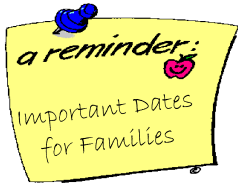




Carroll Creek Communicator



Spring is in the Air

Last month was a very busy month! Many of our students shared their talents at our annual Talent Show. It was an amazing evening! We have some very talented students here at CCM! Our fifth and eighth grade students took the state science assessment, the fifth grade went to outdoor school two days and we had a fabulous book fair! The lower elementary students enjoyed a great play at the Weinburg Center for the Arts. Each of our LE classes read “My Father’s Dragon” and then were able to make comparisons after seeing a performance based on that series of books. Several UE students planned “going out” activities to places such as the library, Ballenger Creek Park, and MOMs.

Our middle school has been very busy also. The majority of the class spent three days and two nights at Smith Island on a field study (check out the great picture on the right!). They will be completing another field study this spring at Fox Island for three days and two nights. These are learning experiences that can not be replicated and will not be forgotten. Our middle school students make monthly visits to volunteer at the Rescue Mission as part of their service learning activities. We are currently planning activities for our first class of eighth grade students as they move on to high school—we have come a long way!



This month students will also be visiting the Baltimore Symphony and Mt. Vernon. We are also in deep preparation for the PARCC assessment that will start April 23rd. Please see the grade level schedule in the calendar dates. Our Athletic Club is starting up again now that the weather promises to bring some warmth on a more regular basis.

The lottery is over and we have invited 36 new students to join our Montessori community (we had 1,170 total applicants). Our “Move Up” and Orientation Day will be April 20th. Our current kindergarten, third and sixth grade students will receive invitation April 19th to join a class from the next cluster. Our eighth grade students will be visiting two local colleges that day as part of their “moving up.” Talk about exciting!

4-9	Spring Pictures
4-9	7:00 GC Meeting
4-10	No School— Teacher Work Day
4-19	Report Cards Sent Home
4-20	Move Up Day Orientation Day
4-25	7:00 MMCI @ CCM
5-3	7:00 Chorus Concert
	PARCC Schedule
3rd	4/24-4/26 & 4/27 ELA 5/7-5/9 Math
4th	4/23-4/26 ELA 5/10 & 4511 Math
5th	4/30-5/3 ELA 5/12-5/15 Math
6th	4/27-5/2 ELA 5/15-5/17 Math
7th	4/24-4/26 ELA 5/7-5/9 Math
8th	5/3-5/4 & 5/7– 5/8 ELA 5/10, 5/11 & 5/14 Math

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

This month we focused on the value of healthy friendships at CCM. Classroom lessons included discussions surrounding what makes us a good friend, how do we identify good friend behaviors and how can we exhibit these behaviors ourselves. The significance of healthy friendships is important not just in the development of our students but also to promote a positive culture of acceptance and support here in our community. Social interaction is a large part of your students' day and learning appropriate core values of healthy friendships can greatly improve their daily functioning. We can help facilitate healthy friendships by doing the following:

- Talk to your student about why it's important to be a good friend
- Identify values that you want in a friendship
- Model healthy behaviors with friends and peers
- Aid your child in understanding when they have made a mistake and help them to make amends
- Help your child advocate for their needs & feelings

Over time friendships may change or adjust based on age, distance, varying interests, etc. Encourage your child to understand that it's ok for friendships to change over time and the best method to promoting strong, long lasting friendships is to utilize the golden rule- Treat others the way you want to be treated.

"The only way to have a friend is to be one." – Ralph Waldo Emerson



Nurse's Office

Buffy Kamnikar
School Counselor
301-663-7710



Regulation 400-21, Management of Pediculosis, was recently revised. Revisions to the document were made to bring our regulation and our practice into alignment with current recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), Maryland Department of Health's Communicable Diseases Summary, and the National Association of School Nurses (NASN). The revised document is reflective of evidence based practice and outlines the roles and responsibilities of parents/guardians, school administrators, school nurses, and school staff as it pertains to the prevention, treatment, and management of head lice in the school community.

