

ST. COLETTA NEWS

ST. COLETTA DAY SCHOOL OF MILWAUKEE

SUMMER 2015



The students and staff of St. Coletta Day School of Milwaukee

SAVOR THE MOMENT

BY WILLIAM A. KOEHN

Throughout the school year, I have many Ah-Ha moments. Some of them are small and some of them are monumental, and all of them are significant. Without them, it would be a very dull day. Our school days are anything but dull. From the moment the students arrive they are excited to find out what we are doing that day. “Is this the day we go to the Urban Ecology Center?” “Are we going to the Food Pantry today?” “Do

we have Piano Arts today?” Our curriculum extends beyond the reading and math to include a lot of special activities that make our days special. And that is what makes our students WANT to come to school.

Our staff makes all that magic happen. We may be cooking Corn Pudding today to accompany a lesson we studied about Early America. Maybe we’re working on our “resumes” so that when the time comes we can put all of our

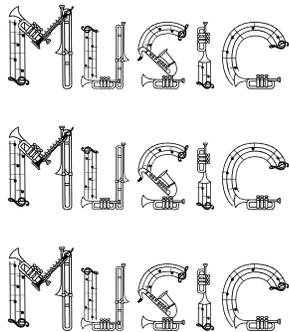
work experiences down on paper and take a look to see just how busy we’ve been and how hard we’ve worked.

And it’s not just the staff members at our school that are helping our students learn. The staff members at our host school, St. Sebastian, have a big part in the learning that takes place. More than ever before, we have students who get to experience the learning environment with their St. Sebastian friends. This year alone, some of our

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SAVOR THE MOMENT, from page 1

students experienced classes in math, social studies, music, religion and physical education. Thanks to all of those teachers who help our students be the best that they can be. Any way you look at it, we are busy, productive and learning. Always learning.



BY AMY SHAMBARGER

There were several opportunities for our students to stretch their music imaginations. The students in Room 101 attended three concerts with the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra while the students in Room 1 attended the ballet “Cinderella” through the kindness of a generous donor. That same donor sponsored the Piano Arts Program in our school for the second year in a row. This allowed all of our students and some students from St. Sebastian School to enjoy a bit of music education while learning about some classical and contemporary music styles. The workshops ended with a piano concert in the church in May.

MORE LEARNING BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

BY AMY SHAMBARGER

On a trip to the Interchange Food Pantry at Village Church, we had a conversation with our MCTS bus driver who had really positive comments about our students. It turned out that Tara, the driver, wanted to volunteer to do a project with our students. She came to the school on two different occasions and produced a “Me Book”, one with each classroom. Each student created a page that reflected his or her personality and thoughts. Tara offers this opportunity through her “Diverse Minds, Inc.” an endeavor that she started because she wanted to give back to the community that was so good to her when she was growing up. Thanks Tara!

By the way, volunteering at the Food Pantry is still one of the most rewarding challenges that our students experience. It’s a way for them to give back to their community just as Tara does. It sure reinforces some of our Covenant virtues of responsibility and kindness. Every time we volunteer, we fill 100 bags, or more, of groceries for people in need.

The Art Of Making Art

BY AMY SHAMBARGER

Many guest artists throughout the school year facilitated the art that was created for this year’s ColettaScope. The results are amazing and there are some beautiful and unique works of art that will be displayed on November 14 at Mount Mary University. We wouldn’t be able to present ColettaScope if it wasn’t for our tal-



The students worked so hard on creating this beautiful quilt. Come see it in color at this year’s ColettaScope!

ented guest artists and framers. They inspire our students to be creative and spontaneous as they consider how their artwork is going to look.

We are extremely grateful to Artist & Display for a generous donation of art supplies and materials that will keep our students busy and actively creating beautiful one-of-kind works of art for a long time. After decades of being in business, Artist & Display closed their store and we were fortunate to receive a huge gift of supplies. Artist & Display has been a wonderful supporter of ColettaScope throughout the years. Thank you Nora and the staff at Artist & Display.

