



# Carroll Creek Communicator



## CCM Potpourri

When I think of Potpourri I think about a beautiful blend of petals, leaves and other small items gathered from nature. The “potpourri” of information being shared in this newsletter showcases the beautiful mixture of our school.

The Lottery closes March 5th. We have close to 1000 applicants as this is being written. If you have a child who you would like to attend CCM next year, you must enter them in the lottery. Siblings get priority, but they have to come through the lottery process.

The field trip to see the movie “Wonder” was fabulous! Our students were very well behaved and appeared to not only enjoy the movie, but also embraced the lessons that were presented throughout it. There were a lot of follow up activities once we returned to school that enabled students to discuss and write about various situations from the movie.

Our fifth and eighth grade students have been preparing for the science assessment which will take place March 5-9 (8th grade will be Monday and Wednesday and 5th grade will be Tuesday and Thursday). If your child is in 5th or 8th grade please ensure they are on time to school each of those days so the testing sessions can start on time.

It was a joy to present our Montessori Language Journey to the parents who were in attendance earlier this month. If you have not attended a Montessori 101 presentation, you will have an opportunity to do so Friday, March 23rd. Mark your calendars now for this event. Huge thanks to our staff for providing these activities!

Our GC put in a lot of effort to prepare a comprehensive annual report to deliver to the FCPS BOE this month. If you were not able to attend or to watch on TV or internet, please plan to attend one of the upcoming “State of the School” events. The evening presentation will be held Monday, March 19th at 7:00 with the same information being shared Friday, March 23rd at 9:00.

Did you know we have a Robotics Club? This is the first year students have participated in the club and they have done amazing things! They qualified for competition at the state level (one of only four teams from our district to do so) in this inaugural year! We are looking forward to continued success of this club.



## 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.

2/28	6:00 Annual Report to BOE
3/2	12:45 Early Dismissal
3/2	6:00 @ MVM Talent Show
3/5 & 3/7	MISA Testing 8 grade
3/5 & 3/7	Outdoor School 5th grade
3/6 & 3/8	MISA Testing 5th grade
3/7	1:00 @ Annapolis House Bill
3/7	7:00 @ CCM MMCI Meeting
3/8	1:00 @ Annapolis Senate Bill
3/12	7:00 GC Meeting
3/16-3/22	Book Fair
3/17-3/19	MS Field Study @ Smith Island
3/19	7:00 @ CCM State of the School
3/22	Spring Pictures
3/23	9:00 @CCM State of the School
3/23	6:30 Montessori 101
3/29	4:00 Spanish Task Force
3/30 & 4/2	Spring Break

## Counselor's Corner



Some families may have seen a new face at drop off or around the building wondering who this addition in the middle of the year might be! My name is Buffy Kamnikar and I have the wonderful opportunity of being the new Counselor here at Carroll Creek Montessori. Prior to joining CCM, I was a School Counselor for Montgomery County Public Schools. I have had the privilege to work in both elementary and middle school in MCPS. While I very much enjoyed my time there, my family and I reside in Frederick County and it is important for me to work and serve in our community.

I have my Masters in Counseling from Johns Hopkins University and a Post Masters Certificate in Clinical Mental Health Counseling, also from Johns Hopkins. I was fortunate enough to be named Graduate student of the year by the Maryland School Counseling Association and continue now as an active member of MSCA & the American Counseling Association. Upon finishing my degree I sat for my National Board Certification in Counseling and obtained my license in the state of Maryland for professional counselors.

As your school counselor I will continue to work with our students by delivering classroom guidance lessons, small group instruction, one-on-one counseling services along with providing resources and supports to our staff and families. My goal is to aid in the social/emotional, academic & career development of all our students. I look forward to growing with everyone this year!