FCPS has posted the following resources on its website:

Head Lice 101: What You Should Know About Head Lice: https://www.fcps.org/academics/files/documents/HeadLice_101.pdf

Piojos 101: Lo que debe saber sobre los piojos: https://www.fcps.org/academics/files/documents/HeadLice_101_Spa.pdf

Head Lice Lessons: An Overview for Parents, Teachers & Communities: https://www.fcps.org/academics/files/documents/HeadLice_Presentation.pdf

Demystifying Pediculosis: School Nurses Taking The Lead: https://www.fcps.org/academics/files/documents/CNE_demystifyingPediculosis.pdf

FCPS Regulation 400-21: Pediculosis (Head Lice): <https://apps.fcps.org/legal/doc.php?number=400-21>



Thanks,
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From the Art Room



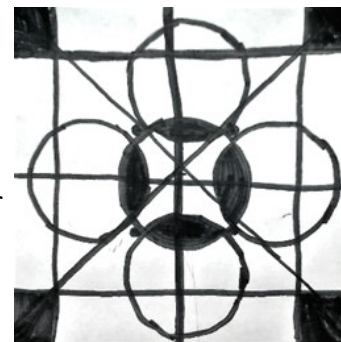
Primary students are exploring the art elements of space, line, and shape. They are developing symmetrical, balanced, black and white compositions using geometric shapes and making colorful, watercolor paintings using organic shapes.

Lower Elementary students are putting the finishing touches on their playful, clay, animal sculptures. These colorful sculptures were made by creating and assembling simple, geometric, clay forms.

Upper Elementary students are writing and illustrating Haikus. The finished poems and pictures will decorate handmade scrolls.

Middle School Sculpture students are decorating their coil pots with color and pattern using acrylic paint.

Middle School Oil Painting students are completing their 16" x 20" paintings and learning about painters throughout art history. After learning about a variety of artists and styles, they will choose one as an influence for their next work.



Mrs. Reed

"Every child is an artist."
— Pablo Picasso

Music Notes

Spring has definitely taken over the **Kindergarten** music room. Students learned the Wee Falarie Man song about the origin of the Leprechaun legend, then practiced an accompaniment on the autoharp. Our March dance focused on identifying pauses in music (fermatas) and balancing on one foot as the note was held. We are continuing with matching and ordering bells. Kindergarten music classes are also performing the entire scale vocally and with solfeggio hand signs on a regular basis. They are also skillful enough to display the hand signs when hearing certain pitches.

Lower Elementary classes are continuing to practice identifying parts of the treble clef. In honor of Irish heritage month, classes learned the Irish work song, Pat Works on the Railway, combining both staff reading for the tone bars and a drumming bordun in verse and refrain form. We also celebrated with our traditional favorite, "Everyone Is Irish." A favorite dance, "7 Jumps," had students practicing their balancing skills like the Kindergartners, to a series of fermatas ranging from 1-7.

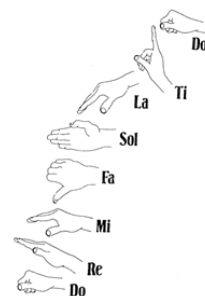


Upper Elementary students are deep into recorder study with three part arrangements of triad studies, Hot Cross Buns, and Ode to Joy. Classes also continue working on understanding rhythmic notation relationships with incomplete measure exercises as well as perfecting sixteenth and eighth note combination patterns.

Middle School drama students have been honing their nonverbal expression skills through pantomime activities ranging from single emotions to full length sentences. Independent study groups on guitar and piano have students sharing techniques with each other regarding playing styles, notation, and rhythm sequences. Theory and composition students have finished learning the notational aspects of intervals and are now working on auditory identification by quizzing each other.

Performing Ensembles:

Our spring concert will be on May 3rd featuring songs from Asia and a spectacular Celtic style finale. We are again fortunate to be able to send two fifth graders to FCPS Honors Chorus, Zachary Harrison and Zoe McNicholas. They will be performing with other fifth graders in a county wide concert at the Weinberg on April 18. It is open to the public and admission is \$5.00, but space is limited so come early!



