

MH CCM Communicator - February Archived

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Mission

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.

Principals Message

The CCM Annual Report was presented to the FCPS Board of Education February 23rd. This was the most positive report and reception of our report since the school opened. We were able to share information about the collaborative efforts between staff and families during virtual and hybrid learning last year. Yes, it was a struggle, but everyone did the best they could at the time. We were able to share our struggles with facilities and the wonderful GPA data of students who have been with us and who are now in high school. If you would like to view the presentation, it can be found at this [link](#) and clicking on 1.11. The Annual Report Document can be found [here](#) and the PowerPoint presentation can be found [here](#).

FCPS carefully considered many data points and discontinued mandated masks in schools. While masks are still recommended, staff, students and parents can choose whether or not they would like to wear them. We prepared our students for this change in advance and it was obvious that families had talked about it at home, also. I did not do any kind of "count" but saw students and staff with and without masks while not hearing any negative discussions about personal choices.





Please remember to send healthy snacks to school with your children. Please see the CCM Healthy Snack Suggestions page for ideas.

The calendar has two testing windows in the month of March. That will be the beginning. April and May are heavy with assessments including language arts, math, science and Spanish. We are confident in the skills our students have gained this year and although an assessment is a “day in the life” we believe this year our students will shine as they show what they know!

Marilyn Horan, Principal

Upcoming Events

- 3.1** 8th Grade NAEP Assessment
- 3.1** Yearbook Candid Pictures in Classrooms
- 3.2** CCM Facilities @ 6:00
- 3.2** GC Meeting @ 7:00
- 3.4** Middle School to Monroe Center
- 3.8 & 9** MISA Testing (Science) - 5th & 8th grades
- 3.18** Early Dismissal @ 12:45
- 3.22** LE to Cunningham Falls
- 3.25** End of Quarter 3



Montessori Moment

February AMS Family Connection focuses on abstraction and imagination. When children are given a wealth of materials and the agency to choose their imagination takes over. Our middle school students recently constructed roller coasters in science. What a great way to expand on concepts they learned and use their imagination in the process.



Counselors Corner

We continue supporting students with a variety of needs related to academics and social-emotional wellbeing at school. Our goal as school counselors is to be able to connect with each student at CCM.

Classroom Lessons:

In our Primary and Lower Elementary classroom lessons this month we read "After the Fall: How Humpty Dumpty Got Back-Up Again" by Dan Santat. We discussed the difference between a Fixed Mindset v. a Growth Mindset. The Lower Elementary students then finished their lessons by filling out a worksheet that had them think of 3 things they can do, and 1 thing they can't do..... YET! It is so important to remind our students that they are learning and often learning new things is hard, and so it takes time and practice! Check out this Parent Resource that you can use to implement a stronger Growth Mindset within your student. [Growth Mindset: A Parent Letter](#)



Upper Elementary classrooms will be participating in group discussions about social problem solving strategies. We will read a short story about two friends who are struggling with how to communicate and solve a friendship problem. The goal is for students to learn about the choices they have and to use strategies to solve social problems. We will put this to practice by completing a Strengths Assessment that will allow them to see how they can use their strengths in a positive way, but also areas that they can work to improve in. Lastly, students will be able to pick through strategies that they may find helpful and apply them to a few short scenarios, related to social problem solving.

Middle School students participated in a presentation from Mr. Kurtz with the Academy for the Fine Arts, located at Gov. Thomas Johnson High School. Students learned about their many different programs including: Visual Arts, Dance, Theater, Music, and Musical Theater. The AFA is hosting a middle school shadow day on March 9th from 8:00am - 10:00am. If your student would like to participate please register them at: <https://app.acuityscheduling.com/schedule.php?owner=16058749&calendarID=2286826> Please note: Transportation is not provided by FCPS. Please plan to drop your student off at GTJHS and then return them to CCM.

High School Registration: The high school registration process has been completed! CCM 8th grade students will transition to 6 of the different High Schools within FCPS. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to reach out to Mrs. Adams. Many of our 8th grade students have been at CCM since they started school, what an exciting time for them!

Attendance is very important and can be confusing! Please contact Kathleen McNamara with questions or concerns at (240)566-0627. If your student is absent you need to notify the school via the attendance email (ccms.attendance@fcps.org) or by physical note to Ms. Anderson. Student absences are only excused if we are provided a lawful reason for absence (ex. Illness, doctor's note for illness and appts., 5 days vacation, death in the family, COVID, etc.) within 48 hours of student absence. We will also take early notification!

Danielle Adams, Counselor

Kathleen McNamara, Counselor

From the Art Room

Kindergarten students are learning about fine artists, Clementine Hunter and Lillian Blades. They are also practicing the elements of art, line, texture, shape, and color as they complete new works from the drawing center.



Lower Elementary students are learning about fine artists, Jean-Michel Basquiat, Augusta Savage, and Tyree Guyton. They are also supporting their classroom continent study of South America as they learn about the emergent, canopy, understory, and forest floor levels of the rain forest while creating a mixed media artwork of the rain forest.

