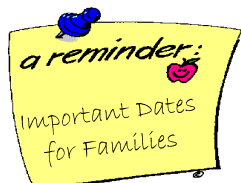




# Carroll Creek Communicator



## Choosing CCM

The Lottery opens January second and closes February fifth. If you have a child who has a sibling who currently is a student at CCM and you would like them to join our school, please enter the lottery. If you know another family who have children who would like to attend a strong Montessori community with an emphasis on Spanish, please ask them to enter the lottery. It often is beneficial for prospective families to visit our school as they make the decision to join a Montessori school - they can call our office (301-663-7970) to schedule a tour. Survey data indicates that families learn about schools from families who already attend them—you are our best advocate! One way you can help support this effort is to join our Chorus at the School Choice Fair January 20th and answer any questions that people in the audience might have before, during or after the performance. A great added feature is that you will get to enjoy our wonderful Chorus!



Thank you for meeting with our staff during conferences. We had 96% of our families participate either before, during or after conference days. Our conferences at the upper elementary and middle school levels are “Student Led” with our students sharing their progress and responding to questions from their families. This has proven to be a great motivator and ensures students monitor their own progress as they set personal goals throughout the year.

You will find data in the back of this newsletter representing the comparison of our fall Spanish assessment. If you remember from last year’s data there was a good jump in what our students knew in the fall compared to what they had learned by the time they took the spring assessment. It is evident that this year’s third grade students performed higher on the fall assessment than last year’s third grade students. We expect this year’s spring assessment to show higher performance than last year’s also. We have put several strategies in place to support these gains. Hopefully your child is using more Spanish at home.

Speaking of assessments, we will be embarking on the Scantron mid-year math and language assessment the first week we return from winter break. We will start with Lower Elementary then move through Upper Elementary and then Middle School. The assessments will start shortly after arrival. Please start talking with your child now about gathering accurate data and the need for them to do their best.

12/25 thru 1/1	Winter Break
1/2	Lottery Opens 3/5 Lottery closes 3/27 Lottery held
1/4	Scantron Assessment starts (Grades 2-8)
1/8	3:34 Garden Club
1/8	7:00 CCM GC Meeting
1/11	Vision/Hearing Screening
1/20	1:30 School Choice Fair @ FSK Mall
1/22	3:45 Garden Club
1/26	12:45 Early Dismissal
1/29	No School—Teacher Work Day
1/31	7:00 MMCI Meeting @ MVM

## 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.



## Counselor's Corner

Thankful. This time of year, is a great time to remember what and who we are thankful for. It is also a time for family and joy. So, as I write my last newsletter for CCM, I'd like to remind people to remember what and who they are thankful for. I'd like to encourage everyone to consider the joy in your life and see what you can do to bring that joy forth in others. I urge you to talk to your children daily about what brings them joy, how they may bring joy to others, and inspire them to stop and remember what and who they are thankful for.

I have accepted a new position at another school; but, I am thankful for my time at CCM. I am thankful to have worked with staff members who are caring and persistent and generous. I am thankful to have watched students grow and mature and am gratified to have been a small part of that.

I have asked staff to keep in contact, as I'd like to encourage any of you. I would be appreciative to hear from you about your children (or from your child directly!) and to continue to help support their learning. Although it be with some trepidation, it is with joy that I enter this new season in my life. Happy Holidays and joy to you all.



## Health Room Need

We are in desperate need of new underwear for younger students (age 3-6). Donations must be new items in their packages, not gently used. Please send any donations to our health room. Thank you!

## Vision and Hearing Screening

Hearing and Vision Screening will take place January 11th for all students in pre-kindergarten, kindergarten (if not previously screened upon entry in FCPS Pre-K), 1st grade, 8th grade and any new enterers to the Maryland public school system. Maryland State Law mandates this screening. Parents/guardians who have an objection to this screening based on the tenets and/or practice of their church or religion must submit a request for their child to be exempt from screening. All written requests must be submitted to the health room by January 8th. Please make sure if your child wears glasses or contacts that they have them on the screening days. If you have any questions please contact the health room at 240-578-0504.