*Buffy Kamnikar*  
School Counselor  
301-663-7710

## Nurse's Office



Please welcome Caitlin Bell, CNA, CMT as our new Health Room Technician. As a reminder, the school health team consists of the Registered Nurse, Colleen Cook, and the Health Room Technician (HRT). The RN is assigned to more than one school, so your child will most likely be seen by the HRT for injuries and illnesses. Please contact the health room at 240-578-0504 if you have any questions or concerns.

## School Safety



The staff at CCM would like to assure you that we take precautions every day to ensure the safety of each person who walks through our doors.

- \* All doors leading to our school are to be locked unless a staff member is present (arrival and dismissal are the only times they are unlocked).
- \* Outside arrival/dismissal times, all visitors are required to buzz in the front door. If the person is not recognized, whoever is at the front desk goes to the door to gain information about the visitor before they are allowed in.
- \* Students are not released to adults without appropriate dismissal cards or ID (and then only after parent request).
- \* All visitors should wear badges during school hours.
- \* All doors are in the locked position during the day so when they are closed, they are locked.
- \* We participate in lockdown, fire and tornado drills and discuss procedures to follow with our students. These events are debriefed at meetings and through Weekly Updates.
- \* A "safety audit" was completed today (February 28th) with only minor suggestions being made. Those were addressed immediately.
- \* The Frederick County SWAT Team held a practice exercise at CCM which gave them first-hand knowledge of our school.
- \* Staff members have walkie talkies when they are outside and at all times when they are with students to communicate with the office.
- \* Whether they are inside or outside, our staff is very aware of "strangers" in and around our parking lot and report any concerns to the office immediately.
- \* There is a plan in place if it ever becomes necessary to evacuate the building.
- \* Safety plans are reviewed annually as well as during collaboration and staff meetings as needed.

## From the Art Room

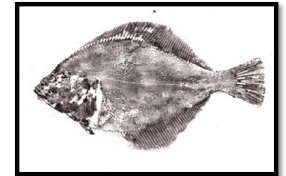


**Primary students** continue to explore the element of line as they practice gesture and contour drawings while working from the still-life. Using ink and bamboo brushes, the children are also practicing their painted lines as they observe the still-life. After developing abstract printmaking works about line, the children will move on to works about the element of shape.

**Lower Elementary** students have just completed the very long process of incorporating book binding, printmaking and photography to create hand bound books that explore leaves and their shapes. I hope these beautiful works have made their way home with your children and that they have been able to share them with you. We are now using the animals of the Chinese Zodiac as

inspiration for drawing and sculpting animals and understanding animal symbology.

**Upper Elementary** students have completed their architectural sculptures with spray paint and are either displaying the finished pieces in the library or taking them home. Since some students worked in groups for this project, not everyone will bring a piece home. Some groups have opted to display the works in the library as a way of sharing them. Currently, the children are learning about the Japanese tradition of Gyotaku printmaking. This method of printmaking began in the mid-1800s when a fisherman made prints of their catches to record them.



**Middle School Sculpture** students are completing their architectural sculptures and beginning a project in clay. Inspired and informed by Chinese ceramics, the children are creating a coil pot that emulates a ceramic piece from a period in Chinese history of their choice.

**Middle School Oil Painting** students are using color to create space as they work from the still-life and developing their 16" x 20" paintings of their choice. Currently, 9"x 12", Precisionist oil paintings from the first semester are being displayed.

Mrs. Reed

*"It is good to love many things, for therein lies the true strength, and whosoever loves much performs much, and can accomplish much, and what is done in love is well done."*

— Vincent van Gogh

## Music Notes

**Kindergarten** music classes have continued to practice using the solfeggio hand signs in their greeting song as well as practicing the signs for the major scale. Our Spanish valentine song, Te Quiero, worked students' alternating hand skills as they begin learning movements for playing maracas in later years. We used the Montessori bells to accompany the Chinese New Year song, Gung Hay Fat Choy, using a whole note pattern, while the Brush Your Teeth song got a lot of giggles as we played shakers to emulate the sound of a tooth brush in honor of Dental Health Month. We say good bye to our "Freeze" dance as February comes to a close.



