

Winnebago Woman Joins Faculty



Lisa Casey is St. Augustine's new fifth grade teacher. She is a member of the Winnebago tribe and grew up on this reservation. She received her teaching degree from

University of Nebraska Lincoln with endorsements in language arts and social studies. The past two years, she has worked with the Winnebago Tribe Renaissance Program, teaching the Ho-Chunk language to children here at St. Augustine's and in the Winnebago public schools.

The hiring of Mrs. Casey marks an exciting time in the history of St. Augustine Indian Mission which now has a member of both the Winnebago and Omaha Tribes teaching in the school for the first time. Mr. Don Blackbird, Jr. has taught here for the last five years. Fr. Dave Korth, Mission Director, says, "I believe it symbolizes the progress made by the members of these two tribes. Not only do they provide daily incentive for our children, but they are both excellent teachers."

Mrs. Casey was pleased to have the opportunity to teach at St. Augustine's. Things like attitudes toward learning, behavior expectations, and a positive, supportive staff environment swayed her to accept this position. She also enjoys the opportunity to attend Mass with her students.

She resides with her husband, Mark, near by in Dakota City and has four daughters.

Have you considered putting St. Augustine Indian Mission in your will? There are several ways to do this: gift of insurance, stocks, property, etc. For more information, please call Fr. Dave at 402-878-2402.

Mission Welcomes Eight New Board Members

Ted Bridges
Stephen Bruckner
Sid Dillon, Sr.
Judy Haney
Wayne Ibarolle
Joe Twidwell
Mark Weber
Jane Weekly

How to contact us at the Saint Augustine Indian Mission:

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St. Augustine Indian Mission
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402.878.2402

Baby Star Quilt Raffle Winner



Congratulations to Judy Kubat of Omaha, NE who is this year's winner of the baby star quilt raffle from our Phantom Fundraiser. Judy's name was one of 472 who qualified for the drawing with a donation of \$100 or more. Thank you to all of you who participated!

Saint Augustine Mission Board Members

Archbishop Elden Francis Curtiss
Fr. Dave Korth, *Director*
Fr. Pat McLaughlin, *Assoc. Dir.*
Fr. Tom Merkel, *President*
Jeff Neary, *Vice President*
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Joe Twidwell • Mark Weber
Jane Weekly • Elaine Wilwerding

ST. AUGUSTINE INDIAN MISSION the Trumpet Call

December, 2006



A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

There is excitement in the air as we begin to prepare for the celebration of the birth of our Savior, Jesus. It is hard to believe this school year is nearly half over! It has been an exciting fall, and there are lots of positive things going on at St. Augustine's. In this edition of The Trumpet Call, you will get to read about some of those things: our partnership with the Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center for an exhibit of our kids' art; the fact that we now have, for the first time in our history, a member of both the Winnebago and Omaha Tribes on our faculty; and a new physical education/health teacher.

In addition to these exciting news items, we have also been blessed with eight new individuals who have agreed to serve on our Board of Advisors. These new members bring lots of talent and energy to our Board, as was evident when we gathered for the first time recently. They are committed to helping us be the best we can be for our students today and plan for an even better future! But none of this would be possible without your generous donations. Thank you for your continued interest and support.

May God bless and keep you!

Fr. Dave Korth



Don Doll, SJ

A visitor admires the portraits of our children at the Center

Exhibition Celebrates Encounter With St. Augustine Indian Mission Children

The children of St. Augustine Indian Mission made history on Oct. 29th when a two-part exhibition honoring them opened at the Sioux City Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center. The event marked the beginning of the Center's permanent mission of "Commemorating a history of encounters."

The exhibition was funded by the Center and created in cooperation with St. Augustine, Fr. Don Doll's Magis Productions and Creighton University's Native American Studies Program, with the goal of promoting dialogue, harmony and understanding among all people in the region.

"This beautiful exhibition is an opportunity for visitors from our area, from across the country and abroad to encounter the beautiful children of St. Augustine and to learn more of their story," said Fr. Dave. "It began with a simple idea that grew out of love for our children and a commitment to building a peaceful, better world for all children.

My deep gratitude goes out to Marcia Poole, the Center's Director, who has the heart of St. Francis and the stamina of the Energizer Bunny!"

Some 200 visitors participated in the exhibition opening, including St. Augustine students and their families, board members, faculty, staff and friends. The gallery talk was given by Fr. Don Doll, S.J., Professor of photo-journalism and the Charles and Mary Heider Endowed Jesuit Chair at Creighton University.

The exhibition comprises two parts: "A Timely Encounter: Portraits of St. Augustine Indian Mission Students," by Fr. Doll; and "Imprints," more than 100 photographs and mixed-media artwork created by children of St. Augustine.

Fr. Doll shot the 20-by-30-inch portraits in May for the 2007 edition of the St. Augustine's award-winning calendar. "Imprints" was conceived and *(continued on page two)*



L E W I S A N D C L A R K E X H I B I T I O N

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developed under the direction of artist and St. Augustine Board member Anne Steinhoff, of Omaha, Neb.

