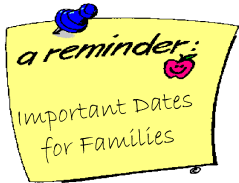




# Carroll Creek Communicator



## Important Activities Happening at CCM

2/6	"Wonder" Field Trip Grades 1-8
2/6	6:00p.m. Montessori Language Arts Journey
2/9	Report Cards Go Home
2/12	7:00p.m. GC Meeting
2/16	12:45p.m. Early Dismissal
2/19	No School Presidents' Day
2/21	Vision/Hearing Re-Test
2/22	4:00p.m. Spanish Task Force Meeting
2/28	CCM Annual Report to BOE
2/28	7:00p.m. MMCI Meeting @ CCM
3/2	12:45p.m. Early Dismissal
3/2	6:00p.m. Talent Show @MVM

The Lottery continues to show a huge interest in our school. We currently have over 700 applications and the lottery does not close until March 5th. Please remember that if you have a child who is not currently enrolled at CCM and you would like for them to attend with their sibling, you must apply through the lottery. Siblings do receive a priority through the lottery process, but there is no guarantee that there will be spots open, especially after the preschool level.

All our students in grades 1-8 will be taking a field trip to view the movie, "Wonder". The first week in February. Many classes have been reading the book and companion materials. The message of this book is very much aligned to what we want students to learn in our Montessori school. Thank you for supporting this venture for our students.

We have finished the winter round of the Scantron assessment. You can see the results at the end of this newsletter. We will be preparing for the fifth and eighth grade science assessment which will take place March 5-9 next. The PARCC assessment (grades 3-8) will begin April 23rd and complete May 18th (we will be sharing the exact dates for each grade level as the assessment window nears). We have a few students who will be taking the Algebra PARCC assessment which has a window from May 14th-June 1st, but will not take all of those days. We will begin the final Scantron assessment immediately after the Algebra assessment is complete. Our third and sixth grade students will also be taking the spring Spanish assessment to determine their progress in Spanish. This is a lot of assessment, all of which is required of us by the BOE. Attendance leading up to these assessments is important so students can be prepared and, of course, it is critical they be in attendance to take the tests.

Tuesday, February 6th, our staff will be hosting a "Montessori Journey" focusing on the language arts materials and strategies used in classrooms to teach reading and writing. This activity will be similar to the math journey that was enjoyed by many parents last year. Parents will start in Primary then move to Lower Elementary, Upper Elementary then Middle School learning language arts in the Montessori setting. There are limited seats available, so if you have not sent your reservation in, please do so today.



## 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

Change is ongoing and is always happening. Sometimes it is gradual but other times it can be really drastic. One of the key things to remember when working with children and change is to provide a safe space in which they feel comfortable being themselves and continue to provide some structure and routine so they have some predictability and feel as if they have some control over what is happening. Keeping an open line of communication is also helpful, but it is also important to remember change can be positive, if you do not let it overwhelm you. According to the American Counseling Association, "Change can be difficult, but when you accept that it can also provide opportunities that might otherwise have been missed, change can often end up being a very positive experience".

(www.counseling.org) Change can be seen as an opportunity to find or try something new, such as making a new friend, learning a new and different way to master a new skill, reinventing yourself or exploring a new passion.

We all handle change in different ways but when it is sudden it is important to use it as a teaching tool to help our children learn to be resilient. It is okay to be sad and talk about your feelings but one thing that can be done to turn this into a positive experience is to make a list of all the positive and stable things in your life (www.counseling.org). After doing something like this, there is a good chance you and your children may find yourselves with big smiles on your faces.

