

St. Coletta News

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

SUMMER 2009

COLETTASCOPE 2009

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17
6:30-9:30 P.M.**

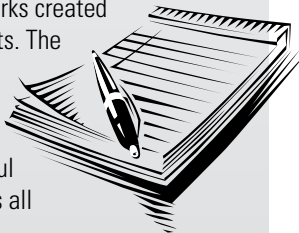
**Milwaukee Youth
Arts Center
325 West Walnut Street
Downtown Milwaukee**

We are planning our 11th *ColettaScope* as this issue goes to press. The art has been selected, the framers are working their magic and the location...

well, let me tell you about the new location.

We will hold *ColettaScope* at the Milwaukee Youth Arts Center this year! This amazing facility is home to performing groups such as the *Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra*, *First Stage Children's Theater*, *African American Children's Theater*, *Dance-works* and others. It's a perfect fit for us to be in such good company.

Plan on bringing a friend or two to see this beautiful space in downtown Milwaukee (there is plenty of parking) and, at the same time, be able to bid on one-of-a-kind, original artworks created by our students. The excitement is building as we prepare for a wonderful event. And it's all for you!



**NEW
LOCATION!**

☛ **PLEASE MAKE A
NOTE OF IT, AND
WATCH FOR YOUR
INVITATION!**

ROOM TO GROW by Mr. Bill

Lately, when someone asks me what's new at St. Coletta Day School, I have to take a moment to ponder that question. Not because there is nothing new, but because there is so much going on!

The biggest news is our expansion into a second classroom. St. Sebastian Parish, our partner and host for the past 53 years has agreed to our use of a second classroom. This move will allow us to better serve our middle/high school population and keep our elementary students in our current room.

That commitment to "grow" the school also sets the wheels in motion to increase the number of students we serve. Now, we will be able to offer our quality education to more students and continue that education past the age of 17. It has long been a goal of ours to increase the capacity of the school. The time has finally arrived.

With that expansion, the staff, the parents and the board of directors have committed themselves to higher standards of accountability as well as increased and improved support for our students. In a time when some schools are reducing programs, we continue to realize the importance of art,

music and environmental education. Our continued partnerships with Alverno College, Milwaukee Center for Independence and the Urban Ecology Center make these programs happen!

All of this, of course, comes

with a cost. Much time and talent has already been "spent" to make these dreams a reality. And there are challenges ahead, which will require much more time and many more talents to continue to move us forward. Financial support from you, our donors, is always necessary and appreciated.

And for that support we thank you.

I've said it before and will continue to say it. We're doing something great at St. Coletta Day School. We've been doing it for 53 years. We've been doing it with your help. Your belief in our mission and our goals has enabled us to accomplish some amazing things. Or should I say, quoting one of our students, "It's kamazing!". I'm sure you won't find that word in the dictionary, but I can assure you that the definition holds a powerful punch!

Thank you for helping us to "grow" the school and to cultivate our youth. You are "Kamazing"!



WILLIAM A. KOEHN—Administrator/Teacher

MAUREEN RONEWICZ—Teacher

RACHEL LUSTIG—Classroom Aide

OFFICERS President: Dan Sisel • Vice-President: Jackie Ceille • Secretary: Tracey Sparrow
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HOW AND WHAT WE LEARNED THIS YEAR

When I think of the many ways St. Coletta's has changed our lives I am amazed and eternally grateful. My daughter Maya moved into my home and heart at just under 48 hours old. She was still suffering from the affects of being born with drugs in her system from her birth mother. Knowing no different and being the incredible child she is, Maya has fought since day one.



Maya was diagnosed with Autism (PDD-NOS specifically) at the age of three. She had been in Birth-to-Three and then Early Childhood classes almost her whole life. I had to fight and beg for appropriate services to try to meet the needs of my child. What worked for others did not work for my daughter. The "cookie-cutter" approach did not work.

I ultimately was told by our school district that they did not know how to educate Maya. Home schooling was next. While Maya was clearly able to be educated, we were unable to provide peers and interactions with classmates. Then everything changed—God sent us St. Coletta's.

Maya began at St. Coletta's last fall. Bill, Maureen and Rachel have created an environment that welcomes each of its students at his or her level. Every single day Maya is able to walk into a milieu that meets her as the individual she is. Rather than attempt to force my child into their plans, these three extraordinary teachers find a way to meet their students where they are.

Those fortunate enough to attend St. Coletta's are taught crucial life skills as well as how to interact with others. As a parent I am included in every decision that affects Maya. The goals and objectives set for her are a team effort. For the first time in her life Maya's progress is as important to her teachers as it is to me. I thank God every day for St. Coletta's. Maya has finally found her place in the school world!

St. Coletta Day School recognizes that not all students learn in the same way. Therefore, we educate in many different ways including written, orally, tactile, project-based and/or visually. These are a few of the opportunities we had to learn, take part in collaborative activities with St. Sebastian's students, and investigate the world we live in:

- An **in-depth study of the Rainforest** which included a trip to the Domes and a walk through the Rainforest exhibit at the Milwaukee Museum with a Docent to both guide and educate us.
- **Twelve half-day educational experiences at the Urban Ecology Center.** We learned about simple machines by going outside and using a pulley system to raise the students from the ground. In addition, we were made aware of how electricity works and went to WE energies for a field trip. We spent a great deal of time outside learning about biodiversity in animals, wetland ecology and nature's jigsaw just to name a few.
- The Milwaukee Center for Independence provided **weekly Music Therapy** to our students.
- We all took part in a wonderful service project that involved taking in food and stocking shelves for the **Interchange Food Pantry** once a month.
- We joined St. Sebastian's students for several trips to the **Milwaukee Symphony** especially performed for children.
- After reading and learning about the book, "Charlotte's Web," we went to the **First Stage Theater** to see a live performance.
- We have had many **guest artists** that were kind enough to do beautiful, interesting projects with us.