Kindergarten through eighth grade students worked with their teachers to create art aimed at imparting vivid impressions of their lives and cultures. Students were given cradleboard tile and varied objects, including beads, feathers, shells and jingles, to create mixed-media pieces. One-use cameras gave the young artists an additional medium for creating "Imprints."

G.R. Lindblade & Co. of Sioux City designed the exhibition. "Imprints" includes a videotaped dimension filmed by Lindblade at St. Augustine on the Feast of St. Francis of

Assisi. The video shows students as they work on art projects in their classrooms, as they gather at the church and as they participate with Fr. Dave in the blessing of the buffalo that live near the Mission.

Students' quotes are superimposed on the video as another layer of meaning. "My favorite thing about St. Augustine is that people are nice here. I'm Winnebago. I'm in the Thunder Clan," says Helena. Emily explains that her brother is a role model to her. "His name is Wakaja. In English that means Blue Thunder. I drew a picture of Blue Thunder. I love my brother." Family also inspired Divon when he created his "Imprint": "My favorite thing to draw is a snake because I'm in the Snake Clan." The exhibition will run through March.

A Grandfather's Generous Gift



Principal Joe Fustos thanks Noah for his donation, which is stacked behind them.

It all began when Noah Glover-Ettrich's grandfather gave him a generous financial gift. The instructions were to use 1/3 for his needs/wants, save 1/3, and help someone else with 1/3. An article in the Omaha World-Herald about St. Augustine's Mission School got his mother's attention.

She shared the article with Noah. He decided to investigate the mission school further and spent time exploring St. Augustine's website. After that, his mind was made up and he emailed Fr. Dave Korth regarding his hope to help the students with school supplies this year. Noah and his mother did as much bargain shopping as they could during the back to school sales and made the journey to St. Augustine's with boxes and boxes of supplies. ...pencils, crayons, markers, rulers, notebooks, paper, art scissors, glue, backpacks etc.

Noah had even included some of his own summer earnings to purchase this gift for the school.

Noah, a fourteen year old freshman in high school, has learned the meaning of giving to others this year in a very significant way. **Thank you Noah, for your thoughtful generosity!**

Guided Reading Program

During his first year as principal at St. Augustine, Joe Fustos conducted a needs assessment which determined a greater focus needed to be placed on reading comprehension. Without good reading comprehension our students have a very hard time achieving success in any given academic area. To help our students increase their reading comprehension, we formed a team to implement a Guided Reading program for all our students K-8.

Common sense will tell you that reading comprehension is crucial for such subject areas as: social studies, any applied mathematics, science, and religion.

Guided Reading is proven to raise students' reading comprehension levels and helps determine students' appropriate challenging reading levels. Guided reading is just what the name implies, reading with a guide. Instructors guide students through how to process and comprehend what they read. Students are first given a DRA or Developmental Reading Assessment to determine at what level they are reading. This Developmental Reading Assessment is comprehensive and provides a variety of feedback about how students process what they read, as well as helping the instructor place students at the proper reading level.

Instructors then guide students through a series of books that are appropriate to the level at which the students are reading. This guided reading is where the students receive instruction about how to process and comprehend what they read. Students are able to practice newly learned skills as they read properly leveled books independently, with their classmates, and with their teachers. Throughout the time students are learning and practicing, the instructor administers short assessments called running records. These short assessments give the instructor a snap shot of how the student is progressing. Taken together, a series of these running records can be used to chart students' progress over any given period of time.

When the instructor feels that a particular student is ready for a new reading level, the instructor once again administers the DRA or Developmental Reading Assessment to make sure the student is indeed ready to move to the next level.

We believe Guided Reading is a great common sense approach to add to the arsenal of tools our teachers incorporate to help our students meet the goals and challenges they must conquer to put them on the road to personal success.



NEW P.E./HEALTH TEACHER



Students are learning about the benefits of exercise since Jason Modlin arrived at St. Augustine's. Shortly after school began this fall he had them running a mile on the nearby track.

Mr. Modlin is the new P.E./Health teacher. He has a BA degree in Exercise Science and a teaching certificate. He did student teaching in South Sioux City schools. His past experience includes working at the Sioux City YMCA as a fitness director.

One of his goals is to give the students knowledge and skills to make healthy and positive lifestyle choices. He hopes this will one day help these youth have less incidence of diabetes and heart disease which is so prevalent here. Mr. Modlin says he was a physically active youth and sees the benefits in his own life.

His family is not new to education. His mother continues to teach in nearby Walthill and his father serves on the school board there. Mr. Modlin lives in Emerson, NE with his wife and their three young children.

He is happy to be at St. Augustine's and have the opportunity to design a P.E. program that can benefit students for years to come. Welcome to St. Augustine's, Mr. Modlin.

In an added note, Mr. Modlin has a wishlist for the P.E. program. He would love to have some weight equipment to begin to teach the junior high students weight training. If you have resources for this please contact the mission office.