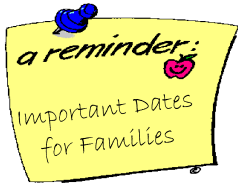




Carroll Creek Communicator



Back to Business

10-2	Fall Pictures
10-9	7:00pm GC Meeting
10-11	AMS Accreditation Validation Visit
10-16	FCPS Administration Visit
10-20	No School Staff PD
10-23	FCPS Administration Visit
10-25	MMCI Meeting @ MVM
10-30	FCPS Administration Visit
11-4	Barrie Montessori Conference

"Peace cannot be kept by force; it can only be achieved by understanding."

— Albert Einstein



Carroll Creek Montessori Public Charter School can now say we have all grades from P3 through 8th grade! Last year our middle school had 15 seventh grade students. This year I look across from my office and watch 45 seventh and eighth graders engaged in various learning activities, eating lunch and holding community meetings. Can they be loud? Yes. Can they be energetic? Yes. Are they compassionate, deep thinking individuals? Yes. Our middle school staff are providing an exceptional space for our students to develop into amazing young adults!

The FCPS Board of Education collaboratively with the leadership of both MMCI and CCM to set benchmarks for us to achieve as we move forward. The major areas that are being addressed are PARCC assessment scores (please see the back of this newsletter), Montessori certified teachers (we have gone from 91% teacher either completely certified or taking or enrolling in courses last year to 100% this year), Spanish (our students are taking the initial benchmark assessment for the year and progress continues to be monitored), and attendance (we are counting on YOU to help with this!).

MSDE accredited our preschool program last year at a level 5, the highest level possible. This accreditation is valid for three years, but we are already working on areas that were highlighted as possible ways we could improve. October 11th we will have a validation visit from the American Montessori Society for our Pathway to Accreditation.

We celebrated the International Day of Peace with a K-eighth grade assembly September 22nd. It was a very moving experience. Every class shared either a song, drawings, a play or quotes expressing their thoughts about peace. Each time we gather as a group we end our time together by singing "Light a Candle for Peace" in both English and Spanish. This joyful celebration was a fabulous way to celebrate the peaceful learning environment we share at CCM.

Our middle school and upper elementary students have begun their Field Studies. Since our students do a lot of learning when they leave the building, and it takes a good deal of studying both before and after any time they leave the building, we are appropriately calling the field "studies".

We have added a few new faces to our staff this year. Mrs. Rothermel joined the middle school team and is teaching language arts and social studies. Mr. Hickman is our new Physical Education teacher. Mrs. Cuzmar joined us in lower elementary working with Mrs. Balodis and Mr. Kramer can be found in our Spanish class. Mrs. McGregor and Mr. Riccio can also be found in our halls assisting students.

Thank you for being part of this wonderful Montessori community!



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

First quarter is off to a great start! I will be spending time in classrooms again this year teaching a variety of lessons that are part of the counseling curriculum as well as based on classroom needs. I will also be running small groups on a variety of topics based on needs presented by staff. Some of these groups will be short-term and others will run the length of the school year. Additionally, students can make an appointment to see me or they can just drop in. This year, students can even sign up for Lunch Bunch and have lunch with me!

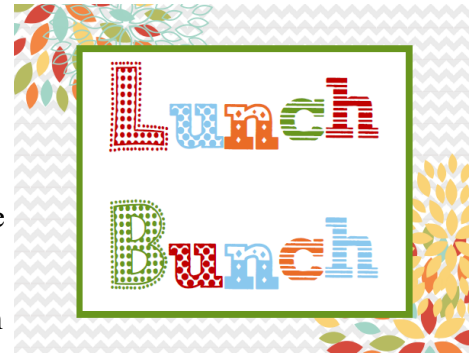
First quarter lessons will address the personal/social skills, as well as safety and growth mindset.

Second quarter lessons will tackle strategies and skills for academic growth and success.

