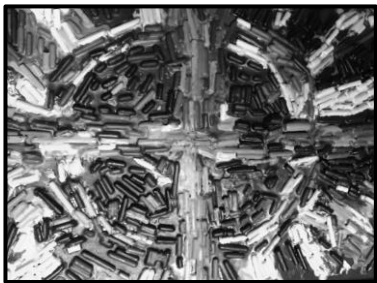




St. Coletta News

St Coletta Day School of Milwaukee

Summer 2019



ColettaScope 2019

November 9, 2019; 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.

IT'S BEEN A BUSY YEAR!

by William Koehn – Administrator

We have a lot to be proud of this year. There's busy, and then there is **BUSY**. Our amazing staff, involved parents, and dedicated board of directors worked hard to accomplish several goals during the 2018-19 school year.

One of our biggest accomplishments is completing another successful accreditation cycle. Every seven years, a visiting team comes to our school to make sure that we are doing what we say we're doing. They look at nine different standards that include things like: governance, curriculum, school culture and parent involvement. Each of these nine standards has several quality indicators that the visiting team scrutinizes.

The measure by which we become accredited involves satisfying each quality indicator on a scale of three criteria. We either: 1) Meet, 2) Meet with Recommendations or 3) Does Not Meet. The team visits for three days and in that time, they observe the students and staff. They interview parents and Board members. They assess every aspect of the school by looking at academic progress, checking to see if our policies are in line with our mission and vision and confirming a strong school culture. I am very proud to report that the school passed the process with glowing marks meeting 102 out of 105 quality indicators!

(continued; page 2)

THERE ARE NO SHORTCUTS

by CindySue Nielsen – Transition Program Coordinator

Looking back at the last two years of the Transition Program it is apparent that a couple of themes keep emerging. Success, experience and hard work all run hand in hand. The following quotes by Dwayne “The Rock” Johnson and Alex Rodriguez, put a spotlight on the philosophy that weaves its way throughout the program. *“Success isn’t always about greatness. It’s about consistency. Consistent hard work leads to success. Greatness will come”* ~ Dwayne Johnson *“Enjoy your sweat because hard work doesn’t guarantee success, but without it you don’t have a chance”* ~ Alex Rodriguez. The growth of the participants can be seen in their increased stamina and tolerance for the workday, ability to accept feedback, adherence to professional demeanor and appearance, expectations of being accountable, responsible, respectful, kind to everyone, honest and always a peacemaker.

Growth is also spreading itself into the program itself and the community that both supports us, and we support. At the start of the third year of program in 2019-2020, participation will have tripled in size. As an educator I have grown in my ability to find meaningful vocational opportunities for each of the participants that meet their goals, suit their abilities and will help them continue to grow individually and as part of the community. Growth is also evident in the jobs and additional responsibilities that have been developed within the St. Coletta’s and St. Sebastian’s campus. The participants and I look forward to the challenges, growth and development that will present themselves in the 2019-2020 school year.



(L-R) Gabriela Kelly-Miller, Madison Morris, Savanna Heltemes, Autumn Triggs, Carl Zeidler, Zachary Kuriatnyk

IT’S BEEN A BUSY YEAR

(continued)

We have had some staff changes as well. Ms. Julie left in January after being with us for almost four years. We thank her for her talents and humor that she brought to our students as well as her skills and dedication to our teaching staff.

We hired a new teacher in January as well. Ms. Courtney joined our team as the Teacher in room #101. She takes over the teaching responsibilities of Mr. Bill who moved into the full-time position of Administrator. Ms. Courtney volunteered at our school several years ago and has now come back to work with us full-time!

Ms. Sarah joined our staff as our newest Teaching Assistant in room #1. She has a background in Special Education and is excited to be back in the classroom after taking some family time.

We are happy to have Ms. Courtney and Ms. Sarah as part of the St. Coletta family!

Our Transition Program keeps growing and growing. We are keeping our young adults very active as they experience a variety of jobs all over the St. Sebastian/St. Coletta campus. We are also offering those job experiences to our school-aged students to get them ready for the world of work. At last count, I think there are over three-dozen different job experiences that we can offer our students.

DID YOU KNOW?

Mr. Bill is the 3rd person to hold the title of Administrator at St Coletta Day school since its inception in 1956. He has been with St Coletta Day School since 1991... 28 years!

MINDFUL MOVEMENT



(L) Liliiana Gomez

Studies have shown that students who engage in mindful movement activities can see a multitude of benefits, including increased strength and energy, better posture, reduced stress and anxiety, and improved attentiveness, self-confidence, self-awareness and self-care habits. At St Coletta Day School the students participate weekly in “Mindful Movement” class, led by Ms. Traci. Ms. Traci has, in addition to many years of working with special-needs students, a background in Exercise Science & Physical Education. Mindful Movement helps the students to become more aware of the spaces and people around them, and how their actions/movement impact that interaction. Besides the many health benefits – it’s just plain fun!

