



Red Cloud Indian School

Pine Ridge, South Dakota

Autumn, 2002

Educating the Whole Student

September 13 brings a warm Friday afternoon and a high school football game to Red Cloud. The school plays at home against reservation rival Little Wound High School. In the stands, basking in a sunny and welcome break from the classroom, sit Red Cloud's fans, students and some staff members. Their team's defense is outstanding. Unfortunately, after seven turnovers, Red Cloud loses by a touchdown.

So the season has gone. At 0 and 4, football coach Derek Goodwin calls it a learning experience, and then some. "The score may not show these kids winning a game, but they are winning tremendous battles of discipline, of teamwork, of skills they'll take with them the rest of their lives." Goodwin's pride and optimism is genuine, and not confined to the football field. After all, he knows about useable skills. The computer science teacher's track before coming to Red Cloud High School includes working as a logistical operations manager for K-Mart and as a regional manager for building products giant Georgia Pacific in Denver, Colorado.

Still, his first love is teaching, and he is glad to be back at it. "Just because it doesn't show on the scoreboard doesn't mean our kids are not successful. The goal here at

Red Cloud is to educate both the mind and the heart, even through athletics. The kids are getting better every game, and our academic grades for football players are higher than they've ever been.

I think we're going to see bigger payoffs in the classroom. Right now, there is a light and you can definitely see it."

That light, available to all students, is kindled by Red Cloud's "whole student" teaching philosophy. "We strive to educate the holistic person," says Red Cloud

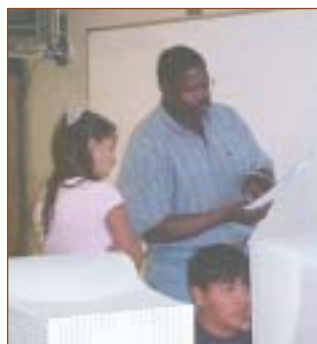
President Fr. Peter Klink SJ. "In other words: body, mind and spirit. When students are ready to take on hard competencies through academic study we can prepare the mind, but that doesn't necessarily give a person direction or values in life."

That's where faith and the experience of a caring community that is serious about learning allows students to see who they are, and of what they

are capable. Here students come to understand their world, their heritage, and what is possible in their lives.

"As I hear graduates talk about their time at Red Cloud, there is a way in which friendships are formed and community is experienced that really touches them," said Fr. Klink, "At the same time, they've been

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Top: Homecoming football game, September 13.

Bottom: Mr. Goodwin off the football field instructing computer class.



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given the kind of quality education that opens doors for their future.”

Recent examples for Fr. Klink’s observation are numerous. Last May 26, Adrienne Brave Heart graduated from Carthage College as a recipient of their Red Cloud Scholarship. The scholarship, begun in 1992, is awarded annually by the college in recognition of the quality of students graduating from Red Cloud. The same week Ms. Brave Heart graduated, her brother Brandon graduated from Red Cloud High School. He intends to follow in her footsteps.

A few days before Brave Heart received her college diploma, Red Cloud graduate Jesse Renteria, having just completed his undergraduate course work at Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska, received notice he had been selected to participate in the Phillip G. Hubbard Law School

Preparation Program. Renteria, a standout basketball player and student while at Red Cloud, continues to benefit from a solid educational foundation. Frequently he has returned to counsel Red Cloud students that success is achievable.

Also at Creighton’s commencement, Nakina Mills, grandniece of Olympic gold medallist Billy Mills, won the Spirit of Creighton Award. With her mom and dad in the audience, Mills was stunned at the honor of receiving the highest award possible for a Creighton graduate. She shouldn’t have been. Throughout her 4 years at Creighton the Red Cloud graduate worked tirelessly to promote Native American awareness and concerns on campus while pursuing her academic studies.

