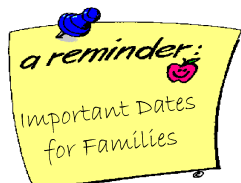




# Carroll Creek Communicator



## Assessment Time



This may sound a little strange, but I am pretty excited about the PARCC assessment. I have watched our staff and students prepare for this for a year. There has been targeted instruction delivered through Montessori materials. Students have practiced keyboarding skills which are vital to being successful on an assessment that is delivered through a computer based application. Our teachers also presented lessons on specific PARCC test “tools” that are imbedded in the assessment program. As I observe from the hall, it is obvious that the students are confident in their skills and carefully considering their responses. If you have visited the school over the past week, you most likely noticed that the students who are not in the computer lab at any given time are being respectful by working quietly and moving through the halls just as quietly. There is still a lot of instruction happening, but rest assured that everyone is respecting the practical life skill of taking an assessment.

One of our amazing parents procured tickets for our seventh grade students to visit the African American Museum! What an amazing feat! Those tickets are almost impossible to get—AMAZING! I can’t wait to hear what they learn. This month several of our middle school students will also be visiting Fox Island for a two night field study. Our sixth grade students will join together for a two night camping trip as their last big activity together before becoming middle school students.

“Move Up Day/New Student Orientation” was such a delight. Observing the confidence of students mentoring the students who were new to their class and the comfort of those younger students once again demonstrated the gift of our Montessori community to our students. I got to spend the afternoon talking with some of our current parents who will have another child join us in the fall as well as families who will be new to us. Preparation comes in many forms and this meeting and sharing in the spring in preparation for the upcoming school year leads to a not just a smooth transition, but allow our community to feel like the welcoming place we want to be every day.

## Carroll Creek Montessori Public Charter School Mission

CCMPCS's mission is to build a community in which students, parents and staff work together to educate the "whole child," the sum of the physical, emotional, social, and intellectual parts. We will implement a Montessori based curriculum to give students the hands-on tools they need to be active learners both in and outside the classroom. By offering English with Spanish enrichment or dual-language Spanish instruction to all students, we will provide a unique opportunity for students to learn a second language at an early age and develop multicultural awareness.

5-2	6:00 Avoid, Deny, Defend @ Tuscarora HS
5-3	7:00 Chorus Concert
5/4	9:00 MS to African American Museum
5/6	4:00-8:00 GC Spin the Bottle/Nito Fundraiser
5/7-5/9	9:00 6th Grade Camping Trip
5/11	10:15 Mad Hatters' Tea (Primary)
5/11	12:45 Dismissal
5/14	7:00 GC Meeting
5/17-5/19	9:00 MS Field Study—Fox Island
5/22	6:00 Lottery Mtg
5/23	4:00 Spanish Task Force Meeting
5/25	Field Day
5/29	12:00 Kdg Field Trip
	<b>PARCC Schedule</b>
3rd	5/7-5/9 Math
4th	5/10 & 5/11 Math
5th	4/30-5/3 ELA 5/12-5/15 Math
6th	4/30-5/2 ELA 5/15-5/17 Math
7th	5/7-5/9 Math
8th	5/3-5/4 & 5/7- 5/8 ELA 5/10, 5/11 & 5/14 Math

Many of our students, even those who do not participate in PARCC have a propensity to have anxiety surrounding tests, quizzes and other forms of evaluation. Anxiety comes in various forms depending on the individual. For some it prevents them from doing well on the evaluation and for other students the pressure can be an motivating factor. Test anxiety can show itself in various ways such as:

Buffy Kamnikar  
School Counselor  
301-663-7710

## Nurse's Office

## From the Art Room



**Primary** students are exploring the art elements of space, line, shape, and color as they complete their colorful straw paintings and explore the color wheel. In their new works, they are focused on finding the relationships between color, color mixing, and the emotion of color.

**Lower Elementary** students are learning about symmetrical design in architecture as they view examples of symmetrical facades from across the globe. They are learning to transfer pencil drawings of buildings across a center line on their paper, to insure symmetry, and are finishing these works with collage and water colors.

**Upper Elementary** students are completing their scrolls and moving into a unit on cartooning. Students are

designing their own Rube Goldberg machines and comic strips as they learn about the history and traditional themes of comic strips and books.

**Middle School Sculpture** students are creating visual symbols for this year's four guiding themes set out by Mrs. McIntosh in their middle school curriculum (change,

systems in balance, movement, acquiring a sense of belonging). They are then incorporating these symbols into a design for a mask to be completed in papier mache.

**Middle School Oil Painting** students are developing paintings that are influenced and inspired by an artist of their choice. Some of the artists chosen include Louise Bourgeois, Pablo Picasso, and the Surrealists. As they paint, they are exploring color mixing, contrast, texture, and layering. While the work is in progress, the students participate in peer critiques.



*"Every child is an artist." — Pablo Picasso*

*Mrs. Reed*

## Music Notes

**Kindergarten** classes are continuing to perfect their solfeggio skills and hand signs by practicing some interval exercises. We have started learning the button game song and are working on quarter and eighth note rhythm patterns, all in preparation for Lower Elementary next year. We have been practicing performing tempo, Lento (slow) and Allegro (fast) with many of our familiar classroom songs. Our 5 Spring Flowers rhythm rhyme has students providing sound effects for spring storms by using a wide range of instruments like the xylophone, chimes, sand blocks, vibraslap, and thundertube!

Thunder tube



Sergei Prokofiev

**Lower Elementary** classes are celebrating spring with the familiar Spanish folk song, De Colores. Students have been singing and providing a triple meter accompaniment on guiros, sand blocks, and cabasa. We had a special visitor, Zach Harrison, demonstrate the trumpet as we continue our brass family study.

