



# Carroll Creek Communicator

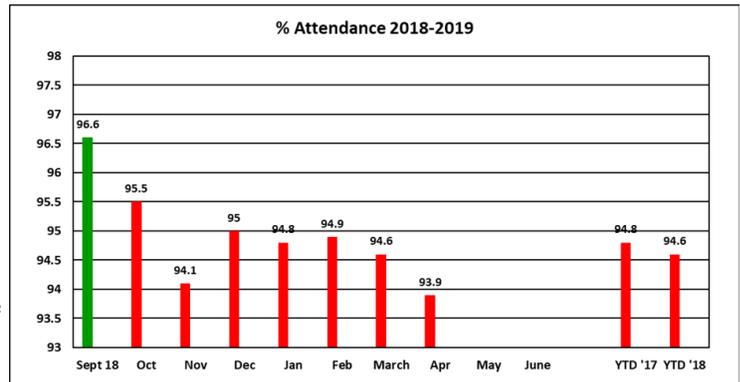


## Lots of Assessments

We will complete the PARCC assessment Friday. Our students came out of each session confident in their work. While we all know this is but a small snapshot of what our students know, it is a large accountability point for our school. The data from this assessment will be used as we go before the BOE to renew our Charter in the fall. We will also use the data from the Scantron assessment that will begin Monday and the AVANT Spanish assessment given to our third, sixth and eighth grade students that will begin as soon as all students have completed the Scantron assessment. That is a lot of testing for sure, but it not only gives the BOE data to determine our progress and success, but it also gives us valuable information about each student to ensure we are providing the right instruction for everyone to be successful.

Thank you to everyone who ensured their children were at school and on time for the PARCC. We had a small window of time to complete the test and had many make-ups due to students being absence or tardy. Our attendance data is another benchmark the BOE uses to determine if our Charter is renewed or not. Unfortunately, we will be reporting the lowest attendance rate of our existence and a rate that is well below what the district expects from all FCPS schools. The calendar is out for next school year already. Please review it carefully and plan any family vacations around the time when school is not in session.

There are a lot of exciting activities yet this year along with significant learning to be done. Field Day is quickly approaching (Mr. Hickman will contact parents for the volunteers he needs). In a few short weeks we will be recognizing our second eighth grade class as they prepare to move to high school. Summer will be here before we know it!



5-17	Last Day for PARCC
5-20	Scantron Starts Grades 2-8
5-20	4:00 Writers' Club
5-22	6:30 Montessori in the Home
5-23	4:00 Garden Club
5-23	7:00 Middle School Chorus Concert
5-27	No School—Memorial Day
5-29	4:00 6th Grade Chorus
5-29	7:00 MCCI @ MVM
5-31	12:00 Field Day
6-3	4:00 Writers' Club
6-6	4:00 Garden Club
6-10	4:00 Writers' Club
6-13	7:00 8th Grade Ceremony
6-19	12:45 Early Dismissal Last Day of School

## 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

*“Do not tell them how to do it. Show them how to do it and do not say a word. If you tell them they will watch your lips more. If you show them, they will want to do it themselves.”*

--- Maria Montessori

### Montessori at Home

Implementing Montessori principles at home builds an invaluable bridge between home and school. Here are a few steps you can take to start reinforcing what your child learns at school.

**Create order.** Have a place for everything, on a child-friendly scale, so that your child will know where to find what they need, and has a place to put things when they're done. Orderly, predictable spaces allow children to develop competence in caring for themselves and their surroundings.

**Promote Independence.** Observe what you are doing for your child and determine if there is something you can do to empower them to do it on their own.

**Model and Practice Real Life Skills.** Model how to carry out household tasks and provide assisted practice. Show your child an object's proper place and practice putting it away with them. Young children can peel vegetables, fold their clothes, match their socks, and care for pets. You may need to demonstrate a new skill a few times, but soon your child will have it mastered. For older children, demonstrate how to perform a new activity, such as separating laundry and loading and running the washing machine, and invite your child to practice with your guidance. Adolescents can read to younger siblings, help with home repair, keep family computers up-to-date, sort the mail, take out the recycling, and manage their own bank accounts. In addition to the satisfaction of mastering real-life skills, they come to see themselves as valued members of the household.



