

St. Coletta News

St. Coletta Day School of Milwaukee—A Nonprofit Program Educating Boys and Girls with Cognitive Disabilities Age 8 to 17

SPRING 2005

OPEN HOUSE SET FOR SUNDAY, MAY 22

MISSION STATEMENT

To provide an academic curriculum designed to meet the special learning needs of each student that will help prepare the students to realize their full learning potential and to become productive and contributing citizens as adults.

VISIT OUR WEB SITE!

www.dias.net/~scdsmke

COLLETASCOPE 2005: NEW LOCATION!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15
Village Church Arts
130 East Juneau Avenue
Downtown Milwaukee

Mark your calendars and tell all your friends. *ColettaScope*, our main fundraiser, will be held on **Saturday, October 15, 2005**. This year our event will be held at our **new location—Village Church**, located one block west of Water Street. Watch your mail for your invitation in the fall of 2005. If you or someone you know would like to volunteer for this event or become a guest artist, please call Bill Koehn at (414) 453-1850.

☛ PLEASE MAKE A NOTE OF IT!

St. Coletta Day School of Milwaukee announces an **Open House on May 22, 2005 from 2:00-4:00 p.m.** This non-sectarian, tuition based school has been serving the educational needs of children with cognitive disabilities since 1956. At St. Coletta Day School a small class size ensures individual attention. Children are truly allowed to learn at their own pace, with equal emphasis given to academic, social and personal development. St. Coletta Day School is located in St. Sebastian School at 1740 N. 55th Street, Milwaukee. The warmth and vitality of both schools creates a unique setting that offers many opportunities for inclusion. The Open House presents a unique opportunity to meet staff, students, and parents. If you or someone you know has been seeking an individualized learning environment for their family member who is 8-16 years old with sufficient self-care skills to be independent, St. Coletta Day School may be the perfect fit. For more information please call (414) 453-1850 or email scdsmke@dias.net.

scdsmke@dias.net', 'www.dias.net/~coletta', and a large phone number '453-1850'."/>

A New Standard of Education
For Students with Cognitive Disabilities

ATTEND OUR Open House
Sunday, May 22
2:00-4:00 p.m.

Students Learn at Their Own Pace

Every day, students at St. Coletta Day School of Milwaukee learn something new. Academically—learning new vocabulary words or expanding the classroom, hands-on or on the playground. Socially—interacting with their peers in the classroom, lunchroom or on the playground. Personally—developing greater self-respect. Students discover their unique abilities by being challenged to achieve their best in a safe, supportive environment.

Enrollment is limited. This allows for greater attention to the specific needs of each student and for mainstreaming as assessed on an individual basis.

- Serving students age 8-16 with cognitive disabilities and sufficient self-care skills to be independent
- Emphasis on academic learning and social skills
- Integrated learning experiences
- Individualized education and attention
- An environment of respect and consistency
- Tailored-based program
- Nonsectarian
- Established in 1956

Achievement: Discovering Their Best

Attention: Small Class Size, Individual Instruction

Consistent: Structure Provides Stability

Involvement: Parents are Essential

Esteem: Creative Self-Expression

Learn: Beyond the Classroom Walls

See For Yourself

Contact St. Coletta Day School to schedule an appointment and experience the program first-hand. After you are greeted by the students, meet the teachers and talk to other parents. You will understand what makes this program so unique.

St. Coletta Day School of Milwaukee
1740 North 55th Street • Milwaukee, WI 53208
E-mail: scdsmke@dias.net
www.dias.net/~coletta

Call (414) **453-1850**

St. Coletta Day School is seeking your input and volunteerism in implementing a new governance and board structure. At the last parent meeting, the board voted unanimously to change the board's structure in preparation for future growth. The new board will no longer be limited to current parents but will be open to anyone who is interested and able to serve on an active, working board. The new board plans to form an alumni group for students and parents. It also plans to establish a board of advisors to assist the school in increasing its network of contacts and access to resources.

