

# Cushing News

A publication of Cardinal Cushing Centers

## St. Coletta Day School – Spring 2017 Quarterly Newsletter



Cardinal Cushing Centers

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### School Happenings

Dear Families,

I hope you are all well and ready for some sunny spring weather!

Lets hope this upcoming snow storm will be the last.

We would like to introduce to you some new staff members to our program. Loretta S. is a new classroom teacher. Janice T., Katelyn C., Nahomie P., and Claire D. are all classroom teaching assistants.

Also welcoming new students, Stephanie Q., Ethan B., and Andrew C. We are happy to have you all with us.

Joseph L. will be graduating and moving into his adult life this month as he is turning 22. Joey has been with us for many years.

We would like to thank Joey and his amazing family for letting us be a part of their lives for so long. Joey's presence will be missed by us all.

The graduate's Disney trip is fast approaching! Going this year from St. Coletta is Alicia F., Chris S., and Lindsay M. Students and staff will be on this trip the week of March 7<sup>th</sup> through the 12<sup>th</sup>. Have a blast everyone, you deserve it!

As most of you know, we lost one of our most beloved students recently. William Powers, along with his Grandmother Thelma, passed away in a house fire last month. This has sent a wave of shock and devastation though our community, but we are all doing the best we can to get through this and keep William's spirit alive in our school. Please see page 2 for a lovely article written by his teacher, Thomas Alexander, and page 3 for pictures of William over the years. Everyone at St. Coletta would like to extend a thank you to all for the outpouring of love and support during this trying time.

Best,

Melissa Hayes

# Remembering William: By Thomas Alexander

It is hard to think of a person that is selfless, gentle, pure-hearted, and innocent without a shred of ill-will, moral missteps, or negative feelings. William Powers encompassed all these good and positive traits and shared his kindness with others. William put people at ease and brightened their days just by existing. When around other people, William did not speak too often, but he did not need to. Everyone knew he was there and felt the positivity he brought with him.

As a student William was a longtime and loyal friend to some but new friend and welcoming to others. He loved reading, history, science, writing, and learning everything he could about the world around him. William could never finish a book because he would jump to the next one before he could finish the last. Teachers and school staff would always catch William sharing all the new facts he learned. Being one of the oldest students at St. Coletta Day School, William was a role model to his younger peers and longtime friend to his older classmates. School was William's second home. He started at St. Coletta Day School at age 7 and was a student there for 12 years. In his second home, he has touched the many lives that have come through it and has forever left his compassionate mark on the school. School was not the only part of the community William's presence impacted; William was a hard and dedicated worker. William worked in various positions throughout multiple communities south of Boston. He worked at the Greenhouse, Bakery, and Sister's Inn, Library, Trader and Culinary programs at Cardinal Cushing Centers in Hanover. William ventured out into the community and worked at various organizations, such as the Independence Manor in Braintree, The Potting Bench in Braintree, The Fish Company of Norwell, Montilio's Bakery in Braintree and Brockton, the University Sports Complex of Hanover, Interfaith Social Services in Quincy, Father Bills in Quincy, Kristen's Diner in Braintree, and Savers in Hanover. Each job William held was a source of pride for him, and he enjoyed his days at work. William was able to socialize, experience new things, and learn when he was at work and school. The supervisors, co-workers, clients, and customers William interacted with all instantly felt a sense of joy and happiness due to his presence. Each supervisor had the same smile of pride mixed with compassion when taking William under their wing. Customers would leave with a smile and a sense of warmth after interacting with such a kindhearted soul.

