

# St. Coletta News

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

SUMMER 2008

## COLETTASCOPE 2008

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18**  
**Village Church Arts**  
**130 East Juneau Avenue**  
**Downtown Milwaukee**

**B**elieve it or not, this is the 10th anniversary of *ColettaScope*! In the past nine years we have invited dozens of guest artists, viewed (and sold!) hundreds of original pieces of artwork and enjoyed hours of fun and excitement while participating in the silent auction.

**10<sup>TH</sup>  
ANNIVERSARY!**

This year's *ColettaScope* will include all of the fun and more. In addition to the beautifully framed and finished pieces that the students have produced, several of our guest artists have donated a piece of their own artwork to be auctioned off as well!

*ColettaScope* is our signature fundraiser and began as a dream that has developed into a wonderful annual event. So many people come together to make this special event successful. I'd like to thank all of our guest artists, framers, donors, supporters, volunteers, families and staff for all of their continuing efforts. Your dedication to the school is greatly appreciated.

And of course, we must remember that without our talented student artists, we would have no art to auction! This year's auction will feature artwork from some of our alumni. Thank you, artists, for your gift of creativity and imagination.

*ColettaScope* will be held on Saturday, October 18, 2008 at Village Church in downtown Milwaukee.

➔ **WATCH FOR YOUR INVITATION!**

## A LASTING PARTNERSHIP

**S**t. Coletta Day School of Milwaukee could be described as a school within a school; namely, St. Sebastian School. You might be asking, "What does a school within another school actually look like?" We share many of the ordinary school things, like: hallways, our playground, bells, noise, bathrooms, our mail carrier, hot lunch service, fire drills, the teacher's lounge, and on and on. However, we share so much more!

I spent some time talking with one of our St. Sebastian third grade classes about how the St. Coletta students "fit" into our school, what they shared, and what they learned. You will be awed and humbled by their responses. Let me share just a few: "Bethany is a really nice person . . . we talk about girl stuff at recess." "Once I fell on the playground, and a St. Coletta kid was the only one who helped me." "It's kind of like kids teaching kids—we share stuff." "They're fun to be around—we make each other laugh!" "I learned how important it is to care about others." "We like when Austin comes to check up on us." "We sit together at lunch, and make each other laugh." "Having St. Coletta in our school teaches us how to be kind." "We learn to respect each other." "We learn that we're not all the same, but we ARE the same!" "I'll be sad when some of the St. Coletta students graduate." "I know it might be harder for them to learn, but they try and try and teach me to keep trying." "St. Coletta kids ROCK the school!" (And



my personal favorite . . . ) "They're kind of like the sticky stuff . . . they keep the school together."

Once we get to know someone, it's almost impossible to make judgments based on superficialities. "When your heart is open and you are ready to accept new relationships, you only see similarities and friendships often grow." (Allison, Jay, *This I Believe: The Personal Philosophies of Remarkable Men and Women*.) I think this is the "stuff" of the relationship between St. Coletta Day School and St. Sebastian School. We have learned to share our school. We have learned to look for each other, and to rely on each other. We have learned to keep our hearts open, and friendships have grown.



**WILLIAM A. KOEHN**—Administrator/Teacher  
**ASHLEY OLSON**—Teacher  
**RACHEL LUSTIG**—Classroom Aide

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Bob Ornst**—President      **Jackie Ceille**—Vice President  
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## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

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**L**uAnn McGregor works for Easter Seals/Kind Care and is a valuable addition to our program. Thank you LuAnn, for your dedication to St. Coletta Day School. She put together some thoughts to share with you.

"I am in my second year of volunteering at St. Coletta Day School. As an adult with special needs, I know first-hand some things that the students are going through."

"My goals for the students are these: That they learn how to communicate their wants and needs in an appropriate way. That they learn how to work together is an important skill that they will need later in life. They will work with all types of people in their lifetime. Learning how to cooperate when playing a game is a good start."

"Teaching them that what they have to say is important. I like to talk to them about what they would like to do once they are out of school. I also try to get them to think of jobs they think they could do in the future."

"My main goal is to get them as independent as possible because as everyone knows, our world is not built around people with disabilities."

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## BOOKS AND MORE BOOKS!

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**W**alden Books at Southridge Shopping Center held a book drive recently and we received about one thousand dollars worth of books to add to our school library. The manager of the store, Patty, said that people were happy to help purchase the books and many of them know of St. Coletta Day School. There is a wide variety of books including young adult chapter books, reference books on Dinosaurs and Plants and, of course, the ever popular High School Musical books!

If you shop at Southridge, please stop in and thank Patty and her staff for all of their hard work.

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## THANK YOU ST. COLETTA DAY SCHOOL

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*by Sylvia Williams*

**T**hank you St. Coletta, for being more than just a school for children with special needs. You are also a support for their special needs caregiver as well.

We are not the parents of a special child. He came into our lives sometime later. Shayqwon is now 13 years old. I have raised Shayqwon his whole life and as his grandmother, have always wanted him to have a "normal" life or at least what God says is normal for him. And that is to go to school!

At St. Coletta Day School, he sits at a desk (cluttered as it is!) like all the other children in the school. He eats lunch with them, they talk to him, and more importantly, he talks with them! He goes to recess and to gym with the other kids. Shayqwon knows that he is different, but he wants to be loved and accepted just like everyone else. God says that it isn't good for man to be alone . . . it's in the Book!