- Yes, we even went **rollerskating** with St. Sebastian's students.
- We **learn about public transportation** by using it. For instance, we packed lunches and spent the day at the Farmer's Market learning and sampling different foods, flowers, and small business ideas.
- The year culminated with a **Field Day at Wick Field.** While there we played non-competitive games, we laughed and laughed, and had a great lunch!!



WASHINGTON, D.C. CONNECTION TO ST. COLETTA DAY SCHOOL

In May of this year, artists from across the United States heard the story of St. Coletta Day School. Mr. Bill was selected, as one of 32 artists across the nation, to participate in the Power of Art workshop held at the Lab School in Washington, D.C.

The workshop is supported by the Robert Rauschenberg Foundation and is in its 16th year of presenting the "Power of Art". The Lab School has developed a program for teaching children with special needs through a multi-sensory, experimental curriculum focusing on teaching through the arts.

Some of the ideas at the Lab can be applied to our program at St. Coletta Day School. "I am excited about the possibility of exploring new ways to integrate art with our expanding curriculum," said Mr. Bill. "We have a wonderful partnership with many area artists who share their talents and passion with our students each year. People at the workshop were amazed when I spoke of *ColettaScope* and the success we continue to have in the community."

Each workshop participant was awarded a gift certificate worth \$500 toward the purchase of art materials for the classroom. This will go a long way in supporting future *ColettaScope* artwork.

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

Alinea Project Solutions, LLC
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 John Ambrose
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 Anonymous donors
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 Helen Walther
 Marina/Dick Wellenstein
 WI Energy Corp. Foundation

Mary Alice Willems
 Ruth Winkelman
 Beth/Bob Wolfley
 Marie/Geoffrey Zeidler

Guest Artists

Heather Eiden
 Natalie Haefele
 Maggie Huston
 Bill Koehn
 Rachel Lustig
 Casey Madden
 Todd Mrozinski
 Sarah/Leah Plachinski
 Steve Sorrentino
 Marcy Weinsheim
 Kyle Zubatsky

THANK YOU!

MEMORIAL/PLANNED GIFTS—A VALUED TRIBUTE

How can I help children with cognitive disabilities become happy, active, and productive members of society?

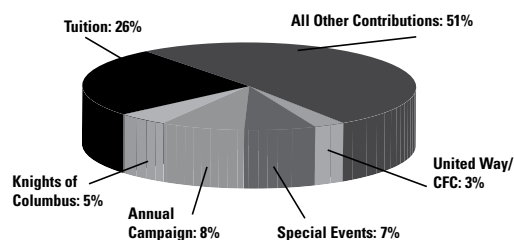
St. Coletta Day School has been the recipient of what seems to be a growing trend in honoring and remembering loved ones at the time of death. Many families, and often the deceased individual, prior to death, have chosen to request that memorial gifts be designated to their favorite charity. As a non-profit school, St. Coletta could truly benefit from such benevolent generosity. We use these gifts to provide specialized education and community experiences to our special needs children.

As you consider how you will disperse your funds, please consider including St. Coletta Day School in your Will. To bequeath a gift to us would assist the children immensely. You would help to bring needed specialized education to children with cognitive disabilities. Many people include organizations in their Will. Naming St. Coletta Day School in your Will is a way to make a long-term gift that ensures continuing services and education for children with special needs. An attorney can help create or modify a Will that works for you.

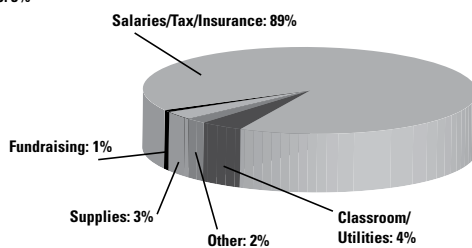
If you do chose to name St. Coletta Day School in your Will, please let us know, so we can properly thank you. For more information about Wills or Trusts please contact your attorney. If we can address any of your questions or concerns please contact Mr. William A. Koehn, Administrator of St. Coletta Day School at (414) 453-1850.

WHERE OUR FUNDING COMES FROM

REVENUE



EXPENSES



St. Coletta News



**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.**

Shayqwon Holland, Oscar Jiardini, Daniel Lehman, and Kit Zeidler students at St. Coletta Day School participated in St. Sebastian's Mileage Club. These boys walked and ran during both the winter/indoor season and the spring/outdoor season. Once a week instead of going out to recess these athletes choose physical fitness and the mileage club. All four students completed 5 miles during the indoor session. Kit and Shayqwon completed 3 miles during the shorter outdoor season. Oscar completed 4 miles and Daniel completed 5 miles during the outdoor session. When asked what their favorite part of the club was, Shayqwon said, "Walking with my St. Sebastian friends." Oscar replied, "Running helps me keep my body under control". "Running fast is fun", Kit added. Daniel summed it all up by smiling and saying, "Being a part of the mileage club is cool". We all can't wait to be a part of Mileage club and run/walk with our friends next year.



The St. Coletta Day School of Milwaukee Inc. 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.

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 as adults.

VISIT OUR WEB SITE!

www.scdsmke.org



A New Standard of Education

*For Students with
Cognitive Disabilities*

- Ages 8 to 17
- Full Academic Program

FALL 2009 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.