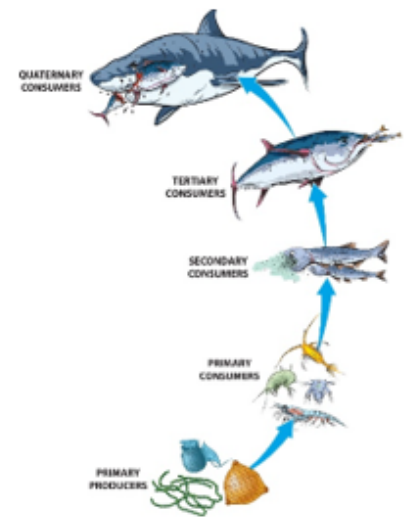


Upper Elementary students are creating three-organism, ocean food chains in clay and learning about fine artists Julie Mehretu, Nick Cave, and Shantell Martin.

Middle School Sculpture students are creating armatures for their Papier-mâché sculptures.

Middle School Oil Painting students are completing oil pastel, blending studies and oil pastel artworks. – Mrs. Reed

Far from being dominated by ideas from Paris and New York, Latin American artists were often the innovators. They were doing drip paintings in advance of Pollock, creating language art before the American conceptualists, and fashioning shaped canvases decades before Kelly or Stella. – Mari Carmen Ramirez, Curator of Latin American Art



"All art requires courage" - Anne Tucker

Lisa Reed, Art Teacher

Music Notes

Kindergarten classes have celebrated February with the Spanish Valentine song "Te Quiero" and using shakers as accompaniment and Lunar New Year with "Gung Hay Fat Choi," while also learning about and playing the autoharp. Students have practiced dynamics and tempo changes with the song "Brush Your Teeth." We've brought back our "I Know A Chicken" song honoring the blues.



Lower Elementary classes are enjoying our 4 Corners game with 2nd and 3rd graders playing the rhythm patterns for others to identify. Students have been exploring the pentatonic scale with "Ring In The New Year," a Lunar New Year piece, and playing the Chicken Blues in 12 bar blues fashion. Classes still enjoy doing the "I Let Her Go-Go" dance as well.

Upper Elementary students are continuing their study of treble and bass clef reading not only with group lessons, but during independent study on our keyboards with popular TV and movie themes. Students also work in "study groups" based on the choice of song to help each other identify and locate notes on the keyboard. We have started an in depth study of the blues, to include writing our own 12 bar blues.

Middle School

Our second semester brings Independent Instrument Study and Drama to the music room!

Independent Study:

Keyboard students have progressed to choosing C position songs and playing harmonic intervals, a beginning chord technique. Guitar and ukulele students are practicing string study exercises for their respective instruments, and using beginner/easy chords to practice various strum patterns.



Drama: students are exploring "good actor traits" and determining the most important skills an actor should have as well as working through emphasis activities and how it affects the meaning conveyed to the audience.

Performing Ensemble: our Middle School ensemble has been working on choral skills with a piece written in Latin that requires numerous dynamic (volume) changes and fast paced lyrics. Our sixth graders will resume Monday rehearsals on **March 7.**

Elementary Performing Ensemble: spring session starts on Tuesday March 8!

Congratulations to ADALIZ HODGES who will represent CCM in this year's 5th grade Honors Chorus!

Mary Lou Reynolds, Music Teacher

Spanish Spoken Here

¡Hola familias de CCM!

We have so many different learning themes happening in our upper level Spanish classes. Please read below for details about what each level is exploring.

- **Montessori Spanish Experience** – MSE students voted for the book *Agentes Secretos y El Mural de Picasso* for their next novel study. It is a historical fiction book set in the Spanish Civil War and includes the adventures of several spies as they look for hidden symbols in Pablo Picasso's famous mural *Guernica*. Students had several Secret Missions (aka reading and listening comprehension work!) to build their background knowledge on topics explored in the book. We have read the first two chapters and used our Spanish to compare attributes of the main characters.
- **MS Spanish 2** – Spanish 2 students explored the Latin American tradition of “La Fiesta de Quince Años,” which is similar to a sweet 16 party but when a young girl turns 15. Students read about various elements of the celebration and how it differs from country to country. We reviewed common verbs in the past tense as we explored a “quinceañera” named Rubí and her party that went viral – over 1 million people RSVP’d! We continued our review of past tense and also kicked off our Afrolatinos exploration by studying one of the most famous Afrolatinas in history, salsa singer Celia Cruz.
- **MS & 6th Grade Spanish 1** – Students in Spanish 1 explored forms of the verb *tener*/to have, *estar*/to be feeling or located, and *ir*/to go as well as reviewed high-frequency terms from previous units. Our class stories included a tale of a crazy brother who stole all of his brother’s girlfriends and a second story about a penguin looking for love and friendship. In the last weeks of February and into March, Spanish 1 will be exploring various important Afrolatino figures and writing Spanish mini-biographies.
- **Upper Elementary A** – Students in UE-A continued their journey through Peru via our class novel *Llama En Lima*. We explored the famous Parque de Las Aguas, a park that is filled with dancing rainbow fountains, and the coastal region of Miraflores that is popular with surfers. Recent chapters focused on various forms of the high-frequency verbs *saber*/to know, *estar*/to be feeling or located, *bailar*/to dance, *ir*/to go, and *querer*/to want, and *ser*/to be. Students incorporated the book’s high-frequency grammar and vocabulary through story summaries, partner retells, listen and draw works, and a find-the-error game called BEEP in which they got to shout at the teacher when I made an error!



