

# CCM Communicator

Marilyn Horan • about 1 month ago • Friday, Dec 2 at 4:49 PM • **Carroll Creek Montessori Public Charter School**



## 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

Pajama Day is on the calendar (as tradition has it, the day before winter break). The lottery for 2023-2024 opens in just a few weeks. We have started scheduling end of the year activities. Where is the year going? While it is all going so fast, we have done so very much. Last month alone we had middle school students helping at the Rescue Mission, MSE Spanish students visiting the Mexican Cultural Institute in D.C., parents visiting to share foods from their countries, trips to the National Aquarium in Baltimore spiritwear sale and a successful Book Fair. AND did you hear in the Annual Meeting that we have a signed contract to purchase our building? That is REALLY big! There are a lot of things that will be done before and renovations can take place, but your parent leadership team has worked hard to secure the right people to support us in this process. Please join our GC meetings if you would like to know more!



If you have never been to a CCM Ensemble Concert, now is your chance. Our 3rd, 4th and 5th grade Ensemble students will perform in concert Thursday, December 8th and our 6th, 7th and 8th grade Ensemble students will perform Thursday, December 15th. Our students have worked very hard to prepare for these presentations and love having an audience. Hopefully we will see you there!

Our primary program has earned a level 5 in the Maryland EXCELS accreditation program. We will be hosting an on-site visit for our re-accreditation this month. Our teachers are eager to once again show the accreditation team what our program has to offer for our youngest students. This is another area that could not be done without the

support of parents who upload documents and ensure we have everything that is expected by the accreditation team.

When we return from break "assessment season" begins. DIBELS and iReady assessments will be happening starting in January. Please help your child by having them arrive at school on time each day. Actually, it is a great thing for them to be here on time every day since when they are late they miss the beginning of the day which can make for a challenging day.

The **lottery application** period is a very short window of time not only for new families who would like to join our school to apply but also for our current families who have children who are not attending to apply. You do not need to re-apply for your child who is currently coming to our school, but if they have siblings who will be 3 by September 1st through 8th grade please apply for them to join us. The lottery will open January 9th and close March 10th. It is a true lottery with students being chosen by a computer. Siblings do get priority, but they will not get in if you do not enter the lottery. Please share with your friends who would like to join our Montessori community.

**Marilyn Horan**, Principal



### Upcoming Events

**12.5** Maryland Youth Behavior Risk and Tobacco Survey (6th, 7th & 8th)

**12.7 CCM GC Meeting @ 7:00pm**

**12.8** Elementary Esemble Concert @ 7:00pm

**12.13** Maryland MSDE EXCELS accreditation visit @ 8:30am

**12.14 MMCI Meeting @ 7:00pm**

**12.15** Middle School Esemble Concert @ 7:00pm

**12.22** Pajama Day!!!!

**12.23-1.2** Winter Break

**1.3** School Back in Session



### Counselors Corner

## **Counselor Corner**

This past month classroom lessons focused on problem solving strategies, specifically using “I Statements”, in Primary and Lower Elementary.

We are supporting students in learning to be their own problem solvers. We focused on conflict resolution with our Upper Elementary classes.

In Upper Elementary, we also held a few restorative practices circles, which are somewhat similar to the classrooms’ community circles. These restorative circles focus more so on creating an inclusive classroom, where students feel ready to learn, by being able to speak about what could be improved on in the classroom, or what is affecting them. This also focuses on working through conflicts and the impact conflict can have in a classroom.

Middle School students did a lesson on values. Specifically, how our values that mold us, affect our decision making.

All of our lessons stem from progressions on previous lessons, and often we will shape lessons to work on specific needs within the classroom.

**Kathleen McNamara**, School Counselor

**Megan James**, School Counselor

We began several small groups focusing on social skills, anxiety/worries, and self-esteem. The needs of our students vary, so more small groups will be held as the school year progresses.

We were fortunate to have support in preparing a few Thanksgiving Meals for some families. Thank you to everyone who helped with this, and to the families who participated. As further winter holidays approach, we will be sending out another ParentSquare message with more information regarding another meal prep, as well as gift donations. Please reach out to us with any questions, if you would like to support, or if you would like to be a family that would benefit greatly from this support!

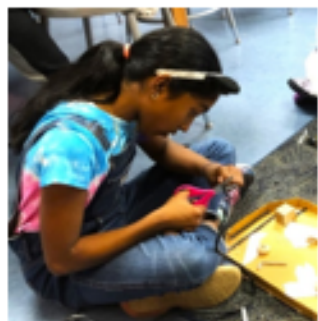


**From the Art Room**



**Kindergarten** students are completing their printed patterns and practicing independence as they choose works from the drawing center that introduce and review the elements of art including line, shape, texture, and color.

**Lower Elementary** students are completing their complex and layered printed patterns and are adding a woven element to these works. They are also creating independent works at the drawing center that review the elements of art including line, shape, texture, value, space, and color.



**Upper Elementary** students are creating assemblages using obsolete tech and other repurposed materials. They will finish their low relief sculptures with color and paint. They are also practicing the Principle of Art, proportion, by completing an exercise that emphasizes the Fibonacci Sequence.

**Middle School 3D Design** students are beginning a kinetic sculpture project that builds on their experience with the wheel and axle.

They are also practicing the Principles of Art by completing exercises that emphasize rhythm, movement, and proportion.