COLETTASCOPE 2015

{ save THE DATE }

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14TH 6:00 - 9:30 P.M.

MOUNT MARY UNIVERSITY

2900 N Menomonee River Pkwy Milwaukee, WI

LOTS OF FREE PARKING AND CASH BAR

Watch your mail for details on our annual art auction. If you would like to volunteer to help with the event, please call Bill at (414) 453-1850 or email at info@scdsmke.org.



Pictured above, Autumn is having fun experimenting with colors and tie dye.

PARTNERSHIPS

BY BILL KOEHN

All of us learn something new every day. Whether it's in your job or something new that's happening with your family or friends, there is always something that we take away as a new experience. That's what learning should be. And for many of us, it just happens. In our school community, we are always learning. Certainly we learn

H.S. studied and learned with our students and staff through their Vocare program. In March Mitchell and Jonathan joined us from Marquette University H.S. through their Shared Life project. Our students always enjoy these weeks when they are able to meet new friends. Mount Mary University students in the Occupational Therapy program

Pictured right: St. Coletta student Zach is getting help with an art project from Marquette University High School Student, Patrick. Pictured below: Darius and Marquette University High School student, Josh are having a discussion about artistic point of view.



from our parents and teachers and also from the many individuals with whom we interact. We are fortunate to have many partnerships to help us learn. This year we had four amazing high school students who spent some time at our school. In January, Rebecca and Nicole from Divine Savior/Holy Angels

visited for student assessments and then signed on for clinical work with some of our students. Alverno College continues to send students in their Art Therapy or Art Education programs to our school for some practical application of their skills. For the second time we also hosted an Alverno student in the field of Music Therapy. We are grateful for the continued opportunities that present themselves through these institutions of higher learning. It's great to be your partner!

Comments From the Board of Directors

BY DAN SISEL

As I begin my ninth (and final) year on the Board of Directors, I'm more excited than ever before about the future for St Coletta Day School. Our role as Directors is to think critically about what the future may hold in store and provide vision for a staff that's often times unable to reflect on tomorrow because they're too busy focusing on the crisis in front of them. Over the past year, the staff and board have worked together to create a framework for long-term organizational sustainability.

The math at St Coletta Day School is simple, right now it costs \$9,500 annually per student to provide the educational experience families have depended on and admired for decades. Private pay tuition covers 56% of that \$9,500 per child while choice funding covers between 76% and 83% of the \$9,500 per child. Now consider that the cost of \$9,500 is artificially low because occupancy costs are heavily subsidized by St Sebastian, staff salaries are near the bottom of what's considered acceptable in the industry and the school's Director (Bill) serves the role of both teacher and

administrator essentially eliminating the need for an additional (but necessary) staff member.

Today, enrollment in the elementary and secondary classrooms is limited by two things: 1) we can't find a third classroom space at St Sebastian and 2) the subsidy required to staff an additional classroom full of children is sizable enough that long term the organization would not be viable with such a burden. We believe that we could find space to grow the program if it were financially feasible to do so, but before tackling the space issue our board has focused over the past year on finding ways to leverage the existing strengths at St Coletta Day School to generate a predictable source of funds that can be used to help offset the subsidy required to educate more children. We recognize that philanthropic efforts will continue to be important, but we believe that a truly sustainable organization will be able to support itself while philanthropy provides an opportunity for growth and new projects that the core program(s) would not otherwise allow for.

I'm sure many of you heard about the PILOT summer program that was developed over the '14-'15 school year with a launch planned for this summer. This was our first attempt at a program that could generate net new revenue by drawing upon the strengths and resources already at our school's disposal. We were all very excited to roll it

out and watch this wildly successful program explode with popularity. The only problem was that we had zero families sign up their children. This was a good lesson learned by the board, but rest assured that we are more determined than ever to listen more intently to potential customers and re-invent the concept with a focus on creating a vehicle that will, together with the core program, provide long term sustainability for St Coletta Day School.