But at St. Coletta, the staff goes the extra mile. Like the Book says you should do if the need is there. When you look at

my 30-year marriage, a special needs grandson with health problems, and only one car, it can add a lot of stress to your life. The school staff is flexible enough if we are late getting to school. With Shayqwon, it could be one of those days where he just doesn't want to move as quickly. The staff is understanding and greets us as they would on any other day. I love it!

If Shayqwon is in a bad mood, I can work it through with him before he even gets to school.

When he goes to school to learn, the staff is equipped to handle him. They can redirect his thinking. It's cool because it's Shayqwon making the choice to do the right thing.

But there is one thing that St. Coletta's does that no other school I know of does. They participate in St. Sebastian's High Interest Day! I come every year to be with Shayqwon on that day. But this year I was more aware of the special need's children walking the halls, changing classes, talking to the other students, just like all the other kids! It was the coolest!



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## OUTDOOR EDUCATION ALL YEAR ROUND

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**T**his school year, we were very fortunate to be one of the schools included in the expanded Urban Ecology Center that opened a site in Washington Park. We attended outdoor education classes throughout the entire school year. Some of the highlights were, snowshoeing, sledging and hiking in the winter to tree identification and learning about watersheds in the spring.

One of the more interesting lessons took place recently when we visited the Riverside Park site. A group of volunteers were capturing and banding birds as they migrate north. Our students got to see, up close and personal, how the researchers measured and weighed the beautiful birds gently holding them so the wingspan could be calculated. All of this only three feet away in the

woods of the park!

The children got an additional lesson in the life cycle. Soon after one of the banded birds was released, it was spied by a hungry hawk perched in a nearby tree. The rest is, shall we say, history? The hawk got a good

meal and we received a first hand lesson in the food chain. Those teachable moments are the best.

The Urban Ecology Center experience has been an exciting addition to our programming. We'd love to keep that partnership alive with the UEC.

We can do that with your continued and generous support. Out of the classroom learning experiences for our students is a valuable, hands-on tool for them. Now the continued outdoor experience is in your hands. Thank you for your support!



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

Fr. Richard Aiken  
Alinea Project Solutions, LLC  
Frank Allen Gallery  
Alverno College  
John Ambrose  
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The Great Frame Up—  
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- Pope John XXIII
- Pere Marquette
- Our Lady of Guadalupe
- Trinity

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Maureen/Dale Kostelnik  
Jean/Henry Kranendonk  
Jane/Tom Lacy  
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Linda McGrady  
Nanc/Lance Mentink  
Ruth Ann Messer  
Pat/Carl Mielke  
Laurel Mikolajczyk  
Milwaukee Center for Independence  
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Ervin/Virginia Rahoy  
Nan Roddy  
Stephen/Sam Ragatz  
Sam's Club—West Allis  
Beverly Schwabe  
Joan/James Schwai  
Lynn Scofield  
Selzer-Ornst Co.  
Mary/Norm Smaglik  
Terence Smith  
South Shore Gallery  
Tracey Sparrow  
Mr./Mrs. Charles Stein  
St. Coletta Circle  
St. Sebastian Human Concerns  
St. Sebastian Parish

## THANK YOU!

Julie Stich  
John Stocking  
Target® Take Charge of Education  
Tartan Designs Framing Service  
Ann Terwilliger  
Joseph/Joyce Tevz Jr.  
United Way Donor Choice  
Village Church/Village Church Arts  
Margaret/Russell Vogt  
Helen Walther  
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Marina/Dick Wellenstein  
WI Energy Corp. Foundation  
Ruth Winkelman  
Beth/Bob Wolfley  
Elise Worman  
Marie/Geoffrey Zeidler  
Jane Zelie

### Guest Artists

Anita Burgermeister  
Thom Gravelle  
Bill Koehn  
Marybeth Koneval  
Robin Leenhouts  
Kimberly O'Reilly  
Jennifer Schlipman  
Lynn Schofield  
Marcy Weinsheim  
Jean Smaglik Wells  
Kyle Zubatsky

## ST. COLETTA DAY SCHOOL 2007-2008 MUSIC PROGRAM SUMMARY

The children of St. Coletta Day School of Milwaukee have spent the 2007-2008 school year working with a music therapist from the Milwaukee Center for Independence. Specific musical and non-musical goals were established by the therapist to include attention to task, group cooperation toward specific musical outcomes; auditory distinction of patterns, rhythms and melody and the development of a CD. The children used Orff and various rhythm instruments to support these goals in large and small group therapy sessions. The efforts of their hard work were displayed in two performances: a collaborative concert with the members of the Milwaukee Center for Independence's day services program, and their own Spring Sing.



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**ST. COLETTA DAY SCHOOL  
OF MILWAUKEE**

1740 North 55th Street, Milwaukee, WI 53208

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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.**

Just like any other successful organization, St. Coletta Day School must continually evolve to meet not only the ever-changing needs of our students, but to meet the challenges and demands of an ever-changing society. Recently, St. Coletta's Board of Directors has evolved from a solely parent-run board, to a more typical board of a nonprofit organization. Parent representatives continue to serve on the board, and other board members bring expertise in many areas—academic programming, legal, fiscal—but most importantly, they all bring a passion to ensuring that St. Coletta Day School is a sustainable organization dedicated to serving our students most effectively.

The Board has formed committees (Finance, Fund Development, Program) to ensure that the talents and skills of our Board members are utilized to best serve the school.



## 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.

Today *I will try* to make  
better choices.

## 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.scdsmke.org](http://www.scdsmke.org)



## A New Standard of Education

*For Students with  
Cognitive Disabilities*

- Ages 8 to 17
- Full Academic Program

## FALL 2008 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.