**Nurture Inner Motivation.** Children are most willing to apply themselves when they feel there is intrinsic value to their work. According to Montessori pedagogy, praise should be given sparingly. It is saved to acknowledge a child's effort and encourage dedication and commitment to accomplishing a task, rather than the outcome of their work. Expressing encouragement and appreciation for your children's efforts will help nurture an inner motivation that will serve them for life.



*Mrs. Mosquera,  
Montessori Teacher Specialist*

## Counselor's Corner



In April the 8th grade had the pleasure of visiting Mount Saint Mary's College and Frederick Community College. The visit was a great way to expose our students to some of the various options for after High School. So far this year our students have been exposed to both CTC options and college options. The students asked some great questions and seemed to really enjoy the field trip. We are very grateful to MSM and FCC for their hospitality.

This month in Primary our classroom lesson addresses Cooperation and Working Together. Students will be able to identify the skills needed for cooperation and teamwork. We will be doing a hands on activity in small groups. This activity will allow the students to practice the skills they learned during the lesson. Some books you can read

at home to support cooperation and teamwork include: Bat's Big Game by Margaret Read MacDonald, The Little Red Hen by Lucinda McQueen, and Swimmy by Leo Leonni.

Lower Elementary class lessons this month will be about Mindfulness. Mindfulness is being present in the moment and noticing what is happening right now. This helps students to focus on classwork and be aware of their own minds and bodies. We will be reading a book and doing an experiential activity to practice mindfulness. Some books you can read at home to help promote mindfulness include: Breathe Like a Bear by Kira Willey, Master of Mindfulness by Laurie Grossman, and Mindful Monkey, Happy Panda by Kerry Lee MacLean and Lauren Alderfer.

This month in Upper Elementary our classroom lesson will address Growth Mindset. Growth Mindset is the ability to change our thinking from fixed to growth. If you've seen the bulletin board in the lobby you will see it emphasizes the power of "yet". One example of Growth Mindset is being able to say, I can't do a cartwheel...yet. Saying "I can't do a cartwheel" is a fixed way of thinking, its determining that you can't. Adding "yet" is a growth mindset. It's recognizing that you can't do it yet but you will keep trying and working towards that goal. Some books you can read at home to help promote a Growth Mindset include: Salt In His Shoes by Deloris Jordan, The Girl Who Never Made Mistakes by Mark Pett, What Do You Do With A Problem by Kobi Yamada.

Mrs. Adams  
Danielle.Adams@fcps.org  
Monday- Friday

Mrs. Kamnikar  
Elizabeth.Kamnikar@fcps.org  
Monday-Thursday

## From the Art Room



**Kindergarten** students are exploring the art element of texture through printmaking and learning about the art element of space as they develop landscape drawings and paintings.

**Lower Elementary** students have completed their paper Molas. They are reviewing the art element of space and the concepts of foreground, middle ground, and background in a two-dimensional image as they develop landscapes with oil pastels.

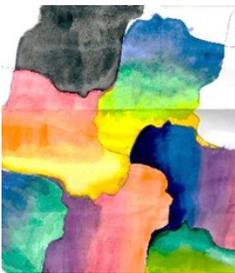
**Upper Elementary** artists are completing their colorful, imaginative, and dynamic tessellations. Many of the tessellations are on view in our CCM art gallery.

**Middle School Gallery** students are hanging exhibitions of our Lower Elementary Molas, Upper Elementary tessellations, and Middle School printmaking.

**Middle School 3D** students are engaged in independent studies. Some students are creating clay, coil pots, while others are creating clay figures, basket weaving, book binding, and marbleizing paper.

**Middle School Printmaking** students are completing their printed tessellations, developing postcards from their tessellation stamp, developing nature and sun prints, and creating mixed media works that integrate a variety of printmaking techniques into one work of art.

*“All art requires courage.” — Anne Tucker*



*Mrs. Reed*



## Music Notes

**Kindergarten** music classes are continuing spring activities with the Mr. Frog song, accompanying themselves with guiros, frog rasps, and a cabasa. The song reinforces the scraping motion for playing these instruments. Students are expanding their knowledge of simple quarter and eighth note patterns by playing them on tone bars and tubanos, as well as leading echo activities. Our fun new dances have been the “Green Jelly Bean” and “Animal Action.”