**Lower Elementary** classes used the tone bars to practice identifying notes on the treble clef and to accompany another Chinese New Year song, "Ring in the New Year" in the pentatonic scale. The brass family has been an exciting group of instruments to study, as students learn what which one has been playing familiar melodies in Star Wars, Mario, and the Olympics. Classes continue to "sight-read" hand signs in more difficult interval skipping exercises of solfeggio.



Arturo Marquez

**Upper Elementary** recorder study has begun with veteran students coaching our "newbies" on articulation, fingering, and posture. Our featured directed listening piece, "Conga del Fuego Nuevo" by Arturo Marquez, provided a timely demonstration of Latin Percussion found in orchestral music, especially for claves. Students are continuing the study of sixteenth notes by combining them with eighth notes and performing complicated rhythm patterns.

### Middle School

We now have a drama class once a week that has several students channeling their inner thespian drive into skits and pantomimes. This month focused on drama vocabulary, emphasis, good actor traits, and blocking.

Independent study continues on guitar and keyboard, with some students trying out mandolin and ukulele as well. For veteran students, classical repertoire has become their focus as they study selections such as Fur Elise, Minuet in G, and Sarabande.

### Performing Ensembles:

Our spring concert will be on May 3. Mark your calendars!



## Physical Education



Primary students have been busy learning how to volley an object consecutively. Students have been practicing using a balloon individually and with a group keeping it up and volleying to other students. Primary students have also been working with long-handled implements practicing safety and proper form for shooting and passing. Movement is always a big part of our primary classroom and our primary students are always moving!



LE, UE, and Middle school have all begun their volleyball unit. Students have learned the basic rules of the game, multiple passing techniques, and serving. Students had the opportunity to practice the skills through small group activities over the past week and now we have our net up and are ready for play! Students know the rotation of the players on the court which makes for quick transitions, so everyone has equal opportunity on the court. Students have adapted to our smaller court and have played some great games so far! The weather is getting warmer and we have been taking advantage of getting outside and being active whenever we can. Looking forward to next month students will be focusing on fitness testing and trying to improve their scores from the fall.

- Mr. Hickman

## Spanish Spoken Here

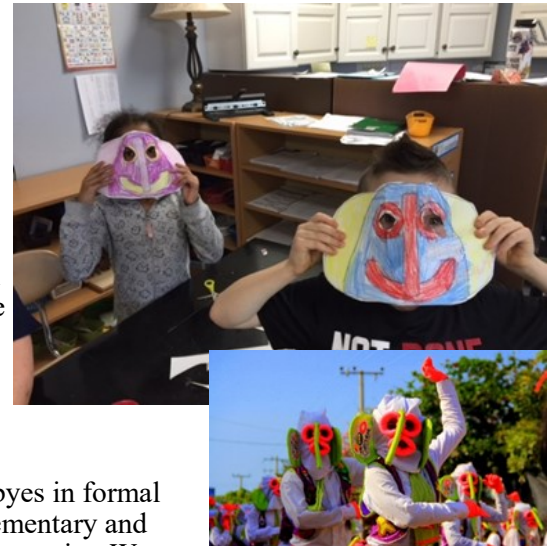
**Kindergarten** lessons have been all about the weather. Students started learning about weather conditions: It's cold, it's hot, it's windy, etc. Then we moved to learn about the seasons, and now are learning the months of the year and how they tie to the seasons.

In **Lower Elementary** we have spent the time learning vocabulary and increasing listening comprehension through the unit of Goldilocks and the three bears. We'll continue with this story a little longer. At the end of this unit, students should be able to complete a mini book about this story all in Spanish. Lower Elementary students were also able to go outside when the temperature was 80° and play cultural Spanish games: Telefono roto (telephone), El gato y el ratón (cat and mouse) and Color colorcito (color tag). All of this games were played in Spanish and are popular games played by children in many Hispanic countries.