Fr. Klink sees the achievements of these Lakota graduates of Red Cloud as notable, but not surprising. “What they’ve experienced is a community of caring that takes learning very seriously. The ingredients that move that forward are multiple. The dedication of the staff that sees we go beyond merely being an academic preparatory school. There is our faith perspective,



combined with the traditional values of generosity and respect. There is the quality of our relationships at school that often bridge the common divides that occur in schools: the ‘I am a teacher, you are a student’ mindset. What bridges this is a compassion that is compelling.”

Fr. Klink believes Red Cloud’s students, from pre-school to high school, experience this compassion and attention side by side with the school’s goal of excellence for the whole student.

“There’s a piece of Ignatian spirituality called the ‘magis.’ In a sense, the magis means that you’ve never reached what you’re capable of because there’s always something more you can do. The magis literally means ‘greater’ and means that we are always looking beyond that which currently exists—the way things are.”

The Red Cloud president sees this attitude permeating

Red Cloud’s academic and spiritual culture. “We say: ‘Okay, that worked, but how can we do it better.’ I think it is a restlessness that is a part of our spirituality.” Fr. Klink says, “The hope for a student upon graduating from Red Cloud High School is that they be open to growth, intellectually competent, and that there be a faith dimension that gives them direction and values in life.”

Looking down the road at Red Cloud High School’s final four football games, Coach Goodwin remains optimistic. “I think we have the talent and the opportunity, that’s always the best start.” His confidence is infectious, and one imagines his players take it in.

Goodwin concludes: “I love what I’m doing, but you know what I regret? That I didn’t get into teaching earlier. I was successful in the professional world, but the fulfillment I was looking for in

developing managers and making success attainable for them compared to what I’m doing now in teaching is unbelievable. There’s no money, and I have to budget every week, but the reward is seeing that light get turned on.”

Observing September 11

It was a morning cold in the shadows, but bravely warm in the sun: September 11, 2002 - 9/11. At 8:20 in the front court of the Mackert Elementary building, a red, white and blue crowd of students, teachers and parents assembled. Flags were presented from kindergarten through fourth grade, and a memorial service began. Planned and led by teacher Ron Kills Warrior, the service was to present the magnitude of last year's horrific events in a way children could healthily understand. But mostly, it was a simple call to prayer.

Elsewhere on campus, Red Cloud Middle School students led by teacher Dennis Locke gathered before the entrance of the Holy Rosary Church and faced west to pray. The Lakota flag song was sung, then Locke, a Vietnam Veteran, called to the gathered teachers and children.

"We are here today to remember and pray for the events of September 11, 2001," said Locke, "We remember the *ikce oyate* (the common people) who died at the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and on Flight 93 in Pennsylvania. We remember the *Akicita* (the Warriors--police and firefighters) who gave their lives protecting and helping the people. We pray to *Tunkasila* (God), and ask Him to heal the *cante sica oyate* (bad hearted people) who caused all this suffering."

Back at Mackert Elementary, Kills Warrior assured younger students that terrorism was not a local way of life. "What happened last year, unfortunately, means that even though we don't have terrorists here, terrorism can happen in our country," said the teacher, "Not only as Lakota, but simply as humans, we want to remember those who lost their lives. Also, we must remember forgiveness, which is sometimes lost in the animosity of the tragedy itself." At the middle school gathering, after a moment of silence a poem by Ghost Omani was read:

Kola, wolakota omanikte lo.
Go in peace, my friend,
you've earned your place with the elders.
Kola, wolakota omanikte lo.
Go in peace, my friend,
your path was long and hard.
Kola, wolakota omanikte lo.
Go in peace, my friend,
knowing your work is done and well.
Our paths never crossed,
maybe someday they will.
But take this little prayer
with you, knowing a kola
you never met sent it to you with
the love and respect you have earned.
So, Kola, wolakota omanikte lo
Go in peace, my friend,
Wolakota omanikte lo.
Go in peace.

Continuing his theme of healing, Ron Kills Warrior explained to the children, "In any tragedy, no matter how big, you have to be able to forgive." After the attack last year, Kills Warrior played a 5-minute tape of a George Bush speech about 9/11 to his class. "They have a sense of sorrow, but the kids feel pretty safe about such things happening on our reservation. We have our own tragedies of course, but nothing of that proportion."

