

St. Coletta News

FALL 2020



St Coletta Day School of Milwaukee

Fall 2020

ColettaScope 2020



November 12, 2020; 6:00 pm to 9:30 pm
Alverno College Conference Center

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.

WHAT WILL OUR FUTURE LOOK LIKE?

by William Koehn – Administrator

The CoVID-19 Pandemic virus was an unexpected surprise for all of us. It has caused us to take a step back and evaluate everything that we do. It has created a serious threat to human interaction. People who would normally greet each other with high-fives and hugs suddenly found themselves isolated, or, isolated together in the case of families.

The collective ‘we’ are not typically isolated people. ‘We’ typically enjoy being around other people. We look forward to being with our friends and making new friends. Going out to places with others and congregating in places with lots of people is something that most of us do all the time without giving it a second thought. Well, now we must think about everything we do... and I mean EVERYTHING we do.

A simple trip to the grocery store now requires much thought and planning. Make a list of what you need, plan when you might want to go so you can avoid large crowds and get in and get out as quickly as you can. Yes, a simple thing that we all take for granted now becomes a task that requires serious thinking.

(continued page 2)

COLETTASCOPE 2020

by William Koehn – Administrator

This year, 'ColettaScope' is not going to look like the event that so many of you are familiar with. In fact, it will not exist at all. To refresh your memory, 'ColettaScope' the signature fundraiser for St. Coletta Day School, features artwork that is created by our talented students. It all comes together in a fun-filled evening that, in addition to original artwork, offers certificates to local restaurants, a chance to take home a great bottle of wine and to bid on amazing art and great voice auction items! So, why won't we hold this great event in 2020?

We at the school... students, families, staff, and Board of Directors, realize the struggles that many of our supporters are dealing with. To produce an event like 'ColettaScope' we rely on restaurants, framing galleries, small businesses, and sponsorships to make it all happen.

This year, we are taking a break so that the small businesses that have supported our event for over 20 years are able to regroup and if necessary, re-establish their lives without having to donate to our cause. It is time for the St. Coletta stakeholders to let our small businesses know that we respect and appreciate them.

It is OUR turn to support THEM so that their establishments can safely open and thrive again. We need a strong economy and small businesses are an essential part of a strong economy. As you are able, I ask all who read this newsletter to look at the list of supporters enclosed and when you are able, support them any way that you can. By doing so it will help to assure that we can have a successful 'ColettaScope' in 2021.



WHAT WILL OUR FUTURE LOOK LIKE?

(continued from page 1)

The same process of thinking is true for how we will return to school. Making plans for the reopening of our school began before the 2019-20 school year had even ended! Much thought needs to go into the reopening plan.

- How will we accomplish this?
- What considerations need to be made?
- How will this affect our students, families, and staff?

There are so many things to think about and very few answers. We do know (at least at the writing of this Newsletter) that we need to be very conscious of what the Health Department tells us about the virus. Following the guidance of the medical profession seems to be the most sensible way to approach the uncertainty of this Pandemic. The safety of our students and staff are priorities at our school. And, until there is a vaccine available, we need to be very aware of the safety of all.

If ever there were a time that a crystal ball would be helpful, it would be now. Since March of 2020, our world, our country, our city, and our school have been in a constant state of uncertainty. It is not a comfortable feeling... not knowing what will happen next. People like answers. And those answers are slow in coming.



HOW CAN YOU HELP OUR SCHOOL?

Now, more than ever, our school needs your financial support. With the realization that our signature fundraiser, 'ColettaScope' is not going to happen in 2020, we face the loss of income from that event. Loss of income could mean loss of programming for our students. With your help, we are not going to let that happen.

Now, more than ever, our students need your support. They need to know that their school is open for business whatever that will look like... be it in-person or virtual learning or a combination of those ideas. This time away from physical school has been a real challenge for our students. They miss their friends and their teachers!

Now, more than ever, we need your support... (continued on page 5)

Class of 2020



Savanna Margaret Heltemes

Savanna has the distinct honor of being St Coletta Day School of Milwaukee's 1st Transition Program Graduate. Savanna is planning to start her career of learning to be a Barista, work in a bakery, and participate in project SEARCH. She will continue to advocate for those with disabilities through her leadership and community activities. With the love and support of her family and friends she is excited about her future, and is looking forward to the adventure ahead.