## From the Art Room



The five-year-old primary students are practicing composition and developing positive and negative space in printmaking. They are making their own printing plates, inking the plates and printing their images multiple times. They have also been practicing drawing at the drawing center where they can create observational drawings and use a variety of drawing stencils and templates.

Lower Elementary students are exploring careers in art and learning about photography, bookbinding, and printmaking. They are putting these skills together to create a hand bound book of printed leaf shapes.

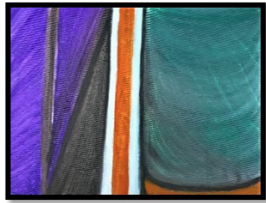
Upper Elementary and Middle School sculpture students are planning and drawing facades of their dream homes. They are also learning about the top 10 playful architectural designs. These original and playful buildings span the globe and include St. Basil's Cathedral in Moscow, Russia, La Cathedral of La Sagrada Familia in Barcelona, Spain, Atomium in Brussels, Belgium, and Hundertwasser House in Vienna, Austria. Next, they will design a building inspired by one of the top ten, playful building designs in Europe. Using a variety of methods and materials, they will turn their designs into three-dimensional works of art.

Middle School oil painting students are developing their paintings. They are applying washes of color to their value and form studies and developing their Precisionist inspired abstractions in limited palettes.

*Have a Happy Holiday!*

*Mrs. Reed*

*"Beauty both promotes concentration of thought and offers refreshment to the tired spirit"*



## Music Notes

- Maria Montessori

**Kindergarten** music classes have been filled with the sounds of the holiday season. Classes learned the "Hanukkah is Here" song and accompanying movements. Classes also sang the traditional Jingle Bells and played various jingle bell instruments on the steady beat. The cold weather meant it was time to start doing the "Freeze Dance" stopping in a freeze pose when the music stops. Students are continuing Montessori Bell lessons now focusing on matching and same/different.

**Lower Elementary** classes have also been filled with seasonal sounds as students sing "Ocho Kandelikas" (the Ladino Hanukkah song), the O Hanukkah Dance, Winter Fantasy, a partner song to Jingle Bells, and Feliz Navidad. Classes have also seen video guide to the glass armonica, and instrument often used when playing "The Sugar Plum Fairy" from the Nutcracker. Selections from the Nutcracker like the Chinese Dance, March of the Toy Soldiers, and Waltz of the Flowers have served as our examples as we study various tempos.

**Upper Elementary** students have been working on identifying symbols and providing vocabulary found in a typical music score such as rhythm values, ties, slurs, clefs, dynamics, and lyrics. Classes have also sung the Winter Fantasy partner song as well as Ocho Kandelikas, and have learned drumming and tambourine accompaniments. Solfeggio exercises are now surpassing the Lower Elementary level as classes taken on the challenge of intervals!

### Middle School:

**General Music 7:** Our study of Jazz comes to a close as we explored the elements of "Cool Jazz" and Fusion. Students listened to selections by Miles Davis, Dizzy Gillespie, Herbie Hancock, and Chick Corea, and noted the stylistic, instrumental, and ensemble size differences that occurred through the later half of the 20th century.

**Independent Study:** students are playing the sounds of the season as they work on holiday songs they selected themselves.

### Performing Ensembles:

Our performing groups are taking a well-deserved break after a rigorous concert performance that was extremely well attended! Many, many thanks to parents for supporting our students with afterschool rehearsals and for the many hands that helped with set up and breakdown of the concert itself.



