



Carroll Creek Communicator



Full House!

11-15	6:00 Montessori 101
11-16	Camping—UE— Smith
11-18	Camping – MS and UE—Messinger
11-18	Great American “Shake Out” Drill
11-24	7:00 MMCI Meeting @ MVM
11-2	End of Quarter 1
11-2	LE Field Trip to Weinberg
11-5	No School— Teacher Work Day
11-6	No School— Election Day
11-7	12:45 Arrival— Normal Dismissal (P/T Conferences)
11-8	12:45 Arrival— Normal Dismissal (P/T Conferences)
11-9	11:15 Dismissal (P/T Conferences)
11-12	7:00 GC Meeting
11-14	6:00 Parent Education Night—Spanish
11-15	Picture Retakes

Thank you to the parents who came to our first Parent Education session in September. We had two experts in the field of Cyber Security speak with us. One of the presenters, Corporal Linehan will be sharing an age-appropriate similar presentation to our Upper Elementary and Middle School students in the near future. Our next session will be held October 15th and will focus on the big picture of Montessori education. There will be child care provided for students who currently attend CCM. November 14th the session will focus on the Spanish program here at CCM, including current instruction, how it has grown and where we are headed.

Prospective parents and BOE members have started touring our school. This is always a fabulous opportunity for our community to share what happens here on a daily basis. If you know families who might be interested in joining our Montessori community next year, please ask them to call our office (301-663-7970) to schedule a tour. It helps everyone involved, including the BOE, when there is a clear picture of what Montessori education looks like for students.

One Upper Elementary class has already completed their camping trip this fall. The other two Upper Elementary classes will be doing so this week or next and our Middle School students arrived back from their trip today. These trips are actually “field studies” where our students study aspects of our environment that are much more meaningful in person rather than being read about in a book or shared about through someone else’s experiences. These activities also build leadership skills, confidence, and strong class bonds. Special thanks to the staff members and parent volunteers who make these trips possible!

Parent/Teacher Conferences are just around the corner! Sign-ups are through our ParentSquare app this year. Preschool students only come Friday the week of conferences (no students attend on Monday or Tuesday). Please be aware of early dismissals and pick up your child(ren) promptly so our staff can effectively hosts conferences.

The team from The Center for Guided Montessori Studies who were here videotaping were impressed with all aspects of our school. They had been here three years ago as trainers for a summer residency that several of our teachers attended. We often forget how far we have come—it was nice to have the perspective of experts who had visited previously. Thank you to everyone who made that happen!

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.

Montessori Moment



Purposeful Movement in the Montessori Classroom

“Movement, or physical activity, is thus an essential factor in intellectual growth, which depends upon the impressions received from outside. Through movement we come in contact with external reality, and it is through these contacts that we eventually acquire even abstract ideas.”

Dr. Maria Montessori

Over a hundred years ago, Dr. Maria Montessori observed that movement was an essential part of a child’s intellectual growth. She found that children learn best by “doing.” Movement, therefore, is an integral part of a Montessori education.

Montessori students move about the classroom and engage in hands on learning to build an understanding of new concepts. In the Primary classroom, for example, Montessori students trace letters while they learn the sounds. They match color tablets and find corresponding colors in the classroom, and they handle the Cylinder Blocks or Pink Tower to learn subtle differences in weight and size. At the elementary level, students plan and execute mini field trips, called “going outs,” with small groups of classmates to learn more about what they are studying in the classroom and engage in the community. They learn long division with small beads and colored bead boards, and distinguish the parts of a sentence using color coded wooden arrows and circles. In middle school, students engage in collaborative discussions to explore new concepts, share their thoughts, and respond to each others’ questions and comments. They complete meaningful service learning activities with the instructional support.

Current scientific research affirms Montessori’s findings. Movement helps the brain acquire and process information and maintain energy. When movement is involved, the brain is stimulated differently than with passive watching and listening. The physical participation of the child in an activity is what informs the child. Montessori students discover themselves and the larger world by moving about.