Third quarter lessons will focus on bullying and friendships.

Fourth quarter lessons will concentrate on career exploration and development.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me. Email is typically easiest, as I work mornings Monday-Friday, but we can also schedule an appointment to meet or chat over the phone. I'm looking forward to another year at CCM with your kiddos!



Mandi Kearney,
School Counselor

Carroll Creek Montessori Public Charter School
301-663-7710

Health room Help Needed

What health information do I need to provide to my child's school?

1. **Physical Examination Form:** All students entering Maryland schools are required to have a physical examination completed by their health care provider (HCP) within nine months prior to entering the public school system or within six months after entering the system. Your HCP will have a form or the state form can be downloaded from www.fcps.org
2. **Proof of Immunization:** You are required to provide documentation of your child's immunizations before attending the first day of school.
3. **Confidential Health Information Cards:** These cards are sent home with your child at the beginning of each school year. Please complete and return as soon as possible. Remember to update Health Room Staff with any changes in your child's health that occur during the school year.

This is the time of year when you might be cleaning out your closets preparing for cooler weather and determining if the clothes your children wore last year still fit this year. As you are doing that, if you happen to find that you have pants that have **elastic waistbands**, please consider donating them to our health room. Of course, if you would like to donate new pants with **elastic waistbands** we would appreciate that, too. We are also in need of **new** underwear for primary students. Primary students should pack a set of clean clothes (including socks) in the bookbag each day. If your child has an accident and can not change their clothes themselves you may be called to come to school to help them.



From the Art Room

Welcome to a New School Year

This year, in art class, we are reinforcing each teacher's classroom curriculum with projects inspired by European and Asian art history and artists.

In the first weeks, all classes have been practicing routines and responsibilities as they acclimate to the new school year.

Five-year-old Primary students are learning to make sketchbook entries and have nearly finished their Square 1 Art drawings.

Lower Elementary students are reviewing the elements of art and applying them to designing their Square 1 Art drawings.

Upper Elementary students are learning about typography and developing a paper sculpture using their name in hand designed letters and using the principles and elements of art.

In Middle School, the oil painting students are sketching a still-life in preparation for an introductory painting of three dimensional forms. Sculpture students are learning about typography in preparation for their paper letter sculptures.

My general curricular aims for each student, are that, through art making, they work towards becoming problem solvers, designers, and independent, articulate, informed, creative thinkers with a cultural awareness, kinesthetic practice, and evaluative skills.



Mrs. Reed

Music Notes

Kindergarten music classes are practicing routines for the music classroom with regards to getting and restoring materials, grace and courtesy in group activities, and our greeting song in Spanish and English. Students are learning rhythms stick techniques for the "Old Gray Cat," dancing to the Color song, and playing the rooster in "Find the Cows." Classes have also enjoyed playing egg shakers to the favorite "La Vaca Lola" as they practiced two distinct rhythm patterns for the piece.

Lower Elementary students have taken turns leading the three part round, Bottle O' Pop. Students are reviewing their knowledge of quarter and eighth note patterns, solfeggio singing, and music room routines. Classes are also enjoying the "Draw A Bucket of Water" singing game.

Upper Elementary music students are continuing to work on building a climate of respect, patience, and "good for the group" mindset while challenging each other with dotted quarter rhythm sequences. The new 4th graders have lead the upper Elementary students in solfeggio singing with their expert skills and the 5th and 6th graders are catching on fast. Students are reviewing musical qualities of dynamics, tempo, meter, and form as they prepare to begin directed listening activities.

Middle school music classes are taking many forms this quarter. Students are engaging in independent study for both piano and guitar. Our middle school ensemble has an opportunity to rehearse during the school day as well. General Music for 7th grade will begin with the student chosen topic of Jazz and Swing music, a uniquely American music form.

