

# St. Coletta News

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

**SUMMER 2010**

## COLETTASCOPE 2010

**SATURDAY,  
NOVEMBER 13  
6:00-9:00 P.M.**

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

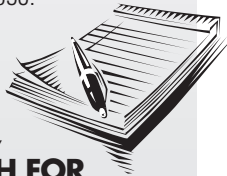
**W**e will once again hold the event at the Milwaukee Youth Arts Center.

Watch your mail for details.

If you would like to volunteer to help with the event, please call Bill Koehn at (414) 453-1850.

**SAVE THE  
DATE FOR  
THIS YEAR'S  
AUCTION!**

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



## WHAT WE'VE DONE, AND WHERE WE'RE HEADED

This is a good time for all of us to reflect on the past year. So many things have happened in that year and I want to highlight some of them.

We ended the school year having successfully completed the self-study phase of Accreditation. This three-year process will identify the strengths of the school and indicate the areas in which we can grow. It's an enlightening process and one that reaffirms our mission and keeps us moving in a forward direction. This endeavor is being led by a wonderfully dedicated and talented team who have come together to evaluate the school's program and realistically dream of the future. The team is made up of parents, Board members and staff. I can't think of a better way for all of us to collaborate and keep the lines of communication open.

The secondary program is up and running. The transition to the lower level classroom went smoothly and the students adjusted well. With the addition of service projects specific to the secondary level, and an expansion of the curriculum, we feel confident that the program will continue to improve and attract new students at that level. One of the most exciting additions

has to be keyboarding class that was set up with our host school of St. Sebastian. We are now able to access their computer lab and tap into their resources that will increase our student's knowledge and skills in the area of technology.

In the midst of all the changes and improvements to the school, I also had an opportunity to take a step back and really see what advantages our students have being a part of this unique, specialized school.

In a typical week, between twelve and twenty professionals directly interact with our student population. That includes our staff, the staff at St. Sebastian, speech therapists,

itinerant teachers from Milwaukee Public Schools, the staff from the Urban Ecology Center and our dedicated volunteers. That list does not even include all of the guest artists we invite throughout the school year or all of the people who work "behind the scenes" like our parents and family members and our Board of Directors.

The quote so often used, "It takes a village to raise a child" is not simply a statement that describes what we do at St. Coletta Day School, it is demonstrated every day. And those who benefit the most from these wise words and talented individuals are our students.



## 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.



**WILLIAM A. KOEHN—Administrator/Teacher**  
**MAUREN RONEWICZ—Teacher**  
**RACHEL LUSTIG—Paraprofessional**

OFFICERS President: Dan Sisel • Vice-President: Brian Remington • Secretary: Maggie Blaha  
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MEMBERS Jackie Ceille • Sr. Verna Kayser, OSF • Sr. Gabrielle Kowalski, OSF  
Melissa Opad • Charisse Sekyi • Sandi Tunis

# FEELING LIKE A CELEBRITY!

By Katie Griffin (volunteer)

## WORDS OF THANKS

Tim was 11 years old when we enrolled him at St. Coletta Day School. I can still remember my feelings, of relief and of hope. I was relieved to have found a school and hopeful that he could stay at St. Coletta for a long time. Over the past 6 years many parents at the school have told me they felt exactly the same way.



Tim is 17 now. As my husband Scott and I plan for his transfer to another school, we have feelings of confidence and appreciation. We are confident that Tim will do well because his education focused on his unique needs. And we are thankful, for Bill, Rachel and Maureen, our dedicated teaching staff.

**Thank you** for knowing that change takes time.

**Thank you** for all your creativity, and understanding that children learn differently.

**Thank you** for expecting the most of them when they so often give up.

**Thank you** for helping each child to discover their gifts which they may not see.

**Thank you** for seeing beyond the behaviors.

**Thank you** for encouraging the children to believe in themselves.

**Thank you** for nurturing a sense of community throughout their day.

**Thank you** for helping us all to know that these children belong to all of us and are truly part of the St. Coletta Day School family.

**Thank you** for giving so much of yourself each day for each child that has come your way.

Jackie Ceille and Scott Malmsten

There is nothing like the feeling that I get every Tuesday and Thursday morning when I walk into the High School classroom at St. Coletta Day School. I am greeted by the kids who are wearing big smiles and brimming with new exciting things to tell me. They make me feel like a celebrity each and every time I am there.

My "volunteer job" as I affectionately refer to my time at St. Coletta began in April of 2009. The teachers and students have welcomed me with open arms and I truly feel a part of the school and its mission. The students all have unique and wonderful talents that are allowed to be nurtured in this small and caring environment. Because of the small size of the classrooms, the students are truly able to work to each of their individual potentials. It is very gratifying to watch the kids learn new and exciting things about the world around them.

