



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

Students have been researching and learning about "Thanksgiving" this month. I am so thankful for students who have researched the roots of "Thanksgiving" including timelines, Indigenous people, cultural celebrations and, of course, food! There have been "going out" activities that culminated in students making pumpkin pies, roasting pumpkin seeds, baking cookies and making plans to do more next week. Our UE students have been learning the public bus routes and how to get from our school to the main library downtown and some have taken that trip already. Our LE students have taken two field trips this month! There has been so much learning both inside and outside our school since our last newsletter!

I am from Indiana so have a fairly good grasp of what the "oval" looks like on a race track (Indy 500 reference). It really is not unlike our car line. I have observed the car rider line at the critical "merge" space most days for the last few weeks. I have to say that our families are very courteous and there have been no issues with merging.

There have, however, been many times I have asked drivers to slow down. Please remember to drive slowly the entire time you are on CCM property. Whether there are children getting in and out of cars where you are or if you are close to other cars please use the utmost caution and take an extra minute or two to enjoy the sunrise or maybe the music in the car or ask your child what their goals are for the day.



Thank all of you who voted in the recent MMCI/GC elections! Governance in our Charter School is vital to our very survival. I really can not say how much I appreciate all the work our past and current parents in those positions have done to support our school. If you did not run for a position, please consider coming to meetings to learn more

about our school and help make decisions. When people bring their various experiences to the table it only expands the possibilities for our school!

Marilyn Horan, CCM Principal

Upcoming Events

11.24-11.26 Thanksgiving Break

12.1 GC **Meeting**

12.6 1:45 Dismissal - Mid-Term Teacher Work Day

12.8 7:00 Elementary Ensemble Concert

12.9 7:00 Middle School Ensemble Concert

12.15 7:00 MMCI Meeting

12.22 Pajama Day

12.23-12.31 No School - Winter Break

1.3 School Resumes

Montessori Moment

"A Delicate Task"

When Dr. McTamaney authored the book the staff is currently studying, "A Delicate Task: Teaching and Learning on a Montessori Path," she had both the child and the adult close to her heart. This has been the perfect time for our staff to reflect and re-center as we move through our first year back in the building. The following poem introduces the chapter entitled "Work",

*What is your great work?
Not the tasks you do to complete each day
Not the have-to and errands and chores of survival
What is your great work
The work that defines you
That drives you?
What is your Great Work?*

She talks about the difference between work that you don't really want to do and the feelings you have about it. Do you dread it?

Do you embrace it with passion? Compare that to the work you do that inspires you and that you love. Is your work something that allows us to reach our potential, to inspire and benefit others? We do not know what will inspire our children so we provide them with the tools that will expand their choices and abilities to make choices and follow the path that is correct for them. Their own personal work. What a gift it is to be in a position to be even a small part of a person's life that might spark inspiration in them to do their true *Great Work*!

Marilyn Horan, CCM Principal



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.

Lessons

LE: In our LE classrooms we will be reading "Just Ask!" by Sonia Sotomayor. This book looks at the stories of differently abled kids, how they work together and learn about each other. Our goal for this lesson's activity is to help students practice being able to ask questions to better understand others. **Be different, be brave, be you!**



Both Primary and Middle school students will be receiving a similar lesson on inclusion in the following weeks.

UE: We have made our way through the UE classes, completing a lesson about Substance Use. Students brought home a letter about the lesson for parents to read. [Please read this for more information regarding the lesson and a small group that we are providing.](#)

Small Groups

The Counselors are in the beginning stages of creating Small Groups. Small groups are a needs based counseling group that targets a specific skill or area of concern. Typically students participate in small groups when their skill deficit or area of concern is impacting them here at school or educationally. If you feel your student needs additional support from the Counselors, please complete this form: <https://forms.gle/aKY8ZGs3XnAkJvfv5>

Community Resources:

Is someone in your family experiencing challenges and needs additional support? The Counselors are happy to share community based resources with you.

Danielle Adams, Counselor

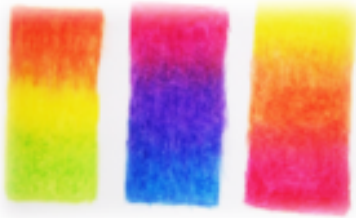
Kathleen McNamara, Counselor

From the Art Room

Kindergarten students are learning about the elements of art and focusing on the element of line as they name and make a variety of lines in drawing, painting, and sculpture works. They are also learning about the Principle of Art, pattern, and the tradition of quilt making in North America as they create their own patterned quilt squares.



Lower Elementary students are reviewing the elements of art and focusing on the elements of line and texture and the Principle of Art, repetition, as they create works inspired by North American sculptor, Martin Puryear.



Upper Elementary students are building oil pastel skills as they practice color and value mixing techniques. They are preparing to create an oil pastel work inspired by North American artists Georgia O'Keeffe and Jean Michele Basquiat.

