues to Thrive**  
 \* This spring, Red Cloud High School students Savannah Jenson '14 and Bobby Pourier '16 took first place at the National American Indian Science and Engineering Fair in New Mexico. Their research focused on the effect of Lakota prayer on uranium levels across the reservation. They are now invited to compete in the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair, joining 1,500 students from 70 countries.  
 \* Through a generous grant from the Toyota Foundation, leading native scientist Dr. Allyn M. Kaufmann from Proctor & Gamble traveled to Red Cloud as part of the school's effort to bring professional native scientists into the classroom, engaging with and inspiring students.  
 \* In the coming months, Red Cloud will be featured in a U.S. Department of Education guide on developing successful programming in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and math, or STEM. Red Cloud Indian School's 21st Century Community Learning Center was one of only 15 programs across the country chosen for its demonstrated success in promoting STEM through technical and career education.

**Building Bridges to College**  
 \* Building on an emerging partnership with Bridgewater State University, Red Cloud President Fr. George Winzenburg delivered a stirring keynote address to more than 800 graduating students during the university's 26th annual Winter Commencement. His remarks centered on the lessons drawn from the core Lakota values of respect, generosity, wisdom and courage, and urged graduates to "feed the persons you meet on your journey with compassion, mercy, forgiveness, and love."  
 \* On a sunny day in February, a delegation from South Dakota State University (SDSU)—including President David Chicoine and Provost Laurie Nichols—visited campus to launch a new university mentoring program supporting Red Cloud students interested in the state's largest university. Through the partnership, Red Cloud students will travel to SDSU to learn about its campus, academic programming and the university experience—and receive support and mentoring from SDSU faculty before and after enrolling. According to Red Cloud's Superintendent Ted Hamilton, "This partnership will provide Red Cloud students with the resources to allow them to succeed."

**Whereas We Respond**  
 \* Oglala Lakota artist Layli Long Soldier opened her collaborative art installation "Whereas We Respond" at The Heritage Center. The piece invited Pine Ridge community members to react and respond to the Congressional Resolution of Apology to Native Americans signed by President Obama in 2009. Sometimes referred to as "the silent apology," President Obama signed the Resolution on a weekend, with no tribal leaders or members of the press in attendance.  
 Through the installation, Long Soldier examined the processes of apology and forgiveness within the Lakota community. She then invited Lakota artists, students, parents, educators, activists, elders and all other community members to interact with text from the apology by writing, drawing, painting, erasing or adding text, or by sharing narratives and images directly onto the surface of a gallery wall in The Heritage Center. The result was a powerful, collective community reaction to the intent and meaning of the "silent apology."

Go to the new [www.redcloudschool.org/news](http://www.redcloudschool.org/news) for more stories

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100 Mission Drive  
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Sharing the stories of Red Cloud Indian School [www.redcloudschool.org](http://www.redcloudschool.org) Spring 2013 Volume 4, Issue 3

Red Cloud Indian School has walked with the Lakota people through the massive cultural transition of the past century. Today we remain committed to supporting the next generation of Lakota leaders. As our celebration continues, we hope you will join us. Follow our plans at [www.redcloudschool.org/125](http://www.redcloudschool.org/125).

## CELEBRATING 125 YEARS

**1877:** During one of his many visits to Washington, Chief Red Cloud implored President Rutherford B. Hayes to grant the Jesuits—known as the "Black Robes"—permission to build a school for Lakota children.

**1887:** On August 20, Jesuits and Lakota workers broke ground on the future site of Holy Rosary Mission. In 1888 the school opened and 100 students were enrolled by the end of the year.

**1890:** Following the massacre at Wounded Knee, Chief Red Cloud offered Holy Rosary protection from further violence.

**1898:** Construction of Holy Rosary Church, which served as the school's chapel, was completed.

**1906:** Nearly 4000 Lakota Catholics traveled to Holy Rosary Mission to attend the 1906 Catholic Sioux Congress. Participants sang hymns in the Lakota language, and Mass was said in Lakota through interpreters.

**1909:** During the year of Chief Red Cloud's death, Holy Rosary's enrollment surpassed 200. Operating as a self-sustaining farm, older students spent half the day learning reading, writing and math, and the other half working with the Jesuits and Franciscan sisters to keep the mission running.

**1924:** The Indian Citizenship Act was passed, granting voting rights to the Lakota and other tribes for the first time, as enrollment at Holy Rosary surpassed 300.

**1931:** Our Lady of Lourdes—which now serves as Red Cloud Indian School's second elementary school—became the second Catholic school to open on the Pine Ridge Reservation.

