



# Oglala Sioux Tribe

## Office of the President

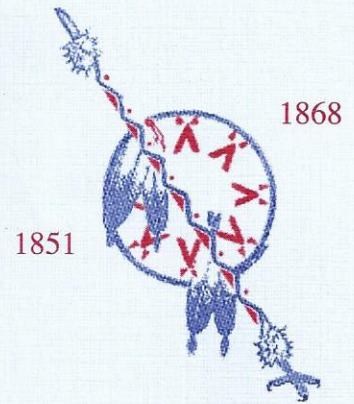
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*John Yellow Bird Steele*

April 17, 2015

To Whom It May Concern;

On behalf of the Oglala Lakota Sioux Tribe and the Oglala Lakota children, I strongly believe the Lakota Waldorf School greatly benefits the communities and our children on the Pine Ridge Reservation.

I, President John Yellow Bird Steele, am writing this letter to express my full support of the mission and goal of the Lakota Waldorf school for the Lakota children.

The work of the Lakota Waldorf School is important because the Lakota people continue to live a hard life in a land that has regained hope in many areas. Drugs, alcohol, health care and other addictions are at a high rate here and many of the children come from broken homes touched by addictions and poverty. Teen drop-outs, suicides, and diabetes are of the highest in the Nation.

The Lakota people come from a proud heritage, language and cultural beliefs. The Lakota language and culture is implemented and taught at the Lakota Waldorf School starting at the very young age of 3 years along with the pedagogical Waldorf education that focuses on the development of the whole child.

I am aware that the Lakota Waldorf School is operated entirely by grants and donations and I am asking for support for the Lakota Waldorf school so they can continue and grow with this wonderful and important work. They also provide a healthy meal program that consists of organic meals served to the children. The school garden brings a harvest of vegetables to the table and the chicken coup provides free range eggs for meals. Not only does the garden and chicken coup provide healthy foods, they also provide a connection with nature and animals as well as daily exercise and the knowledge of care.

Currently, the Lakota Waldorf School is able to provide education for the grades of Kindergarten through 2<sup>nd</sup>. There are high hopes and hard work being implemented on the expansion of the school to provide education up to the 12<sup>th</sup> grade level. Not only will this expansion serve the children, but also will provide more employment for tribal members interested in becoming certified Waldorf teachers.

Sincerely,

John Yellow Bird Steele  
President, Oglala Sioux Tribe