Mrs. Reynolds

Physical Education



Primary students have been developing their throwing and catching skills focusing on the critical cues for proper form underhand throwing and catching. We have used a variety of balls to practice with and even tried with a frisbee! Primary students have started bowling and working on their underhand roll. Bowling is really pushing the students to learn how to work with others as each group of students needs to work together to set the pins back up, and get the balls back to the thrower, and taking turns rolling. Our primary students are always moving!

LE, UE, and Middle School have been working very hard over the past month completing their spring fitness testing. Our students aim to improve their scores from the fall and revisit the essential fitness components. Students understand why these tests are important to their own physical fitness levels. I had a large amount of student interest in the mile run this spring, so we have decided to implement that into this unit. Students have learned how to pace themselves when running longer distances and have been doing a great job encouraging each other.

Field Day is upon us so that means I will be sending home student permission slips that include t-shirt information. Please be aware that your child will be bringing this home! I cannot wait for an awesome Field Day this year!!

- Mr. Hickman

Spanish Spoken Here

In **Kindergarten** we just finished learning about shapes and their Spanish names. We reviewed previous lessons before moving on to learning about the alphabet. We are concentrating on the sounds of Spanish letters.

In **Lower Elementary** we are still working on the Goldilocks unit. We are learning and practicing simple sentence structure. We are working on the correct placement of adjectives in the sentences (after nouns) and on matching the gender and number of adjectives and nouns. 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.

With **Upper Elementary** we are learning how to talk about the weather. And how to talk about things that we like and dislike. We have divided our classes in two groups (group A and B). Now classes are smaller, and each class is rotating between having a group class with Ms. Gomez and the next day follow up work with Mr. Kramer. Follow up work is designed to be independent work where students get a change to practice listening, reading and writing in Spanish.

Middle School is learning about likes and dislikes and the vocabulary and grammar needed to talk about what we or others like to do, eat, etc. Middle school students can access the site www.classzone.com at home to practice what we have done in class and prepare for their quizzes -(Middle school 1: choose book 1a. Middle school 2 can go to: http://www.classzone.com/cz/books/avancemos_2/). In the middle school classroom we have been practicing conversations once every two weeks with parent volunteers who are native Spanish speakers or that have near native fluency in the language. The parents have been very impressed with our students and had commented that students are doing well with their Spanish.

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. Gomez



Tidbits from our GC

Hello Fellow Parents and Friends of CCM,

Members of the Monocacy Montessori Communities Incorporated (MMCI) Board of Trustees, Principal Horan, and CCM Governing Council reps have been busy administering the school lottery. In total, more than 1,000 students entered the CCM lottery for 2018-2019! I imagine many of us are feeling especially appreciative of our children's lottery luck at the moment, and we look forward to welcoming new families to CCM in the fall.

As you all know, students missed some time in school last week because of a plumbing issue. Thanks to the quick work of Building & Maintenance committee chair Eric Riccio there was no major flooding and the issue was resolved by plumbers later that day.

While we love our beautiful

classrooms, school leadership must also consider next steps for facilities and whether our current location is the best fit for our school. We are currently soliciting members of a Facilities Task Force. The task force will benefit from parents with professional skills in the area of real estate, finance, or law but we welcome any and all interested parents to join us as we explore facilities options. Please email gcchair@carrollcreekmontessori.org if you are interested in participating.

Thanks to parents and staff who made it to one of our two "State of the School" sessions. The 2016-17 CCM Annual Report to the FCPS Board of Education can be found in its entirety at mmci.org



Finally, on May 4 the head of FCPS security will be instructing CCM staff on strategies to use to "Avoid, Deny and Defend" in the case of an intruder threat. Thanks to Principal Horan and to all of the staff for continuing to support a culture of school safety.

- Molly Carlson,
Governing Council Chair



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. 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 the PARCC assessment starting this month. Everyone needs to be present for instruction and practice as well as for the actual assessment.

Here's a "shout out" to our middle school who had a 99.6% attendance rate for March!