Middle School Sculpture students are completing their slab pots and practicing coil building techniques by creating a coil pot skill builder.

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

All middle school art classes are reflecting on stereotypes held about Contemporary Native American Art and Artists by listening to Contemporary Native American artists talk about their work, their process, and their materials in videos about sculptor, Rose B Simpson, mixed media artist, Dyani Whitehawk, the "Native Pop" movement, contemporary Native fashion, Lloyd Kiva's interactive textile design installation, mixed media artist, Jeffrey Gibson, and the Museum of Contemporary Native Arts in New Mexico.



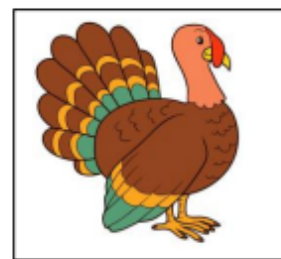
"You can't use up creativity. The more you use, the more you have." - Maya Angelou

Lisa Reed, Art Teacher

Music Notes

MUSIC NOTES

Kindergarten classes are filled with the sounds of November. Our 5 Fat Turkeys rhyme uses tambourines to tap a syncopated rhythm. The Mayflower dance uses movements for each of the three phrases of the song that tell the story of the Pilgrim's crossing the ocean. A Turkey Named Bert is another dance about a feathered friend with a plan not to be someone's dinner. Students are also practicing *tempo* by playing rhythm sticks along with the Little Blue Truck song that changes from fast to slow, and back again.



Lower Elementary students have enjoyed playing accompaniment on our xylophones and glockenspiels to Fed My Horse, a Georgia mountain song. Students have learned a bordun style and alternating mallet techniques. We are now learning Salamanca Market, a round that will also use our barred instruments. Classes have also started playing the button game, a sol-mi-la singing game of secrets.



Upper Elementary students are combining their study of eighth and sixteenth note combinations with alternating mallet technique on our barred instruments like xylophones, glockenspiels, and tone bars. Classes have started their review of treble clef notation and will soon be using the rhythms from Click Beetle Clack Beetle to compose melodies for the rhyme.

Middle School

Percussion: students are finishing up final evaluations on the many percussion parts of the Gahu dance: metals like the takes and gankogui; shekeres, as well as low and high drum parts. Our last half of the quarter will focus on more tonal work and blues style with the barred instruments. Students will learn chord structure and improvisation in the 12 bar blues style.

Performing Ensemble: sixth graders have been practicing after school and will soon join our 7th and 8th graders in preparation for a performance in December.

Elementary Performing Ensemble: after a small invite-only performance in December we will take a break for the winter. Spring chorus will start up in March with hopefully more openings!

Mary Lou Reynolds, Music Teacher

Spanish Spoken Here

¡Hola familias de CCM!

Thank you for your support of our community ofrenda for Día de Los Muertos. It is lovely to see special photos and mementos that honor memories of loved ones. It is also a valuable teaching tool for the Spanish program because rather than just look at pictures of ofrendas for our cultural studies, our students get to see one as it develops and many contribute to creating it.

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



- **Montessori Spanish Experience** – Students in this class wrote Spanish essays comparing and contrasting Día de Los Muertos traditions in Mexico and Guatemala. They then had the idea to turn their essays into a book which will “live” in the Spanish classroom library for years to come. MSE will take a trip later this month to the [Mexican Cultural Institute](#) in Washington D.C. (affiliated with the Embassy of Mexico) to view their enormous Día de Los Muertos ofrenda and various exhibits highlighting the culture of Oaxaca, Mexico.
 - **MS Spanish 2** – Spanish 2 students expanded their knowledge of Día de Los Muertos customs by studying several important traditions, including the origins and symbolism of los alebrijes. These fantastical, imaginary creatures are an important form of folk art in Mexico, and this class created their own alebrijes from clay to display on the school ofrenda. They also wrote a Spanish-language trivia game that we played in class to review DDLM traditions.
 - **MS & 6th Grade Spanish 1** – Students in Spanish 1 explored Día de Los Muertos through various Spanish-language readings, [infographics](#), and songs that featured our high frequency grammar and relevant vocabulary. After going through several reading and listening works designed to provide input about DDLM, students engaged in several writing and speaking works to retell their understandings of these customs and build their confidence in “outputting” in Spanish. Each student also created a digital ofrenda dedicated to and describing a famous historical person of their choice.
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- **Upper Elementary A** – UE-A students took a deeper look at the various items that are traditionally found on a Día de Los Muertos ofrenda including pan de muerto, velas, cempazúchitl, papel picado and others. Students selected an item and then wrote a paragraph in Spanish to describe their item and its significance. This class also applied new vocabulary and grammar structures to explore chapter 1 of our class novel, *Llama en Lima*. In addition to showing phenomenal comprehension of the text, this group is showing strong abilities in correctly using core vocabulary and grammar to produce original writing and speaking.

Please let me know if you have any questions about your child’s Spanish or Lab 21 progress. Thank you for your support!

