

# ST. COLETTA NEWS

ST. COLETTA DAY SCHOOL OF MILWAUKEE

SUMMER 2013



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

## BIGGER AND STRONGER THAN EVER

BY WILLIAM A. KOEHN

In preparing my thoughts for this year's newsletter, I am reminded of just how special our school is. We continue to serve a very special population of students in an equally special way. There are only a few schools in southeastern Wisconsin that do what we do. Our staff does an amazing job of delivering quality educational opportunities for our students all year long. We are always looking for that next, new breakthrough. We have new students joining us in August and still others on our waiting list.

Our parents are helpful, engaged and willing to do whatever is necessary to assure that their child is receiving the best care at home and in the community so they can continue to do their best at school. I was pleased to hear how many of our students are involved in summer camps and recreation programs throughout the summer months.

Our board of directors does a phenomenal job of keeping their focus on the future of the school by demonstrating good fiscal control and constantly looking for opportunities to strengthen our visibility in the community.

And then there are all of YOU! If you're reading this newsletter, it is probably because you have been a faithful supporter of St. Coletta Day School. That support comes

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## BIGGER AND STRONGER THAN EVER, from page 1

in the form of donations, volunteer efforts and prayers. You continue to be among our best advertisers and together we are living our mission.

Something that all of these entities have in common is a commitment to the school and a desire to share our vision. Talk about sustainable energy! All of these are pieces to a very large puzzle called St. Coletta Day School. Thank you for your past and continued support. You energize me in so many ways. ■

## COLETTASCOPE 2013

{save THE DATE}

SATURDAY,  
OCTOBER 12  
6:00 - 9:30 P.M.

Milwaukee Youth  
Arts Center  
325 West Walnut Street  
Downtown Milwaukee

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](mailto:info@scdsmke.org).



Left to right: Chris, Seamus, Daniel, Matthew, and Pablo are getting their artwork ready for ColettaScope.

# Thank You

## From the Bottom of my Heart

BY AMY SHAMBARGER

I want to thank St. Coletta Day School, and especially Room 101, for welcoming me into your inspiring community this spring. Two years ago I took a leap of faith and left a career in law to pursue a life-long dream to teach. The five months I spent as a student teacher working alongside Mr. Bill and Ms. Rachel have helped me complete my transformation to special education teacher and learn from the best possible mentors and role models.

St. Coletta is a truly special place. I felt the positive and creative energy of the students and staff from the moment I stepped inside. Every day I experienced a respectful and empowering atmosphere with a challenging curriculum that created a learning environment like no other. Together we embarked

on exciting learning adventures that always exceeded my expectations: student-led cooking demonstrations; Issue Fair; book reports; field trips to the Urban Ecology Center, City Hall, the Food Pantry and the Milwaukee Public Museum; and much more.

What I will remember most about my experience will be the joy



Sarah discussing her project to a St. Sebastian 8th grader at the Issues Fair.

and determination I saw in each student, and the compassionate professionalism of the entire staff at SCDS. You all set the bar for special education in Southeastern Wisconsin. I am so thankful to have been a part of your amazing community! ■

### 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.



## To Market, To Market, To Buy A...

BY PATTY HIGGINS

St. Coletta Day School is partnering with an on-line fundraiser, Market Day. Market Day offers conveniently packaged, top quality products that are guaranteed 100%. Getting involved to help support the students is easy when you go on-line to [www.Marketday.com](http://www.Marketday.com). Follow the prompts to see the products listed, open an account and place an order. Be sure to read about special offers, payment options, recipes and more.

Once your order has been submitted you will receive a confirmation number. You will also be sent an email as a reminder of your order and pick-up information. Your orders will be delivered to the St. Sebastian School cafeteria. Our scheduled delivery is the first Thursday of each month. We will be starting September 5. Unloading is from 2-3:00 PM, order pick-up 3-5:00 PM. If you have time to share we will need four volunteers each month to unload and sort the orders on the delivery day.

If you have any questions contact the St. Coletta Day School Market Day co-chairs, Jen Sveda at [jdsveda@juno.com](mailto:jdsveda@juno.com) or 258-2734 or Patty Higgins at [higgins\\_mum@yahoo.com](mailto:higgins_mum@yahoo.com) or 258-9536.

St. Coletta Day School receives a percentage of all the sales for this minimal effort opportunity. Thank you for supporting the students of St. Coletta Day School. ■

## We Are One.

## We Are Family.

BY RACHEL LUSTIG

As Church begins, Savanna proclaims, "Hey Rach, your son Jack." Quietly I whisper, "Yes Savanna, that is my son Jack. He sings in the choir, that is his way of being a part of the service." We celebrate the fellowship of mass with our St. Sebastian family every Wednesday from 8:15-9:15 a.m. During that hour we are not two schools, but one community coming together to work on improving our sense of social welfare.

The focus is on believing in the concepts: Respect, Responsibility, Kindness, Honesty, and Peace-keeping. The mass is a Catholic mass, in which all are welcome. St.