Performing Ensembles: afterschool rehearsals have begun for our Elementary Chorus (grades 3, 4, & 5) rehearsing on Tuesdays and dismissing at 4:45. Sixth graders wishing to join the Middle School Ensemble will rehearse on Wednesdays beginning October 4.

All of our classes worked hard on their performance of "Light A Candle" for our International Day of Peace assembly, sung in English and Spanish, with accompanying sign language!



Mrs. Reynolds

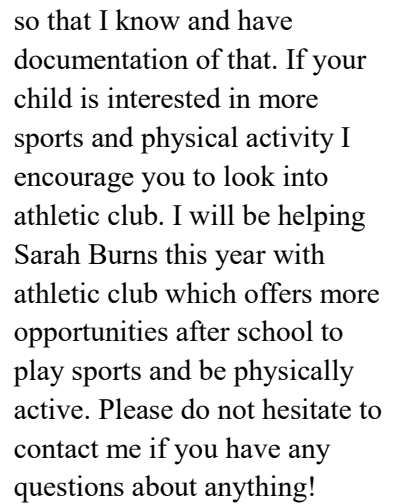


Physical Education

We have just finished up the last of our fitness testing where students have been learning about the four essential fitness components and the fitness tests that go along with them. The students run the

6th, 7th, and 8th grade students have started

I am very excited as I start my first year here at CCMS and work with these wonderful children. I do ask that if your child cannot participate in P.E. for some reason please send a note in with them



Mr. Hickman

Spanish Spoken Here

Our Governing Council approved hiring an assistant for our Spanish program in the spring. Our staffing committee interviewed candidates and hired Mr. Kramer for the assistant position. Mr. Kramer comes to us with a bachelor's degree in Spanish literature and culture. He will be the lead in our Spanish position as we move forward this school year. We will have an assistant in our Spanish class with Mr. Kramer to insure the intent of having two adults in the class will be honored.

ing on spelling various words in Spanish.



Tidbits from our GC

Dear CCM Community,

Happy New Year!

Welcome back to CCM – or, welcome to CCM, if you and your family have just joined us this year! As my oldest starts 1st grade and my youngest gets settled into P3, I can't believe we're already back in the throes of another year. I hope you and your families are adjusting well to all that comes with the start of a new school year.

Two major events are coming up that we need your participation in. First, our Annual Fund is starting at the end of this month. Did you know that we receive only 70% of

the public funds that traditional schools receive, despite the fact that we are a public charter school? This means that to pay for things like teacher Montessori certification, building repairs, and Spanish materials for our classrooms, we need to raise our own funds. Please contribute however you're able!

Second, the MMCI Annual Meeting is coming up on November 8. MMCI is the non-profit that oversees and manages both our charter school and our sister school, Monocacy Valley Montessori (MV) Public Charter School. The Annual meeting is where new officers and representatives to the Board of Trustees (BOT) are elected,

and where new parent representatives to our school's Governing Council are elected. We welcome any and all applications for these positions – please consider nominating a motivated & dedicated parent, or running for a position yourself!

Finally, the Annual Meeting is great way to get to know other parents, community members, and how our school governance operates. For more information on elections and nominations, please email Sherry Quinones at sherryquinones@yahoo.com

Finally – happy autumn!

Sincerely,
Amanda Erard
CCMPCS Governing Council Chair
gcchair@carrollcreekmontessori.org

How to Volunteer

Carroll Creek Montessori Public Charter School Loves Our Volunteers!

Classrooms are now in the process of setting up volunteer opportunities on our school Sign Up Genius page. Some shifts don't require volunteers to have training but others do; these are protected with a code that volunteers will receive after training. Attend an in-person training or take it online. Bookmark our Sign Up page and check in often!

In-Person Volunteer Training

Thanks to everyone who participated in the volunteer training this fall! It is great to start the year with a solid group of volunteers who can help out with various activities.

