

CARILLON

Ringling out the good news of St. Coletta's of Illinois



Prom 2016



King & Queen

(Left): 2016 Prom King Justin Ackmann, and Prom Queen Janelle Eaton. (Right) Newly crowned, the King and Queen share a special dance.

Prom took place April 29, 2016 at Georgio's Banquets in Orland Park.

The students look forward to the prom each year. It is a chance to dress up, dance, and just have fun with friends. What makes it even more special is that it is planned by the student council members at Andrew High School in Tinley Park where they fund raise year-round in preparation - a tradition that has been going on for the last 25 years.

Once the Kennedy School decides on a theme (this year was "Wild Thing"), the students get to work taking care of all the details, from decorating the tables and banquet hall to the Build-A-Bears that the Prom King and Queen get to take home.

"This is their favorite event," stated Barb Soplarz and Tracy Sukalo,

Andrew teachers who have been part of the Kennedy Prom for the last 7 years. It is so popular that students "fight" to become part of this event. Out of 100 student council members, only 12 are able to attend. Next year will open up 4 spots on the prom committee as Seniors graduate with the remaining Freshman, Sophomores and Juniors all vying for the coveted spots.

"Andrew just has the best kids," Tracy Sukalo said. "We are truly blessed to have such wonderful students who help and give back to the community."

With music blasting, students, teachers and aides all took to the dance floor, only stopping to crown the King and Queen.

It was great fun with smiles, laughter and lasting memories!



(Top pictures): Kennedy School students dancing and having fun. (Bottom): Andrew students and faculty pose for a picture with some students from the Kennedy School.

Mission Statement

St. Coletta's of Illinois was created by the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi for the specific purpose of providing services in a Christian environment for all children and adults with developmental disabilities, and other persons with short-term needs. This care is provided regardless of race, creed, or economic background.

Our training, residential, and educational programs are designed to enhance physical, mental, social and spiritual well being. St. Coletta's encourages each individual to achieve his or her greatest potential within society. Each individual is given the opportunity to grow in the least restrictive setting, which meets his or her needs and abilities.

The Corporate Ministries sponsored by the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi are committed to the mission of promoting Franciscan values in all their programs and services. Each corporation demonstrates a caring community, which supports and respects the spiritual academic, vocational and social potential of each person. These Corporate Ministries include:

Canticle Court	St. Coletta's of Wisconsin
Juniper Court	Cardinal Stritch University
Marian Center	St. Coletta's of Illinois, Inc.
St. Elizabeth School	Cardinal Cushing Center
Franciscan Center	Franciscan Youth Center
St. Ann Center for Intergenerational Care	

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Andrew M. Collins, Jr. - Executive Director	

The Carillon is published by the St. Coletta's of Illinois Foundation for St. Coletta's of Illinois.

St. Coletta's of Illinois Foundation is a non-profit organization providing support and funding for special needs individuals in the areas of: Residential Care, Educational Programs, Medical Care, Religious and Pastoral Care, Vocational Services and Specialized Facilities.

As a stakeholder of the organization, if you become aware of an issue that you believe could be an ethics violation, you must contact 708-342-5200.

Please visit our website to view our Code of Ethics.
www.STCIL.org

A Letter from the Executive Director



Happy Spring and almost summer to all our friends and supporters! As the enclosed summaries indicate, we have been keeping busy with both our traditional activities and some special events. I can report that our student and residential clients are enjoying productive days in our school and workshop.

I wish I could report better news with respect to the state funding impasse. As you might recall, some 83% of our total funding comes from state and federal funding. With the mess that is Springfield, we are fortunate that the majority of that funding continues - no thanks at all to the state officials. We survive under the umbrella of a Federal court order, directing Illinois to fund the programs we offer. Not one of our friends in the capital is optimistic that a budget will pass before the fall election but far more meaningful would be an increase in the reimbursement rate - now 7 years and counting since the last formula adjustment. We have some serious staffing gaps caused by our inability to keep our wage structure competitive.

Since we have been running substantial deficits, we need to focus our Boards on fund raising to replenish our depleted reserves. So, an extra effort will be made this year to maximize the revenue from our regular events - we would welcome any time or resources you might have to aid in that mission.

We intend to press on in our mission, notwithstanding the challenges raised virtually every day. A short note to your elected representatives might help our cause, please be angry. Thank you for your loyal support and prayers.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andy Collins". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Andrew M. Collins, Jr.
Executive Director

St. Patrick's Day Parade



With beautiful weather in tow, St. Coletta's participated in the Tinley Park St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 13, 2016. Consumers and staff spent weeks working on the theme for the van that would ride in the parade in hopes of a 1st place victory. The van proudly displayed "Who We Are", and was decorated with pictures of consumers and students in all aspects of St. Coletta's life, from school programs to events that take place throughout the year. Sadly, St. Coletta's did not place this year, but the day was fun-filled with lots of activity and the hope of winning next year!



Photos: Top left: Decorated St. Coletta's van, with pictures of students and consumers, ready for the parade. Top right: Aide posing for a picture with a consumer. Bottom Left: Two volunteers that helped decorate a large banner for the back of the van. Bottom Right: Consumers and staff posing before the parade starts.

