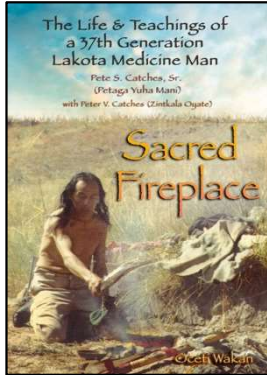
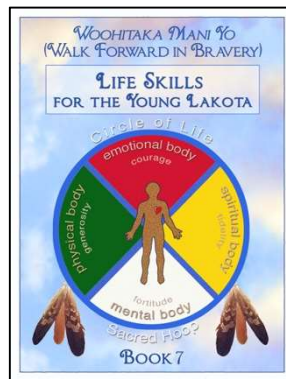


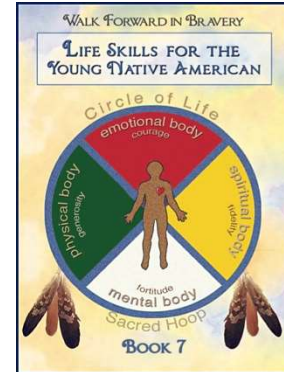
## New Printing of Sacred Fireplace



## 'Life Skills for the Young Lakota'



## 'Life Skills for the Young Native American'



**Our new releases!** Perhaps these will help explain why our newsletters have been few and far between! We want to update you on all that has been going on at Oceti Wakan. As many of you know, after a long illness, our beloved founder, Zintkala Oyate (Peter V. Catches), made his journey to the spirit world June 8, 2018 at 7:40 pm. His funeral was just like the end of the Sundance, he made a happy and joyous exit. He had fulfilled his soul's purpose. Not many of us will be able to say that. The Eagles (spirits) that he worked under said they needed 44 years. At first, he thought that meant he would only need to be here until he was 44 years old. But it was 44 years of giving the teachings he was here to do. We were just getting ready for the 45<sup>th</sup> year of the Spotted Eagle Sundance when he passed. The 45<sup>th</sup> year was just beautifully continued with his grandson, Jeff Catches, giving his heart and soul to it. It looks like this Spotted Eagle Sundance will go forward for the generations to come.

Peter wanted the above picture to be used for his dad's book for our next printing. Mission accomplished! We have dedicated our last workbook - Book 7 "Life Skills for the Young Lakota" and "Life Skills for the Young Native American" to him. It was his prayer that our curriculum from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> grade would bring into the light the 7<sup>th</sup> generation that his ancestors saw. He felt they just needed the tools at a young age to make healthy life choices. For much more information about our new Wellness Program, visit our website: [www.ocetiwakan.org](http://www.ocetiwakan.org). We are happy to report that we have several schools now using our prevention curriculum and others interested in it.



We want to acknowledge ANA (Administration for Native Americans) for the three-year grant that they gave us to accomplish this. The grant was to develop the seven years of life skills for 2<sup>nd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade students (and beyond), plus a Parenting Handbook and a teacher's workshop on learning the language of virtues. We will end this grant on December 31, 2018, having accomplished these goals with having developed over 2500 pages of curriculum, along

with collecting over 250 Lakota traditional stories to which we have added questions and answers for teachers to use. We have also included some of these stories in the Book 3 and Book 4 Teacher's Manuals, on top of the other goals of this grant. Your generous donations have made this possible. We still need to match 56 stories to Book 1 and Book 2 Teacher's Ancestor's Stories and match them to each of these lessons, as we feel there is no greater tool to give our children their ancestor's values. We believe this will give them a strong Lakota identity along with the education they will be receiving in these workbooks. We need your help to finish the Teacher's Manuals for Book 5, Book 6 and Book 7 because from this point forward we will be working without grant funding.



We are also letting you know that we have started the **Holiday Giving Program** to bring toys and food to families that normally would not be receiving any. This will be our 8<sup>th</sup> year. It has been building each year due to your generosity. Last year we were able to touch close to 150 children. We thank each of you for remembering our children. Here is a picture from the past of dear our Peter helping make some Christmas dreams come true.

We'd like to give a big thank you to Jeanne Morton and friends for bringing a huge amount of coats and clothes for winter to everyone here for the second year in a row. In addition, once again one of her friends is donating new sleeping bags for us to give to young people who might not have the heat they need!! Such great efforts really do help!!!



You will be happy to know that our Oglala Sioux Tribe's substance abuse program, Anpetu Luta Opiti, is funding our Jr. Youth and Children's Prevention Program at our Wellness Center that Loni Weston and Casey Frasier are doing on Friday evenings followed by a cultural movie with another prevention session on Saturday afternoons. We have a good group and it is building. There are other tribal programs that are working with our children and youth using our prevention materials. It looks like that is growing also.

A dream has come true also of a beautiful Lakota Elder teaching our young girls and women to make star quilts also at our Wellness Center. We are having those events twice a month with Bernice Catches. A big thank you to her for making this effort. We hope many more will be joining us on November 25<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm.

We hope you will visit our much-improved website, [ocetiwakan.org](http://ocetiwakan.org), courtesy of Marcin Kozlowski from Poland, who has done a brilliant job out of his love of the Lakota people.

As I was doing some research finishing our Book 7, I ran across an article from the University of Wisconsin dated 2015, reporting the top 25 highest mortality rates in the country and the

lowest 25. Pine Ridge was the #1 top mortality rate, which wasn't a big surprise, but it was that the first 5 of 6 were all Lakota reservations plus two more a little further down. We believe and hope that this work that we are doing, the seven years of life skills curriculum, will change these statistics by helping prevent suicide, alcohol and drug addictions and equip our children and youth with the motivation and life skills to make the healthy choices needed to have a successful journey on the Red Road of life. Your support can actually make a difference to their world. You can send your donation to our address at the top of this newsletter or through our website. If you would like it to go to something specific, just let us know and we'll see that it does.

With incredible appreciation to all of you who have made all of this possible - so many of you. Our wish for you is that your holidays be peaceful and blessed with love and lots of time with family and friends.

Much love and gratitude for making our work possible,

Cindy Catches and the staff and friends of Oceti Wakan