



# Carroll Creek Communicator



## Parent Time

Over the past six plus years our school has started with the basics, ensured they were solid, then moved on to expanding experiences for our students and families. For example, we didn't start camping trips until three years ago. We didn't have many after school clubs and very little parent education. Well, we have really come a long way! We have two chorus groups, athletic club, garden club, writing club and a few additional ideas in the works. Parent Education is a priority of our school this year. We have already had sessions on Cyber Security and Montessori 101. Our next session will be November 14th. This session will focus on our Spanish program—where we are currently and our vision of how it can grow. Please plan to join us for this informative evening that will include enticing treats!

We are mid-way through our Parent/Teacher conferences. This is always one of our favorite times of the year! Sharing student progress and learning more about them from our families makes it a very special week, indeed. Starting with our fourth grade students, our older students lead their conferences by sharing their progress and goal setting. This has proven to be a great way for students to take ownership of their progress while building confidence in their speaking skills. If you were not able to attend conferences at the time you signed up for, please contact the teacher and coordinate another time for them to share with you.

The state of Maryland is moving to a new accountability communication system for schools. The measures that will be included will be not only test scores but also access to a great curriculum, attendance, school climate, college and career readiness, and student growth over time. Based on all these factors, the state will give each school a numerical score and a simple star rating, on a scale of one through five stars. These will appear on the new report card that the state issues for each school. The school "Report Cards" will be shared in December. If you would like to know more about this process there are two information meetings scheduled by FCPS yet this month. One will be held Monday, November 12 at Brunswick High and the other will be Monday, November 19 at Middletown High. You can find more information on this FCPS webpage: <https://www.fcps.org/about/news/1646727/preview-new-school-accountability-measures>



11-8	12:45 Arrival— Normal Dismissal (P/T Conferences)
11-9	11:15 Dismissal (P/T Conferences)
11-12	7:00 GC Meeting
11-12	4:00 Writer's Club
11-14	6:00 Parent Education Night—Spanish
11-15	Picture Retakes
11-21	12:45 Early Dismissal— Teacher Work Day
11-22 & 23	Thanksgiving Break
11-26	4:00 Writers' Club
11-28	7:00am MS to DC Homeless Shelters
11-28	4:00 Spanish Task Force Meeting
11-28	MMCI Annual Meeting/Elections
12-6	7:00pm Chorus Concert
12-10	4:00 Writers' Club
12-10	7:00 GC Meeting

## 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

### Montessori Practical Life Lessons and Activities

Montessori practical life lessons and activities give students the opportunity to learn life skills and carry out everyday activities independently and with purpose.

In the primary classroom, grace and courtesy lessons and activities such as carrying a tray, rolling a rug, or asking for help, teach students basic procedures necessary for success within the classroom community. Students learn to prepare food, pour, fold, lace, fasten, wrap, and sew. They develop skills such as buttoning, buckling, tying, hand washing, and first aid. Students learn to care for the environment by sweeping, table washing, dishwashing, polishing, caring of plants and animals, and gardening.

In the elementary classroom, students cook, garden, work with tools, and complete science experiments. They take their own attendance and maintain the classroom with individual classroom jobs. Small groups of students plan short outings, called “going outs” to learn more about topics they are studying in class. Carroll Creek upper elementary students plan and carry out whole group overnight camping trips where they build outdoor and collaboration skills.

Middle school students participate in meaningful community service projects. Carroll Creek students volunteer on an ongoing basis at the Frederick Rescue Mission. They installed an Osprey habitat and planted beach grass to prevent erosion in the Chesapeake Bay. Middle school students expand their classroom cleaning tasks to more in-depth jobs and school-wide maintenance such as yard work and recycling. Carroll Creek students pick up trash on the school’s campus, and continue to implement a successful composting program.

As students progress through the grade levels, they build new practical life skills upon foundations from the earlier years. With each new skill learned, they become more independent. And, with greater independence, they are better equipped to become fully capable and responsible adults.



*Mrs. Mosquera,  
Montessori Teacher  
Specialist*

## Counselor’s Corner

During the month of November, many of us take the time to reflect on the things for which we are thankful. This is an excellent time to teach your children about gratitude and ways in which to express gratitude all year long. Here are a few ways to help your child express gratitude:



1. Ask your child about the “highs and lows” of each day. What went well? what happened that you are happy about? Try to focus on appreciating positive and acknowledge the lessons that may come from the negative.
2. Say “Thank You” to your children. Take a pause, kneel down, and look them in the eye. Letting them know you notice and appreciate their efforts helps to reinforce their actions.
3. Model saying “Thank You” to your spouse, friends, family, and your community in the presence of your children.
4. Instill an attitude of giving. Not just in November and December but all year long. Ask your child to gather and donate old clothing or toys to families in need. Volunteer with an organization that gives back to the community.
5. Encourage your child to write or draw thank you notes or pictures for family, friends, teachers, etc.
6. Point out to your child when others have done something nice for them- helped them pick up something they dropped, held the door for them, gave them extra time to complete a task, etc.