Modeling and practicing mindfulness as a family can often help reduce some of the stresses that do often occur with change. Some of these things, which are also meant to be fun, include:

- ⇒ Deep breathing
- ⇒ Coloring
- ⇒ Yoga
- ⇒ Knitting or some type of craft activity
- ⇒ Cooking or Baking
- ⇒ Taking a walk
- ⇒ Journaling
- ⇒ Listening to music
- ⇒ Playing a game
- ⇒ Talking
- ⇒ Reading a book
- ⇒ Doing only one thing at a time (reducing multitasking)
- ⇒ Decreasing tech time (Maybe designate one day, one hour, whatever works best for your family to unplug from your devices and spend the time doing one of the things above).
- ⇒ Watching a funny video on \*youtube (to avoid inappropriate advertisements from appearing, copy and paste the youtube link on this website <http://safeshare.tv> )



Ms. Kaufman,  
School Counselor Substitute  
Carroll Creek Montessori  
Public Charter School  
301-663-7710

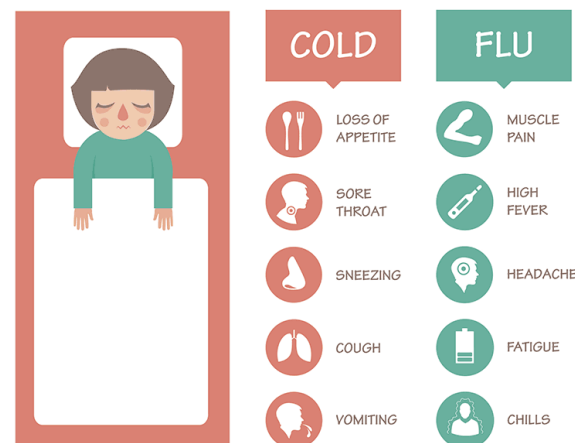
## Health Room News

Now that the cold and flu season is here, please remind your student to practice good hygiene. Hand washing and tissues are excellent barriers and deterrents. Please keep your child home from school if he/she is ill and/or has a fever. If you have any questions or concerns regarding your child's illness please call your health care provider.

As an employee of the Frederick County Health Department, the Registered Nurse follows CDC guidelines to investigate and to prevent the spread of communicable diseases. She tracks student illness by monitoring absenteeism, noting the number of student visits and symptoms of illness seen in the health room, and gathering information from families and staff. Please notify the staff in the health room if your child develops a contagious condition, such as influenza, strep throat, lice, pink eye, mono, pneumonia, chicken pox, etc.

Page 2 Thank you for your cooperation. You can contact the health room at 240-578-0504.

Thanks,  
Mrs. Cook, R.N.



## From the Art Room



As we move into the second semester of the school year, the five-year-old primary students are practicing each of the elements of art using a variety of mediums. They are beginning with understanding and creating the characteristics of lines and shapes in drawing, painting, printmaking, and collage.

Lower Elementary students are in the process of completing their hand bound book projects. This artwork involves practicing multiple techniques and mediums including bookbinding, printmaking, and photography.

Upper Elementary and Middle School sculpture students are engaged in creating their three-dimensional building

designs. They are assembling readymade and handmade materials with a glue gun and will finish these projects with paint and color. Students have the choice of working individually or in groups for this project.

Middle School oil painting students are completing their Precisionist inspired abstractions in limited palettes and will move on to a 16" x 20" painting of a subject of their choice.

Mrs. Reed

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

## Music Notes

**Kindergarten** music classes are beginning their journey towards what they need to know for Lower Elementary. They have started using the solfeggio hand signs for "sol" and "mi" while singing one of the hello songs from the fall and answers to questions. They have also been exploring the C major scale, in conjunction with the Snowman Song, on the tone bars. In honor of MLK day, they learned to sing and sign "Sing About Martin." The Spanish chant, "Hace Mucho Frio" emphasizes a four-beat quarter note pattern that students played on various instruments while singing. The Freeze Dance remains a favorite as students challenge each other with statue poses.

**Lower Elementary** classes are continuing their study of tempo with the changing partner dance, "Old Man Moses" as students move to the interlude tempo between partners. Our study of the woodwind instruments ends as students test their knowledge identifying particular instruments from audio samples.