**Middle School Nature as Inspiration for Art** students are creating thumbnail sketches for their narrative paintings. They are also practicing the Principles of Art by completing exercises that emphasize rhythm, movement, and proportion. -Mrs. Reed

*Art is about paying attention.* -Laurie Anderson



**Lisa Reed**, Art Teacher

**Music Notes**

**Kindergarten** classes are exploring *tempo* (speed of music) with the “Little Blue Truck.” The steady beat changes from fast to slow, back to fast again, as the truck in the song breaks a wheel, then gets it fixed. Students are also learning to clap and tap a syncopated rhythm to “Five Fat Turkeys” on various tapping instruments. We also learned a little Thanksgiving dance, A Turkey Named Bert, whose clever moves kept him from being someone’s dinner!

**Lower Elementary** classes have been taking the basic rhythm patterns from last month and are playing them on tone bars, xylophones, and glockenspiels. Students are also practicing the concept of “ostinato,” a repeated background or accompaniment pattern, with the “Canoe Song.”



**Upper Elementary** students are continuing recorder study, moving into 3 part arrangements where students can choose which level to play. We have taken our drumming skills into “random” drum circles, where students improvise their own patterns simultaneously creating a unique blend of rhythms and “musical” conversations.

### **Middle School**

- Music History class is finishing up their Jazz study, with a Jazz promotion project
- Drama classes are practicing short skits to present later in December
- Performing Ensemble: students are doing final preparations for the Middle School Winter Concert on **December 15.**



*Elementary Performing Ensemble: Winter Concert is December 8/*

**Mary Lou Reynolds**, Music Teacher

**Spanish Spoken Here**



Hola familias de CCM!

- **Montessori Spanish Experience** – MSE has practicing advanced language to have conversations about art, beauty, and aesthetics, a theme related to the AP Spanish exam. They are using Spanish language to describe the artwork and the importance of visiting art galleries and museums. Students are exploring artwork and Spanish biographies of famous artists such as Van Gogh, Klimt, Vermeer, and others. They are also analyzing the lyrics and describing the artistic references in the music video for the **song Bajo La Mesa** by Colombian musicians Sebastian Yatra and Morat.



- **MS Spanish 2** – Spanish 2 students are beginning an exploration of Latin American customs surrounding the “fiesta de quince años” and “la quinceañera,” when a young person celebrates their fifteenth birthday. They will be able to explain similarities and differences between Latin American and US customs as well as compare these celebrations to how they recognize or don’t recognize birthdays in their families. They are focusing various forms of verbs such as concocer (to know), salir (to leave), and agarrar (to take).
- **MS Spanish 1** – MS Spanish 1 students are preparing for a study of the Panama Canal, both its global significance as well as how it works. Students are practicing grammatical structures such as abre (opens), cierra (closes), nunca (never), as well as expressions for telling time.
- **6<sup>th</sup> Grade Spanish 1** – The 6<sup>th</sup> grade Spanish 1 class is entering a unit of study on the Castells de Tarragona, or the Human Towers of Spain. Students will watch videos of this dramatic annual event, read authentic texts and infographics, and will be able to use Spanish to describe the various roles of within a tower team. Students are focusing on using the grammatical structures of tiene que (has to), puede (can), and ayuda (helps).
- **Upper Elementary Spanish A** – Students in UE-A are using a mysterious story called “Toc Toc” to practice the grammatical structures abre (opens), cierra (closes), and prepara (prepares) as well as vocabulary for prepositions of place.

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

**Marisa Maldonado**, Spanish Teacher

**Physical Education**

Artwork by Leila Maldonado



## PE HAPPENINGS!

*"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.

### Kindergarten and Lower Elementary

- Station work focusing on underhand toss
- Introduction to the overhand throwing motion
- Games and activities that practice the overhand throw
- Cooperative games and activities

### Upper Elementary and Middle

- Flag football; throwing and catching, man defense, pass routes
- Flag football game play
- Introduction to indoor soccer and soccer skills
- Mid point fitness assessments in cardiovascular fitness, muscular endurance, muscular strength

## Extra Notes:

As the weather changes, we will be progressing into units and activities that can be practiced indoors. The Kindergarten and lower elementary students have worked diligently on their underhand toss technique. While we will still practice and modify these skills as we are going to introduce the overhand toss technique. Students will have the opportunity to use the overhand toss to throw to a partner, to a target, or even to practice against the wall. I have introduced throwing to targets at different levels and different sizes to practice aiming and release points with the underhand toss. We will do the same with the overhand toss as we progress through the unit.

Upper elementary and middle school students have been working in our flag football unit outdoors and as we move indoors, I will introduce the indoor soccer unit to practice dribbling and kicking skills. If the weather permits, we will move outside for some soccer game play as the skills develop. We are close to the midpoint of the year so our upper elementary and middle school students will also be assessed in cardiovascular endurance, muscular strength and muscular endurance. They will have the opportunity to compare their baseline fitness assessment scores with the midpoint assessments to see improvement or focus on areas in need of improvement.

Kerry Grimm

CCMPCS PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Kerry.grimm@fcps.org

### Lab 21

Hello families of CCM 6th graders!

We are in the final stretch of Lab 21! The duration of this course is one semester, and we are in our final unit of 3D design. Students had several beginning and advanced challenges to learn how to use the 3D design platform called TinkerCad. Now that they are TinkerCad pros, they will be using the platform to design their dream amusement park and will use a 3D printer to bring to life one element of their park such as a particular food, ride, or park mascot. I am so excited to see what they create. Please let me know if you have any questions about your child's Lab 21 progress. Thank you for your support!

**Marisa Maldonado**, CCM Lab 21 Teacher