**1934:** The Indian Reorganization Act was signed into law, establishing today's form of tribal government.

**1942:** As World War II intensified, Holy Rosary graduated its first high school class of five young men, known as the "fabulous five."

**1955:** Holy Rosary Mission High School won the Catholic Indian Basketball Championship.

**1967:** Holy Rosary began teaching Lakota language classes, over two decades before Congress passed the Native American Languages Act of 1990.

**1968:** The first Red Cloud Indian Art Show opened, showcasing and celebrating native and Lakota art. Senator Robert Kennedy visited Pine Ridge and Holy Rosary, and the Indian Civil Rights Act was signed into law.

**1969:** To honor its Lakota identity, Holy Rosary legally changed its name to Red Cloud Indian School.

**1973:** In February, approximately 200 members of the American Indian Movement (AIM) occupied the town of Wounded Knee to protest the United States government's failure to meet its treaty obligations.

**1975:** Ordained by the Bishop of Rapid City, Steven Red Elk and Reno Richards became the first American Indians in the United States to serve as deacons. Three years later, the American Indian Religious Freedom Act was signed into law.

**1979:** Chuck Cuny was appointed Red Cloud's first Lakota principal, as Red Cloud opened its new high school building. The previous year, Red Cloud established a fully incorporated and bicultural school board, including two Franciscan sisters, six Jesuits and eight Native Americans.

**1980:** While Red Cloud began closing its dormitories in the 1960's, all boarding ended in 1980.

**1982:** Under the direction of Brother C.M. Simon, S.J., The Heritage Center at Red Cloud Indian School was founded to collect, preserve and exhibit native and Lakota art. Today, The Heritage Center stewards a world-class collection of over 10,000 pieces of historical and contemporary native art, and hosts the Red Cloud Indian Art Show each summer.

**1998:** Following the destruction of the historic mission church in a devastating fire, a new Church of the Holy Rosary opened. Incorporating the shape of a medicine wheel into elements of its design, the church reflects the importance of both Lakota and Catholic traditions and beliefs.

**1999:** The first Red Cloud student received the Gates Millennium Scholarship, covering the cost of their entire college education. Today, 57 Red Cloud students have received the scholarship, the highest per capita of any school in the country.

**2003:** Robert Brave Heart, Sr. became Red Cloud Indian School's first lay, Lakota superintendent.

**2008:** Red Cloud launched the Lakota Language Program—and today offers the nation's only comprehensive K-12 Lakota language curriculum.

**2013:** Today, as Red Cloud celebrates 125 years of history, we serve 600 Lakota students through our schools, minister to thousands across the Pine Ridge Reservation through our parishes, and honor and sustain Lakota cultural identity through the work of The Heritage Center. With strong support from our countless friends and partners, we remain committed to fulfilling Chief Red Cloud's dream: to provide an education of the body, mind and spirit, rooted in both Lakota and Catholic values.



Photos courtesy of Marquette University Archives

**Red Cloud Indian School**  
 Hope. Alive.  
 100 Mission Drive, Pine Ridge, South Dakota 57770

[www.redcloudschool.org](http://www.redcloudschool.org) 605/867-1105 ext. 300

**RED CLOUD INDIAN ART SHOW CELEBRATES 45 YEARS**

As Red Cloud Indian School celebrates 125 years of history, the Red Cloud Indian Art Show will mark 45 years of showcasing a world-class exhibition of native art. This summer, The Heritage Center will present more than 150 pieces from over 50 artists when the show opens on June 2, 2013. The show is the largest and longest running Native American exhibition of its kind in the country, and one of only a few held on an Indian reservation hundreds of miles from any urban area.

Since 1969, the show has attracted thousands of visitors to The Heritage Center and the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation to view impressive works of art from seasoned Native American professionals and young Lakota artists just beginning their careers. Over \$7,000 in prizes is awarded in 7 categories and 17 special awards. The show is open to the public seven days a week through August 11, 2013.

*Quilt Square I, Wade Patton (Oglala Lakota)*

I want to make my gift by credit card.

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Enclosed please find my gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to help Red Cloud educate and provide for Lakota students on the Pine Ridge Reservation for the next 125 years.

Dear fr. George,

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I would like more information on naming Red Cloud in my will or trust: \_\_\_\_\_

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Have you made a donation but not received an acknowledgment? Let us know by calling 605/867-1105.

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# CELEBRATING A YEAR OF FAITH, ACROSS THE RESERVATION ...AND AROUND THE WORLD

On October 11, 2012—from thousands of miles away in Vatican City—the Catholic church declared the beginning of a *Year of Faith*. For Catholics around the world, it was a call toward a time of renewal and reflection. Across the Pine Ridge Reservation, Red Cloud’s ten parishes are using the Year of Faith to strengthen spiritual practice and fellowship for reservation communities in need.