We would love to have your input and involvement on (1) the new board of directors, (2) an alumni group and/or (3) a board of advisors. Please direct all questions, comments, suggestions and names of proposed board members to incoming board chair, Walter Lanier at (414) 934-8866 or wjlanier@lanier-law.com.



WILLIAM A. KOEHN—Administrator
SANDY REESE—Teaching Assistant

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tracy Kelly—President
Nichole Lanier—Vice President
Ann Meehan—Treasurer
Donna Seda—Secretary

1740 North 55th Street • Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53208 • (414) 453-1850
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ART THERAPY IN EXCEPTIONAL EDUCATION

Dawn Fernandez-Raasch

As an Alverno art therapy student I presently assist in providing art activities with St Coletta school. I am amazed at the exceptional teaching and interpersonal skills of the instructors, Bill Koehn and Sandy Reese, who light up the room with their positive personality and continual smiles. Not only did I witness the highest of teaching standards, but also their ability to instill high values, a sense of joy and self-esteem in their students. By integrating learning activities with life-skills, Christian values, and high expectations for behavior, the students reflect a sense of pride and motivation in their learning experiences.

Art therapy is similar to this way of incorporating developmental, emotional, psychological and spiritual needs with learning; it is a way of providing expressive communication, socialization, creativity, self-expression, self-exploration and more; all while enhancing the learning process within the student's developmental stage. Within the child's developmental stage, he or she can find personal value and deeper insight by utilizing an artistic application of a theme taught in class, enhancing their ability to effectively process and retain the material learned.

For example; from a theme of healthy foods, we transitioned into an art project using fruit to learn about the many shades of color reflected within various fruits. We first modeled this activity with real fruit and class discussion of various fruits. Application of the art activity focusing on fruit enhanced the student's desire for eating healthy foods as they found pleasure in the textures, colors, and creative process.

The students practiced their fine motor skills by drawing, cutting, and gluing a variety of shapes and sizes; while using line, shape, texture and composition. The students refined their intellectual growth as they composed a pleasing layered arrangement of various fruits within a bowl form and then glued these in a precise manner onto their previously composed watercolor background and finally chose a color of matt board that complemented their artwork to mount it on. Throughout this process, the students socialized positively while complimenting each other's work and taking pride in their own, raising each student's self-esteem. To wrap up, we read the students a colorful story illustrating many fruits; including some that most of us had never heard of or tried. Yet one student tried almost every one of them and shared with the class of his love for cooking and desire to be a chef in the future. Overall, art activities can be therapeutic as well as an educational reinforcement; enhancing students' interest in the topic.

THE OLIVE GARDEN FAMILY WELCOMES ST. COLETTA DAY SCHOOL

Family is the key word here on a recent trip to the Olive Garden at 4760 South 76th Street, because we were indeed treated like long-lost family members being welcomed back to the fold.

Wednesday, October 20, 2004, was "National Disability Mentoring Day". St. Coletta Day School was invited to come to lunch at this Olive Garden Location as their guests—and guests we were! This invitation was made available through Kayla Jeschke, a Marquette University Student and employee of the Olive Garden who has joined Megan Boyd's family while she is continuing her education. Megan is an alumni of St. Coletta. When Kayla's manager, Jennifer Thimmesch brought the subject up of finding individuals with special needs to invite, Kayla knew just what to do. She came home to her Boyd family to offer the invitation to Megan and her friends and the rest is history.

We arrived and were graciously greeted and introduced to our waiter, Jonathon. We were quite a large group, nine students and 4 adults, all excited and hungry. Jonathon patiently took each order, including salads, soup, drinks all around and any entrée we desired. There were pizzas, alfredo dishes, macaroni dishes and breadsticks—and he handled it expertly. Then desserts! It was dessert paradise from tiramisu to chocolate lasagna.