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

Mr. John Bowen

Mr. Ian Buchanan

Mr. Gerard Washington

BETTER TOGETHER

by CindySue Nielsen – Transition Program Coordinator

This was the mantra for Bill, Rachel, Courtney, and my summer training through City Forward Collective in collaboration with The New Teacher Project (TNTP). City Forward Collective is a new effort to move Milwaukee forward by eliminating educational inequities and ensuring every child has access to a great school.

The 1st thing the team was tasked with was creating three different learning models to align with Center for Disease Control's (CDC) and the Milwaukee Health Department's advice on CoVID19. The three model types were as follows:

- High Spread-Virtual/Remote learning model
- Moderate Spread-Hybrid learning model
- Low Spread- In person model with modifications for safe distancing

This was a challenging way to start a training series as you had to investigate every minutia of a schedule, activity, or plan to ensure the students/teachers and community were safe. Consideration for schedules, spacing, capacities, lunch, meeting academic goals, maintaining culture, ensuring individualized education, assuring interactions with peers, providing technology, aligning staff to schedules/tasks, and social emotional learning opportunities.

The trainings provided opportunities for leadership and instructor collaborations and problem-solving running May 28th through August 4th and covering the following topics:

Academics and instruction (adapting scope & sequence and accelerating learning), Operations & technology (creating schedules & aligning tech to support), Operations and talent (aligning staff to educational model), Virtual learning, Whole child Supports & School Culture (supporting the whole child), Staff Development through Virtual professional development, and Assessment, Data, and Accountability (progress monitoring).

At TNTP, their vision for authentic engagement rested on four key ideas: shared vision, authentic collaboration, intentional culture & diversity, 360° communication. They enforced that successful efforts "frequently include one or more of the four pillars". In this regard, our first step towards communication and decision making came in the form of a parent/guardian survey. The survey helped guide our decisions, the results shared in multiple formats and informational meetings scheduled.

They also stressed establishing virtual norms for remote learning platforms. The learning environment should be a place to safely share different perspectives, everyone should have equity in voice, all participants use active/attentive listening, have a commitment to the work to be done and mindful when using technology.

We looked at what we did well, what needs to be improved, what part of our academic program is hardest to plan for remotely, how can we support families, how do we improve our communication? All good questions! We did lots of critical thinking and evaluation in order to provide our students with the best possible learning environment.

Through all of this we learned from each other, and know we are ...

Better
TOGETHER

THEN & NOW

by Rachel Lustig – Lead Teacher

Over the last 14 years at St. Coletta Day School, I worked first as a paraprofessional for nine years and now as a Teacher for five years. My students are always my number one priority. The 2019-2020 school year was no different. We started the year building relationships, forming expectations, modeling student behavior, exploring new information and learning so many new and wonderful things. Then the 2019-2020 school year was the most different school year that ever existed.

THEN ...

On Friday March 13th, 2020, it was a typical day at St. Coletta Day School. On March 13th, I found myself doing what I typically do as a teacher. Each day I focus on two things. First, I always work and develop relationships with my students. I do this before I teach them, while I teach them and after I teach them. The second thing happens while I teach them. I collect data and reflect on data that my students produce. I use this data to determine what my students know, what they need retaught and what next steps I can take to educate them. Data drives the scope and sequence that we as teachers take during the school year. This means that as I teach a lesson, if my students understand at least 80% of the concepts then I can teach them the next concepts/scope and follow the pattern or sequence of the curriculum. If they do not understand at least 80% of the concepts, then I need to find another way to teach the subject and go back and reteach. I constantly observe my student's participation, look, and read their work and use rubrics to assess their progress. My teaching involves providing the information, the setting, and the opportunity for the students. I then step back and watch them explore, interact, discover, discuss, and learn from each other. I think of myself as a conductor of information. My best day teaching is watching my students read a novel or do a math problem and discuss what they learned with each other while citing text evidence or a strategy in their answer.

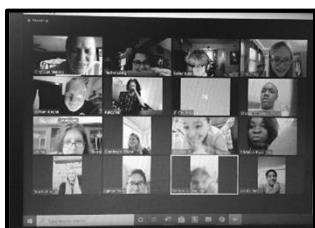


Now ...