“The Year of Faith is a call to *deepen* our understanding of faith in our own lives and to share the good news with others,” explained Fr. Peter Klink, interim pastoral coordinator at Red Cloud.

**“It’s really remarkable that this Year of Faith coincides with Red Cloud’s 125th anniversary, as so much of our history is rooted in the work of sharing the good news of God’s love for us with others.”**

Traveling hundreds of miles each week to isolated Pine Ridge communities, Red Cloud’s pastoral staff minister to hundreds of Lakota families, offering religious education, fostering youth engagement and combatting critical social problems like substance abuse and addiction. During this year, the parishes are working actively to reach even more community members in need—and to provide faith education through both Catholic sacraments and Lakota traditions. Working side by side with Lakota lay leaders, parish staff serve the entire Pine Ridge community, covering 2.8 million acres.

To experience the important and life-giving pastoral work on Pine Ridge, Bishop Robert Gruss of the Diocese of Rapid City visited Red Cloud parishes twice in recent months. In February, he celebrated mass at Sacred Heart Church and met with parishioners to talk about renewal of personal faith and strengthening one’s spiritual connection.

Angela Stover, assistant to the parish life coordinator at Sacred Heart Church, believes the Bishop’s presence highlighted the parishes’ unique role on the reservation. “One of our saving graces on the reservation is our deep-rooted spirituality. It is a trait that makes this area an important part of the Diocese,” said Stover.

On Easter Sunday, Bishop Gruss traveled again across the reservation to celebrate Mass at St. Agnes Church. Established in 1901, St. Agnes serves the area around Manderson, South Dakota, one of the communities most challenged by poverty, unemployment and access to opportunity on the reservation. Sharing one of the church’s most sacred days in this small community, his message of hope and renewal was welcomed warmly by parishioners, reminding them of their importance in the greater Catholic community.

“In one sense, the Bishop’s presence builds upon our celebration of the canonization of St. Kateri Tekakwitha in October. That celebration brought people from across the Pine Ridge Reservation together to share faith and renew friendships. The Bishop’s visits continue to strengthen and support us all as one large family of faith,” said Fr. Klink.

## dear friends,

125 years ago this spring, Red Cloud’s very first students—around 100 Lakota children from grades one through eight—were beginning their studies at what was then called Holy Rosary Mission School. Founded at the request of Chief Red Cloud himself, a group of Jesuit Brothers, Franciscan sisters and Lakota people worked together to craft the school’s first building. At the time, Chief Red Cloud recognized that the Lakota were facing irrevocable economic and cultural loss. His wish was for the Jesuits to educate Lakota children to “walk in two worlds”—so that they could survive in a rapidly changing world, while still sustaining their Lakota identity.

As we celebrate our 125th anniversary this year, I have been reflecting on Chief Red Cloud’s wishes and whether today, as an institution, we are honoring them. After several years at Red Cloud, I believe deeply that we are—and we are working each day to fulfill his wishes even more completely.

In the face of endemic poverty on the reservation, Red Cloud students continue to accomplish tremendous things. 100 percent of Red Cloud graduates plan to further their education and training. Many attend the nation’s top colleges, from Stanford to Marquette to Dartmouth. And 57 graduates have received the prestigious Gates Millennium Scholarship, allowing them to study unencumbered by financial challenges.

But our success goes well beyond academics. True to Chief Red Cloud’s wishes, Lakota heritage, identity and spirituality are celebrated alongside Catholic values in our classrooms and across our campuses. As you will read in these pages, Red Cloud has just completed the first K-12 Lakota language curriculum, empowering a new generation of fluent Lakota speakers. Our spiritual formation program allows students to participate in sacred Lakota ceremonies and engage in Catholic practices to explore their own beliefs. Indeed, our success is evermore apparent in the words of alumna Clementine Bordeaux ’02, now an Academic Coordinator at the University of California:

**“The most important educational experience I received at Red Cloud was my exposure to Lakota spirituality. I think that is one extraordinary factor in my development as a student. I was grounded in my studies because I knew I had access to cultural identity.”**

125 years after our founding, our institution embodies a true and powerful partnership between Jesuit and Lakota values—including education, community and social justice. And I believe Chief Red Cloud’s legacy is realized when our students leave to attend college and explore the world, and then choose to work toward social justice on the reservation and in their communities. It is my deepest hope that we can sustain that legacy through the next 125 years.