With **Upper Elementary** we are review greetings, introductions and goodbyes in formal and familiar ways. We are focusing in practicing conversations. Upper Elementary and Middle School students also learned about New York and it's Hispanic community. We also talked about and watched part of the Hispanic Day Parade celebrated in that city. The students also learned about the Latino Festival celebrated yearly in Frederick.

**Middle School** is also getting a review of formal and familiar ways to greet, introduce yourself or someone else, and say good bye. We have also gone over the alphabet, discussing both pronunciation and names of letters. Finally, we have reviewed also the names and location of Spanish Speaking countries on the map.

**Culture learning:** In the past weeks, *Carnavales* were celebrated all around the world . All students learned the meaning of the word *Carnaval* and the reason carnivals are celebrated in February (The last feast before Lent). Lower Elementary students "prepared" for the celebration by creating a mask of an iconic figure of *Carnaval de Barranquilla* (Colombia) called *La Marimonda*.



- Mrs. Gomez



## Tidbits from our GC

Dear CCM Community,

The Governing Council had a productive February, with council members identifying "passion projects." In addition to taking care of the regular business of committee leadership, your GC reps are building a new school website, repainting half the building, and translating Montessori materials into Spanish. . . just to name a few. Principal Horan, Amanda Erard, Amy Duval (President of Monocacy Montessori Communities, Inc.) and I will present the school's 2017 Annual Report to the FCPS Board of Education on February 28.

The GC was thrilled to approve the

purchase and installation of a new water fountain on the original side of the school, complete with a water bottle filler! Thanks to Building & Maintenance chair Eric Riccio for his work on the project. Thanks also to Carrie Jean Rathmell for planning our exciting Open Mic Talent Show on Friday March 2. We welcome all community members to join in the audience, even if your child isn't participating.

The Governing Council is offering two opportunities for parents to learn more about our charter and school governance by attending a State of the School Session. The sessions will be

on Monday, March 19 from 7-8 p.m. and on Wednesday, March 28 from 9-10am. There will be free Lego-themed childcare at the evening session available for current CCM students; no need to RSVP.

Thanks to those parents who took time to contact me this month with questions or concerns ([gcchair@carrollcreekmontessori.org](mailto:gcchair@carrollcreekmontessori.org)). Please remember the unique opportunity you have to make our school an even more fabulous place by joining us at Governing Council or subcommittee meetings. Our next meeting is Monday, March 12 at 7 p.m. at CCM.

Sincerely,  
Molly Carlson,  
CCM GC Chair

## Involvement and Communications Committee

This school year, your CCMPCS GC has been working on creating standard operating procedure (SOP) and committee responsibility documents for each CCMPCS committee. During that process, the Community Outreach and Programs Committee role was revamped.

Now called the Involvement and Communications Committee, this committee works to equip adults in CCMPCS families to support the school, staff, classrooms, students, and community through their volunteer efforts. The committee also organizes and facilitates promotional and community building events, both at the school and throughout Frederick County, for CCMPCS, Frederick County, and Spanish-speaking populations. In the communications role, the committee is responsible for establishing and maintaining the official communication channels and social media of CCMPCS. The CCMPCS Website Team is a subcommittee of this committee.