ART CLUB PROJECT UNDERWAY

The Art Club, which meets on Tuesday nights, is working on a special project for the workshop. They are currently working on constructing a huge American Flag that will be displayed on the wall of the workshop. Karen McCowns (pictured far left), chose the project this year after she learned all the words to The Pledge of Allegiance, which all consumers say daily at 10 am. Karen wanted something symbolic to hang in the workshop for all the consumers to see and enjoy.



THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!



St. Coletta's couldn't do all that it does without the help of our amazing volunteers. In appreciation, a luncheon was held where our volunteers were recognized for their hard work and dedication to not only the consumers, but to the staff as well. We cannot thank you enough for all that you do!

We Would Like to Apologize...

We inadvertently left out Our Lady of the Woods in the last Carillon recognizing those Parishes that have helped St. Coletta's throughout the year, especially at Christmas time. A personal, and heart-felt THANK YOU goes out to you for all that you continue to do for St. Coletta's and all of our consumers.

A Cut Above The Rest

A special thank you goes out to the DaVinci Salon in Tinley Park. The stylists spent an evening after-hours cutting hair for some of our consumers, free of charge.

They have been doing this for the past few years, and enjoy bringing the smiles, great conversation, friendship, and of course, fresh new cuts to those at St. Coletta's.

Pastor Don Borling from All Saints Lutheran sets this up every year with the help from his parishioners and makes the evening fun for all of the consumers. They have pizza, drinks, snacks and all go home with a goodie bag. The whole evening, along with the time and effort put into this night, is greatly appreciated, and the consumers look forward to this every time!



Top left, bottom left: Consumers enjoying getting their hair cut and styled: Right: The amazing staff at Salon DaVinci pose for a picture.



May Crowning

With the sun shining, and the weather cooperating, May Crowning took place on Friday, May 6th.

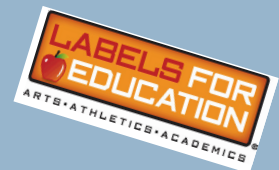
Sr. Eleanor (bottom right) conducted the ceremony and led the prayer

before the procession headed to the statue of Mary. The Crowning was done by Kathy Hougas (left and top right), and was escorted by Billy Kelly (left).

The Kennedy School Needs Your Help Collecting Box Tops & Labels for Education



The Kennedy School
c/o Kelly Moore
18350 Crossing Drive
Tinley Park, IL 60487



Piano Concert by Norman Malone

A special guest was invited to perform for St. Coletta's on April 5, 2016. Norman Malone, pianist and retired music teacher, performed one of his first ever solo concert performances to the Staff, Students and Consumers.

After suffering a traumatic injury when he was 10 that rendered the right side of his body paralyzed, Norman set out to follow his dreams. He went on to play complex, moving pieces that have been specifically written for the left hand that he dedicated his lifetime mastering.

Music had been a part of his life since the age of 5, and he couldn't imagine life without it after his injury. Drive, determination and dedication pushed him along; when people told him that he couldn't, he set out to prove them wrong.

As Norman played, the crowd was amazed at his abilities. They listened intently and moved with the music.

After the concert, a standing ovation was given.

"You are really good" and "You are a great piano player" could be heard among the crowd.

Consumers and students asked questions at the end of the performance, and words of encouragement rang out. "Keep doing what you are doing no matter what people say. You play beautiful."

For years, Norman only played for himself, not even for family or friends, until recently at the age of 78. "It's a bit nerve-racking," Norman said with a bit of a smile when asked if he was enjoying fulfilling his dream along with new-found fame.

After, Norman was given a tour of the facility where he visited the workshop and Kennedy School, where eager new fans wanted to shake his hand or ask for an autograph.

Norman enjoyed his visit and will be back to perform at St. Coletta's in the future.



Anthony performing his own concert for Norman on his visit to the Kennedy school.



Signing an autograph for a fan.



Tyler was in awe when Norman revealed he went to college for 9 years to study music.

Cafeteria Grand Re-Opening



On April 4, 2016, the St. Coletta's Cafe re-opened for lunch after taking a brief hiatus to improve the menu and operating procedures.

Lunch pre-order forms are now available, and have quickly become popular. A monthly menu is scheduled ahead of time, and order forms are available to pre-order your lunch for that day, week or month. The idea is to eliminate the need to wait in line and have your food prepared. It's a bit faster and more convenient and allows the consumers, students, as well as staff, more time to enjoy their lunch.

There are new items on the menu such as fried chicken, fish, pre-made salads, roast beef, fresh fruit cups, vegetable sides and smoothies, to name a few. Overall healthier items have been added and all are based on suggestions and tastes of the consumers and what they were looking for at lunch.

"The fish has been really popular," said Icy Carter, Lead Vocational Director and Manager of the Cafe.

"This month has been a trial period as well," stated Chef Tanya Robinson. We are seeing what sells, and what doesn't so we know what and how much to make and have available. And we are always open to suggestions on menu items."