Thank you to all of you parents for trusting this Board of Directors, we're honored to be serving such an amazing school and are excited for what the future holds.

Class Motto

Today is a new day.

Today I will try to get along with everyone.

Today I will try to follow the rules.

Today I will try to do my best.

Today I will try to make better choices.

SCDS Mission Statement

To provide an academic and social, functional curriculum to meet the needs of students with special needs that will prepare them to realize their full learning potential and become productive and contributing citizens.



Environmental Education at It's Best

BY MARIA NOGUERON

A day at the Urban Ecology Center is like no other day at school. Almost every three weeks or so, our students benefit from the expertise of the incredible staff at UEC. It's difficult for us to fully describe the learning and the fun that the kids experience, so I thought I'd let THEM tell you instead. Here are some of the highlights:

"I was trying to get a good scoop of water 'cause we were stuck [in the mud] and Ariana kept moving back and forth and then we were in the water!"

-Darius N., Ariana R., and Ms. Rachel on canoeing

"The slide and the swings on the playground were really fun!"
-Emma V. on playing on the playground



"It was like we were flying in a spinning circle... we called it the Cyclone!"

-Anijah R-Y. on playing at the playground



"We went on the island and a goose snapped at me! There was a nest with 4 eggs in it and the island seemed to be moving!"

-Perryon W. on canoeing

"Mr. Bresser, Cuvee and I saw a five inch turtle on a log."

-Terrence W. on canoeing

"I like the seesaw!"

-Abby N. on playing at the playground



"I caught a Rainbow Trout and the hook got stuck. We ended up putting it in the tank because it was bleeding."

-Lukas B. on fishing

Church Scape

BY ANNE NOVOTNY

As the parent of several students at Saint Coletta Day School, I enjoy being able to occasionally attend mass at Saint Sebastian with the class. We were very often a bit louder than the rest of the church, but the acceptance from the Saint Sebastian community was always comforting. I have always known how exceptionally caring so many of the Saint Coletta students can be, but one morning at mass I was sincerely warmed by what I saw. Lukas, one of our students, was rubbing the shoulder and back of another student to help him sit still throughout the service. It was done so naturally and with genuine empathy and kindness. It struck me that what our students learn at Saint Coletta is so much more than