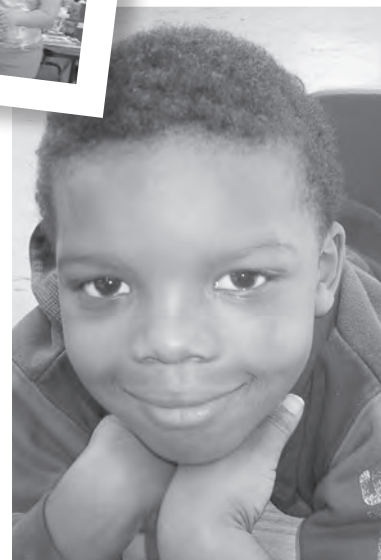
I especially enjoy my reading time with the students. Over the school year, I have read to them out loud countless novels. They eagerly listen to the stories and actively discuss the different characters that we have gotten to know. Some of our favorites have been Laura Ingalls from Little House in the Big Woods and Opal from Because of Winn Dixie.

Another notable character we have met is Hank Zipzer. He is the brainchild of Henry Winkler. The humorous approach the author uses to discuss a young boy's learning disability has been great material for classroom discussions.

I had the pleasure of being able to attend *ColettaScope* for the first time this past October. Since I had been part of many of the art projects at school, it was exciting to see them completed and professionally framed. It was very hard to decide which one to bid on. I was lucky enough to get a beautiful bird picture. It has a charming frame made out of natural twigs that set off the

picture perfectly. It hangs in my sunroom which is the favorite room of my home. People often assume that my own children made the picture but I quickly point out that it was made by a wonderful young student at St. Coletta. The picture serves as a daily reminder to me of how important every child's life is and how they all deserve an encouraging environment in which to grow and learn.

I want everyone to know how much St. Coletta has given to me. They are quick to thank me for my time and work, but really my thanks goes to them for giving me the wonderful gift of helping children learn. I love my mornings that I spend with them and feel truly fortunate to have this time in my life to be able to volunteer there.



## "AND THE WINNER IS . . ."

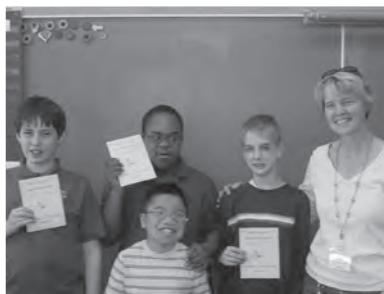
All competitive runners dream of the day when they can run and complete a marathon. Running a marathon can be a goal of any runner and a major accomplishment when achieved. This year the students of St. Coletta attempted to run/walk their own marathon during mileage club. Every Tuesday and Thursday St. Sebastian hosts a chance to run and walk during lunch recess. They call this "Mileage Club" and the students can earn a foot token for every 5 miles they run or walk and a marathon token for running or walking 26 miles. This is a great opportunity for the students of St. Coletta Day school to put some of that excess energy to good use and a chance to run and exercise with their peers at St. Sebastian.

Typically a marathon is ran and completed in one day. Our marathon was a year long voyage of pounding the pavement one step at a time. When the year began the kids were walking one or two laps during their lunch period. This is equivalent to a quarter of a mile to a half of a mile. We first had to work on getting outside on time, which meant using team work to make sure all of us ate in a timely fashion. We then worked as a team helping each other walk with less stopping and run with less walking. The kids were partnered up and really encouraged each other to try their best. By the end of the year Bethany stated very emphatically that she "did not need to hold anyone's hand any more because (she) could keep up". She was in fact correct. Bethany had learned to pace herself as well as taught Oscar to move a steady pace too. Most of the students were now able to run or walk four laps or a mile in 15 minutes!

The students of St. Coletta defiantly used mileage club to get in better shape. They also used mileage club to learn some really great lessons about life. First of all no matter what, we all have to keep moving.

That was our goal every day when we walked and ran. They also saw that even if the temperature was cold or the weather was too hot mileage club was still part of our day. We were out there in snow pants in the winter and sunglasses as summer approached. The important message to learn was this. Once you start something, it is important to finish.

The kids really felt a sense of accomplishment every time they earned their foot tokens. Not all of us were marathoners by the end of the year, but we all tried our best. We look forward to trying again next year and dream of the day that we are all marathoners in life.



### 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.

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

# THANK YOU!

Abbott Laboratories  
Frank Allen Gallery  
Alverno College  
Anonymous donors  
ArtLine, Ltd.  
Carrie/Dave Ausloos  
Dan Austin  
Dolores Austin  
Helen Bader Foundation  
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Spiro Burgner  
Michael Burzynski  
Thomas Cassidy  
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Shelly Culea  
Eileen Delaney  
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Linda Hamann  
Janice/Denis Hauf  
Dee Hayden  
Brian Hoefs  
Paul/Kathleen Hohl  
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Tracy Kelly  
Joy Kenney  
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Joan/James Schwai  
Kay Schwiager  
Christi/Edward Sheehy  
Audrey Skwierawski  
Norm Smaglik  
South Shore Gallery  
Tracey Sparrow  
Sprinkmann Sons  
Chris Sretenovich  
Mr./Mrs. Charles Stein  
St. Sebastian Parish  
Julie Stich  
Bernadette Swider  
Joan/Gabriel Szekely  
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Darlene Tully  
Sandi/Ron Tunis