I want to invite you to be a part of that. I ask for your financial support by returning the gift form attached to this newsletter. You might also wish to leave your own legacy by including Red Cloud in your will. Here are two examples of bequests in wills as well as sample language:

1. Outright gift of a predetermined amount: “I give to Red Cloud Indian School, Inc. the sum of \$\_\_\_\_\_.”
2. Outright gift of a share of residuary estate: “I give, devise and bequeath to Red Cloud Indian School, Inc. all (or a percentage) of the rest, residue and remainder of my estate.”

Your legal advisor many need some of the following information: Our legal name is Red Cloud Indian School, Inc. and our address is 100 Mission Drive, Pine Ridge, SD, 57770-2100. Our Tax ID number is 46-0275071. Red Cloud is a recognized tax-exempt nonprofit, religious, educational institution.

Regardless of its form, your gift will enable us to keep Chief Red Cloud’s legacy alive. I hope you will join us. If you should need additional information, please reach out to us at 605/867-1105 ext. 300 or visit us at [www.redcloudschool.org](http://www.redcloudschool.org).

Many blessings,

*Fr. George Winzenburg SJ*

Fr. George Winzenburg, S.J.  
President

## wopila!

Among the Lakota people, gratitude is one of the seven basic virtues. Another is generosity. Red Cloud is humbly grateful for your generous prayers and gifts that provided:



**Safe school buses.** Our buses travel more than 1,000 miles a day! Following April’s 30 inches of snow, you provided the extra fuel that enabled our volunteer bus drivers to go the extra miles to pick up our students in front of their homes, rather than stand out in the cold waiting for the bus. *Wopila!*

**Healthy meals.** Our students are able to focus on their studies because they are not focused on their stomachs. You provided a complete breakfast, a healthy lunch and an after-school snack. *Wopila!*

**College visits.** Your donations enabled us to bring our graduating seniors to visit some of their top choices for college, where they saw and heard firsthand what life after high school might be like. They’re on the road to a bright future! *Wopila!*

**Drive and determination.** Our seniors are busy writing essays for college applications and scholarships. Your prayers and encouraging words are propelling them forward, knowing that they have a whole community of people cheering them on. *Wopila!*

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## Offer advice to our graduating seniors

Students in our senior class at Red Cloud High School are in the thick of filling out college applications, writing scholarship essays and trying to answer the tough questions about where to go and what to do after they graduate this spring. Do you have advice or words of encouragement for our senior class? Share them, and we’ll pass them on!

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## Red Cloud Introduces the Nation’s First K-12 Lakota Curriculum

Each morning in Red Cloud’s cafeteria, a small group of elementary school students rises to lead a blessing for the day. It is a ritual not unlike what happens in many schools. But at Red Cloud, these blessings are spoken or sung in the Lakota language.

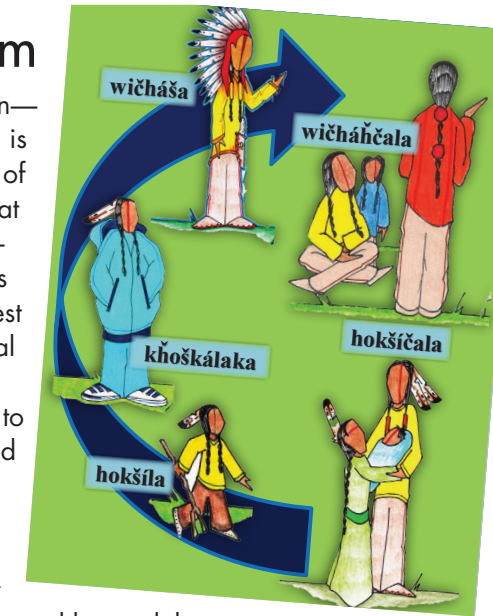
With only 6,000 fluent speakers remaining in the world, Lakota is a highly endangered language—the result of government-enforced cultural assimilation policies that took root in the 19th century. Red Cloud began to teach Lakota in the classroom in 1967 to sustain this critical part of the culture, despite the fact that it was extremely difficult to find Lakota speakers able to teach the language and textbooks and other training resources did not yet exist. As a result, few students ever achieved true fluency.

After four decades of work, today, you can hear Lakota spoken often—and with increasing fluently—in Red Cloud’s classrooms, along its hallways and on its playgrounds. In 2008, Red Cloud set out to develop the Lakota Language Program (LLP) to create a coordinated, systematic approach to teaching Lakota. And this year, it became the only school in the world to offer a comprehensive K-12 Lakota language curriculum.

For Executive Vice President Robert Brave Heart, Sr., the accomplishment goes far beyond the academic.

