

St. Coletta News

St Coletta Day School of Milwaukee

Summer 2018



ColettaScope 2018

November 10, 2018; 6:00 pm to 9:30 pm
Mt Mary University

Our Mission

St Coletta Day School of Milwaukee

Will provide an academic, social and life skills curriculum within an engaging environment to meet the needs of students with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities to prepare them to realize their full learning potential and become valued and contributing citizens.

THE SIGNS OF GROWTH

by William Koehn – Administrator | Lead Teacher

It seems that there is always something to get done. I used to think that was a challenging thing and I suspect that it still is. However, when there are always things to get done, it is really an indication that there is growth. And that's exactly what is happening at St. Coletta Day School. We are growing in so many ways. We have increased the number of students that we are able to serve, we have added services for our students and we have brought on additional staff members to help with that growth process.



It wasn't that long ago when there was a discussion about starting a Transition Program. We talked about it at staff meetings, parent meetings and Board of Director's meetings. And then, talking turned into planning and planning turned into action. We have successfully completed our first school year with a Transition Program that went from a dream to reality. Our faithful donors helped to make that dream a reality.

We are constantly looking for ways to improve services to our students and their families. How can we be better at what we do? What can we do differently to get better results? What do we do well, that we should continue to do? These are all questions that any organization will, and should, ask itself. That's how organizations improve and grow.

(continued; page 2)



Franny Bresser

I will be a sophomore at Pathways High this fall. I love creating digital Art. After reading *The Things They Carried*, by Tim O'Brien, I was inspired to create this piece. I am looking forward to filming a movie with some of my classmates & working as a Counselor in Training at Rainbow Day Camp this summer.



Gabriela Kelly-Miller



During the school year you will find Bria helping in the St Coletta classrooms, and in the library at St. Sebastian's. In her spare time, she enjoys knitting, making food for others and spending time in her favorite place, the Library, reading lots of books. She's just finished reading Eleanor Estes's *The Hundred Dresses*.



Matthew Sowinski

I am a senior at Milwaukee Lutheran HS. Last year I was inducted into the National Honor Society. I enjoy playing my cello in my spare time. Right now, I am learning to compose music with my teacher, Patrick. I also enjoy writing computer code and playing video games.

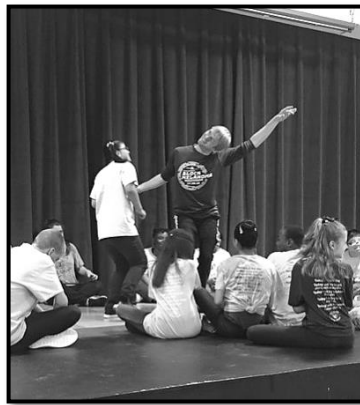
Alumni News

ANOTHER CHANCE TO DANCE

by Julie Borouchoff – Classroom Assistant
photos by Kimlon Jackson

In the spring of 2018 St. Coletta welcomed DANCEWORKS back for a second year. It was a chance to learn some new styles of dance. The DANCEWORKS Sampler package was an enormous success. This year the students learned Modern and Hip-Hop. They also reviewed last year's favorite – Tap Dancing!

Our wonderful Ryan Cappleman from DANCEWORKS was on hand (or foot) for our introduction to Modern Dance. Through Modern Dance training we learned some very dramatic ways to move and pose. We played a fun game called "Sculptor and Clay." In this game, one person was the artist and the other – modeling clay. When the "artist" touched the "modeling clay" he/she was transformed into art. This was great practice for our imaginations.



DANCEWORKS' Angela Algrim introduced Hip-Hop Dancing to our students. Hip-Hop really let us move our bodies and release a lot of energy. We also learned how to express a sassy attitude in a respectful way. Clearly Hip-Hop was a tremendous success.

Ryan finished the year off teaching us a crazy and entertaining Tap Dance routine to "You Can't Stop the Beat" from the hit musical, "Hairspray." On Sunday May 20th we all gathered in St. Sebastian's Church Hall to show off our new dancing skills to family and friends. Thank you DANCEWORKS, Posy Knight, Ryan Cappleman and Angela Algrim for bringing the joy of dance to all of us at St. Coletta Day School.

