

CCM Communicator - January

Marilyn Horan • 20 days ago • Tuesday, Jan 31 at 9:00 AM • 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

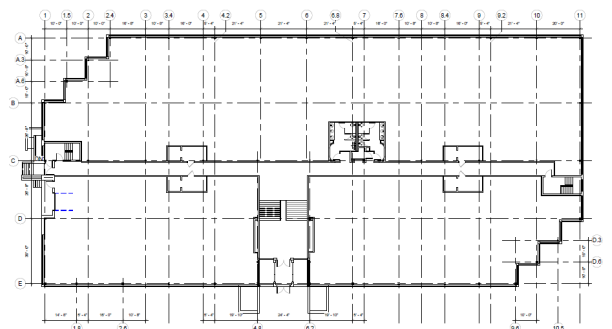
January is usually a time where the cold sets in and things are fairly quiet. Not this year! The weather has been unseasonably warm and things are busy here at CCM! The Lottery is open. The building project is in full swing. Montessori learning is happening everywhere you look!



The lottery opened January 9th and will continue through March 10th. We currently have over 1,300 applicants (last year we had 1,965 applicants which was the highest number to date). If you have a child who is not currently attending CCM, but that you would like to join us, please complete the [applicaiton process](#) for them. Siblings receive preference through the lottery process, but only if you apply. Please also re-register (not re-apply) your children who currently attend CCM so we will have accurate data as we offer spots to new students.

The parents who have been working on the purchase of our current building and all that goes with it are nothing less than amazing! We have all learned SO much more about real estate, zoning, financing, artichiture and construction than we ever hoped to know! We recently held in-person and virtual Town Hall meetings to share the progress that has been made to this point.

If you would like to know more about the future of our school, please attend our GC Meetings which are held the first Wednesday of every month at 7:00pm.





Did you know that our middle school students volunteer at the Frederick Rescue Mission each month? It is part of their community service along with helping our upper elementary students complete the laundry. Our lower elementary students enjoyed exploring foods from Egypt in January as part of their cultural study of Africa. We have had parents and grandparents visit classes sharing their experiences and cultures. Primary students have been working on songs for their Kindness Songfest while their staff have been working toward Maryland State Accreditation for our primary program.

Marilyn Horan, Principal

Upcoming Events

- 2.1 Charter School Advocacy Day in Annapolis
- 2.1 Outdoor School - 5th Grade
- 2.1 **GC Meeting @ 7:00**
- 2.3 Outdoor School - 5th Grade
- 2.7 Field Trip - Catoctin Furnace & Enslaved People's Cemetery - Balodis
- 2.8 Field Trip - Catoctin Furnace & Enslaved People's Cemetery - Bird
- 2.9 Field Trip - Catoctin Furnace & Enslaved People's Cemetery - Brady
- 2.13 & 2.14 Hearing and Vision Screening
- 2.15 Early Dismissal - Mid-Term 1:40
- 2.15 **Prospective Parent Virtual Meeting @ 7:00**
- 2.17 Primary Kindness Songfest @ 10:30
- 2.20 No School - Presidents' Day
- 2.29 MMCI Meeting



Counselors Corner

Primary students learned and practiced what it means to be a “helper” and how to ask for help, in their classrooms, with one another. In our counseling lesson we focused on this to support our young students in fostering independence with classmates and practicing interpersonal skills.

**HELPING SOMEONE
IS WHAT LIFE IS
ALL ABOUT.**
WILLIE STARGELL

Lower Elementary students became very familiar with helpful v. unhelpful thoughts and their impact on how we feel. We focused mainly on understanding and practicing helpful thoughts so students can be better equipped to use growth mindset statements and to recognize how it feels. Ask your kiddos! Was that a helpful thought or an unhelpful thought? How can we change that to a helpful thought?!



Upper Elementary caught up on learning about and understanding how we build and grow through being aware of others, through a lesson on Empathy. We broke down scenarios where empathy was used and seen and we took time to break down the skills incorporated in practicing empathy. Recap these empathy skills/reminders with your kiddos; Watch and Listen. Remember when you felt that way. Imagine if that was you. Ask/Inquire. Show You Care.

Middle Schoolers are busy preparing for high school! 8th graders are having lessons on high school prep and registration. 7th graders are learning about the different requirements in high school, specific to the career pathways. Now is the time to talk with your kiddos about what they are interested in and what they can pursue in high school. Attached is a link to the digital planning and course offering guides for SY 23-24. These guides will be very similar to next year's guides, so rising 8th graders can become familiar with them now!

