

St. Coletta News

St. Coletta Day School of Milwaukee—A Nonprofit Program
Educating Boys and Girls with Cognitive Disabilities Age 8 to 18

SUMMER 2012

COLETTASCOPE 2012

**SATURDAY,
OCTOBER 27
6:00-9:30 P.M.**

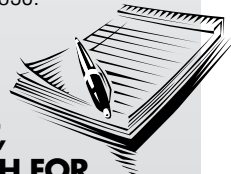
**Milwaukee Youth
Arts Center
325 West Walnut Street
Downtown Milwaukee**

We 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.

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



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



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.

A JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY

Three years ago St. Coletta Day School started on a journey of discovery. The goal was to become a fully accredited school. In order to accomplish that goal, several steps needed to be taken. The first step was a self-study of the school and all of its policies and procedures. We had to ask ourselves, how this school functions and what are the services we provide. Then we had to put that information into a format that someone not familiar with the school would be able to look at objectively and know exactly who we are and what we do.

We did it!!

That is exactly what we did.

With the help of the staff, the parents and the board of directors, we accomplished our goal.

Our mission was always the focus of our goal. "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."

Our vision became clearer, our purpose was validated and our future shined a bit brighter. We accomplished something that only a few schools choose to do voluntarily.

The task was a large one. It was sometimes overwhelming and there were times when we thought we might not achieve our goal. But, we endured.

So what does being a fully accredited school really mean? What's the benefit? Why did we begin this journey in the first place? Good questions. Part of the answer has to do with integrity. We know that there is much

more to school than academic learning. We teach our students not only about the value of a great education but also, about the values contained in that education. We respect each other. We learn to become responsible individuals and

to value the uniqueness of every person.

Accreditation also means that we are validated as a school. This opens up opportunities for us to approach foundations for funding. Individuals and organizations like to attach their support to schools like ours that show they are accountable for what we say we are going to do.

We are a better school because of achieving accreditation status. The Little Engine that could, became the Little Engine that DID. We did it! And now we can celebrate it!



William A. Koehn—Administrator/Teacher
Umenia White—Classroom Teacher
Rachel Lustig—Paraprofessional
Jamie Schroeter—Classroom Aide

OFFICERS President: Dan Sisel • Vice-President: Brian Remington • Secretary: Maggie Blaha
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MEET THE STAFF

IT'S ALL ABOUT WORDS

Submitted by Mr. Bill

It's almost the end of the school year and it's DEAR (Drop Everything And Read) time in the classroom. For seven or more months of the year,



we explain to the students what DEAR time is all about. Many of them "get it" and are busy reading their library book, or a magazine or a book they brought from home. Some of them are reading a book about the Titanic. It seemed to capture their interest, so I brought one of my Titanic books from home to share with them. They were enthralled listening to the stories of the passengers and looking at the amazing pictures.

Here's my point. As I looked around the room on this particular day during this particular DEAR time, everyone was reading. EVERYONE! It took us a while to get there, but every single student was actively engaged with their nose in a book. Some were reading by themselves, some were in small groups having a "book club". Others were taking turns reading to each other. "Pop-corn Reading" we call it!

So why am I telling you all of this? Our recent word of the day was Teamwork. They understood the message all right and were demonstrating wonderful teamwork by the examples they were setting. What was different about this time is that they were doing it by themselves. No redirection from the teachers. No bickering as is sometimes the case. They were, as I said, actively engaged in the activity. They finally got it! What a group!

With a combined 27 years serving the school, our staff is a crucial element to the school's success and future. They are a big part of what sets us apart. It is their unwavering dedication to our students and school that have made St. Coletta Day School of Milwaukee such a critical element in the lives of students with cognitive disabilities.



**William A. Koehn
(aka Mr. Bill),
Administrator/Teacher**

I am currently expanding my interest and knowledge in the field of special education by pursuing a Master of Science degree in Educational Administration. My students are a great inspiration to me. They are also a source of renewed energy for my spirit.

Quote to live by: To be happy, free your heart from hatred, free your mind from worries, live simply, give more, and expect less.



**Rachel Lustig
(aka Ms. Rachel),
Paraprofessional**

I am a wife and mother to four children who attend St. Sebastian, our host school. The connection to St. Sebastian was one of reasons why I was initially drawn to St. Coletta.

Quote to live by: Grow where you are planted and bloom into the best you, you can be.