*Mrs. Mosquera,
Montessori Teacher
Specialist*

Counselor’s Corner

As the leaves begin to change and temperature begins to cool, it’s hard to miss all the change that happen this time of year. Change can be both beautiful and often difficult as well. Change can come in different forms. Sometimes the changes are little and other times they are big. It’s important to recognize that everyone handles change if different ways. Some ways to help your child (or yourself) deal with change are:

1. Give advanced warning when possible- Advanced warning gives us time to readjust our expectation. When advanced warning is not possible give a much detail about what the child can expect.
2. Answer any and all questions to ease the unknown- Even when a change can seem small to us, to our child it may be large. Be available to answer any questions your child may have.
3. Encourage and praise flexibility- Being flexible is often easier said than done. When you see your child being flexible offer encouragement. Notice the small ways they are flexible to (changing an activity to accommodate a sibling, allowing a friend to play with their special toy, changing their favorite shirt due to a spill, etc)
4. Be understanding of how each person handles change- When traffic is backed up and you are late to a meeting you may feel frustrated or irritable. That’s totally normal. Your routine has been disrupted. Our children have the same feelings, they may just express them in a different way. Ask your child to share with you the feelings they are experiencing (Angry, frustrated, anxious, etc).
5. Acknowledge feelings and give choices- Using language to affirm your child's feelings can help them feel heard. Try saying something like: “I understand you feel frustrated (Insert their feeling) when we are all out of Waffles for breakfast. This morning you can choose to eat Eggs or Toast with peanut butter and bananas.” Allowing your child to assist in decision making helps them to feel they have regained some control over the change.

Check out this link for some books to read at home with your child

<https://ccbc.education.wisc.edu/books/detailListBooks.asp?idBookLists=175>

Change is
a Process
not an Event!

*Mrs. Kamnikar and Mrs. Adams,
CCM School Counselors*

From the Art Room

In art class, students are completing their beginning-of-the-year self-portraits as they practice the realistic proportions of the face. They are also completing their Square 1 Art designs as they learn about radial composition.



Kindergarten students have completed positive/negative space compositions and are moving on to the element of line.

Lower Elementary students are learning to appreciate that people create art as part of a tradition as they create drawings about family and/or community tradition.

Upper Elementary students are practicing one point perspective as they learn about Walker Evans's 1929 photograph of the Brooklyn Bridge.



Middle School Gallery students are preparing and hanging exhibitions in our CCM art gallery as well as designing a logo and signage for the gallery.

Middle School Open Studio students are continuing to develop work begun in their other art classes including, self-portraits, and color wheels.

Middle School Drawing students are using India ink and graphite on paper to create artworks that emphasize positive and negative space in composition.

Middle School Oil Painting students are developing original color wheels as they practice mixing color and consistency with oil paints.

Middle School Cartooning students are designing a comic book cover as they explore perspective and use the middle school theme of Exploration and New Beginnings as a point of departure.

"Every child is an artist." — Pablo Picasso



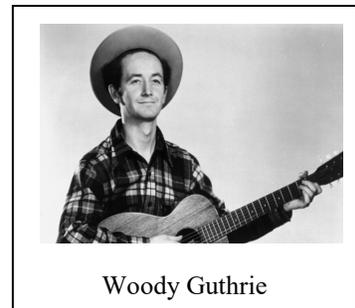
Mrs. Reed

Music

Kindergarten students are well on their way with beginning instrument and dance skills they will be using in the music room on a regular basis. They have learned to scrape and tap rhythms sticks for the "Old Gray Cat" song and are now practicing a steady beat and cha-cha pattern for "La Vaca Lola." They have mastered two circle dances, the Statue Game and Color Song, and can now maintain moving around in a continuous circle as they perform various movements.