**Upper Elementary** students are using rhythm skills in many ways. They are performing sixteenth note patterns, playing syncopated accompaniments on claves and bongos, and using listening skills to identify and write rhythm patterns. They continue to work on symbol identification found in music scores.

**Both Lower and Upper Elementary** classes enjoyed singing the Civil Rights era song, "Woke Up This Morning" and the winter favorite, "Hot Chocolate." All classes have also learned the upbeat "Canta Conmigo."

### Middle School:

Our 7th grade general music semester ended with completing essays on eras of Jazz after Swing/Big Band and a brief intro in Pop music. The new Cordoba guitars from Fender are providing beautiful sounds to aspiring guitarist sessions. In addition, students in Independent Instrument study are challenging themselves by requesting more difficult repertoire and adding theory components. Students filled out course preferences for the second semester that starts January 30th.

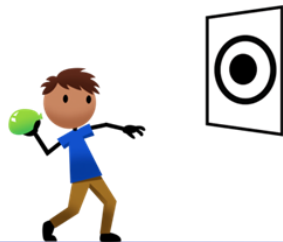
### Performing Ensembles:

On January 20th we had a combined ensemble perform for the School Choice Fair held at FSK Mall. The students did a fabulous job not only as performers, but as representatives of our school. I am so proud of them!! Rehearsals have started for the spring session of our groups. Please have your child speak with me if they are interested in joining!



## Physical Education

Our primary students are being introduced to the underhand throw as they participate in different activities that allow them to practice throwing at different distances, levels, and target sizes. Primary students continue to work on ways to warm up and cool down when doing physical activity. LE, UE, and Middle School are in the midst of our Magic Club unit. Magic Club is a progressive throwing and catching unit that gradually challenges the students more as they advance through it. Students have the opportunity to use different types of balls and practice throwing and catching against the wall from different distances. Students keep track of their progress on a Magic Club chart so they can always see where they stand. Our students really enjoy keeping track of their own progress and challenging themselves to get to the next level every class.



Flu season is in full swing so students are reminded to always try and be as healthy as possible by washing their hands, drinking plenty of fluids, and making healthy food choices!!!

- Mr. Hickman

## Spanish Spoken Here

Change is never easy, but we have taken on this challenge and are now moving forward in Spanish class. After spending some time trying to learn new classroom routines and expectations, we have now moved on to discussing the importance of knowing and using Spanish outside of the classroom. Students answered the question: 'Studying Spanish...what's the point?' after reading different articles and/or discussing their opinions in groups. Students wrote their main reason and also their goal for learning Spanish in a colored paper circle that is now part of our classroom décor until the end of the year.

**Pre-K and Kindergarten** students have had fun singing songs and reviewing colors with the help of colorful scarfs and other games that include lots movement and play. They are also practicing how to greet others at different times of the day and asking and answering the question - what's your name? - in Spanish all through play and songs.

**Lower elementary** is going to start practicing typical classroom language so that they can use that language during our lessons. Things like 'I have a question', 'I don't understand', or 'repeat, please' are some of the phrases that students will be encouraged to use each class. After that we will focus on the vowel and abc's sounds. Then we will star studying the story of "Goldie Locks and the Three Bears".

**Upper elementary** students are working on the 'studying Spanish...what's the point?' activity. After that, students will learn more about their teacher and classmates through interviews completed in Spanish. When that activity is complete we'll focus on classroom language and vowel and consonant sounds. Even though this seems basic, we want to ensure students recognize letters when they hear them, so more practice can only be beneficial. This knowledge is also of extreme importance to aid in pronunciation.

Students in **middle school** have already practiced and some have started using classroom language during class which is great! Students have also written interview questions and asked them to a classmate. We are now listening to them present a classmate to the class. We will also start reviewing vowel and consonant sounds. Again, this information is vital to improve pronunciation.

In the coming weeks, we will do a lot of reviewing with a big emphasis in the spoken language. The idea is to make the students more comfortable with listening and speaking so that they can use Spanish to communicate in real situations outside of the classroom.