*Chick Corea*



*Herbie Hancock*



*Mrs. Reynolds*



## Physical Education

As we near the end of the year the students have been working very hard in P.E. Primary students continue to work on using different locomotor movements (running, skipping, sliding, and galloping) to travel around the gym. They have been utilizing the underhand roll while practicing bowling games. We have introduced a modified kickball game for primary students that emphasizes stationary kicking, kicking while in motion, and learning how to run the bases. Respect and cooperation with classmates is always something that is being talked about with primary students in P.E.! LE, UE, and Middle School are finishing up their hockey unit which has been an awesome unit for everyone. We have learned and practiced different skills including proper stick grip, passing with a teammate, shooting on goal, and stick safety. Over the last week we have put all these skills together to play a full game of hockey. Not only are students getting the opportunity to play as a field player but also as a goalie which has been exciting. All students in P.E. are reminded to get at least 60 minutes of activity a day and to try and maintain a balanced diet by referring to our food pyramid. I wish everyone a safe and happy break and I look forward to seeing the students back for a new year!



- Mr. Hickman

## Spanish Spoken Here

Since Christmas is always right around the corner at the start of December, the Spanish department has been teaching the primary students how to sing the Spanish rendition of “Jingle Bells” – Cascabel.

This month, primary students have been learning about food, animals and expressing themselves through the classic statement “Yo soy...” – “I am...” While Preschool students have been practicing the alphabet for the past few months, most of the kindergarten students have been getting the opportunity to lead their class in singing the alphabet. As of now, students are currently still reinforcing their knowledge on animals, and will soon be learning about the different professions that exist – in Spanish, of course.

Most of the Lower Elementary students have led their class in singing the alphabet. Additionally, the first grade students of CCM have recently gotten used to writing, and some no longer require tracing. The students have still been learning in class through modeling. Recently, the Lower Elementary students have been expressing themselves through the question “Qué te gusta” (what do you like) and “qué te gusta hacer” (what do you like to do). Not only that, the students have also been learning about animals, and recently did a worksheet that involved identifying and coloring the animal. Also, they have learned about the gendered words in Spanish, and have been learning about the singular articles (un, una, el, la). We will soon be moving onto plural articles, as well as the different professions.

Upper Elementary is still getting practice in note taking and referencing. As of late, the Upper Elementary has been getting plenty of practice in identifying the gender of words, and putting the right articles. Along with that, the students have also had practice with following instructions in Spanish. Every class starts with activities written on the board for them to attempt, and almost always, an activity involving drawing is included. The drawing activity consists of being able to identify numbers and reinforcing the body parts in Spanish, while also allowing students creative expression. As of late, Upper Elementary has been covering the present perfect tense and is also learning about how to create participles of a word in Spanish.

After a few months, the Middle School students have begun displaying more confidence and skill in their Spanish abilities. Both Middle School classes have been covering the past tenses in Spanish – the imperfect and the preterit. By now, all of the students should have the conjugation charts for both tenses, as well as a list of irregular conjugations in their notebooks, which they’ve completed for a grade. They’ve also been practicing identifying gender of words and putting the correct articles. As of now, MS Level 2 has finally gotten their first writing assignment – they are required to write 4 to 6 sentences on a list of topics given in class. MS Level 1 will soon get to attempt this assignment once the present and past perfect tenses are presented to both classes.

And, of course, all the students at CCMPCS have been reinforced on following the rules and expectations of the Spanish class. Though challenging at first, the students have improved significantly in following the expectations, and it has helped create a much better, happier and relaxing work environment for hopefully all the students.

- Mr. Kramer



## Tidbits from our GC

Dear CCM Community,

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very wonderful holiday season filled with happiness and peace, and to wish you a prosperous and peaceful 2018. It has been quite a year, on so many levels, and our school has much to be proud of accomplishing in the past year – and much to look forward to and keep working for.

One of the changes that comes with each new calendar year is a change in school governance. It has been a privilege and an honor to serve as your Governing Council (GC) Chair for the past two years, and I look forward to finishing the second year of my term in 2018 by continuing on the GC as the Education & Curriculum co-chair.

I am excited to introduce you to your incoming GC Chair for the 2018 calendar year, Dr. Molly Carlson! (with daughters in 1st and 3rd grade.) Molly has been serving on the GC since 2017 as co-chair of the Education & Curriculum committee, and I know her energy, big-picture thinking, and organization will be assets to the role of GC Chair. Please join me in welcoming her in this role!