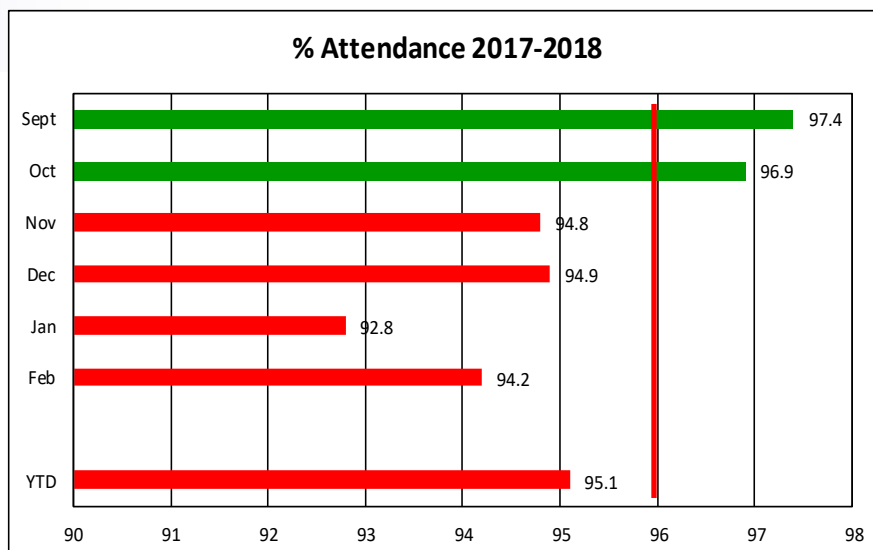
Are you interested in getting involved or giving back to CCM but didn't find a match for your skills and interest in the Involvement and Communications Committee description? Click [here](#) for descriptions of the other CCM committees.

Also, announcing a new initiative encouraging each CCM adult to commit to serving CCM and fulfilling volunteer hours by selecting just one volunteer role to commit to for the school year. More details will be available at the "State of the School" (March 19 & 28) and in future communications.

For more information, please contact CCM GC Parent Representative and Involvement & Communications Committee Chair, Carrie Jean Rathmell at [Communications@CarrollCreekMontessori.org](mailto:Communications@CarrollCreekMontessori.org). ([Outreach@CarrollCreekMontessori.org](mailto:Outreach@CarrollCreekMontessori.org) still works to reach me)

## Attendance

The attendance benchmark the district set for us is 96%. The flu and colds continued to hit us hard this month. Our "Year to Date" has continued to be below the 96% mark. Please do not send your child to school if they are not feeling well. Please also plan vacations around the time school is not in session so your child can benefit from the instruction being provided each day. Students will be taking several assessments in the near future and need instruction and practice as well as to be present for the actual assessments.

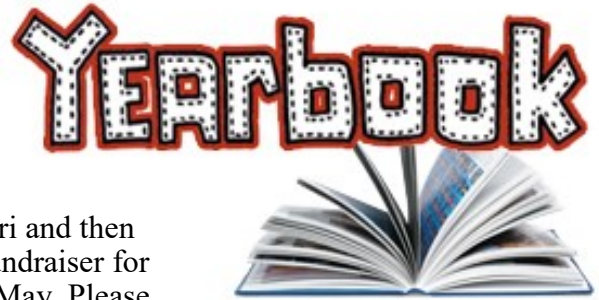


## Order Your Yearbook

<https://ybpay.lifetouch.com/Order/SelectJob>

ORDER 2017-2018 YEARBOOK TODAY!

Use the drop down menu to search for Carroll Creek Montessori and then enter your child's name. Cost is \$25.00 and some of this is a fundraiser for CCM if we sell 100 yearbooks! Delivery is expected in late May. Please consider donating a YB to a teacher or staff member. Contact Julie Clark [Jclarkad@yahoo.com](mailto:Jclarkad@yahoo.com) for questions.



## Talent Show

### CCMPCS Open Mic Talent Show is coming:

- ⇒ **Friday, March 2, 2018 from 6:00-8:00 pm**
- ⇒ **@ Monocacy Valley Montessori Public Charter School (217 Dill Ave.)**
- ⇒ **Snow date is Friday, March 9, 2018 from 6:00-8:00 pm.**
- ⇒ **Tickets available ONLY at the door:**
  - \$5 per person/\$20 maximum per family.
  - Performers, CCMPCS staff, & children under 3 are free.

This year, because we are using an Open Mic format, there are no advance registrations and no rehearsals for the CCMPCS Open Mic Talent Show. Students will perform on a first to sign up (on the night of the show) first to perform basis (divided by age groups).