**Upper Elementary** students enjoyed attending the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra concert earlier in the month focusing on music's relationship to dance. Classes are analyzing the form of some of the selections in preparation for their end of the year listening map project. "Love for Three Oranges" (Prokofiev) and "Toreador Song" (Bizet) are two of the selections.

**Middle School**

**Drama:** students completed their study of gestures and expression by presenting Fairy Tale Tableaus, isolating particular scenes to tell the whole story. They are currently working on comedy skits to present in June!



**Independent study:** as the year closes, students will analyze professional performances of their chosen instrument to observe technique and repertoire

**Theory and composition:** students are studying minor scales and triads; soon they will be analyzing and composing.

### Performing Ensembles:

Our two fifth graders, Zachary Harrison and Zoe McNicholas were wonderful representatives of Carroll Creek at the annual FCPS Honors Chorus. Congratulations!

Our spring concert is Thursday May 3 at 7pm here at CCM. It will be sure to entertain as we have a guest musician from our faculty performing with us!



## Physical Education

Primary students have been practicing jumping and landing skills using a mini trampoline. Students have been working on bending their knees and swinging their arms up when jumping and landing on the balls of their feet while bending the knees while landing. We have started doing more group activities together with a strong emphasis on good sportsmanship. Primary students have been doing a great job introducing and guiding their pre-k partners on move-up day when they come to P.E.!

Lower Elementary is finishing up their bowling unit by taking part in our class bowling tournament where they get the chance to bowl in real games with their classmates and keep track of their score. LE students have practiced proper underhand rolling form through a variety of activities. UE and Middle School students are playing wiffle ball in P.E. this month! Students practiced bat safety and hitting form, fielding, and hand-eye coordination skills. Students have learned how the game works and now they are mastering it as we play some full games outside.



The Keys Family Fitness Challenge should have come home with your student this month. This is a great way to promote exercise and a healthy lifestyle. If your student returns the completed form by May 11 they will receive a free ticket to the Keys game! Please get your Field Day permission slips in as soon as possible so that we can get everyone's t-shirt ordered. Thank you!

- Mr. Hickman

## Spanish Spoken Here

In **Kindergarten** we have been learning about the alphabet. We are concentrating on the sounds of Spanish letters. We have just spent a week reviewing previously learned concepts through games, writing practice and Montessori three part card. We reviewed the weather, the months of the year, geometrical shapes and, of course, the alphabet.

In **Lower Elementary** we are approaching the end of the Goldilocks unit. We are taking our time to learn new vocabulary through games and writing exercises. We are still working on the correct placement of adjectives in the sentences (after nouns) and on matching the gender and number of adjectives and nouns.

With **Upper Elementary** we are learning to talk about the things that we like and dislike. We are concentrating in activities students like to do. Students interviewed classmates and collected information on what everyone in class likes to do in their free time.



**Middle School level 1** is learning about likes and dislikes as well. The students also learned to talk about origin and now we are getting into the grammar of the verb 'to like.' The **Level 2** students have been reviewing how to talk about likes and dislikes, places they go and the activities they do in those places, and how to express their feelings. They are ready to dig into the grammar of the verbs 'to be' and 'to have' to express feelings. **Conversation groups** have been going well for both classes.

Having the opportunity to practice Spanish with native speakers inside the classroom is a great privilege and we are very thankful for the parent volunteers that make it possible! Thank you parent volunteers for providing such a great learning experience to our students!!!

**Culture learning:** We have discussed how life in the United States has been influenced by the Hispanic population. We have looked at cities like New York, Miami and Tampa and how they have great concentrations of Hispanic inhabitants and the richness in culture these inhabitants bring to such cities

- Mrs.



## Tidbits from our GC

The first meeting of the Facilities Task Force primarily focused on our major options going forward, including moving the school to a new facility or staying put. The task force will meet again in May or June (stay tuned for the date) to develop a work plan. The group could particularly use the support of community members who can volunteer their expertise in real estate and law. Please join us!

The Governing Council voted to adopt a new Before and Aftercare provider, Clubhouse Kids, starting

with the next school year. We have very much appreciated the care provided by the YMCA and are thankful for their work. We are also excited about some of the features offered by Clubhouse Kids, including 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5-day options, sibling discounts, lower tuition, drop-in options for students who don't regularly attend, and no extra charges for inclement weather days, to name a few. More details and sign-up instructions will come later this spring. We hope the flexibility offered by Clubhouse Kids will allow more families to take

advantage of Before and Aftercare.

All parents are welcome to attend our next Governing Council meeting on Monday, May 14 at 7pm at Carroll Creek!

Best,  
Dr. Molly Carlson  
Governing Council Chair  
Carroll Creek Montessori Public Charter School

## Your Volunteer Hours Matter!



The Education and Curriculum Committee Co-Chairs just submitted our school's total volunteer hours for the period of May 1, 2017 - April 30, 2018. They are excited to share with you that our total for the past year is a whopping **8,207 hours**.

THANK YOU to all the parents and staff who dedicated so much of their blood, sweat, tears, time and energy to our school! We truly could not progress without this massive effort. Each year, the Board of Education reviews our total number of volunteer hours compared to the number of students (301 students from 176 families) who are enrolled at our school and is impressed by their findings, and this year will be no exception.

## Attendance

The attendance benchmark the district set for us is 96%. Please do not send your child to school if they are not feeling well.

It is imperative that students are present for the PARCC exam. Not only does attendance at this time effect our overall school attendance, the PARCC schedule is very tight and we have few slots available for students to make-up tests they missed when they were absent.

We have seven weeks of school left. If everyone makes their best effort to come to school every day we can raise our overall attendance percentage.