Old GC Chair...



...New GC Chair!

Also new to the GC in 2018 will be our Parent Representatives, who were elected at the Annual Meeting in November, and whose terms will start January 1. Please say a big “thank you” next time you see these parents to:



Kate Chasse

Finance Committee Chair



Carrie Jean Rathmell

Community Outreach Chair



Eric Riccio

Building & Maintenance Chair

These three fabulous parents join me, Deb Herbaugh, and Molly as Parent Representatives, along with Ashley Andrews, Michael Beth Edwards, and Mary Lou Reynolds as Staff Representatives, Daisy Lopez-Duke as Friend of Education, and Marilyn Horan, Principal, to round out your 2018 Governing Council. In the New Year, don't be shy about asking one of us how you can pitch in!

Happy Holidays!

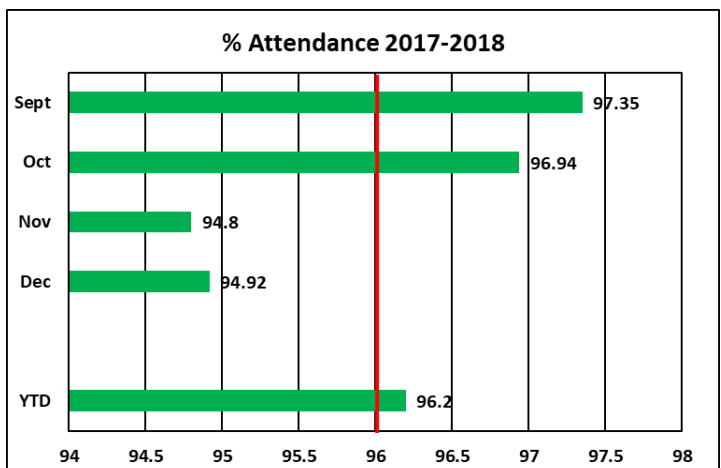
Sincerely,

Amanda Erard  
CCM GC Chair

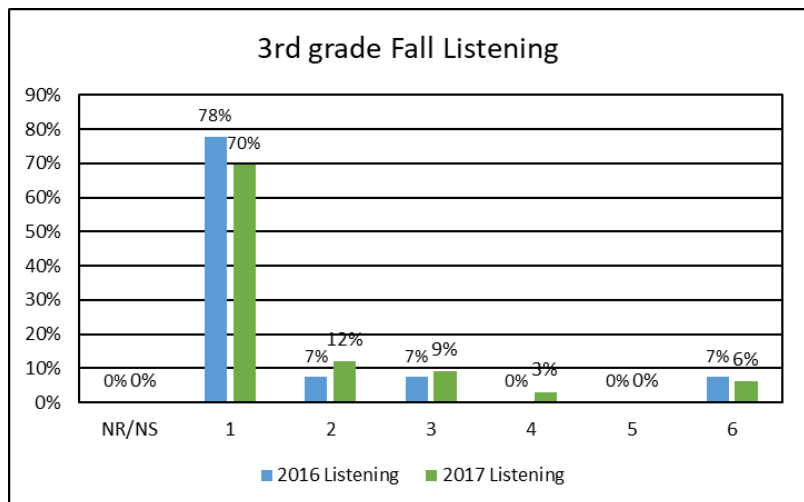
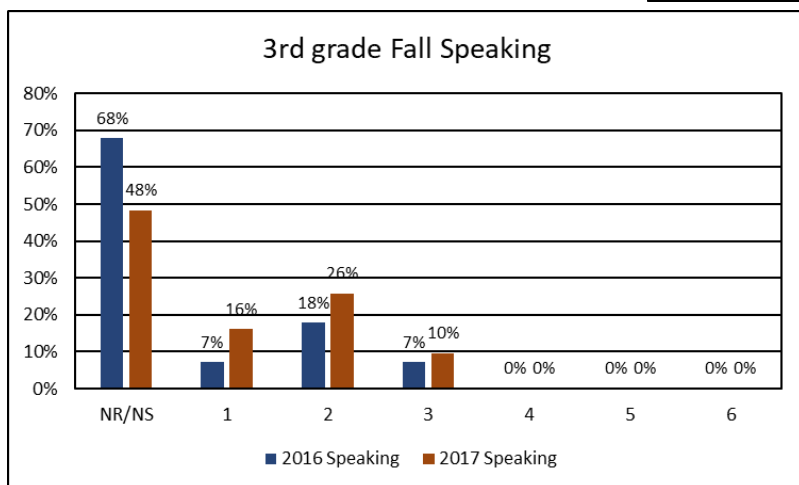
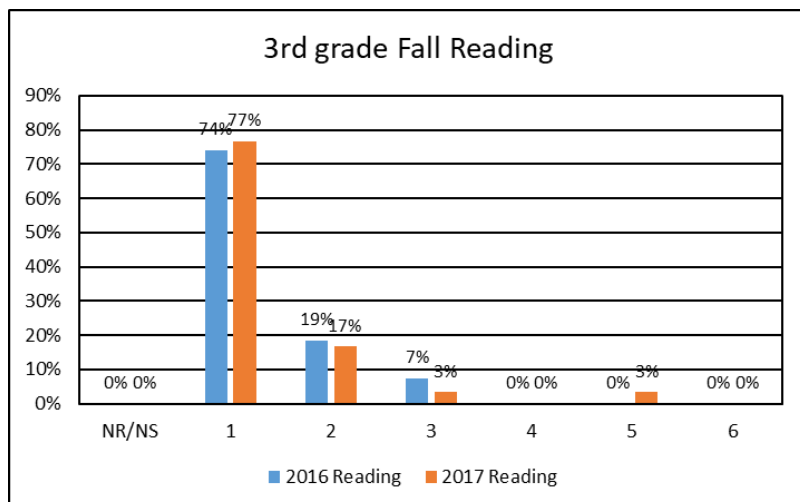
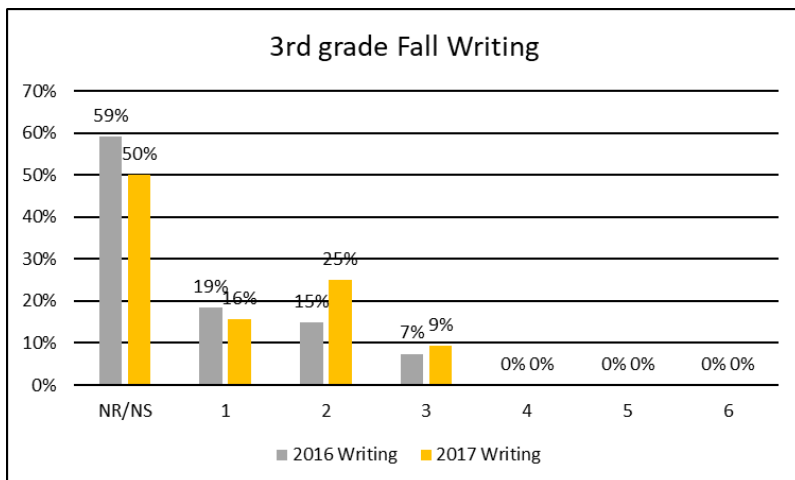
## Attendance

The attendance benchmark the district set for us is 96%. We started off strong, then November and December really took a toll on us. Many families chose to take vacations during school which effects our overall attendance data. We need to get back on track in January. Please do not bring your child to school if they have a fever or are throwing up, if they are ill they should stay home, but if they can, they should come to school.