**Lower Elementary** classes are continuing their study of triple meter in 3/4 rhythm patterns by identifying and performing them in 4 measure groupings. Classes have also started reviewing/learning about the treble clef and staff as 3rd graders prepare for Upper Elementary. The A Citron stone passing singing game has been a particularly enjoyable challenge, requiring students to pass stones (we are using egg shakers) around the circle to the steady beat and have everyone end up with only one at the end of the song. Not as easy as it sounds!

**Upper Elementary** is all about the bass these days! Classes have learned the structure of the bass clef as they prepare to spend the rest of the school year exploring the keyboards. Students have chosen adapted versions of movie and video game theme songs to practice reading treble and bass clef notation and its relationship to the keyboard. Groups of students will rotate time on the keyboards during their regular music classes in a modified “independent study.”

### Middle School

**World Drumming:** the “High Life” ensemble has proven to be a challenge for our drummers, but they are working hard to master the unique rhythm patterns that blend together. Students have also made great gains in their improvisational skills as they take turns leading rhythm calls and layered improv circles.

**Drama II:** students have extended their study of Greek tragedy by writing scripts based on modern dramas. Their final performances include a snippet of Shakespeare’s Twelfth Night.

**Drama I:** students have performed sections of the famous “Who’s On First” comedy routine rotating turns to present the entire skit. Their final projects will combine skills of gesture, emphasis, pacing, and projection as they prepare short skits in small groups. Each group also has their own stage crew: students focusing on prop and furniture management.

### Performing Ensembles:

Our **Elementary Performing Ensemble** Concert was a great success and well attended. We had two fine representatives at the annual FCPS 5th Grade Honors Chorus. Congratulations to Kaiden Gosnell and Lauren McIntosh for their hard work!

Our **Middle School Performing Ensemble** will perform here at Carroll Creek on Thursday May 23 at 7pm. They will rock you!

*Mrs. Reynolds*

## Spanish Spoken Here

Saludos from La Clase de Español!

We love a reason to celebrate in Spanish class, and Cinco de Mayo gave us the perfect opportunity! Children in all classes studied the origin and significance of Cinco de Mayo and the Battle of Puebla. We explored ways people celebrate and debunked some common myths – including that it has zero do to with mayonnaise and is actually celebrated more in the US than in Mexico!

**Primary** classes made Mexican flags from tissue paper and learned what each color on the flag represents. They also LOVED learning and dancing the Mexican Hat Dance and exploring two books about Cinco de Mayo traditions. Their favorite was about a parrot who found his own way to help with the annual Cinco de Mayo festivities in my home state of Texas.

**Lower Elementary** studied traditional methods for making piñatas and then created their own class piñatas! They made their own glue from flour and water, created the shape from papier-mâché, and then covered it in crepe paper fringe that they cut. The children even made the filler treats such as friendly notes, jokes, and paper candies. We braved a few raindrops for a fun Piñata Party outside and sang the traditional piñata song “Dale, Dale, Dale” as they took turns swinging!

**Upper Elementary** classes created their own paper versions of intricate Mexican Talavera tiles using symmetry and inspiration from nature. They also studied a Spanish-language infographic from an authentic Mexican newspaper that gave facts and dispelled misunderstandings about Cinco de Mayo.

**Middle School Spanish I** students created paper sombreros to showcase what they already knew about Cinco de Mayo and then added to it as they learned more. They also explored the historical and cultural significance of the traditional seven-pointed star piñatas. I grew up making seven-pointed star piñatas and always wondered why they had seven points. Who knew piñatas had anything to do with morality and good vs. evil? I just wanted candy!

As we hit the homestretch of the school year, here are three reminders and one humble request:

**Middle School Spanish II-** The third and final Spanish 1 benchmark is scheduled for Friday, June 7th.

Attendance matters in all grade levels, but especially for our Middle School Spanish students. The material we are covering at this point in the year is definitely more complex and multiple tardies/absences can make it difficult to stay on top of things.