“Hearing even our youngest students speak Lakota is inspiring, but it’s not just about the language. This curriculum is instilling Red Cloud students with a positive sense of their culture, heritage and identity,” Brave Heart says. “After many generations of cultural loss, they are learning to reclaim and celebrate their Lakota identity. Countless partners around the country have shared their support to help Red Cloud develop this curriculum. It’s a joy to watch that dream be realized.”

Now in its fifth year, the project’s ultimate goal is to enable every student



to achieve fluency before graduation—and there is no doubt the curriculum is already working. Today 70 percent of students report that they use Lakota at home, in school and in their community. Engagement in Lakota studies is increasing exponentially, as is interest in Lakota history, culture and spiritual practices. A new, advanced course introduced this year allows students to translate and understand Lakota used within the high school’s Traditional Songs and Stories class.

With a strong foundation to work from, Lakota teachers are now focused on ensuring the language is used beyond the classroom walls. After-school Lakota conversation groups are in the works to encourage students to practice and, already, basketball games are announced in Lakota. Ultimately, Red Cloud plans to share the curriculum with other schools in the region and across the country.

Philomine Lakota, who has been teaching at Red Cloud for seven years, is excited about the program’s future and what it means for her people. But according to Lakota, it is already realizing its most fundamental objective of a return to practical, daily use.

“A student of mine works at Pizza Hut. When I go in, he speaks to me in Lakota. Before, the language was contained in the classroom—but now students use it in the hallways and beyond. That really empowers our culture.”

## What We Make, We Celebrate: Expanding The Heritage Center’s Reach

*The Heritage Center is world renowned for its collection of more than 10,000 pieces of treasured Native and Lakota art. But perhaps more critically, the Center also serves as a cultural hub. To advance that mission, the Center is expanding its Native arts education program to further engage Red Cloud students, members of the Pine Ridge community and its thousands of visitors each year.*

*The Center’s Curator Mary Bordeaux and its first-ever Museum Educator Brandie Macdonald are at work designing new, innovative educational programming that will launch this fall on Red Cloud’s campus. Bordeaux, who holds a Master’s of Fine Arts in Museum Exhibition, Planning and Design from the University of the Arts in Philadelphia, led the Center through its recent inventory and cataloging of the extensive permanent collection. Macdonald previously directed educational programming for the Charlotte Museum of History and received the Smithsonian Affiliate Internship at the National Museum of the American Indian. Red Cloud Country caught up with them about their newest plans—and their hopes for the Center’s future.*

**Red Cloud Country: What prompted the Center to focus this new energy on community engagement and educational programming?**

*Bordeaux:* In addition to its work exhibiting Na-

tive art and supporting local artists, The Heritage Center has always been committed to serving as a kind of cultural home for the community—a place to gather, learn about and celebrate Native and Lakota art, culture and identity. Our hope now is to provide educational and cultural resources to create an enriching learning environment for the community. These new programs will allow us to connect with more diverse audiences, but still remain rooted in the local community we serve.

**RCC: Brandie, welcome to Red Cloud! What was it that excited you about this new role?**

*Macdonald:* I am thrilled about sharing a new perspective on how art and culture can be integrated into all disciplines to enhance students’ learning. I want to focus first on enhancing Red Cloud’s school curriculum by incorporating object-based learning and through creating innovative ways for students to experience and interact with our amazing collection. There is such a richness to Lakota culture and tradition that can only be understood and communicated through the arts.

**RCC: What is it that students will gain through these activities?**

*Macdonald:* I think they will begin to see the significance of cultural objects and how art is fully incorporated in all aspects of our lives. Our goal is to create lifelong learning experiences that

kids will share with their families and friends. By creating a place for students to interact with Native artists, we’ll be able to foster opportunities, mentorship and a lifelong cultural support system.

**RCC: Mary, how do you plan to engage the local community in the arts?**

*Bordeaux:* Our first priority is involving Native artists in a range of activities, from workshops to a lecture series, and encouraging families to participate in family gallery activity days. Right now, we’re designing opportunities to connect with people of all ages and cultural backgrounds, with a particular focus on our own Pine Ridge community.

**RCC: What do you hope will be your greatest successes in the months and years to come?**

*Bordeaux:* Our goal is to foster a lifelong appreciation for art, and to celebrate it as a core part of Native and Lakota identity. Through these programs, we can encourage real community interaction with the collection—so that art becomes accessible and alive.

*Macdonald:* For me, real success would be hearing a student explain what art means to them and why they feel connected to a piece in a gallery—or that their excitement leads them to bring their family back to the gallery to give their own mini tour. I’m looking forward to developing programs that inspire and bring the community together!

(detach here, moisten glue strip and seal)