Showing gratitude is not just an action, it is also an emotion. When we show gratitude towards another, a positive feeling grows inside of them and ourselves. Not only do we feel a deep appreciation for the other person, the action of acknowledging our appreciation elevates our positivity. When we’re thankful for even the small things, we’re thinking of more than just ourselves; we’re thinking about how all of us have the ability to positively impact another’s life. (Watson, Rita; 2013: Psychology Today)

*“Cultivate the habit of being grateful for every good thing that comes to you, and to give thanks continuously. And because all things have contributed to your advancement, you should include all things in your gratitude.”*

— Ralph Waldo Emerson

## From the Art Room

*Your child's Square 1 Art design is in the process of being turned into stickers. All children who turned in a design will get a page of stickers of their design. Parents have the option of purchasing items featuring their child's design as part of our Square 1 Art fundraiser. More information to come!*

**Kindergarten** students continue to explore line in a variety of mediums including paper sculpture and printmaking. Look for their colorful and inventive, paper, line sculptures to come home this week.



**Lower Elementary** students are completing their drawings about family and/or community traditions. They are incorporating symbolic color and their understanding of foreground, middle ground, and background into their expressive drawings from memory.

**Upper Elementary** students are enjoying creating clay "sugar" skulls as they practice realistic proportions and learn about the anatomy of the face and skull. These sculptures will be painted with color and pattern.

**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. They are also developing exhibitions for bulletin boards

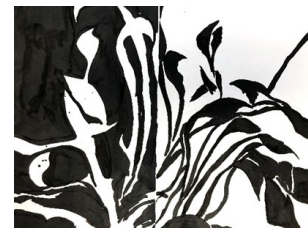
school wide.

**Middle School Open Studio** students continue to develop work begun in their other art classes including, cast shadow ink drawings, comic book covers, and oil paintings of flowers.

**Middle School Drawing** students are beginning a self-portrait using the grid to enlarge a selfie.

**Middle School Oil Painting** students are beginning a flower oil painting project inspired by North American artist, Georgia O'Keeffe.

**Middle School Cartooning** students are completing their comic book covers and moving into their bookbinding/flip book project.



*Mrs. Reed*

*"All art requires courage." — Anne Tucker*

## Music Notes

**Kindergarten** music classes have been working on becoming familiar with many classroom instruments through the 5 Little Pumpkins rhyme. Students have used drum pads, tambourines, bongos, tubano drums, guiros, sandblocks, vibraslap, and suspended cymbal to represent the many sound effects in the poem. Students continue to increase their dance repertoire to now include the Body Rock.

**Lower Elementary** students have done a review of instrument families through the music of Aaron Copland and his "Fanfare for the Common Man" and John Williams' Harry Potter Suite. Students have also been practicing using the music textbooks as a resource for both learning new songs, which requires reading a vocal score, and following a listening map for classical pieces of music. Recorder study is in full swing during

**Upper Elementary** classes. Our veteran students taught our "newbies" the classic "Hot Cross Buns" in a matter of minutes. Students are now playing 3-part melody arrangements and can choose their focus of study by the part they play. All classes enjoyed playing the melody part of the "Linus and Lucy" theme from Peanuts.

### Middle School Music

**Independent Study:** students on guitar and keyboard are deeply entrenched in establishing their individual path studies of technique and repertoire. Each student has a checklist of categories for honing their skills ranging from foundational elements, skill builders, classical repertoire, and student choice songs.

**Music History-Rock n Roll:** students have learned about conditions in the 40s that set the stage for the genre to develop and become a world-wide phenomenon. Students have also explored influences such as the record industry, radio DJs, and television and the role each played in the spread of Rock n Roll.



Alan Freed

### Performing Ensembles

Our music program has grown so much that this winter we will have two performances here at CCM!  
Elementary Chorus: December 6 at 7pm

Middle School Performing Ensemble: January 24 at 7pm

*Mrs. Reynolds*



# Physical Education



Primary students continue to master the routines and expectations of P.E. class. Students are learning the importance of warming up their bodies before exercise and why it is important to stretch. We have begun learning about underhand vs overhanding

throwing and the critical cues students need to take in order to be successful. Primary students are always learning how to move their bodies in different ways and making different shapes using their bodies. Classmate collaboration is very important in P.E. and

Students learn how to dribble with both hands at different levels while stationary and while moving. Students have mastered the three essential passes which include the chest pass, bounce pass, and overhead pass. Students have practiced shooting form which we use the analogy B.E.E.F. for and it stands for balanced feet and knees, elbow in and under the ball, eyes on the target, and follow through your shot. UE and Middle School students have had the opportunity to play small

group games or larger class games of knockout.

As always in P.E. our students take part in cardio-endurance games which aim to work the heart and lungs. Students are always encouraged to participate and have fun but should know the importance of the activities and why we do them. Our next unit will be hockey which is an exciting unit that students really enjoy. Please never hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

*Mr. Hickman*



we continue to practice successful strategies of teamwork through group games and activities.