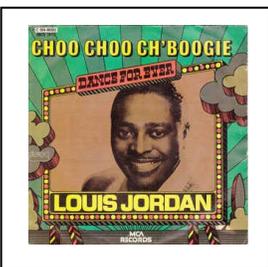
Lower Elementary students have been reviewing simple quarter note, eighth note, and quarter rest patterns, and brushing up on solfeggio (do, re, mi) singing. Veteran students have taught the "newbies" in the classes how to do the "Draw a Bucket of Water" singing dance. They have also worked in partner groups learning various aspects of a music score such as the title, composer, verse/refrain markings, and vocal notation with Woody Guthrie's "This Land is Your Land" as we delve into North American music.

Upper Elementary students have been using their mastery of solfeggio skills to explore the dominant relationship of sol and do as well as relative minor tonalities built on "la." Students have practiced Latin percussion rhythm patterns on bongos, guiros, and claves accompanying themselves while singing "Canta Conmigo." We have also jumped right into duple and triple meter construction with students changing dotted quarter rhythm patterns from one to another. We are beginning a brief review of treble clef in preparation for recorder playing.



Woody Guthrie

Middle school guitar and keyboard classes have been filled with reviewing treble and bass clef construction and notation, positioning skills, storage of instruments, and independent study routines. Students are working on how to design their own path of study with repertoire choices and playing techniques. Our weekly **Music History** section this semester is focusing on the development of Rock and Roll. The first few classes have been learning about the blues, big band, country and western, and the status of radio in the 40s setting the stage for the genre's arrival in the 50s.



Performing Ensembles: we have record numbers for both groups this year and rehearsals are well under way! We provided a sneak peek into the amazing level of talent we are fortunate to

have this year at our Peace Assembly when a small group of our Middle School performers provided percussion accompaniment to our Light A Candle song. Joyful and uplifting!

Mrs. Reynolds

Physical Education

Primary students are adjusting to physical education. It is a time of extreme excitement but also a time of learning how P.E. works and what we do during class. Primary students have been practicing their warm-up routine and learning why it is important to warm-up before exercise. Primary students have been learning many new locomotor movements and how to stretch and use their bodies in different ways. Students have been participating in group activities and learning how to work cooperatively

with classmates. I like to use the first month of Primary P.E. to really make sure our students understand the expectations of physical education class so that they can be prepared for the remainder of the year as well as the remainder of their time at CCM to have a valuable P.E. class.

LE, UE, and Middle School have all completed their fall fitness testing! Students now have their scores from the four fitness tests we complete in P.E. and have set goals for

themselves to improve over the year so when it comes time for spring testing they can see the progress that has been made. Over the last couple of weeks we have turned our attention to the soccer unit. Students have learned and practiced dribbling with the feet, passing using the inside of the foot, and successful shooting strategies. All classes take time to practice the skills used in the game so that they are prepared for an actual game when that time comes. Students have started by playing scooter soccer as way to slowly transition into real gameplay. Our Middle School and UE students have started to engage

in actual games this week which has been awesome!

Students are looking forward to our next unit coming up which will be basketball. Just a reminder your student should always try to have sneakers on P.E. days. If your student is unable to participate due to illness or injury please send a note in with them just so I have documentation. I am always available via e-mail if you have a questions or concerns regarding your child. Thank you for your help and stay active!

Mr. Hickman



Spanish Spoken Here

Saludos familias de Carroll Creek Montessori! October is a busy month in la clase de español. Students in grades 3, 6, and 8 will complete a computerized Spanish language assessment known as STAMP to asses their beginning of the year Spanish competencies in Listening, Reading, Writing, and Speaking. Kindergarten will also begin a similar screening although it will not be administered by computer but rather one-on-one with a Spanish teacher. These assessments are incredibly beneficial in determining the best path of instruction for our learners and allow for development of a more tailored learning plan to fit their needs.