**Umenia M. White
(aka Ms. White),
Classroom Teacher**

I have had the opportunities to teach grades 2-12, in self-contained and inclusion environments, at both public and Choice schools. My credentials include a B.A. in Mass Communication, Teaching Certification 6-12 LD CD obtained at UW-Milwaukee and a Masters degree in progress. I am also a member of the UW-Milwaukee Athletic Hall of Fame and the parent of a beautiful daughter, Diarra.



**Jamie Schroeter
(aka Ms. Jamie),
Classroom Aide**

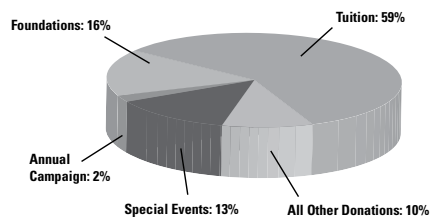
I am a graduate of UW-Madison's Art History Department and have been working with people with disabilities for over 5 years. I have a background in vocational rehabilitation as a job developer, where I have experience initiating employment in the community for people with special needs.

**TO SEE MORE DETAIL ON THE STAFF,
VISIT OUR WEB SITE: WWW.SCDSMKE.ORG**

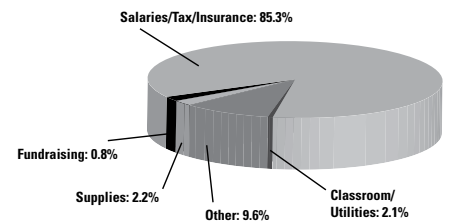


WHERE OUR FUNDING COMES FROM

REVENUE



EXPENSES



**VISIT OUR NEW,
IMPROVED WEB SITE!**

www.scdsmke.org

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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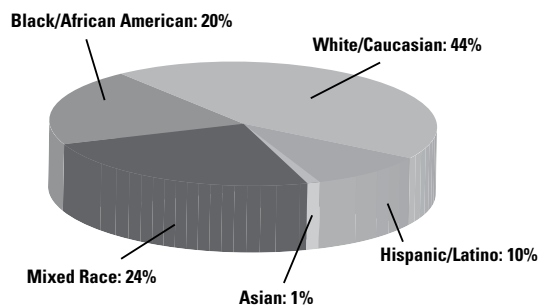
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A CLOSER LOOK

Our current student population is comprised of the following ethnicity groupings:



We are proud to have such a varied population for a school of our size! Simply stated, our school enrolls students in grades 3 through 12. So what is it that sets us apart from other schools?

Since we are a specialized school, the students are performing at various academic levels from pre-kindergarten to seventh grade.

Many of our students have multiple challenges such as: Autism, Down Syndrome, Specific Learning Disabilities, Cognitive Disabilities and Behavioral Disabilities. In a nutshell, that's what makes our school so unique.

I have often referred to our school as a "one-room schoolhouse" model. We have many ages and abilities in one classroom actively learning and helping each other. The exciting news is that we have been operating with TWO "one-room schoolhouses" for a number of years now! Teaching in an environment with such a diverse population is a real challenge. We continue to build creative teaching teams who meet those challenges. We are growing and expanding thanks to you, and we're not done yet!

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 count twice and it also spreads the word about our school.

St. Coletta News



**ST. COLETTA DAY SCHOOL
OF MILWAUKEE**

1740 North 55th Street, Milwaukee, WI 53208

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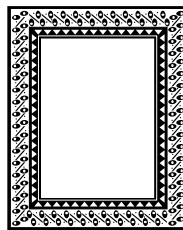
Every day, students at St. Coletta Day School of Milwaukee discover their unique abilities by being challenged to achieve their best in a safe environment of respect.

► **Please help support
St. Coletta Day School.**

PICTURE THIS!

Take a look at this list of framers. These small businesses are mostly independently owned and operated. They help us each year by donating framing for *ColettaScope*. If you utilize their services, please tell them "Thank You". If you happen to use another framer who is not on the list, consider asking them if they would like to donate framing for a piece of your child's artwork!

ColettaScope Framers: ArtLine Ltd.; Bresler-Eitel Gallery; Sheila Buechel; The Framing Gallery; Gallery 1; Grava Gallery; Great Frame Up—Mequon; Great Frame Up—Whitefish Bay; Greenwood Park Gallery & Framing; Landmarks Gallery; Larkspur Gallery; Manders Framing Service; Matt's Custom Framing (Rhineland); Milwaukee Moulding & Frame; Perry Affordable Framing; Picture Perfect Inc.; Preservation Framing; Sadler Gallery; South Shore Gallery; and Tartan Designs Framing Service. Their time and talent in framing our student's artwork is a wonderful donation.



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.

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.



A New Standard of Education

*For Students with
Cognitive Disabilities*

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

FALL 2012 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.