- Mrs. Gomez

### Spanish Greetings

Hola	Hi
Buenos Dias	Good Mourning
Buenas Tardes	Good Afternoon
Buenas Noches	Good Night
¿Como Esta?	How are you?
Muy Bien, gracias	Very good, thank you
Bienvenidos	Welcome
Hasta Luego	See you later
Hasta Pronto	See you soon
Hasta Mañana	See you tomorrow
Adios	Bye



## Tidbits from our GC

Dear CCM Community,

I'm happy to be writing my first newsletter as 2018 chairperson of the CCM Governing Council (GC). My daughter Silva (3rd grade, Mrs. Balodis) came to CCM in 2014, and Claire (1st, Ms. Montalvo) joined a year later.

If you are new to the school (like I feel like I was just a short time ago), my message to you is: please make it a goal to attend at least one GC meeting in 2018. We absolutely welcome you! The GC meets the second Monday of each month at 7pm at the school. If work or childcare is an issue, reach out to me via email and let me know you are interested in coming but just can't make it  
gcchair@carrollcreekmontessori.org  
-- maybe we can work something out. Also, if there is a school-related

topic or concern you have please send it my way as well. As you may or may not know, charter school parents have an impressively big governance responsibility, and the more we share our talents the better our school will be. There are many ways to become involved.

A big project in January has been writing our annual report to the Frederick County Public Schools Board of Education. The BOE pays special attention to students' academic progress. The report will be published on our website early in February and has detailed information about our school's accomplishments and challenges during 2016-17 and into this school year. A huge thank you to former GC Chair Amanda Erard for using her data presentation skills to illustrate how the school met its

benchmarks last year.

Finally, I absolutely hear you on the illnesses this month (my daughter had strep and flu simultaneously!), but it's my job to remind you to please limit student absences to sick days only. Attendance is a very important benchmark the Board of Education considers when deciding our future as a school.

I hope to see you at our next meeting on February 12th, right?!

Sincerely,  
Molly Carlson,  
CCM GC Chair

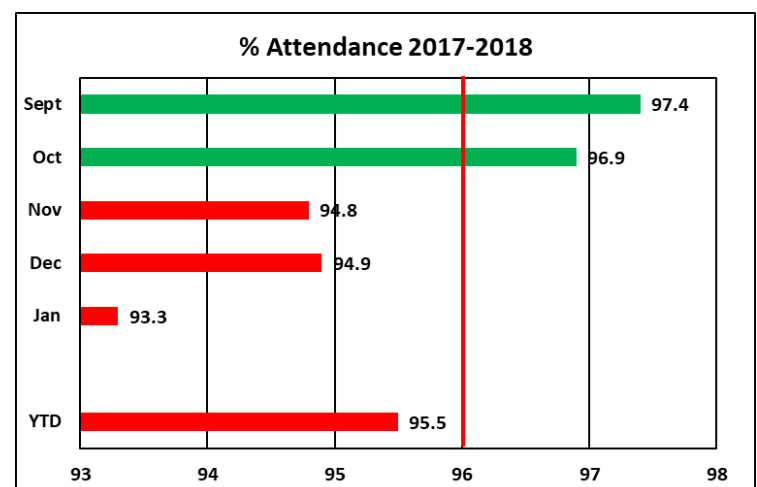
## Library Grant

Desiree Mortensen, CCM parent and 2017 chairperson of the Governing Council's Fundraising Committee, wrote a successful grant application to Dollar Tree General Stores. Dollar Tree awarded our school \$3,000 for the purchase of books to support Spanish reading and to replace some of the books lost in a school flood in 2016. The grant funds will be administered by Kristine Farrell, CCM's volunteer librarian (who is also CCM parent and librarian at Frederick County Public Library in her spare time). The library will acquire high-quality, hardback books that have been nominated for awards including the Black Eyed Susan, Pura Belpre, Americas, and Tomas Rivera Mexican-American Children's Book Awards. In addition, the grant supports the purchase a selection of books that are popular with CCM students (in both Spanish and English) and books that may be used for book discussion clubs. Parents who know of other grant opportunities or who write grants are welcome to contact the GC:  
gcchair@carrollcreekmontessori.org.