Additionally, students in all classrooms will begin exploring the cultural celebration known as Día de Los Muertos (Day of the Dead), which is celebrated in several Latin American countries, most notably Mexico. We will use this as an opportunity to further our understandings of various Spanish language grammar structures and incorporate new vocabulary, such as family members, personal descriptors, and parts of the body. We will also discuss with students the cultural significance of this celebration, what it is (a time to honor loved ones who have passed away), and what it is not (i.e., Halloween, scary, trick-or-treat). This year, the Spanish team is excited to bring a school-wide “ofrenda” to which everyone is welcome to contribute. Ofrendas are large, often colorful and elaborate altars or displays made to honor

and memorialize loved ones who are no longer with us. Students, staff, and families are encouraged to participate, but participation is 100% voluntary. Details about how to contribute to the ofrenda will be sent out shortly via Parent Square. If you have specific concerns or questions after receiving that communication, feel free to contact a member of the Spanish team or your child’s classroom teacher who can get the message to us. As always, GRACIAS for your support of Spanish language instruction at Carroll Creek Montessori and happy fall y’all!

*CCM Spanish Team,
Mrs. Maldonado & MRS. Lopez*

Tidbits from our GC

Hello Fellow Parents! I hope you are settling into a routine for this new school year. As always, in my household we're thankful to be part of a school that successfully educates our kids without requiring hours of homework every night to compete with hobbies, family time, meals, and bedtime! Please support your kids' critical uninterrupted block of morning work time by bringing them to school on time every day (no



later than 9:00am). In a few days you'll receive information from MMCI about opportunities to join the CCM Governing Council or MMCI Board of Trustees. Please consider running for a position as Parent Representative on either group. The service obligation isn't forever, and you will learn a vast amount and contribute to ongoing success of our school. You will impress the heck out of your kids (and teach them about selfless service) by heading off to monthly evening meetings with the famous Principal Horan. If you would consider running but would have trouble finding childcare during meetings, send me a message. And if you have any questions about the nature of service on either group, feel free to

email me at gcchair@carrollcreekmontessori.org. As many of you learned during Back to School Night, CCM exceeded benchmarks for PARCC testing last year. As a GC we are so very appreciative of the work of school leaders and staff to prepare students to be successful in PARCC testing while maintaining fidelity to our accredited Montessori environment. There is truly groundbreaking teaching and learning happening at our school, and I'm in awe of it every day. When my mother-in-law sends me articles about how much better education is in Finland, I am proud to tell her how fortunate I feel that many of the key principles she refers to are in regular practice at our very own public school!

Molly Carlson,
GC Chair

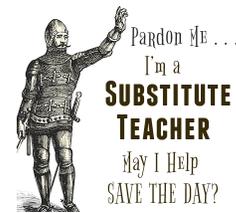
FCPS Substitute Opportunity

Do you have what it takes to be a substitute teacher?

FCPS needs substitute teachers. They have found that parents make the best subs!

You will love substitute teaching for these reasons:

- Flexibility:** teach when, where, and how often you want.
- Money:** you earn a fair hourly salary doing something you love.
- Recognition:** you get honored for a job well done.
- Professionalism:** you work with the FCPS teaching pros.
- Students:** you change lives and make a daily difference.
- Great hours:** an ideal job while your kids are in school.



You must love working with kids and have a minimum of a high school diploma or GED. Visit <https://www.applitrack.com/fcps/OnlineApp/default.aspx?Category=Substitute> to see all of the requirements and to apply online. If you have additional questions, call the Sub Help Desk at 301-644-5120.

From the School Nurse

A friendly reminder that stated in FCPS Regulation 400-23, students are not permitted to carry any prescription or over the counter medications to school or any school function. If your child requires a medication or medical treatment during the school day, his/her health care provider must complete the appropriate forms. These forms may be obtained from the health room and at www.fcps.org. Please ensure that your child is not in possession of any medications while on school grounds. Thank you!

Attendance

Our attendance for September was almost a whole percentage point lower this year than last year as you can see through the graph on the right. September historically has been a month where attendance is strong and helps us compensate for months later in the year when the cold/flu season hits. Please do not send your child to school if they have a fever, but please also plan family outings so they do not conflict with the school calendar. This is a data point for our charter with the Board of Education.