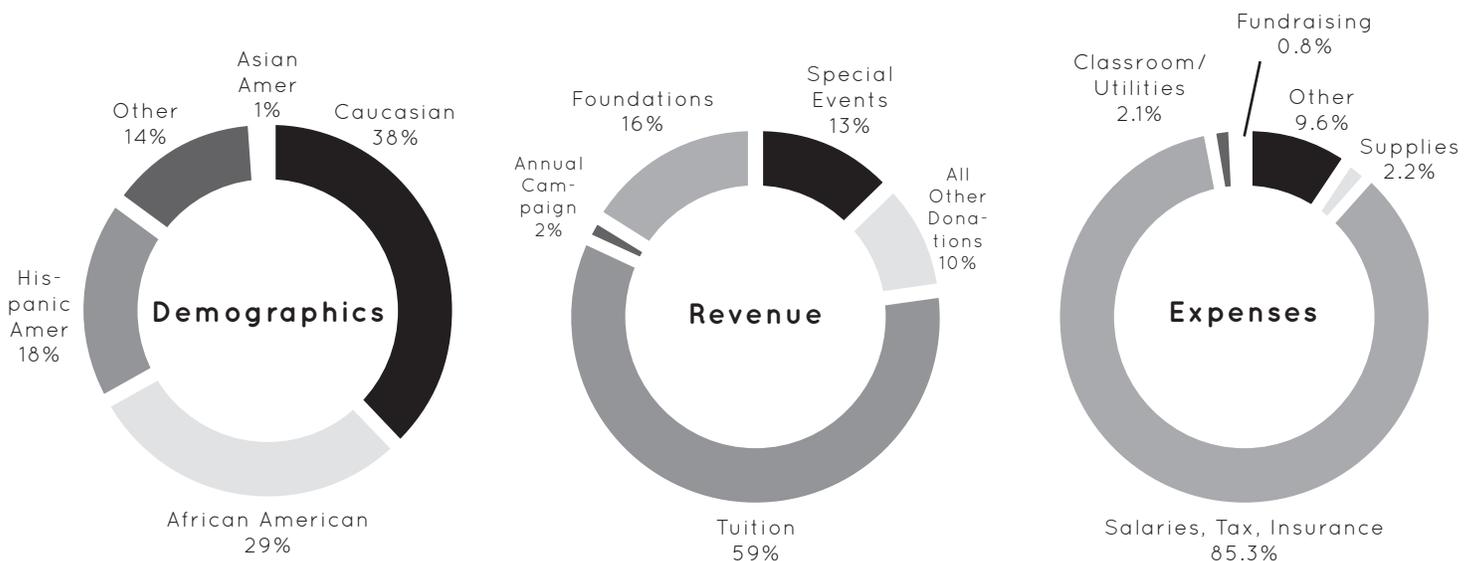


Isabel, left, and Savanna L., right, demonstrate what it means to work together and help each other out as Isabel learns how to use a knife while cutting bananas! In addition to academics the students of St. Coletta Day School learn many valuable life skills each day.

reading and writing. Our students are not only learning how to function better within our community, but to make it a much better place.

Thank you to our teachers for making our students better human beings!

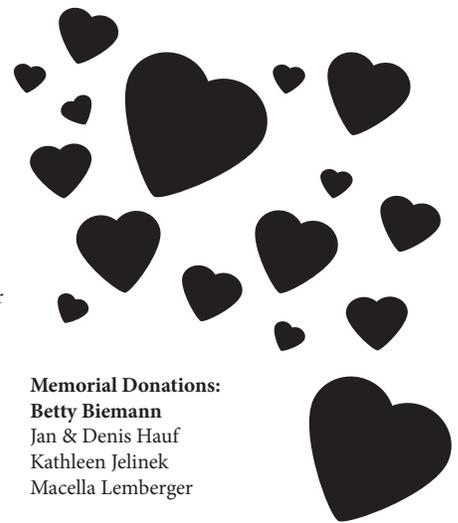
A little bit about us...



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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House	• Our Lady of Gua-	Real Estate Alliance for	
Crazy Water	dalupe	Charity (REACH)	
Lakisha Dahm	• Trinity	Stacy Rebholtz	
Dave & Busters	Dolores Knoernschild	Red Lobster	
Anne Deleo & Patrick	William J. Koehn	Nancy Reeder	
Curley	Herb Kohl Chari-	River Club of Mequon	
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Betty Biemann
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Pictured left to right: Cuvee, Jakobe and Abby sit on a log and record scientific observations on the monthly trip the Urban Ecology Center - all made possible by our generous donors!

In Celebration of the Austin/Gravelle Wedding:

Gwen & Daniel Armbrust
Amy & Jim Dodge
Shirley & Stewart Laurishke
Diane & Dave Roidt
Julie Stitch
The Two For You
Stacy Van Alstyne
Michael Wilson
Beth & Bob Wolfley
Cassandra Woyak
Pam Wu

Guest Artists:

Catherine Bresser
Muriel Eden-Paul
Tanya Ingvoldstad-Otero
Tai Hardie
Denis Hauf
Rebecca Hauf
Patty Higgins
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St. Coletta News

ST. COLETTA DAY SCHOOL
OF MILWAUKEE

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6:00 - 9:30 P.M.

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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.

If anyone you know is interested in learning more about the program, please contact administrator/teacher Bill Koehn at (414) 453-1850.