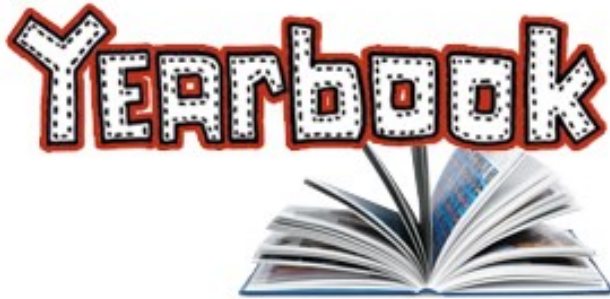


## Attendance

The attendance benchmark the district set for us is 96%. The flu and colds have hit us hard this month. This is the first month our "Year to Date" has dipped 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.



## 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 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.**

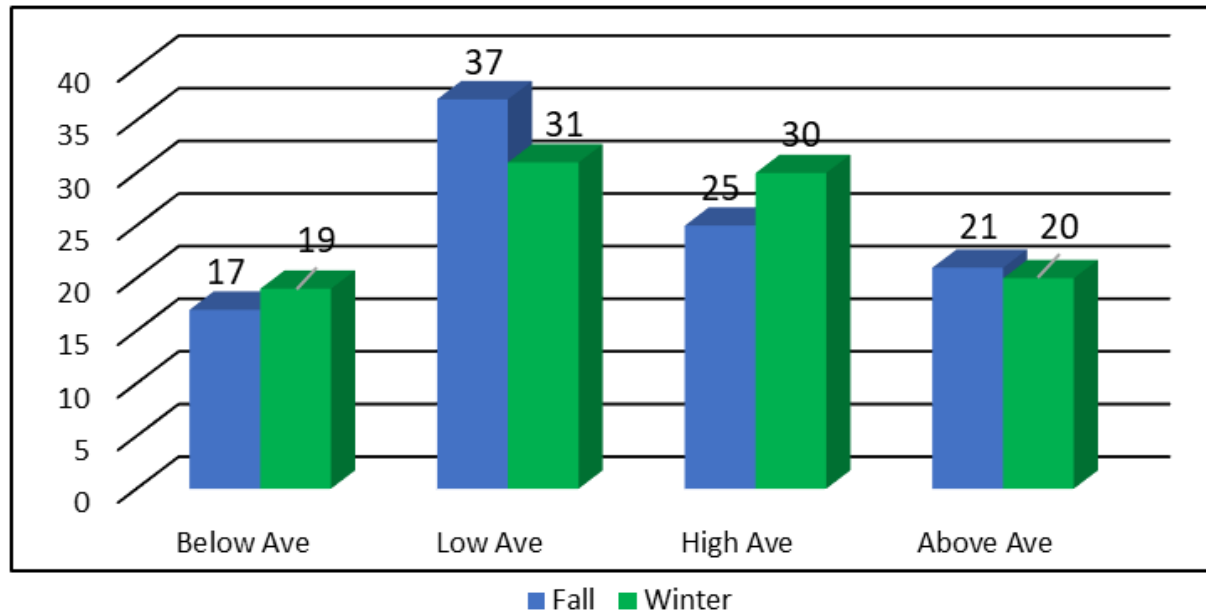
The show will end at 8:00 pm even if some students who signed up have not performed. Students are limited to one performance and may perform solo or in a group. Please prepare a performance that is no more than 2 minutes in length. If using recorded music with your performance, please plan to provide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

## Winter Scantron Data

Students in grades 2-8 recently completed the winter Scantron assessment. The charts below reflect their performance in the fall compared to the winter session.

### Scantron Math % Comparison 2017-2018



### Scantron Reading % Comparison 2017-2018