Class of 2019

WHAT DOES SUCCESS LOOK LIKE?

by William Koehn – Administrator

Success means something different to everyone. It could be power, money or fame. But when you talk about student success... well then it looks very different. Our students experience success in an entirely different way. Here's how our students experience success. And what's more, here's how they can take that success with them wherever they go.



At St. Coletta Day School, we give our students opportunities to grow, to explore and to try something new. We challenge them daily to be the best that they can be academically, socially and spiritually. Those challenges are exactly that... challenging! It is our job as educators to challenge our students to try their hardest and to do their best even when things are difficult.



Christopher Schneider

When we teach our students HOW to learn and HOW to problem-solve, we are giving them the tools that they need to be successful not just at school, but also in the community and at home. We do our students no favor by having minimal expectations of them. They are capable of so much more. And that's why we keep challenging them to do their best.

Everyone wants to see our students expand their knowledge and broaden their experiences. Parents want their kids to succeed and educators want their students to become productive and contributing citizens. That kind of success is a life-long learning experience for all of us. Think about how you learn something. You don't just learn it one time and tuck it away somewhere. You take that knowledge and use it. You use that knowledge to solve problems and to build relationships. You hone those learned experiences to be successful at work and at play. That same attitude should be applied to our students... your children. The best place for our students to learn those strategies and to perfect those skills are in an environment that will challenge and nurture students to do their best. Sometimes they may fail. And in failing, they learn. What better place for students to learn how to be successful than in a safe place where it is okay to fail and where they have caring, loving support to guide them to grow. Our mission is clear... Thank you for believing in our mission and supporting our students, their families and our staff. With your support, we are all successful.



Lukas Barnes



Lukas Barnes



Dezaria Charles



Trinity Jackson



Maya Novotny

Our Staff & Board of Directors

Mr. William Koehn - Administrator

Ms. Rachel Lustig – Classroom Teacher

Ms. CindySue Nielsen - Transition Program Coordinator

Ms. Courtney Roskos – Classroom Teacher

Ms. Sarah Bechitsao –Teaching Assistant

Ms. Traci Schneider –Teaching Assistant

Ms. Jennifer Sowinski – Administrative Assistant



Mr. Zach Reiboldt – President

Mr. Dan Nolde – Vice President

Ms. Susan Schoenfeld – Secretary

Ms. Tracy Wright – Treasurer

Mr. Jake Bidwell, MD

Ms. MaryJo Knapp

Ms. Linda Kenney

Mr. Gerard Washington

... learning, growing, making a difference.



(L) Liliana Gomez & Jakobe Smith "Warrior"



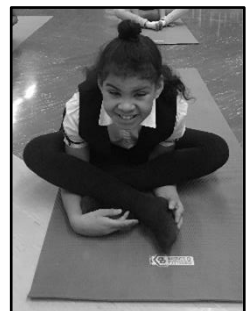
Mario Dantzer "Butterfly"



(L) Sadie Grace & Cuveé Jewell "Tree"



(R) Janay Cunningham "Butterfly"



A “WARM DEMANDER”

by Rachel Lustig – Teacher

My whole life I’ve wanted to be a teacher. I wanted to teach so that I could change the world, or at least my little corner of it. Once I became a “real” teacher four years ago, my thoughts changed to how could I be worthy of this title; Teacher. Robert John Meehan a leading voice in the teaching profession said, *“if your actions in the classroom inspires children to achieve more, question more, dream more, you are indeed worthy of the title teacher.”* I begin each day in my classroom figuring out how I can inspire my students to do more, be more, to exceed the expectations that society has for them. All of my students are students with either a developmental and/or an intellectual disability. Society has lower expectations for students with developmental and/or intellectual disabilities. Many of our students enter our school unfamiliar with teachers expecting greatness from them.

When I was a new teacher, one of my professor’s labeled me a warm demander and at first, I was not sure what this meant. Warm demanders are teachers who do everything in their power to persuade students that they are capable of accomplishing anything. As a warm demander, I believe that my students are smart and that they are amazing. The thought is that if a teacher thinks that their student is smart, then the student believes this, and this belief becomes a reality. As a warm demander, I care about my students, expect them to do their best. I provide a classroom that is highly structured, and, in this environment, my students are expected to meet or even exceed my expectations. Exceeding expectations is exactly what happened again this year. My expectations were for all 20 of the students in my reading group to increase one grade level year and 19 of the 20 did exactly that. Moving up one grade level in reading is a major accomplishment for any student. By pushing the limits, expecting more and not accepting stagnation, this group of students, rose to the occasion and did something that I believed they could do. By believing in my students, I know that there is potential to learn even if that potential is sometimes hidden behind negative thoughts or behaviors. I verbalize positive statements all day long so that my students hear positive thoughts and see positive behaviors. I believe in the impossible so that my students see me



Trinity & CJ Jackson

believing and join this in this belief. In order to get my students to join me in believing, I build a strong bond and relationship with each of them. This relationship is based on mutual trust. A trust that includes sharing and listening to what my students care about and likewise letting my students in on who Ms. Rachel truly is. As a warm demander, I also teach and model self-discipline. This includes expecting all homework to be turned in on time and expecting students to monitor themselves, come up with ways to help each other get their homework done and then expecting the students come up with their own solutions for when homework is not completed on time. This respect and expectation teach the students that hard work, problem solving and planning lead to success.