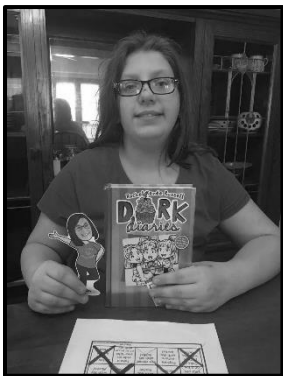
Monday March 17th, 2020 was not a typical day at St. Coletta Day School. A pandemic closed all schools in the state, and I did not know how we could continue to educate our students. I knew we needed to educate our students and I knew we would find a way. So, we explored the internet, discovered, and discussed some plans and ideas that could work and made our plan. We developed a plan that involved a similar schedule to school and enormous packets of work that we compiled together and sent home to our students. We gave them everything we would have in school plus their iPad and online curriculum too. As the weeks turned into months, we added daily phone calls and one on one lessons taught over google duo. We uploaded hundreds of videos of us teaching classes, reading books, daily challenges, Spanish words of the day, music classes, science videos from UEC, art classes and anything we could find that could help our students. The students took pictures of their work every day and emailed it to the teachers. As one of those teachers, I received over 1,575 emails from my students in three months and processed +5,250 assignments through google drive. We were still learning, and the students were still producing a ton of data to drive our teaching. The parents, students and teachers were all working hard to make school happen. However, we were all frustrated and exhausted. This plan was missing something.



The something that was missing was RELATIONSHIPS. We needed to get back to relationships. We needed to find a way to connect. So, we added weekly check-ins on Zoom with any of the students who wanted to join. We had scavenger hunts, sang happy birthday, and found ways to connect. We learn in "Teacher School" that we must build relationships with our students before we can teach them. Students cannot learn if you do not feel safe, loved, and that they belong. These thoughts led us as a staff to examine how we could take our lessons and instruct them in such a way that we still emphasized connections with our students. We looked at our spring schedule and noticed that it was mostly asynchronous, meaning the students did the work on their own at their own pace with daily lessons and check-ins with the teachers only. One on one instruction is a good thing however the students were missing out on the learning they received from each other during our typical school day. So, going forward in the new world that we live in we made a new plan that is a mixture of small group synchronous (same time) instruction with their classmates and asynchronous lessons that students do independently. This interaction between teachers and students and between students and students is vital for relationships. Of course, remote, or virtual instruction makes developing relationships harder. Again, if we provide the setting, the information, and the opportunity for this to happen. I believe that my students and their parents will continue to embrace these opportunities and be our partners in this new adventure. I look forward to watching my students learn from each other as they discover new knowledge and discuss their text evidence or strategy, only this time I will be watching on computer on Google Meet or Zoom.



You are **THE REASON** *We do what we do* ...



HOW CAN YOU HELP OUR SCHOOL?

(continued from page 2)

If you are a regular contributor to 'ColettaScope' consider donating during our Annual Campaign in Autumn of 2020. If you are already a regular contributor to our Annual Campaign, consider increasing your giving if you are able. These are tough times for all of us. First and foremost, we want to recognize the economic struggles you may be facing. And with heartfelt gratitude, we want to thank you for your continued support.

OPPORTUNITY

by William Koehn – Administrator

20/20 vision. Most of us had it at some point and many still do. We could see things clearly and without any obstacles in our way. Who knew that perfect vision, 20/20, would give us such insight into the year 2020? Is it a coincidence? Maybe not. The current situation with this worldwide virus, gives us a chance to embrace opportunity. It gives us a chance to evaluate how to best serve our students. We get a chance to stretch our methods of teaching and to see what works and what could use some tweaking. We get to discover that in this world of technology, our students are exploring new ways to learn and new methods of communicating. That sounds like opportunity to me. Is it a challenge as well? Sure, it is. As educators, we are teaching our students to be prepared for situations that do not even exist yet! So, who is up for a good challenge? That is opportunity knocking... better answer the call!



We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the following individuals and companies for their financial and in-kind support. As you look over this list, we draw your attention to the various businesses who have supported us this past year - It is **OUR** turn to support **THEM** so that their establishments can safely open and thrive again. We must band together and care for those around us, and small businesses are an essential part of a strong economy. As you are able, we ask all who read this newsletter to look at this list of our supporters, and when you are able, support them any way that you can. – Thank you!