Coletta is a non-religious school, however, due to our close partnership with St. Sebastian, mass has been a long-standing tradition. Our students have long had their own role in participating in Mass. This has included: reading petitions, carrying up the gifts, playing instruments in the processional, serving mass, and singing loud for all to hear. Again Savanna announces to the whole assembly, "Hey Rach, your daughter Lily." As Savanna waves and points to Lily singing as a cantor, I smile and put my finger to my mouth making a quiet

motion. It is during this time that I think about how lucky I am to work at St. Coletta and how fortunate that I am to be a part of this large extended family. Frequently, St. Sebastian staff and students remark how much they enjoy that St. Coletta students attend mass. We are acknowledged by everyone for being such good role models living the shared "covenant."

As the mass continues, I think

how proud I am of all our students. It is such a wonderful community to live in and grow. I love seeing how happy our students are when they see their friends



Rachel (left), Savanna (right)

from St. Sebastian. This unique relationship has been growing for over 50 years. Eleven of our families have a sibling or cousin that attend St. Sebastian. Several of our Students attend academic classes at St. Sebastian, with one student attending half of his classes at each school.

As mass ends each student is smiling from the joy of being part of this community.

I am smiling, thinking I cannot wait to see what the future holds for both schools and one large happy family. ■

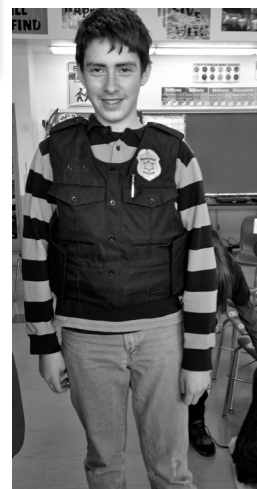
# A Year In Pictures.



Right: The cast of our Christmas Play.  
Bottom: Chris presenting his rat, snowflake, on Pet day.



Above: Daniel inspecting lichen on the tree during an Urban Ecology Field Trip.



Left: Oscar became a Police Officer for the day during High Interest Day.



Above: LaTonja'na learning to pay for her purchases at a student operated snack shop.  
Left: Zach at his job washing dishes in the school cafeteria



Left: James cleaning up Washington Park during our annual service project. Right: Room 1 making their best ballet pose after seeing the Milwaukee Ballet's Performance of "Swan Lake."





# Thanks a Million

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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April Berends  
Drew Bunting  
Cynthia & James Friauf  
Michelle Puzin Mooney  
Eleanor & Harry  
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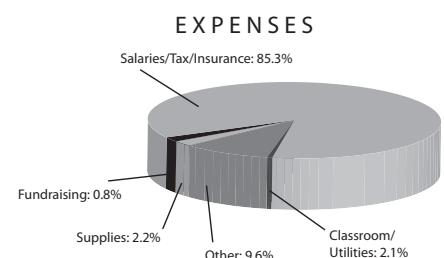
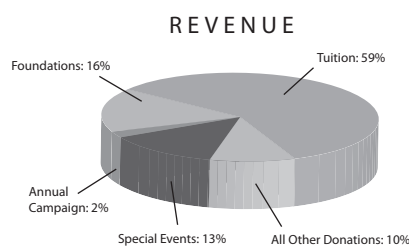
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**Guest Artists:**  
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Kelly Caufield  
Heather Eiden  
Corinne Gonyer  
Thom Gravelle  
Bill Koehn  
Brianna Kutz  
Rachel Lustig  
Darrell Payne  
Leah Plachinski  
Jamie Schroeter  
Kathy Walter



St. Coletta Day School received a donation to honor the passing of Bethany's grandfather. We will be honoring him by adding to our school technology. The school welcomes donations made as memorials and honorariums. Thank you to the Plachinski Family!

## WHERE OUR FUNDING COMES FROM



# ST. COLETTA NEWS



ST. COLETTA DAY SCHOOL  
OF MILWAUKEE

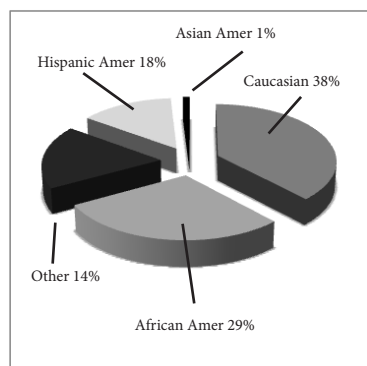
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Every day, students at St. Coletta Day School of Milwaukee discover their unique abilities by being challenged to achieve their best in a safe environment of respect.

Please help support  
St. Coletta Day School.



## 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.

St. Coletta Day School of Milwaukee admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs.

## 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 a number of organizations and businesses. Ask if your company can do the same. It's a great way to make your donation



## A New Standard of Education

For Students with  
Cognitive Disabilities

- Ages 8 to 18
- Full Academic, Social/  
Functional Program

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