



Mission

Carroll Creek Montessori Public Charter School Mision

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

Principal's Message

It finally happened. We had been sailing along with one or two cases of COVID that happened away from school and then it happened. Last week we had multiple positive cases of COVID. Our staff completed contact tracing and made sure we contained all exposures as much as possible. If your child does not feel well, please keep them home. Do not send them to school if they have had any of the following: fever, persistent cough, throwing up or headache.

Please have them tested for COVID if they have those symptoms before sending them to school. Please be aware that FCPS does not accept at home test results.





Thank you to everyone who supported our middle school by purchasing plants. On the surface this might have looked like a nice fundraising activity. The students put so much into this endeavor. They propagated the plants, caring for them throughout the fall. A marketing plan was developed. The students secured "loans" of items such as soil and clay and will be reimbursing people for those expenses. They had to determine appropriate prices for each variety of plant. There was the set up and take down of the actual sale. It has been a joy to observe our students work collaboratively and in their various work groups to plan and make their first micro-economy activity a success.

The lottery opens the day after we come back to school after winter break. Do you remember entering the lottery for your child(ren)? I know the anxious time between when you enter and when the actual lottery is pulled first hand from our grandson going through this in Indiana. If you have children who are not currently attending CCM and you would like for them to join us next year, you must enter them in the lottery. If you know family or friends who have children who are interested in our school, please share lottery information with them (this website will be updated when the lottery goes live January 4th).

We will be saying good-bye to Mrs. McIntosh as our middle school math/science teacher as winter break begins. She has been an anchor of our middle school since that class opened. She has written grants for our students to participate in wonderful field trip. Her instruction has included math classes to meet the needs of students including algebra and geometry in addition to traditional middle school math. I often look up from my computer and see her singing or dancing or enjoying jokes with her students. She will be missed.

We are so amazingly fortunate that Dr. Welch, who has been the assistant in middle school this year, will be stepping into this position. Dr. Welch has a PhD in Forensic Biology. Her bachelors is in Biology (with honors) and she has a post graduate certificate in advanced academic studies. Her science background is, logically, heavily grounded in math. Dr. Welch has taught at the university level so our students will be well taken care of for sure!



Marilyn Horan, Principal

Upcoming Events

- 12.23-12.31** Winter Break
- 1.3** School Resumes
- 1.4** Lottery Opens
- 1.12** GC Meeting
- 1.14** No School - Teacher Work Day
- 1.17** No School - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- 1.19** MCCI Meeting



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. This month we focused on individual student support including; academic strategies, problem solving, coping skills, etc. We have found the need to prioritize the topic of peer conflict for our January classroom lessons.

What to Know:

We are jumping back into **testing** after Winter Break! Here are some tips to discuss with your students at home...

- Help your student with a nighttime and morning routine that will ensure they are well rested and prepared for the school day. This includes that they eat a good breakfast (at home or at school) and they are on time for school.
- Discuss and practice calming strategies at home so students can see what may help them if they are feeling nervous and/or frustrated. Ex. Deep breathing.
- Remember testing is just one piece of information we use to help plan for your students' education. Just do your best.



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!

Community Resources:

The holidays are here and it is important to us that our CCM families are supported. There are so many organizations that help families stay warm, fed, and appreciated. You can find all of these community resources located on ParentSquare by recent updates we send out or on our [CCM School Counseling Website](#). Please feel free to email or call one of the school counselors to help you find the resources you need.

Danielle Adams, Counselor

Kathleen McNamara, Counselor

From the Art Room



Kindergarten students are learning about the Principle of Art, pattern, the tradition of quilt making in North America, and the contemporary, fine art quilts of Faith Ringgold. The children are practicing pattern and color theory by creating warm/cool patterns in the shape of their favorite quilt block design.



Lower Elementary students are reviewing the elements of art as they build on the paper sculpture techniques that they learned last year and create paper sculptures that emphasize line variety, the value scale, and form.

Upper Elementary students are applying their oil pastel skills to large artworks inspired by a variety of North American artists.



Middle School Sculpture students are painting slab pots, finishing coil skill builders, and creating pots for their micro economy.

Middle School Drawing and Painting students are completing their Wayne Thiebaud inspired still-life paintings.



Happy Holidays! - Mrs. Reed

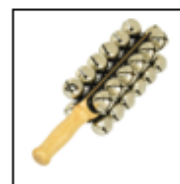
"You can't use up creativity. The more you use, the more you have." –Maya Angelou

Lisa Reed, Art Teacher

Music Notes

MUSIC NOTES

Kindergarten classes have been working on a sound scape (using various instruments as a story is told) to the book, "Fletcher and the Falling Leaves." Students played the stir xylophone, chimes, bass xylophone, and other instruments as characters and sound effects. Students also explored playing many different types of bells while singing Jingle Bells. Our December dances included the Freeze Dance and Hanukkah is Here.



Lower Elementary students have started to learn a crossover technique on the barred instruments while singing "Salamanca Market," using xylophones, metallophones, and glockenspiels. Our holiday songs included Ocho Kandelikas, Feliz Navidad, O Hanukkah Dance, and Winter Fantasy.



Upper Elementary students have expanded their use of the barred (orff) instruments as they play accompaniment patterns to Ocho Kandelikas, Charlie Brown, and Feliz Navidad. Students are also using their knowledge of sixteenth and eighth note rhythm values to compose melodies to the Click Beetle rhythm rhyme. Our Upper Elementary classes are especially skilled at playing together as ensembles; one class even performed for their teachers!

Middle School

Percussion: students are studying mallet technique using the Crossover drills and playing complicated melody patterns from Blue Ramble, a 6 part orff arrangement with drums.