THE SIGNS OF GROWTH

(continued)

So, what's next for St. Coletta Day School? We already have a great educational program, and now a new Transition Program so that our students can continue their education. We have a wonderful relationship with the St. Sebastian Community that we have enjoyed now for over 60 years. What more could we possibly want?

How about looking at Speech therapy and Occupational therapy?

Could we add a sensory room? Are there things we haven't even considered yet that would continue to enhance our school?



Conversations about these topics are already happening. Yes, that's what growth looks like!

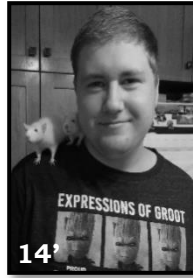
The 2018-19 school year will be busy and exciting. We are poised to be re-accredited this year and that's a perfect time to evaluate what we do and how we can improve. A team of people will visit our school this spring and review our policies, procedures and programs and will let us know how we are doing. They will meet with students, parents, staff and board members. They will observe, ask questions and participate in our day-to-day activities. I'm excited for their visit so they can see all the wonderful things we are doing here. These are signs of growth!

James Stingl



I am a junior at Jefferson High School. I really like sports; I am on the JV2 Basketball team, & the Track team at my school. I also play tag football & softball for the Fort Atkinson Special Olympic team.

Go Blackhawks!



Chris Trokan-Tenorio

I have one more year at Riverside HS before I graduate. I am working this summer at Harbor Chase Assisted Living, helping clean in the kitchen and dining room. I like having a job and making money. I enjoy playing video games. I also like taking care of my pet white rats, Marsh and Mellow.

Sarah Novotny



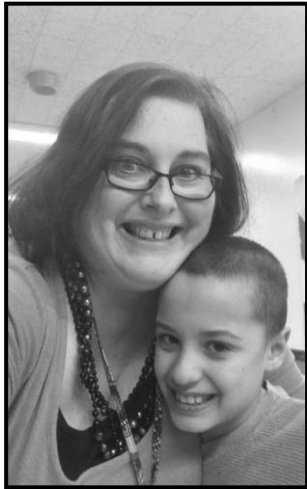
I am a sophomore at Milwaukee Lutheran HS. I enjoy playing basketball, and was voted MVP of my JV2 team this past season. This summer I took an American Sign Language class at UWM with Ms. Rachel and spent time with my family.



... learning, growing, making a difference.

TEACHING ITSELF IS REWARD ENOUGH

by Rachel Lustig - Teacher

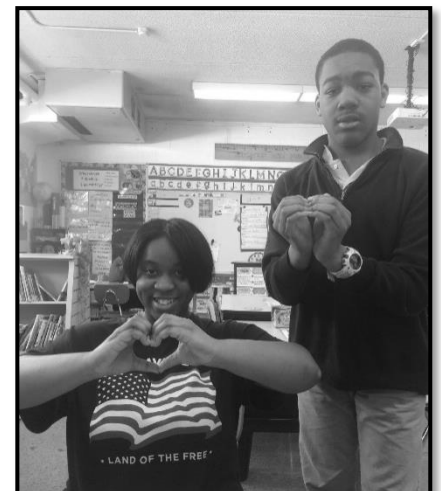


As a teacher, I feel it is my duty to constantly reflect on what I do in my classroom and work on improving my techniques, strategies, and abilities. I attend conferences, take classes and read books. I also read articles and research and that other educators have written and reflect on this. When I was reading an article about the “important principles for teachers to understand” by Carol Tomlinson a teacher and professor writing for Edutopia, I started to think about myself, my students, our classroom, and our progress. There are eight principles that are highlighted in the article, that I think resonate with me since they are aligned with my mission at St. Coletta Day School. I would like to share with you how these concepts are demonstrated by me and my students.

The first principle is “innate potential”. Before a new student comes to visit St. Coletta, we often receive their IEP (Individualized Education Plan) ahead of time. This plan shows the student’s present levels and often highlights their weaknesses. I go through these plans looking for the child’s strengths and see the possibilities of how we can help this student grow. When I meet the child for the first time, I focus on ways this student is already showing their potential and then look to see what I can do and what St. Coletta Day School can do to help this child be all they can be!