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Ruth Winkelmann  
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Margaret Zeidler

### Guest Artists:

Lyda Angeli  
Dan Austin  
Anita Burgermeister  
Thom Gravelle  
Katie Griffin  
Jeff Johnson  
Robin Kinney  
Bill Koehn  
Nina Koenig  
Kate Krakow  
Rachel Lustig  
Casey Madden  
Todd Mrozinski  
Maureen Ronewicz  
Gene Steffes  
Jean Wells

## MEMORIAL/PLANNED GIFTS—A VALUED TRIBUTE

As we reach a variety of milestones in our lives, it becomes abundantly clear that the last milestone is somewhat confusing. Our teenage years are filled with wonder, excitement and anticipation. Our twenties become more motivating as the future is directly in front of us. Our thirties and forties, many of us and ask the question: Well, I have a career, spouse, three children, and a home and church, does it get any better than this? The answer is yes!! We continue to have dreams and aspirations for not only ourselves but our family and friends as well. In our fifties, sixties and seventies we may ponder and look back at the "good times" while continuing to grow as people and members of society at large and ask: What can we do to help?

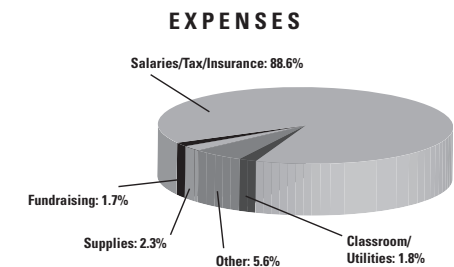
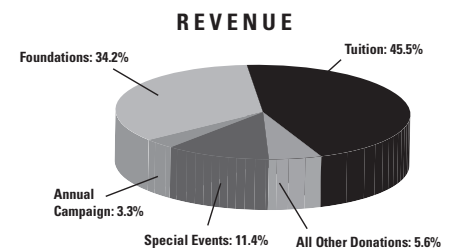
The last milestone is our ultimate demise. St. Coletta Day School has been the recipient of what seems to be a growing trend in honoring and remembering loved ones at the time of death. Many families, and often the deceased individual, prior to death, have chosen to request that memorial gifts be designated 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, Trusts or other Gifts, please contact our Administrator, Bill Koehn, at (414) 453-1850.

## WHERE OUR FUNDING COMES FROM



## VISIT OUR WEB SITE!

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

# St. Coletta News



**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.**

## IT'S ALL ABOUT TEAMWORK

*Mary Zimmermann, Physical Ed. Teacher, St. Sebastian School*

If you don't know, the buddy run in gym class is when you run a lap around the gym and tag your partner so they can run a lap. It is a great way to warm up, and to motivate and support each other. It is a fast-paced, music playing, five minutes of fun. St. Coletta students tagging in with the St. Sebastian student gym classes is a version of the buddy run.

The experience of the two groups together is a warm up they need for being around other people outside of school. They learn to interact with each other. They learn to see strengths, weaknesses, and to work as a team. Teamwork and practicing help develop the skills needed to play by the rules throughout life.

The support the students share with each other is what grows in them. It motivates the students to run the lap, play a fair game, and to be a good sport. The students see each other in the hallways or on the playground and they know there is a buddy to look to for help or a smile.

With the pace fast and fun and the music playing, there is never a dull moment when the two groups get together. When Tim sinks a basket or Bethany scores a goal, the reaction is always the same, big smiles and high fives.

It doesn't make a difference if you start the run or are tagged after the first lap; you are a member of the team, a buddy. You see your partner as an equal and a friend, someone you can rely on when you need someone to run a lap for you.

**T**he 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.



## A New Standard of Education

*For Students with  
Cognitive Disabilities*

- Ages 8 to 17
- Full Academic, Social/  
Functional Program

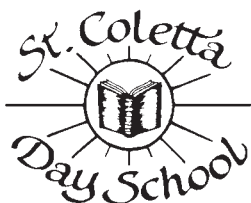
### FALL 2010 ENROLLMENT

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.

# Why Choose St. Coletta Day School?

*St. Coletta Day School of Milwaukee is an educational program for children with cognitive disabilities. We have been dedicated to providing the best and most comprehensive education for our students for more than 50 years.*

- Small class size, low student-to-teacher ratio
- Individual instruction
- Students learn at their own pace
- Performance measures are unique to each student
- Day-to-day structure and consistency
- Experienced, dedicated staff
- Outlet for creative self-expression
- Comfortable environment
- Significant parent involvement
- Funding and scholarship options for qualifying students\*



\*St. Coletta Day School of Milwaukee is a participant of the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program (MPCP).

## See for yourself!

Call today to schedule your personal tour and experience the program firsthand.

St. Coletta Day School of Milwaukee  
1740 North 55th Street • Milwaukee, WI 53208  
E-mail: [info@scdsmke.org](mailto:info@scdsmke.org)  
[www.scdsmke.org](http://www.scdsmke.org)

Call (414) **453-1850**