All food is cooked fresh each day, and a full breakfast menu is also available daily.



Icy Carter (left) and Chef Tanya Robinson (right) love to cook and enjoy preparing the meals each day.

More opportunities will become available for the consumers to work in the cafeteria as the menu items grow and more pre-orders are taken.

Consumers and staff love the changes and rave about the great food Tanya and her staff make each day.

St. Coletta's Bridge to Eternal Life

Honor someone special, a special occasion, or the memory of a loved one by making a donation to St. Coletta's in their name. The Bridge To Eternal Life Packet includes cards with envelopes and donation envelopes that can be used "In Memory of" or "In Honor of" a loved one. St. Coletta's memorial donation offers a way to honor a loved one while contributing to making life better for individuals with special needs.

There are three ways to learn more:

Visit our website at www.stcolettail.org or call Barb Siwinski at 708.342.5246 or by e-mail at bsiwinski@stcolettail.org.

Memorials

The families and friends of the following individuals respectfully ask that you remember them in your thoughts and prayers:

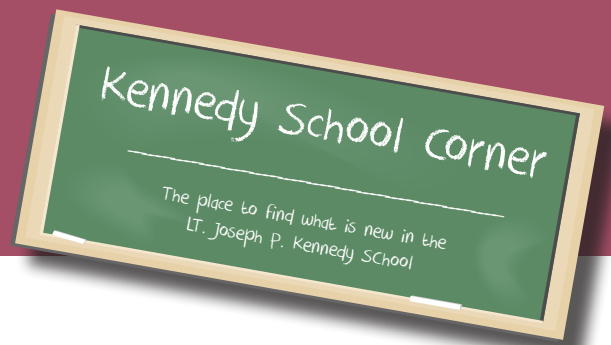
In Honor Of :

**Jerome Kowalski
Margo Ham
Nancy Michael
Helen Wolniak
Sandra Henning
Blanche Krajic**

**Jack Mitchell
Joan Schmidt
Ozzie McGrath
Robert Manske, Sr.
Dolores McDonald
Colleen Weisbrodt**

**Barbara Carrera
Bob Poplawski
Cal Madsen
Laura Lieu
Amber Regan**

The Kennedy School has been very busy this Winter and Spring. With a mix of academics, vocational jobs and social skills training, we have been learning, growing, and having some FUN together!



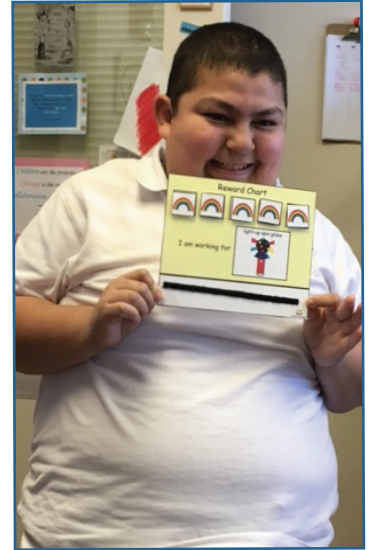
Skill-Building Partnership

The Lt. Joseph P. Kennedy Jr. School for Exceptional Children is excited to announce a partnership with EarlyVention! EarlyVention products are based on the teaching methods of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA). EarlyVention combines ABA's proven methodologies with real-world experience in homes and in the classroom to give parents the support they need to more effectively connect, engage and communicate with their child.

The founders of EarlyVention, Elizabeth and Melissa Ames, allow the students at Kennedy school to master transitional skills by providing raw materials

of products they sell. The students take those raw materials, cut, paste, laminate, and Velcro them to create finished products. These transitional skills are vital to our students as they gain functional job related experiences to assist them further in their lives when they seek gainful employment.

EarlyVention was awarded a grant for their products through Autism Speaks. They, along with the school, were guests of honor at the Autism Speaks Illuminate Gala on April 16, 2016. A video was created highlighting the students' work on the products.



Top left: Student working on EarlyVention project. Middle: Autism Speaks Illuminate Gala. Bottom Left: Principal Melissa Jasieniecki poses with aides at the Autism Speaks Gala. Right: Student with finished product.



Girl's Day

The last day before spring break, the girls at the Lt. Joseph P. Kennedy School celebrated with a "Girl's Day", planned by one of the students. They had lunch, made jewelry and headbands, painted each others nails and did each others' hair. It was a great hit and fun way to spend the day!

FOR FUN!

Easter Egg Hunt

The students at the Lt. Joseph P. Kennedy School enjoyed an Easter Egg hunt just before spring break. Candy-filled eggs were met with excitement and smiles as they were found throughout the sensory room.



St. Coletta's of Illinois

18350 Crossing Drive
Tinley Park, IL 60487
708-342-5200

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Upcoming Events

Kennedy School Graduation	June 1, 2016
Spring Fling	June 4, 2016
Kennedy Invitational	August 22, 2016
Tootsie Roll Tag Days	September 2016
Chicago Marathon	October 9, 2016
Caritas Benefit	November 19, 2016

To find out more, please visit our website: www.stcolettail.org