As the student settles in at St. Coletta, I start to examine what kind of “desire to succeed” does this child possess. If the student has not experienced a lot of success in their past at school, I start by believing in them. Since I believe in my students, sometimes even before they believe in themselves, I can be the voice of confidence the reminder that they are amazing and that they can succeed. Teacher, student, and parents all come together to create attainable and measurable goals for school and for life. These are the areas that we work on all year long and the desire to be successful is evident by the student’s efforts especially when they are trying their best.

As the teacher it is my job to teach the “hard and soft skills” and this includes teaching “responsibility”. It is my role as a teacher to diligently teach our students how to read, write and be mathematicians. These lessons are very important and the researched based methods that I use to teach these skills have worked. Our students are making considerable progress on being able to read, write and solve mathematical problems. Their progress reports show this growth and many of the students know and understand that they are better readers, writers, and mathematicians. A lot of emphasis is placed on learning how to think about what they are reading and to incorporate metacognition skills. This is designed to help the students comprehend what they are reading and then write about what they have learned. Likewise, efforts are made to teach our students how to have number sense and really know what numbers and quantities mean and learn how to manipulate them using strategies and operations.



(continued next page)

TEACHING ITSELF IS REWARD ENOUGH (continued)

This teaching about thinking about reading, writing, and math is the tip of the iceberg. The teaching at St. Coletta Day school also includes teaching soft skills that truly help our students in their communities and in society, be the best they can be. These skills are embedded in lessons that are taught on being responsible, kind, honest, a peacemaker, a hard worker, calm, happy, under control, supportive, a friend, helpful, accepting, brave, patient and 20 other words. This learning takes place during our English and language arts time. Each week there is a different vocabulary word. All the students identify, define, list examples and nonexamples, find facts and characteristics, write, draw and color about the word and how we could be that word in our lives. These words are hung on our classroom door and in the hallway for everyone to see each day. They are also part of our “Be Books” that we created and use almost every day of our lives.



Part of these soft skill lessons involves me sharing with my students, examples/non-examples from my own life on how I am being the word of the week and how I had not succeeded at being the word of the week. I work hard to show my students how I overcome my own mistakes and by doing this I can show them how I “overcome resistance”. In turn I teach them how to be resilient and adaptive. So much of being a teacher involves overcoming resistance from many various sources and learning to adapt to the ever-changing events in the classroom. These teachable moments happen every day and provide my students with examples of how to persevere. I keep going even when I’m am cooking a recipe with 24 students and the cheese is missing! I model how to adapt, change and keep going.

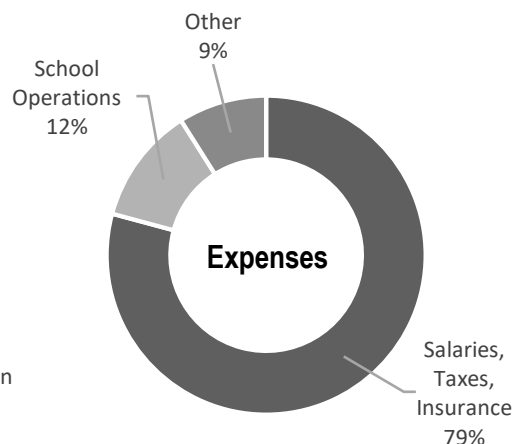
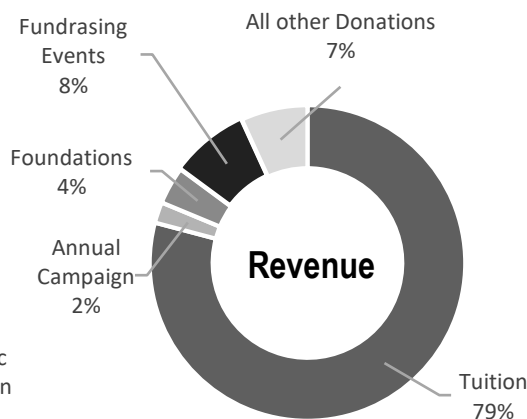
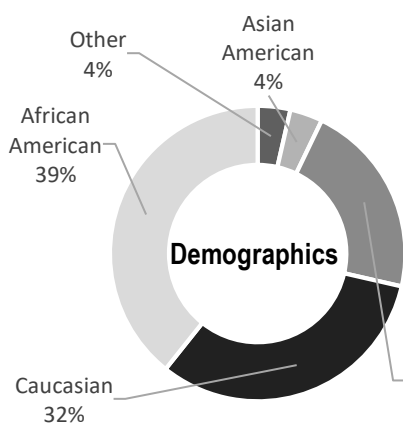


