

# Mission Report

## Takini School



Our first stop on our workshop trip was at the Takini School near Howes, SD. Takini is a K-12 school serving several outlying communities several miles away. The school is located 7 miles down a dirt road from the main state highway.

So we were not surprised when we heard that the classes were cancelled on Monday due to a snow storm which dumped 6-8 inches of snow over the region. After the snow cleared we were able to conduct our workshop on Tuesday.



It is such a blessing to see the passion of the Lakota for their culture in this community. Our friend Joe Brings Plenty was our host and introduced us to two of his associates Mr. Van St. John, the art teacher and Mr. Manny Iron Hawk, the Lakota language/culture teacher.



These gentlemen got involved immediately; took right to the flute-making method and were among the first to complete flutes. This was a great help as more students came to the workshop. Joe immediately was giving the students introductory overviews freeing me to focus on the latter parts.



Because of the snow delay Joe and Van asked if we would stay a bit longer and we agreed. When we arrived the next day we were welcomed by the smell of burning river cane and a room of kids (and adults) working on flutes.

Joe was so excited that he played his flute all evening and morning and even arranged a flute contest for the students the following Monday.

## Wounded Knee

Our workshop at Wounded Knee school was our third visit to the Manderson community. We were welcomed with familiar faces and were blessed to see the students from previous workshops. Most of the students making flutes were in the 8th grade but we gave some of the younger students an opportunity to participate.



The enthusiasm of these children was quite evident every time I asked for volunteers to help. Nearly all the students finished their flutes and we could tell they were pleased with their work. We could read the sense of accomplishment and self-confidence on their faces. What a blessing!

We were also honored to be a part of a series of local cultural shows being recorded by KOLC, the television station sponsored by the Oglala Lakota College. When the show finishes production and is ready for broadcast, we will update our website with the link for the show.