William's Grandmother cared for him with the love of a mother. Thelma Powers protected William, loved William, and raised William. She raised a boy with a pure heart into a young man that kept his pure heart and innocence. William had a bright future with adventures ahead. He was set on the path into adulthood, and in a few years, he was to graduate from St. Coletta Day School and start to live his life more independently, with excitement and new experiences. Maybe he would have lived with roommates in a group home, or continued his work at Montilio's Bakery, or been able to set and accomplish new goals that he could not have reached before. The future is not what is important; what is important is that William experienced love, compassion, excitement, and all that is good in the life he had and the memories he made. His soul was brighter than most and touched many lives. William and Thelma Powers will continue to be loved and can never be forgotten by those they crossed paths with.

Written by Thomas H. Alexander, William's teacher and friend

# Remembering William



*William, we love and miss you more than any words can express. Rest in the sweetest of peace, Buddy.*

# Polar Plunge for Special Olympics

Staff from St. Coletta jumped into the FREEZING ocean once again to raise money for Special Olympics on March 4<sup>th</sup>. The grand total raised was \$1,964 dollars! They dedicated this plunge to William Powers, as you can see below. Thank you all for what you do for our community! You're all crazy and we love you for it 😊



*St. Coletta staff, past and present, plunge into the ocean in dedication to William Powers.*



*Kacie's hair turns to ice for a good cause!*



# Joey, We Will Miss You!



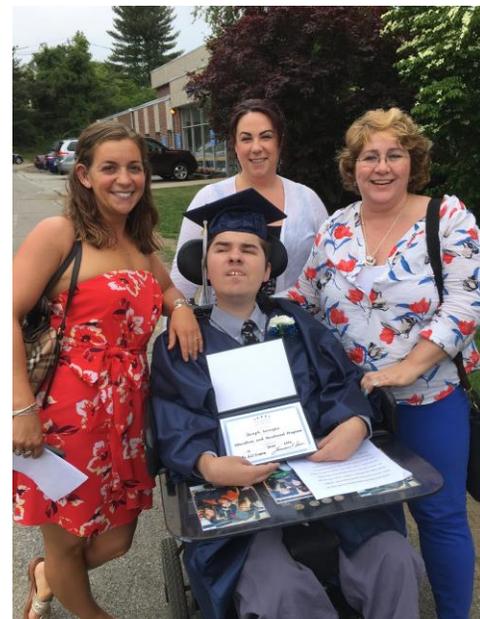
*Joey with one of his bff's, L. J.*



*With Donna and the Red Sox Trophies*



*Bruins Ice Girls with the King!*



*Graduation day! Proud parents and staff.*

## PAC Updates

Thank you to those of you who completed and returned the survey sent out earlier this year from the Cardinal Cushing Centers Parent Advisory Council. If you haven't had a chance to complete the survey, you can always share your input now, or at a later date by going to this link: <http://cushingcenters.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/Parent-Advisory-Council-Survey2017.docx>

If surveys are not for you but you'd like to touch base, feel free to contact me, at [acmcrim@comcast.net](mailto:acmcrim@comcast.net). Your voice matters!

I also would like to bring your attention to the newly developing website for the CCC PAC where you will find information that may be useful and relevant to you and your family, along with notifications about upcoming PAC meetings and events. By going to the home page for Cardinal Cushing Centers and clicking on the link for Educational and Vocational Resources, you will find a page for the PAC. Check it out!

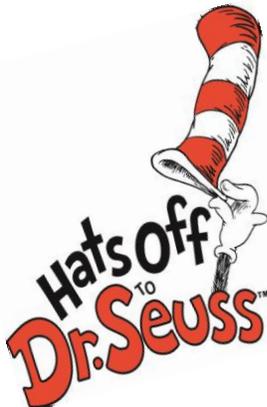
<http://cushingcenters.org/education-and-vocational/resources-for-family-members-and-guardians/>

The next PAC meeting will be held on March 20<sup>th</sup>, at the Hanover campus in the education building. All parents are welcomed and encouraged to attend.

I look forward to hearing from you, and meeting you some day soon.

With good wishes from

Cindy Crimmins, Allie's Mom



*Allie C. reading a classic Dr. Seuss book in celebration of his birthday and the importance of reading.*