As I am teaching I am always using “observation and analysis” since it is from these observations and analyzing that I see how to adapt and change my teaching strategies and approach. Reflection happens after the lesson is complete, however, while teaching I can observe my students and analyze how they are using their strengths and weaknesses and how they are able to access the information I am providing to them. Again, during this process, I model my observations and some of my analysis so that again my students get to learn by watching each other analyzing how their classmate is accessing the curriculum. By using a model where all can learn from each other, I am able to teach multiple students at many distinct levels. The students at St. Coletta can teach themselves and learn at a level that surpasses even our goals and expectations.

My job at St. Coletta Day School is to serve my students and help them become the best they can be; productive, contributing citizens. I do this by providing a service where I teach, model and gradually release the responsibility of learning back to my students. I see each student as an individual and see the potential and desire to succeed in each one of my students. By believing in my students, my students likewise believe in me as their teacher. They want to learn the hard and soft skills that I am teaching and learn to be responsible, adaptable and resilient. My students learn from each other by watching how their classmates learn and this opportunity is beneficial to all. I get to be the best teacher I can be, and my students get to go out into the world and experience life from a place of competence where they are capable and able to do what they choose.

Thank you to Carol Tomlinson and Edutopia for writing an article that spoke to me in such a way that it inspired me to write this article for our school newsletter. Feel free to check out the original article at <https://www.edutopia.org/blog/mastering-the-teaching-game-carol-tomlinson>

A closer look...



TWO BECOME FIVE

by CindySue Nielsen - Adult & Continuing Education Transition Program Coordinator



The St. Coletta Day School of Milwaukee's Transition Program for 18-21-year old's focuses on life skills curriculum, social interactions, increasing independence, utilizing natural supports, problem solving, increasing daily living skills, expanding/practicing self-advocacy skills, exploring recreating/leisure skills, forming friendships with same aged peers, establishing relationships with other community resources, developing skills through cork experiences, volunteerism and continued skill development, increased mobility in the community & community service.

Our weekly schedule consists of time spent at St. Coletta's; Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. On these days the students run the coffee cart, shop, perform vocational tasks throughout the St. Sebastian's Campus and within St. Coletta's. Thursday the students bowl at AMF with about 60 other students from various transition programs. On Friday they spend the entire day at the YMCA learning how to navigate the social expectations of that environment, interface with other members and enjoy Zumba, Yoga and the pool.

The vision for the transition group of students is simply to work as a collaborative team, seek opportunities, address challenges and ethically support each other through various barriers in both the community and work and celebrate successes.



"FIRST I DRINK THE COFFEE, THEN I DO THE THINGS"

The motto of the Transition Program's very successful coffee business. A business model created by previous high school classes and Mr. Bill, was seen to fruition this year. It started out with delivering coffee "gratis" to the staff at both St. Coletta's & St. Sebastian's. The relationship with St. Sebastian's has been essential to the success of the program. We now have 20 regular customers with standing orders for weekly coffee delivery. By the end of the year we had increased our offerings to include tea, hot cocoa & iced coffee.

Additionally, we were able to purchase a Keurig coffee maker and expand our business to Thursday's at the bowling alley.

Because of the success of both facets of this business

we were able to break even financially this year! The student's run this business independently and offer good tasting coffee and outstanding customer service.



WI State Rep. Dale Kooyenga, supporting the Coffee Cart and Community Based Employment.