All of the St. Coletta students were able to show off their skills. They read the menu, made their selections, placed their own orders, and enjoyed their elegant lunch with classmates and adults. This was certainly not an everyday occurrence for our large group.

I know I speak for us all when I say the food was divine, the service beyond description, and we all felt like royalty. It took us over two hours to enjoy this rare treat and we all left happy and full after a round of picture taking. Olive Garden, Grazie!!!



VOLUNTEERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE



Thom Gravelle, St. Coletta Day School board member and longtime supporter of the program was honored at a recent Parent Board meeting for his outstanding commitment to our "kids". Thom continues to redefine the term volunteer. He faithfully attends all of the board meetings, and other school functions. He is deeply involved in our annual fundraiser *ColettaScope* on many levels including doing all of the graphics for the posters and invitations and seeing to it that they are

printed . . . *gratis!* Thom also volunteers his time and talents to lead art projects with the students, designs and compiles our newsletter and is instrumental in getting the word out about our great school. For all of these efforts, and for all of the behind-the-scenes things that you get done when no one is looking, we heartily thank you.

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

THANK YOU!

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 Pat McMenamin

In Honor of: Patsy Loeb
 Thom Gravelle

A BIT OF HISTORY

Charles Loughrey, long-time friend and benefactor of St. Coletta Day School passed away on January 29, 2005 at the age of 89. Charles and his wife raised three children two of whom were intellectually disabled and brain-injured as a result of the condition called Phenylketonuria (PKU). They were pioneers in promoting the testing of all newborn babies to discover its possible presence. If detected early the condition could be changed by diet and children could experience a normal life.

Charles and Edith became involved with St. Coletta Day School when their daughter Pat was enrolled there at eight years of age. About that time, St. Coletta Day School Parents Group was organized and established By-Laws. Charles was active in this venture and became the first President of the group.

Wherever he went, Charles promoted St. Coletta Day School. As a result, he and Edith were responsible for the reception of some funds accruing from the John and Elizabeth Monahan Trust. The Monahans were Aunt and Uncle to Edith.

St. Coletta Day School still receives contributions from the Monahan Trust today thanks to the efforts of Charles and his wife. They will always have a special place in our hearts and in the history of the school.

St. Coletta News



**THE PARENT GROUP OF
ST. COLETTA DAY SCHOOL
OF MILWAUKEE**

1740 North 55th Street, Milwaukee, WI 53208

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.**

MUSIC THERAPY HITS A HIGH NOTE

My name is Pat Kaiser. I am a Board Certified Music Therapist and a Department of Public Instruction Licensed Music Educator. I have been contracted through the Wisconsin Conservatory of Music to provide Music Therapy sessions to the students at St. Coletta Day School. We have 45 minute music sessions every week. This was started in October and will continue until June. Each student has goals that I work on each session. These include goals such as making eye-contact with me, raising hands to answer questions, and on-task behavior. These goals are worked on through individual and group work. We play various instruments separately and as a group.

In addition to the instrument work, we also use music to support classroom activities such as reinforcing days of the week, months of the year, and money concepts. Music is a wonderful way to work on new skills while reinforcing what is being taught in the classroom. I have truly enjoyed the sessions with the students and hope that support of this program will enable it to continue for future years.

How YOU Can Help

Did you know that you can support programs like Music Therapy?

Your donation to St. Coletta Day School helps to keep programs such as music therapy as part of our curriculum. Thanks to Joyce and Joe Tevz, Jr. we were able to begin this program this year. With your continued support, we can indeed keep music in our hearts.

CLASS-A 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.



A New Standard of Education

*For Students with
Cognitive Disabilities*

- Ages 8 to 17
- Full Academic Program

FALL 2005 ENROLLMENT

We are currently accepting applications for fall enrollment. Please have anyone you know who may be interested in learning more about the program contact administrator/teacher Bill Koehn at (414) 453-1850.