At the Mackert building and before singing a memorial song to those who died, Lakota culture and language teacher Fred Stands quietly recalled that day at the World Trade Center. "Kills Warrior," said Stands, "underlined the dilemma of the victims as the buildings burned." Rather than a school-wide assembly, both the lower elementary and middle school chose smaller, more intimate ceremonies. The goal was to act together with compassion and concern around events that the children experienced. It's all a part of schooling our hearts at Red Cloud Indian School.



An Investment for the Future...

“Father, I am so glad that I have a Red Cloud Annuity. I think of it as an investment for me, but it really is an investment for the future of Red Cloud.” So began a letter from Don that I received recently. Don also wrote of his gratitude for the many benefits of his Red Cloud Charitable Gift Annuity. Don knows that through his annuity he is helping to support Red Cloud and provide for his own financial needs and those of his loved ones.

Red Cloud Charitable Gift Annuity

A Red Cloud annuity is an agreement between you and Red Cloud Indian School in which Red Cloud guarantees lifetime payments to you in return for your investment in Red Cloud. Unlike a stock market investment or a bank rate that may wildly fluctuate or decline, ***you can count on the fixed return you will receive from Red Cloud.*** Each annuity is backed with the full assets of Red Cloud. Red Cloud has offered annuities for many years and has made every required payment. Our program is designed to provide you the security necessary to make payments for your lifetime. The annuity funds are held in a professionally managed portfolio and are closely monitored by Red Cloud Indian School for safety. We are required to tell you that charitable gift annuities are not regulated by and are not under the jurisdiction of the South Dakota Division of Insurance.

Because an annuity is a gift to Red Cloud, you receive two tax advantages: a charitable tax deduction at the time of your gift and part of each payment to you is tax-free. If your investments in the stock market are not doing well, consider purchasing an annuity with the stock. You will avoid capital gains tax on any appreciated stock value and receive a guaranteed return on your investment.

Two-Life (Joint) Plan

Many married couples prefer our “joint” annuity. When the first spouse dies, the payments continue to be made to the surviving spouse. Because payments continue for a longer period, the rate of return is smaller than that of a single life annuity. (For that reason, some couples prefer two single life annuities.)

Deferred Gift Annuity

By choosing to defer your annuity, you tell Red Cloud at what age you would like your payments to begin. Red Cloud does not write

annuities for people that are younger than 50. If you do defer the payments, you are still able to take the charitable tax deduction when the gift is made. Many people choose to defer receiving payments until they retire or a need for payment develops. Deferral is an additional help to Red Cloud’s future!

Special Memorial

After you are gone, your gift will continue to provide for the future students of Red Cloud, many who are not even born yet! Your gift is a personal testament to your belief in the importance of the work of Red Cloud. Every day you will be remembered in the prayers at Red Cloud.

Look What You Can Do!

As a Red Cloud annuitant you become an extra-ordinary benefactor of Red Cloud. You help insure that the doors of Red Cloud will remain open to the boys and girls on the Pine Ridge Reservation. You help guarantee there will be caring and competent teachers in their classrooms, school buses to transport them, healthy meals, and an education of the mind and heart in the years to come.

Simple to Set Up

A Red Cloud annuity is a wonderful way for you to help the children of Red Cloud and provide for your own financial future. Establishing a Red Cloud Annuity can be done in three simple steps:

- 1) ***Complete the required information on the form provided.***
- 2) ***Determine how much you want to invest at first. (There is a minimum of \$5000.00)***
- 3) ***After examining the contract that will be sent to you, sign and return it.***

Please consider a Red Cloud Charitable Gift annuity. By investing in a Red Cloud Charitable Gift Annuity you are securing the future of Red Cloud and will receive a fixed, lifetime return which is greater than most investment vehicles. You are also helping to secure the future for the children of Red Cloud Indian School.



Fr. Peter J. Klink, S.J.