Marisa Maldonado, CCM Spanish Teacher



Hola!

Happy Fall, everyone!

We have certainly been busy in Spanish class so far this year, below you'll find information about what each grade has been working on.

The goal of the elementary Spanish program is to introduce elements of language learning and culture to our students. Children brains are incredible receptive to learning new languages, and, as a result, tend to pick up new languages faster than adults. The elementary program is designed as a spiral; topics are introduced in early grades, then revisited and built upon each year, allowing the students to incorporate new concepts while felling confident about what they can do with the language.

For grades Pre-K to 2nd, learning occurs mainly through discussions, games, songs, videos and movement, writing is very limited, often just a couple of words or short phrases, I do make sure they listen to as much Spanish as I can during class, this will get their ears and brain to start processing the language and get familiar with it.

For grades 3 to 6, learning occurs in the same mode as Pre-K to 2nd but written expression is introduced through short phrases. The ability to produce compete sentences and original thoughts with limited support (a novice mid proficiency level) is the goal for the end of the school year.

In the next couple of weeks, we will be working in a project about celebrations with new vocabulary and learning more about the traditions in the Latino countries.

Isabel Schmitz, CCM Spanish Teacher

Physical Education



Artwork by Leila Maldonado

PE HAPPENINGS!

November 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

Soccer!! Manipulation with feet. Dribbling, passing, trapping, and kicking to a target

Basic striking skills with hands to lead into our next activity of volleying/volleyball

Upper Elementary and Middle

Q2 Fitness Assessments: PACER, Push up and Sit up

Soccer. Modified game play outside. Focused on passing to a target

Striking Manipulation with hands: moving into Volleyball and Pickleball game play

Middle School: Health lessons (curriculum follows Holt Lifetime Health)

Extra Notes:

No doubt, Soccer is a popular sport here at CCM!! All levels are focusing on soccer skills and basic manipulation of the ball with feet. Almost all students, regardless of their age, are more skilled soccer players than I. We have also entered Q2 with a focus on retesting for physical fitness at the upper elementary and middle school level. The goal is to track progress and hopefully see improvement in fitness scores. The students are tracking fitness scores on their individual fitness cards and trying to improve upon their baseline scores.

We will be moving into our volleyball/striking unit before the end of the year. Lower elementary and kindergarten students will be participating in activities that include overhead striking and continuous volleying with hands. Upper elementary and middle school students will be participating in volleyball skills and modified game play.

Kerry Grimm, PE Teacher

Sixth grade students learned how to use online navigation and research tools to plan their dream road trip adventure to five different US National Parks. Students had to plan their route, choose their car and calculate gas expenses (or charging needs for electric cars), and describe what activities they wanted to do at each park. They put together a Google Slides presentation to share their dream trip. In celebration of their work, we enjoyed the short movie National Parks Adventure and saw stunning video footage of the parks they researched.



Marisa Maldonado, CCM Lab 21 Teacher

Tidbits From Our GC

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.



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 communications@carrollcreekmontessori.org for more information.

Have you voted yet for the MMCI Annual Meeting?

The online ballot can be accessed here: <https://vote.associationvoting.com/mmci/>. There are 2 Windows to Vote in the MMCI Annual Election. Early Online voting NOW through Wednesday, November 17th at 7:00 p.m. Online voting at the Annual Meeting open following floor nominations and through Thursday, November 18th 7:00 p.m.

Login Instructions:

- The online ballot can be accessed here: <https://vote.associationvoting.com/mmci/>
- The email address that you registered with the MMCI lottery during enrollment is your login for our online voting system.
- Your password is the Birth Date of your **OLDEST ENROLLED STUDENT** at an MMCI school (CCMPCS or MVMPCS.)
- *Your Password must be entered in the format **MM/DD/YYYY (include the slashes!)***

In some cases, only one guardian registered in the lottery system. If the 2nd parent/guardian in your household does not receive this email with login instructions, they should visit the link above and select the help button in the top right corner. They will receive their login credentials once their email address has been verified with the front office. If you have problems email voting@mmcimd.org

Why is it important for me to watch the Annual Meeting?

Being informed about current and future plans is key to being an involved member. As a member of the organization, you have a voice in the operation of the nonprofit and in the direction of our school. Being a part of our annual meeting is a vital way to exercise that responsibility.

Participate to hear about the state of our nonprofit, MMCI, and our schools and to vote for various positions open on both the MMCI Board of Trustees and the Governing Council.

The meeting is open to all parents of children who attend MVMPCS or CCMPCS, all staff at the schools, and Friends of Education

Our Annual MMCI Membership Meeting will be held on **Wednesday, November 17 at 7 pm.**

To join the 2021 Virtual Annual Meeting, use the **Virtual Meeting Link: <https://meet.google.com/ask-zqei-sxr>** or **join by phone: (US) +1 219-515-4272 (PIN: 708473343).**