2Mesa Mexican Eatery
Fr. Richard Aiken
Seeta Albrecht
Evelyn Alderman
Alioto's Restaurant & Cocktail Lounge
Angila Allen
Amalinda
Anne Novotny
Anonymous
Appraisals by Schley – Dan Schley
ArtLine LTD
Carrie & Dave Ausloos
Avenue Bar & Grill
Balistreri's Bluemound Inn
Verneesha Banks
Barbiere's Italian Inn
Barcelona – Artful Living
Theresa & Fred Barnes
Mike & Ellen Bartell
Bay DQ
BBC Lighting
Alan Beckman
Benevity Community Impact Fund
Best Place at the Historic Pabst Brewery
Paul & Antoinette Bidwell
Bougie Berries Dessert Boutique
Scott Bova
Tony Braun & Susan Lappen
Bresler Eitel Art & Framing
Catherine Bresser
Buck Bradley's Saloon & Eatery
Shelia Buechel
Bunzels Old Fashioned Meat Market
Ca'Luccenzo
Jody & Scott Cahala
Catero's Italian Villa
Catholic Financial Life
Cave of the Mounds
Jackie Ceille
Christ Child Society, INC
Colonel Harts
Coopers Hawk Cares
Cosmos Café
Creative Enterprises
Patrick Curley & Anne Deleo

CW 18 | My 24
Dave & Busters
Dave & Diane Roidt
David Barnett Gallery
DeRosa Corporation
Joe & Rebecca Desch
Nancy Dewey
Discovery World
DoubleTree by Hilton
Cathy Drenoske
Eugene Dreyer
Carol Echols
Kevin Edwards
John Eisenhower
Elite Sports Club
Emery's Cycling Triathlon Fitness
Kathy Endrizzi
Tricia Huth & David Engelken
Frances Fabian
Pennie Felton
Florence Eiseman, LLC
Fred's Frozen Custard & Grill
Gallery 1 – Waukesha
Christine Geisel
Germanfest
Gilles Frozen Custard
Sue & Ron Goeden
Mary & Jerry Gosa
Mike Goss
Walter & Sharon Grace
James & MaryPat Grafwallner
Timbe Graham
Greater Milwaukee Foundation
Shirl Greeb
Ground Round Grill & Bar
Half Price Books
Baiba Hartmann
Denis & Janice Hauf
Dee Hayden
Deborah Hecker
Hector's – A Mexican Restaurant
Jerry & Chris Holding
Patty Higgins
Highland Lanes
Highland Park Family Dentistry

Hospitality Democracy Restaurant Group
Hotel Madrid | Bodegon Restaurant
Il Mito
Incredi-Roll
J&B Blue Ribbon Bar & Grill
Joan Jacobson
Jemmco, LLC
Torin & Rodney Jewell
Jewish Museum Milwaukee
John A & Evelyn Monahan Trust
Barbara & Victor Johnson
Dan Jones
Jerry & Betty Jung
Diane Kachelmeier
John & Kathy Kalupa
Judith Kampe
Evelyn Kealey
Pat & Jack Kelly
Gabriela Kelly-Miller
Joan & Terry Kelly-Miller
Joe & Shila Keunzli
Kiki & Bee Handmade Boutique
Knights of Columbus: Council 5438
Knights of Columbus: Council 6448
Knights of Columbus: Council 6719
Knights of Columbus; Council 3702
Delores Knoernschild
Bill Koehn
Dan Kremer
Mark Krier
La Fuente Restaurant
Lakefront Brewery
Lakeshore Chinooks
Landmarks Gallery
Ellen Lang
Robin Leenhouts
Leff's Lucky Town
Marcella Lemberger
Gregory & Diane Lemmers
Little Read Book, Inc
Barb & Chuck Lund
Lynn Nicholas – Nicholas Family Foundation
Manders Picture Framing
Marcus Investments, LLC
McBob's Pub & Grill

Medieval Times Dinner Tournament
 Mekong Café
 Menomonee Falls Symphony Orchestra
 Ruth Anne Messer
 Jeff & Louise Meyer
 Allen R. Miller
 Tracy Miller
 Milwaukee Admirals Hockey Club
 Milwaukee Fire Department
 Milwaukee Food & City Tours
 Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra
 Mt. Olympus Water & Theme Park
 Colleen Nalepinski
 Karen & James Nelson
 Katherine Nelson
 Nessun Dorma – Riverwest
 Network for Good
 Nines American Bistro
 PJ & Sam Nishi
 Nomad World Pub
 North Avenue Grill
 Anne Novotny
 Thomas Novotny
 O'Lydia's Bar & Grill
 Office Depot
 Orangetheory Fitness – Mequon
 Oscar's Pub & Grill
 Pabst Brewery
 Bob & Sonja Pavlik
 Pizza Man – Wauwatosa
 Polishfest & Polish Center of Wisconsin
 Sally Post
 Promolux, Inc
 Stephen & Susan Ragatz
 Rainbow Booksellers
 Zach & Sara Rieboldt
 Riverfront Pizzeria Bar & Grill
 Stacy Robarge
 Ruby Isle Auto
 Rachel Running
 Sadler Gallery
 Diane Saeger
 Sail Loft Restaurant
 Sandy & Ron Richards