Performing Ensemble: our Middle School ensemble entertained close family at our first winter concert in 2 years! Audience members sang along as we celebrated being together again. We were fortunate to include 6th grade members, as well!

Elementary Performing Ensemble: a fabulous time was had by close family members attending our first concert in 2 years!

Mary Lou Reynolds, Music Teacher

Spanish Spoken Here

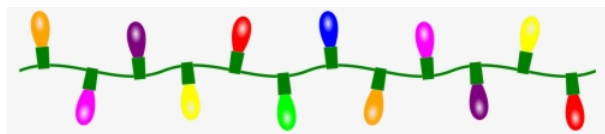
¡Hola familias de CCM!

Please read below to learn about what students have been working on in my classes during the last month:

- **Montessori Spanish Experience** – MSE students learned about Spain's Lotería de Navidad, the biggest lottery in the world. Students reviewed how to write and say numbers in the thousands, tens of thousands, and millions and then used those numbers in our own mini-lottery. They did *Movie Talk*, *Listen and Draw*, and *Read & Match* exercises to dive into two authentic (and sappy!) commercials from Spain that promote the lottery as well as the importance of giving. Students then wrote informational essays in Spanish to explain the Spanish lottery tradition and to compare and contrast the two commercials.
- **MS Spanish 2** – Students in this class explored vocabulary and grammar structures to describe family celebrations and special foods. Students also explored Thanksgiving trivia in Spanish and created their own card sets for the game Cucharas/Spoons with the theme of family celebrations and gifted them to a classmate. We also explored language to read and talk about sports, including a story about a talented young baseball player who, despite not having support from his family at first, chose to become a dancer after watching TikTok and Instagram dance videos. Students took a midterm exam consisting of reading, listening, writing, and speaking sections and overall performance was fantastic!
- **MS & 6th Grade Spanish 1** – Spanish 1 students learned terms related to taking classes, speaking a language, and studying for a career (toma, habla, quiere ser). They used their understanding of these key terms to explore the unique whistle language of Gomera Island, one of Spain's Canary Islands. Students took a midterm writing assessment that required them to use high-frequency language we have learned so far this year to describe a picture story. Students did a wonderful job using use their knowledge of Spanish vocabulary and grammar to independently compose their own stories.
- **Upper Elementary A** – As part of our class novel, *Llama en Lima*, UE-A students tackled an authentic resource Spanish infograph about llamas including their uses and unique physiology. Students read the next chapter of our book and followed that with several games and writing works to show their comprehension and make predictions for the next chapter.



Marisa Maldonado, Spanish Teacher



As fall becomes winter, I want to reiterate how fortunate I am for being part of the CCM family and to you for allowed me to be part of your child's life.

We worked really hard in learning as much as we could about thanksgiving and all the rich vocabulary we could get with it, now is time for winter and all the specials events it brings with it.

We will learn about Christmas around the world, traditions, food and history around each of the places we will be learning from, this will lead us to an enrichment in Latino and European culture, and it will allow us to learn about similarities and differences with our culture and so many interesting stories that are going to provide us with so much knowledge and fun.

Isabel Schmitz, Spanish Teacher



PE HAPPENINGS!

December 2021

"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

- Basic Striking skills with hands. Volleying to self in general space
- YOGA!! Focusing on balance and body control

Upper Elementary and Middle

- Q2 Fitness Assessments: Push up and Sit up
- Striking Manipulation with hands: Volleyball and Gaga Ball game play
- Middle School: Health lessons (curriculum follows Holt Lifetime Health)

Extra Notes:

As the weather starts to cool, we have moved into an indoor striking unit with an emphasis on volleyball and the newest popular activity, modified Gaga Ball. Gaga Ball focuses on striking a beach ball or vinyl ball with the hand in a sidearm movement. Gaga ball also allows students to focus on agility and footwork. It has quickly become a class favorite with all levels of students.

Yoga is an excellent way to practice balance, body control and awareness. Kindergarten and lower elementary students have been working on yoga poses in general space and moving between poses in a modified Vinyasa. I am so excited to see the students move through their poses with such focus and determination. We have some very experienced "yogees" here at CCM. They are teaching me just as much as I am teaching them. :)

Kerry Grimm, PE Teacher

Lab 21 6th Grade – Students learned about 3D computer design process and used a website called Tinkercad to design 3D computer models of their dream amusement park. They also created a slide deck presentation to describe details of their park such as location, pricing, theme, refreshments, etc and then presented their designs and slides to the class.



Marisa Maldonado, Lab 21 Teacher

Tidbits From Our GC

Welcome to CCM new Governing Council (GC) Parent Representatives who will be starting terms in January 2022. They can be contacted at their new email addresses listed below:

Nikki Burgee - jnburgee@carrollcreekmontessori.org
Josh Rathmell - jrathmell@carrollcreekmontessori.org
Lynn Dutrow - ldutrow@carrollcreekmontessori.org
Nicole Pierre - npierre@carrollcreekmontessori.org

*Welcome
New
Leaders!*

Special thanks to our GC Parent Representatives with terms ending at the end of 2021.

Anna Spencer
Sherry McCoy-Quinones
Carrie Jean Rathmell

[Click here for a list of contact information for CCM GC and BOT leadership.](#)

Join us for the next virtual CCM GC meeting
Wednesday, January 12, 2022 beginning at 7:00 pm.

Join with Google Meet
meet.google.com/kbq-jsks-gpz
Meeting ID
meet.google.com/kbq-jsks-gpz
Phone Numbers
(US)+1 470-400-9475
PIN: 990 763 757#