[HS_PlanningGuide_2022-23.pdf](#)

[HS_CourseOfferingsGuide_2022-23.pdf](#)

Kathleen McNamara, Counselor

Megan James, Counselor

From the Art Room



Kindergarten students are practicing the art elements of line, shape, texture, space, color, and form as they explore collage techniques and create colorful paper sculptures.

Lower Elementary students are reviewing the art element of space by making landscape sketches that demonstrate an understanding of foreground, middle ground, and background. They are also learning about Australian habitats and animals and drawing animals using simple shapes.

Upper Elementary students are completing their assemblages and exhibiting them throughout the school. They are also practicing the



art elements of line, shape, color, and value and the art principles of balance, pattern, and contrast as they create radial designs using their names.



Middle School 2D Design students are using personal text and the grid to create a dynamic image that employs the art principles of balance, contrast, pattern, and unity.

Middle School Drawing students are creating expressive artworks that explore a variety of lines, values, and materials including ink, acrylic paint, water soluble graphite, charcoal, and printing tools. -Mrs. Reed

Art is about paying attention. -Laurie Anderson

"All art requires courage" - Anne Tucker

Lisa Reed, Art Teacher

Music Notes



Kindergarten classes are now playing the major scale on the tone bars while singing The Snowman song. The skill requires them to focus on hand-eye coordination while only playing on certain words of the steady beat- quite a feat for Kindergarteners! Students also learned the Sing About Martin Song, with hand signs. Gung Hay Fat Choy was our Chinese New Year song, introducing the autoharp to students.

Lower Elementary classes have celebrated January by singing a winter favorite, Hot Chocolate. Students practiced call and response form in the middle of the song, and learned how a *coda* provides a special ending to a piece of music. Classes also sang the Martin Luther King Jr song about his life and dreams. Students are also practicing various accompaniment patterns on glockenspiels, xylophones, and tone bars for the Canoe Song from the fall, as well as Ring in the New Year, a Chinese New Year song.

Upper Elementary students are continuing their studies on the Orff instruments (xylophones, glockenspiels, and metallophones) with crossover technique drills in duple and triple meter. Classes are also honing their notation and music reading skills as they review and study relationships and ratios between rhythm values. We honored MLK Day with the song, Woke Up This Morning, another call and response song often sung at civil rights rallies.



Middle School

Our 2nd Semester has started! Students in the music room may be part of Ensemble, or studying keyboard and guitar. Our Middle School Ensemble continues to grow as we added 7 more students. We have 2 sections of independent study with students at both beginner and advanced levels.

Elementary Performing Ensemble: We are on break until late February.

Mary Lou Reynolds, Music Teacher

Spanish Spoken Here

¡Hola familias de CCM!

- **Montessori Spanish Experience** – MSE students are finishing up several mini-units focused on the sudden and descriptive past tenses (*fue/iba, tuvo/tenía, vivió/vivía*, etc.) in order to prepare them for their upcoming novel study. Students will be diving into a biographical novel called *Felipe Alou: Desde Las Valles A Las Montañas* about the life and experiences of Dominican baseball player and manager Felipe Alou. Through this novel, they will explore key historical events and culture of the Dominican Republic and learn about the odds Felipe had to overcome to achieve baseball greatness at the height of the civil rights movement.





- **MS Spanish 2** – Students are exploring language to describe their passions, describe positive attributes about themselves and others, and incorporating stem-changing verbs such as *comienza/begins to* and *piensa/thinks*. They read a short biography about Tejano music singer Selena Quintanilla as well as a story based on her song “*El Chico del Apartamento 512*.” Soon they will learn about “*los piropos*” and practice verbally articulating their opinions about whether they are complimentary or out-of-touch. Work in this group is heavily focused on incorporating greater detail and variety of vocabulary into their writing as well as speaking for longer durations and in impromptu situations.

- **MS Spanish 1** – This class is incorporating forms of the words *toma/takes*, *habla/speaks*, and *quiere ser/wants to be* to read about taking classes and careers. They are using these key words to retell important story events in sequence. They are also examining the unique whistled language “silbo gomero” from Gomera Island in the Canary Islands.



- **6th Grade Spanish 1** – Students in this class have been practicing writing original stories that incorporate several key grammar structures. They utilized various forms of *busca/looks for*, *sale de/leaves from*, *va hacia/goes towards*, *escucha/listens*, *protege/protects* and others in preparation for diving in to a class novel called *Esmeralda La Tortugueta Marina*. In this novel, students will follow the adventures of a baby sea turtle as she takes on the great big ocean in search of her mother, and they will also practice language to discuss protecting the biodiversity of the world’s oceans.