**LE, UE, and Middle School** have all just finished their basketball unit.

# Spanish Spoken Here

## Hola familias de CCM!

We'd like to give another heartfelt "gracias!" to all of the students and familias who contributed to the Día de Los Muertos ofrenda. It was a wonderful community project and we hope you enjoyed it as much as we did.

In the coming weeks in Spanish class, we will continue learning about personal descriptors, body parts, family and community members, how to tell time, phrases for expressing gratitude and appreciation, and begin introducing units of study on how winter holidays are celebrated in various Spanish-speaking countries.



Don't forget to stop in at the upcoming Spanish Parent Night on Wednesday November 14th. We will discuss the process of language acquisition, explore actual materials and learning games that students work with in Spanish class, and hear feedback from you about our program. You will leave with a better understanding of our approach to teaching Spanish - and hopefully a few new Spanish words and phrases as well! Hope to see you there.



Thank you for your continued support of Spanish at CCM!

*CCM Spanish Team,  
Señora Maldonado & Señora Lopez*

## Tidbits from our GC

You've been inundated with information about upcoming elections for CCM's Governing Council and Monocacy Montessori Communities, Inc. Board of Trustees. Please make time to attend the MMCI Annual Meeting and Election on Wednesday, November 28, 7pm at Monocacy Valley Montessori. Childcare is available; check Parents Square for Details.

Your Governing Council has been supporting the great work of school staff this month. Recent projects include organizing and presenting school data for the annual report to the FCPS Board of Education, exploring new facilities options with a Realtor while at the same time designing a possible expansion of the current space, troubleshooting IT connectivity, exploring the source of

school leaks, creating Montessori materials in Spanish, providing snacks and meals to teachers during conferences, and more.



I attended an information session recently about the forthcoming school "report cards" coming from the Maryland State Department of Education. Starting December 4 we'll be able to see how the state thinks our school stacks up on metrics like attendance, test scores, English language proficiency, student+staff climate, and students'

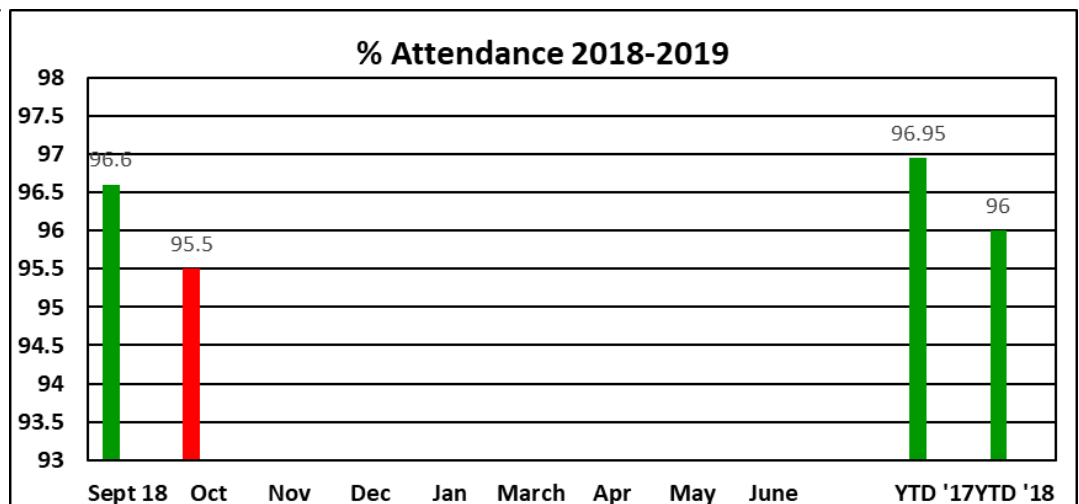
exposure to a well-rounded curriculum. Schools are compared statewide, and each school can earn anywhere from 1-5 stars. This is the first year of this program and the first year's ratings may not be a true representation of school performance, but we'll do our best to provide information and context to this new system when more information is available.

A few notes to fellow parents: please continue to do your best to bring your children to school on time, pick your children up at the end of the day on time, and (if your child doesn't buy school lunch) send along healthy lunches and snacks to school for those students who aren't in Primary. Our fabulous school staff appreciate it!

Best,  
Dr. Molly Carlson  
Governing Council Chair  
Carroll Creek Montessori Public  
Charter School

## Attendance

The first page of this newsletter shared about the new Maryland accountability system that will include not just assessment scores, but also things like our climate survey, comprehensive subject matter being taught (like the arts, science and social studies) and **attendance**. Yes, we are being held accountable for your child's attendance. This is an important way you can help not only your child but also our school. As you can see we are woefully behind last



year's attendance at this same time. We haven't even hit flu season! The month of October we fell below the expected rate for attendance which then brought down our year to date attendance mark to the expectation for the entire year. Please do not send your child to school if they have a fever or if they have thrown up, but please do send them all other times if at all possible. We want to ensure we have every opportunity possible to provide them with instruction and that can only happen if they are here at school.