Keidyamar Otero & Abby Beckman

Lastly, as a warm demander, I embrace a growth mindset and provide an environment where my students are encouraged to take risks and fail. I point out when I made a mistake and kept going. I show my students how I learned from my mistakes and how they too can learn from theirs. These moments need to happen in a safe environment where real learning can happen because and through this lack of success. My math students this past year were challenged to try to get past procedural math where students only memorize math facts and instead conceptually learn multiplication, division, area, perimeter and volume. For many of these students this was the first time they were expected to think about math. Many of them declared they hated math and were not good at it. Multiple times math concepts were taught, problems were done incorrectly, and concepts were retaught and presented in many ways. I had high standards and I provided my students with the support they needed to get to a place that math concepts were learned, retained and applied in other venues such as the MAP test which measures growth and achievement. Students that previously just clicked on the computer and guessed at the problems, were using pencils and papers to and previously taught math concepts to solve problems. Even if I expected them to do this, I am overjoyed every time one of my students decides to join me in the belief that they are amazing, that they are great and that they can accomplish anything they set their mind to and work hard to achieve!

IN SERVICE TO OTHERS

by Jennifer Sowinski – Administrative Assistant

Engaging in community service provides students with the opportunity to become active members of their community and has a lasting, positive impact on society at large. Community service or volunteerism enables students to acquire life skills and knowledge, as well as provide a service to those who need it most. When I asked some of the participants why is service to others so important, they told me; *“It’s good to help, because it makes you feel good too.”*, *“Because if you help someone, maybe they will help someone else.”* Paying it forward is exactly what the students of the St Coletta Day School’s Transition Program decided to do this year. The Christ Child Society (CCS) of Milwaukee has been a long-standing supporter of St Coletta Day School, and their service to others is exemplary. The students decided that they would to give back to CCS by creating quilts, burp clothes, and fleece hats for the CCS Layette Program, which benefits at risk infants in the local area. This desire to help others, inspired others to help the students – donations of material, supplies, and support came flooding in. Over the course of the school year, for an hour and a half each week the students worked independently, and as partners. And with the help of Mrs. Cara Bidwell, the students completed four baby quilts, burp cloths and several fleece hats that were presented to Mrs. Suzanne Belson – St Coletta Day school’s liaison to the Christ Child Society of Milwaukee.



Transition students & Sue Belson

OUR DEEPEST THANKS!

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

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 Margie & Greg Willett
 Margaret Willett
 Ruth Winkelmann
 Judith Worthington
 Tracy & Bruce Wright
 Jody Zanton
 Geoff & Marie Zeidler
 Margaret Zeidler
 Megan Zeidler

IN MEMORY OF DARLENE TULLY
 Kathleen & Paul Hohl

IN MEMORY OF PAUL WONG
 Mary & James Grafwallner

Memorial / Planned Gifts A Valued Tribute

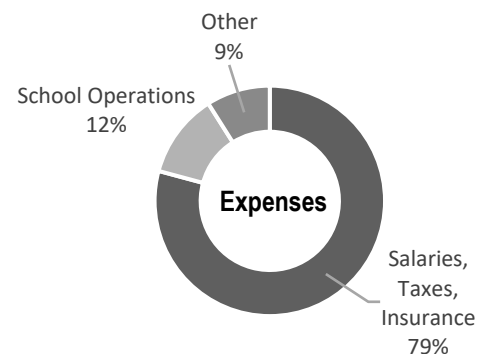
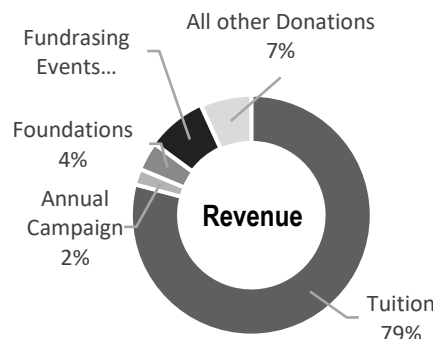
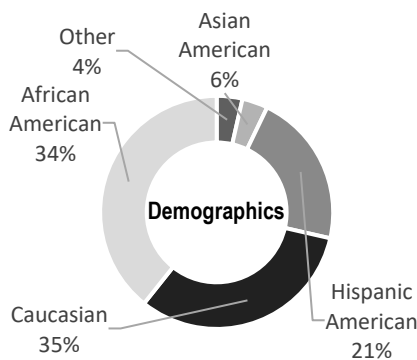
How can I help students with intellectual and / or developmental disabilities become happy, active, and productive members of society?

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 students with special needs.

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.

A closer look...





St Coletta News

St Coletta Day School of Milwaukee
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Milwaukee, WI 53208-1664

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A New Standard of Education

for Students with Intellectual and/or
Developmental Disabilities

- Ages 8 to 21
- Academic | Social | Functional |
Transitional Programs

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

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

Save the date for

ColettaScope 2019

November 9th, 2019 | 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