**Signups will take place at MVMPCS on the night of the show beginning at 5:30 pm and closing at 6:15 pm.**

The show will end at 8:00 pm even if some students who signed up have not performed. Students are limited to one performance and may perform solo or in a group. Please prepare a performance that is no more than 2 minutes in length. If using recorded music with your performance, please plan to provide the music on a CD.

More details coming in Thursday folders, Facebook, and email (if the email service is working) or contact Carrie Jean Rathmell at [Outreach@CarrollCreekMontessori.org](mailto:Outreach@CarrollCreekMontessori.org) for more information.

## Montessori News

Teachers from public Montessori schools across Maryland will be meeting this month to begin a collaboration that will strengthen Montessori across the state for all students. Several members of our staff will be joining educators from Baltimore and Prince George's County to discuss how we can share resources and build on the strengths of each of our programs. Bringing these educators together will allow us to be better advocates for our Montessori schools.

If you have not already contacted your delegates advocating

for the House and Senate Bill ( <http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/webmga/frmMain.aspx?pid=billpage&stab=01&id=hb1002&tab=subject3&ys=2018RS> ) allowing public Montessori schools to hire teachers who hold a Montessori certificate without having a Maryland teaching license please consider doing so ( <http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/webmga/frmMain.aspx?pid=legisrpage&tab=subject6> ). The Montessori certification requirements meet and often exceed the expectations of a state teaching license. This bill would

require a teacher who has a Montessori certificate from an accredited training center to also pass the PRAXIS exam and take two college classes (special education and a reading class). These bills will be heard March 7th and 8th and have the potential of providing students with teachers in their Montessori classrooms that are qualified to teach using the Montessori philosophy from the day they are hired. This is an exciting step for Montessori in the state of Maryland!





## Book Fair!

Carroll Creek Montessori will be holding our annual Book Fair from March 16-22, 2018 with the launch on Friday, March 16th at 3:00 pm after pick-up.

### Wish Lists

All students in Pre-K through Upper El will have an opportunity to come to the Book Fair on Thursday, March 15th during school hours to make a "Wish List" of books that they like. Their "Wish Lists" will be sent home to you that day in Thursday folders. We will need A LOT of volunteers on that day to help. (Middle Schoolers will be invited to view the Fair on Wednesday, March 14<sup>th</sup> after set-up.)

### Purchasing Books

You can come to the book fair to purchase books with your child during our hours before or after school. Or, you can choose what items you would like from your child's wish list and send your child in with their form and money on Monday, March 19th. Your child will be able to go to the Book Fair during that school day and purchase books. *We will accept cash, checks (made payable to "CCMPCS") and credit cards at the book fair.*

### Volunteers

We are going to need a lot of volunteers to help with wish lists, setting-up and tearing down the fair, running the registers and helping with the library. Please consider signing-up for a slot. NO PRIOR EXPERIENCE NECESSARY! That even goes for the library. It is never too late to come help in the library. We always make sure that new library volunteers are paired up with an experienced volunteer. Please follow this link to sign up to help:

<https://education.fcps.org/ccmpcs/volunteer>

If you have any questions, please contact Kristine Farrell at [library@carrollcreekmontessori.org](mailto:library@carrollcreekmontessori.org).

### Book Fair Hours

#### Wednesday, March 14

Book Fair Set-Up  
Middle School Viewing

#### Thursday, March 15

9:15-3:30 (Student & Teacher Wish Lists)

#### Friday, March 16

9:00-10:00 am (Make-Up for Wish Lists)  
3:00-5:00 pm (Book Fair Opens)

#### Monday, March 19

8:30-9:15 am  
9:30-11:30 am (Students Only)  
4:00-5:30 pm

#### Tuesday, March 20

8:30-9:15 am  
4:00-5:00 pm

#### Wednesday, March 21

8:30-9:15 am  
4:00-5:00 pm

#### Thursday, March 22

8:30-9:15 am  
4:00-5:00 pm