We Proudly Present the Class of 2018



(L-R) Carl "Kit" Zeidler, Autumn Triggs, Zachary Kuriatnyk

Class of 2018

Autumn, Zachary & Kit will be joining St Coletta's Transition Program this fall.

Terrance will be a Freshman at Milwaukee Lutheran High School.



Terrance Williams

Our deepest thanks

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the following individuals and companies for their financial and in-kind support:

Fr. Dick Aiken
Angila Allen
Molly Ambrose
Anonymous
Aurora HealthCare
Carrie & Dave Ausloos
Verneesha Banks
Rick & Maggie Barrett
Mike & Ellen Bartel
BNY Mellon Trust of Delaware
Adele Borouchoff
Scott Bova
BoxTops for Education
Catherine Bresser
Donna Brown
Bruce Bultman
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Jackie Ceille
Tom & Joyce Chiapusio
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– Leo J. Brust
– Trinity
– Cardinal Stritch
– Pope John XXIII
– Our Lady of Guadalupe
– Immaculate Conception
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William J. Koehn
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Lisa Kuriatnyk
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Karen & James Nelson
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Nicholas Family Foundation
PJ & Sam Nishi
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Dan & Deana Nolde
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Ruth Winkelmann
Judith Worthington
Tracy & Bruce Wright
Geoff & Marie Zeidler
Margaret Zeidler
Megan Zeidler

In loving memory of

William J Koehn -

James & Shirley Anderson
Anonymous
David & Carolyn Ausloos
Thomas & Jill Ausloos
Diane & William Bardosy
Claire Boles
Catherine & William Bresser
Donald & Kathleen Domagalski
Mary & Timothy Donovan
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Arlene Cline –
Murray Cline & Kim Grant

Joe Hignite –
Joan & Mike Stingl

Bernadine Weishar –
Mary & James Grafwallner

Bob Stingl –
Mary Frieeseke & Dennis Marx, JR

In Honor of

Austin Crump –
Marilyn Miller & Jovanna Mickie

Memorial / Planned Gifts A Valued Tribute

How can I help children with cognitive disabilities become happy, active, and productive members of society?

St. Coletta Day School has been the recipient of what seems to be a growing trend in honoring and remembering loved ones at the time of death. Many families, and often the deceased individual, prior to death, have chosen to request that memorial gifts be designated to their favorite charity. As a non-profit school, St. Coletta could truly benefit from such benevolent generosity. We use these gifts to provide specialized education and community experiences to our special needs children.

If you do choose to name St. Coletta Day School in your Will, please let us know, so we can properly thank you.

For more information about Wills or Trusts please contact your attorney.

Our Staff and Board of Directors



St Coletta Day School of Milwaukee
1740 N 55th ST
Milwaukee WI 53208-1664
414.453.1850 | scdsmke.org

Mr. William Koehn - Administrator | Academic Program Lead Teacher

Ms. Rachel Lustig – Academic Program Classroom Teacher

Ms. CindySue Nielsen - Adult & Continuing Education Transition Program Coordinator

Ms. Julie Brouchoff – Classroom | Teaching Assistant

Ms. Traci Schneider – Classroom | Teaching Assistant

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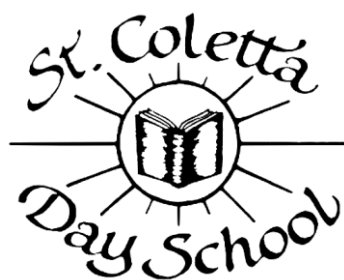
St Coletta News

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If anyone you know is interested
in learning more about our programs,
please contact

Administrator/Teacher; Bill Koehn
By phone at (414) 453-1850,
or by email at scdsmke@gmail.com

Save the date for

ColettaScope 2018

November 10th, 2018 | 6:00 – 9:30 pm
Mount Mary University

Every day, students at St. Coletta Day School of Milwaukee discover their unique abilities by being challenged to achieve their best in a safe environment of respect. Please help support St. Coletta Day School.

Charitable matching funds?

Does your employer or company participate in a matching funds program? St. Coletta Day School has been the recipient of matching fund programs from several organizations and businesses. Ask if your company can do the same.

It's a wonderful way to make your donation