Online Volunteer Training - available 24/7

We have now opened Virtual Volunteer Training online for volunteers who plan to come during the school day. Following your review of the training, take an online quiz until you get 100% and we'll send you a secret code in a day or two!

General Reminders/Announcements



Arrival and dismissal have been going smoothly—remember we have 30 more students than last year! Thank you for always having your orange dismissal card ready—if you need additional cards so extended family or friends can pick up your child, please come to the office and ask Cathy to print them for you. It has really helped to have cars move close together as they are waiting for the students to come out. Your patience with the computers for inside dismissal was greatly appreciated. Please remember to always turn right before going to the traffic light during arrival and dismissal hours. This is critical to the overall safety of our students and helps complete the process in an efficient, timely manner.

Please remember to read the Student/Parent Handbook that can be found by following this link: <http://education.fcps.org/ccmpcs/sites/default/files/Kristine.Farrell/StudentHandbook%202016-17%20-%20FINAL.pdf> Our GC and staff have worked hard to include as much information as possible to answer questions before they arise in this document.

Our attendance rate ended at 95% last year. This was a slight improvement over the previous year and met our benchmark set collaboratively with FCPS. As you know this benchmark is one of the critical points the FCPS Board of Education is monitoring for our school. Please do not send your child to school when they are ill, but please also know that they can not learn the concepts teachers are presenting if they are not in school. Our goal for this year is 96% - every day counts! Last September our attendance was 96.48 and this year our September attendance was 97.35 as of the writing of this newsletter. I am so excited about that!!! If everyone continues to do their part we could actually EXCEED our goal!

Table 1. Language Arts
PARCC Benchmarks and Results
Proficiency Level: 3-5

	2015/16 Baseline (%)	Increase goal per yr (%)	2016 goal	2016 actual	2017 goal	2017 actual	Amount from Goal
All Students	60.6	3.9	64.5	69.9	68.4	65.4	-3
Asian	100	0	100	100	100	75	-25
Black	33.3	10	43.3	75	53.3	75	21.7
LEP	25	11.3	36.3	0	47.6	0	-47.6
Spec Ed	45.5	8.2	53.7	37.5	62	27.3	-34.7
Farms	35.7	9.7	45.4	52.6	55.1	54.5	-1.9
Hispanic	30	10.5	40.5	57.1	51	52.4	+1.4
2 or more races	50	5	55	25.0	60	50	-10
White	67.5	3.3	70.8	72.9	74.1	69.7	-4.4

Table 2. Math
PARCC Benchmarks and Results
Proficiency Level: 3-5

	2015/16 Baseline (%)	Increase goal per yr (%)	2016 goal	2016 actual	2017 goal	2017 actual	Amount from Goal
All Students	36.4	6.4	42.8	47.8	49.2	48.0	-1.2
Asian	60	4	64	66.7	68	50	-16.7
Black	33.3	10	43.3	62.5	53.3	61.9	+8.6
LEP	25	11.3	36.3	0	47.6	0	-47.6
Spec Ed	18.2	12.3	30.5	37.5	42.8	18.2	-24.6
Farms	28.6	10.7	39.3	44.4	55.1	42.4	-12.7
Hispanic	10	13.5	23.5	38.5	52	23.8	-28.2
2 or more races	50	5	55	50	60	25	35
White	40	6	46	47.5	52	52.6	+6

The charts above are a representation of CCM's data from the PARCC assessment. You can see that we were 3 points away from the benchmark that was set for last year in Language Arts in collaboration with FCPS. We were 1.2 points away from the benchmark in math. Although we have five years to reach our goals and these are benchmarks along the way, we are taking these deficits very seriously. Each cluster level has specific strategies in place that include things like a rotation during Spanish that involves the computer lab for typing and Kahn Academy and small group intervention. Our teachers are also working to align the Core Curriculum with the FCPS Standards and Montessori materials and develop pacing guides that will support growth that will result in higher PARCC scores. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher or Mrs. Horan.