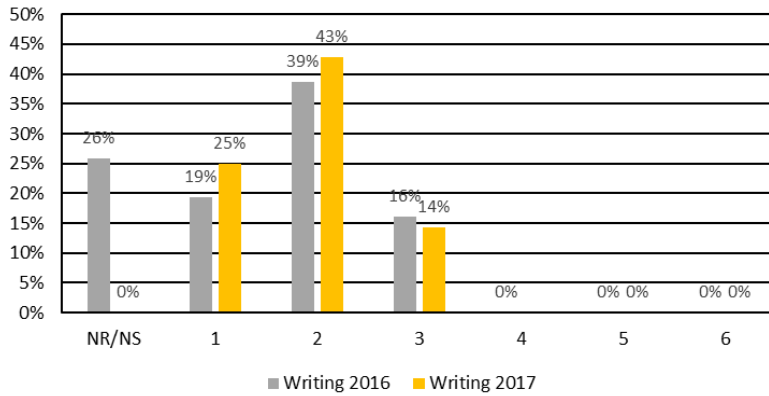
57 of our students (21%) have perfect attendance to this point in time! Great habit to get into for sure!



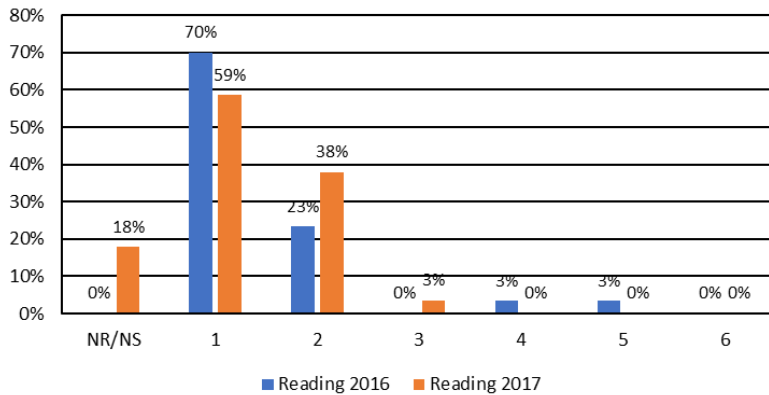
The graphs on this page and the next depict the data we gathered through the AVANT Spanish assessment. Students in the third and sixth grades take the assessment in the fall and spring. We initiated this assessment in the fall of last year, so we are now able to have some comparison data. These graphs compare our initial fall assessment data to the data collected this fall. NR/NS means that the responses were not sufficient enough to count. As you can see, there has been significant growth from our third grade last year to our third grade this year. We expect to see even more growth in our spring data.



6th grade Fall Writing



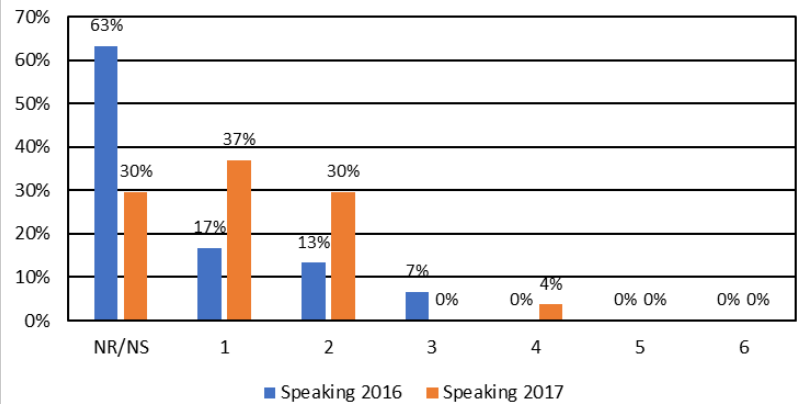
6th grade Fall Reading



We assess third and sixth grade students using the ADVANT because it is used nationally and we can gather data on four skill areas. This is an expensive computer based assessment so we choose to assess the end of each cluster level only.

Our kindergarten students also will be assessed, but it is too early in the year to get accurate, usable data related to their Spanish proficiency. The assessment we administer to these students was developed by the staff at CCM because there is currently not an assessment available for students that young (remember we are leading the way in teaching all students Spanish).

6th grade Fall Speaking



6th grade Fall Listening