Please let me know if you have any questions about your child’s progress. Thank you for your support!



Hola Queridos padres!

Is unbelievable to think that we are half way in February already, but you know what they say when you are having fun time goes by really fast.

Upper Elementary and Lower Elementary A students have been working really hard in learning about animals and all the new and excited vocabulary this unit can bring to us, we have been working on the grammar Es, Vive, le gusta y come.

The children have been receptive and excited about all the new games and information they have been acquiring during all this time.

The next unit we will be exploring is the novel El Capibara con Botas, I'm very excited because I know the acquisition of the language is increasing.



Our **Primary and Lower Elementary B and C** students have been learning about opposites (opuestos) they have enjoyed sorting out and identifying objects that are big and small (Grande, pequeño), inside- outside (adentro, afuera) and long-short (largo, Corto). We were busy learning a song of opuestos and, had so much fun that the students were eager to show their parents how well they learned it. Check our CCM facebook page to see their great dancing moves.



Artwork by Leila Maldonado

PE HAPPENINGS!

February 2022

"Athletics are great. But physical education is for every youngster -- to help them learn about themselves, learn about their bodies, learn ways to become physically active but not necessarily to compete,..."

-George Graham, PH.D.

What are we doing this month?

Kindergarten & Early Elementary

- Underhand roll technique
- Bowling
- Bowling score keeping with scorecards
- Striking with long handled implement: Broomball

Upper Elementary and Middle

- Q2 Fitness Assessments: Push Up (muscular strength) and Sit Up (muscular endurance). Mile Run for cardiovascular endurance
- Upper Elementary: Team Handball
- Middle School: Basketball Unit

Extra Notes:

Middle school students are working outdoors in our basketball unit. We are focusing on the primary skills of basketball (dribbling and passing). We will move into modify game play to focus upon defense.

Upper Elementary students are participating in a team Handball unit. Team Handball utilizes skills from a variety of sports including basketball, soccer, lacrosse, and hockey. It is also a great activity to focus on team play and cooperative learning. The students will work outdoors as long as the weather permits.

Lower elementary and kindergarten students have been working on the underhand roll in our bowling unit. We have been focusing on body control while stepping into their toss as well as aiming at a target, more specifically the bowling pins. The students are tracking their score with scorecards, using math skills to record their bowling score. We will be moving into a Broomball unit which focuses on striking skills while manipulating a long handled implement.

Kerry Grimm, PE Teacher

6th Grade SEL

6th Grade SEL Class

Students in 6th grade meet two days a week to explore topics and skills related to Social and Emotional Learning. Recent lessons included:

- Identifying our areas of strength and areas for growth, and choosing symbols to represent each
- Strategies to get through challenging moments. We explored how we can use music as a way to boost our mood and help us through difficulties. Students shared their Personal Positive Anthems, created posters of meaningful lyrics and words from their chosen song, and then put the songs together into a class Positive Anthems Playlist.
- Building our communication skills, both for sharing messages and receiving messages, and understanding how everyone interprets information differently.



Tidbits From Our GC

FUNDRAISING meeting to be held Thursday March 3rd from 7-8 for our Fundraising Committee – Find the link on Parentsqaure. Seeking parents and ideas for the CCM 2022-2023 fundraising Calendar, what would you like to see?

GRANT WRITERS Wanted: if you have experience or interest please reach out to Fundraising@carrollcreekmontessori.org to get involved, or participate in the fundraising meeting Mar 3, 2022 .



Looking for ways to support CCM through volunteering?

Members of the CCM GC have compiled a catalog of key volunteer roles with job descriptions for each role. Descriptions include tasks and time commitment and point of contact for each role. Click this link to view the [Volunteer Catalog](#) or contact Fundraising@carrollcreekmontessori.org for more information.

Curious about where CCM will be located in Fall 2022?

Monocacy Montessori Communities, Inc. (MMCI) updated its website with a good [overview of the facilities search](#). Did you know that Carroll Creek Montessori's lease expires in June 2022? Stay up to date on the facilities search by attending GC meetings, [reading the minutes](#), and emailing questions to facilities@carrollcreekmontessori.org.

Nikki Burgee, [GC Chairperson](#)

📄 CCM Snacks Suggestions.pdf