- **Upper Elementary Spanish A** – This group is also learning about the whistled language “silbo gomero” from the Gomera Island. They are reading more extensive articles about this fascinating language and then practicing how to summarize the most important parts of their learning while incorporating transitional phrases such as *de repente/suddenly*, *en mi opinion/in my opinion*, *también/also* and others into their writing.



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

Marisa Maldonado, Spanish Teacher



Queridas Familias,

Someone once said "when you are having fun time flies by." And I believe this is the reason of why January is already gone and we didn't notice it.

We have been working hard these past few weeks with our students. Primary students have been learning more about farm animals, sizes, numbers and verbs such as: se cae (falls) salta (jumps). They loved learning 5 little monkeys' song in Spanish and we acted it out using our own mask!

Kindergarten students have moved on from animals to body parts and verbs such as corre, camina, busca, ve and more. They have started learning parts of the face and we have been working on creating our own portraits and mini books describing the 5 senses. This unit is a fun way of learning many words using movements, drawings and small group work.

Lower B students have been so excited to start short stories such as Gatos, Gatos (which reviews colors and numbers, while presenting high frequency verbs such as toma, quiere, le da, among others. Students enjoy acting out the stories while I read aloud and activities like word matching with the images, listen and draw and forming short sentences with recycled and new vocabulary, have helped us better comprehend the unit. Lower C continues to work on the Storyteller Corner unit, stories that allows them to learn through songs, movements, skits and activities of repetition to really understand the targeted vocabulary. One of the favorites has been 5 Ratoncitos, a fun and interactive story of 5 mice running from a cat!

We have started a new curriculum for Upper C and Lower A, called Look I can Talk. Each story is filled with imaginative and fun characters and allows students to understand the use of frequently used nouns and verbs, while going

over many words they recognize. We are off to a great start with this new resource, that is geared towards each of their levels.

Upper B started La Pinata de Renata, an exciting novel that takes them into the world of Renata and her adventures while she travels to different places. It's been great to see student's motivation to read more and to write short summaries and predictions of the chapters we have done so far.

Below are some pictures of our classroom activities and work. 😊



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

- Striking with handled implements (short and long)
- Introduction to BroomBall
- Cooperative games and activities

Upper Elementary and Middle

- Striking with long handled implements
- Introduction to indoor and outdoor floor/street hockey
- Term 3 fitness assessments in cardiovascular fitness (PACER)

Extra Notes:

Continuing with our striking unit, all grade levels are progressing to striking with implements, specifically long handled implements. Lower Elementary and Kindergarten have been introduced to broomball and are working on passing to a target with the implement as well as striking with force to create speed.

Upper Elementary and Middle school students are also working in a striking unit with the focus on floor hockey. With the limited space indoors, when the weather permits our classes will move outside to play street hockey, using a ball instead of a rubber puck. Upper Elementary and Middle school students will also complete Term 3 fitness assessments with the focus on cardiovascular fitness.

6th Grade SEL Class



Our Lab 21 technology class has ended with the change of semesters, and now 6th grade students are taking a course designed to support their Social Emotional Learning. Currently, students are learning about types of team roles (facilitator, specialist, researcher, materials manager, etc.) and thinking about whether they are more action-oriented, thinking-oriented, or people-oriented. They are also learning to identify their personal strengths and articulate what they bring to a team scenario.

Marisa Maldonado,

SEL Teacher

Tidbits From Our GC

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.

- Request for CCM **Library** Committee Volunteers:
 - Please reach out to communications@carrollcreekmontessori.org to get involved
- Request for CCM **Lunch Time** Volunteers:
 - Please join the Parentsquare group for details
- Request for **Fundraising** Volunteers:
 - Please join the Parentsquare group for details

Curious about where CCM will be located in Fall 2023?

Monocacy Montessori Communities, Inc. (MMCI) updated its website with a good [overview of the facilities search](#). Stay up to date on the facilities search by attending GC meetings, [reading the minutes](#), and emailing questions to facilities@carrollcreekmontessori.org.

Annual Giving Fund:

Our annual Per Pupil Allotment fund has to stretch farther than other public schools as we pay rent, technology, and other fees not provided through FCPS. CCM could use your support.

<https://www.parentsquare.com/fundraisers/629?token=d847cfc24bf8f996cab6577c4f96bac4b5922b8b>

Next Meeting:

February 01 at 7 pm

February GC Meeting

Wednesday, February 1 · 7:00 – 9:00pm

Google Meet joining info

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/jez-qsnz-oga>

Or dial: (US) +1 402-751-0099 PIN: 390 272 948#

More phone numbers: <https://tel.meet/jez-qsnz-oga?pin=4544728484731>

Nikki Burgee, GC Chair