Tom & Marie Schiller
 Dan Schley
 Lee & Pat Schlitz
 Thomas & Stephanie Schneider
 Howard & Susan Schoenfeld
 Silver Spurs Texas Smokehouse BBQ
 Penny Simmons
 Dan Sisel
 Skylight Music Theatre
 South Shore Framing Gallery
 Jim & Jennifer Sowinski
 Sprecher Brewing Company
 St Coletta Day School – Parent Group
 St Kate – The Arts Hotel
 St Sebastian Home & School
 St Sebastian Parish & School
 Mary Stephan
 Mike & Joan Stingl
 Todd & Maria Strehlow
 Ted's Ice Cream & Restaurant
 That's Amore – Greenfield
 The Bake Shop – Melissa Lang
 The Bartolotta Restaurant Group
 The Framing Gallery
 The Great Frame Up – Mequon
 The Great Frame Up – Whitefish Bay
 The Ingleside Hotel
 The River Club – Mequon
 The Soup Market
 The Space MKE
 The Wicked Hop
 Theresa & Fred Barnes
 Third Coast Provisions
 Lisa Thomas
 Three Lions Pub
 Tosa Bowl & Bun
 United Way – GE
 Urban Ecology Center
 Urban Sense
 Usinger's Sausage, Inc – Fred Usinger
 Valentine Coffee Roasters
 Victor's Cocktail Lounge & Restaurant
 Margaret & Russell Vogt
 Robert Wabiszewski

Greg & Margie Willett
 Lisa Willett
 Ruth Winkelmann
 Yo Mama! Frozen Yogurt & Goodies
 Geoff & Marie Zeidler
 Megan Zeidler

In Memory of Arnold Jerabek
 Maggie Grafwallner

In Memory of Amy Wabiszewski
 Robert Wabiszewski

In Honor of Savanna Heltemes
 Katherine Nelson
 Nancy & Dennis Heltemes
 Tim Nelson
 Eileen Wingenter
 Shelia Buechel
 Karen & Jim Nelson

Memorial / Planned Gifts A Valued Tribute

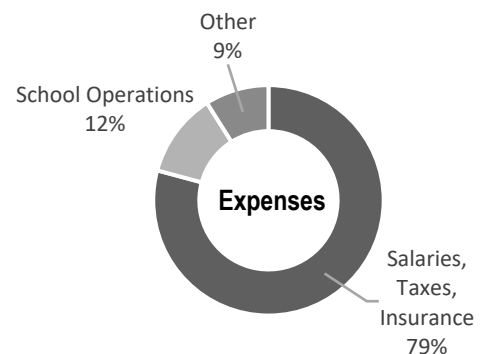
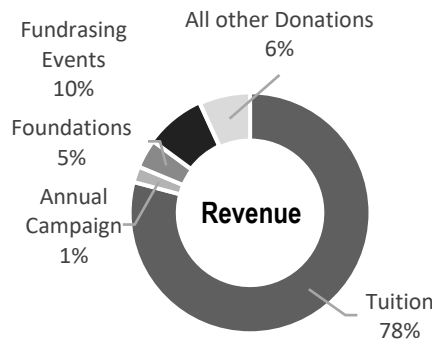
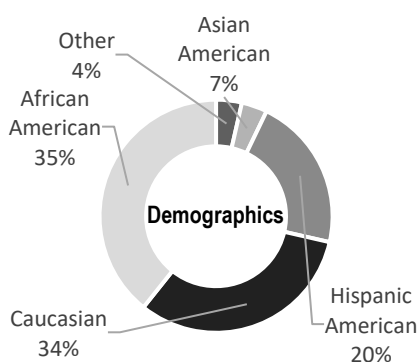
How can I help students with intellectual and / or developmental disabilities become happy, active, and productive members of society?

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...





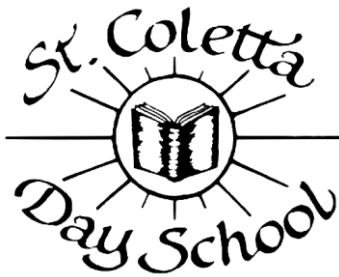
St Coletta News

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 9 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,

By email at scdsmke@scdsmke.org

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