**Students in grades 3, 6, and 8 will take the STAMP Spanish assessment** later this month. This exam assesses their Spanish proficiency in reading, writing, listening, and speaking and is mainly used to guide our curriculum development as we tailor it to the needs of each student.

**TREASURES NEEDED!** One goal of mine for next year is to expand our classroom collection of authentic objects from Spanish-speaking countries. I plan to create treasure boxes from each country and fill them with wonderful goodies for students to explore, write, and talk about – en español of course! If you or someone you know will travel to a Spanish-speaking country or already have an item you would be willing to part with, I would love a donation of a trinket or treasure from that place. Possible ideas: postcard, newspaper or magazine, coins or dollar bill, book, postage stamp, small doll or traditional craft - basically anything that will fit inside of a plastic shoebox.

¡Gracias de antemano!

Thank you for your support of the Spanish program at CCM!

Señora Maldonado y Señora Lopez



## Physical Education

**Primary** students have been very busy setting the bar for our pre-k students that are moving up and visiting P.E. It is amazing to see how excited they are for these new students to be visiting our class and they just do an outstanding job making sure the pre-k students understand the expectations in P.E. Primary students have started to be introduced to some of the fitness tests we do in the older grades so that they will have some experience when they move up to LE. Recently I have been letting our primary students brainstorm games and activities that they would like to bring to P.E. and it is amazing some of the things they come up with. I will be using some of their ideas for other classes in the future!

**LE, UE, and Middle School** have all just completed their track and field unit. Students learned about the origins of the sport and what kinds of events take place during a track and field meet. Students had the opportunity to partake in specific events that they were interested in. I observed most of our classes set up a team relay, it was awesome to see students working together to accomplish one goal the most efficient way that they could. Our older students had the opportunity to try throwing shot put and discus which was very new to a lot of the students but very enjoyable! This unit serves as a great practice opportunity for our students that are participating in the Frederick County Hugh B. Nolan track meet. The elementary track meet (4th, 5th grade) is May 21st and the Middle School meet (6th, 7th, 8th grade) is May 22nd both of which will be taking place at Frederick High School. We have a good number of students participating this year so if you are free one of those days come out and cheer them on!

**Field Day is May 31st at Ballenger Creek Park!** Make sure you plan to pick your child up at the park at 3:45. Students should be dressed for activity and should have plenty of water to stay hydrated. I am always looking for parent volunteers to help out so if you are willing just send me an e-mail and that would be greatly appreciated! Looking forward to a great day with our students.

*Mr. Hickman*



## Tidbits from our GC

A big thank you to our CCM Community: **5,373.5 hours of volunteering** were logged between May 1, 2018 and April 30, 2019 for an average of 17 volunteer hours per student.

Save the Date for the **CCM End of the Year Picnic** at Ballenger Creek Park on the last day of school for students, Wednesday, June 19. Watch Parent Square for more details.

This spring, CCM will again be offering the option to purchase a complete pack of **back to school supplies** to fulfill your child's supply list. This service is offered as a convenience and fundraiser for CCM. Info will be coming home in Thursday folders and Parent Square in Mid-May.

Another big thank you to the CCM Community: there has been a **significant decrease in issues with late pickups** since concerns were raised in April. The changes are being observed and documented and are greatly appreciated! **Keep up the good work!**

Carrie Jean Rathmell  
Governing Council Chair  
Carroll Creek Montessori Public Charter School

## FCPS Summer Meal Program

Summer Meals Program 2019: FCPS Food & Nutrition Services will be operating the Summer Meals Program 2019, from June 24th – August 21st . Children aged 18 years and younger will be allowed to get a free breakfast and lunch at any of the sites listed. • Hillcrest Elementary, Frederick High, Lincoln Elementary, North Frederick Elementary, Waverley Elementary, Whittier Elementary, Governor Thomas Johnson High, Governor Thomas Johnson Middle, Monocacy Middle • C. Burr Artz Library will offer Free Lunches on Tuesdays & Thursdays • Breakfast is served 8:30-9:00; Lunch is served 11:30-12:30. For additional information or questions please contact the FCPS Food & Nutrition Services Office, 301-644-5061

