



# Carroll Creek Communicator



## Lots of Tidbits

12-1	9:15 LE Field Trip to ESSL
12-6	7:00 MMCI @ CCM
12-7	7:00 Chorus Concert
12-11	7:00 GC Meeting
12-15	12:45 Early Dismissal
12-22	PAJAMA DAY!
12-22	9:30 Primary Family Sing-A-Long Gathering
12-25 To 1-1	School Closed
1-2	2018/2019 Lottery Opens

November flew by quickly, as it always does. With Thanksgiving and Parent/Teacher conferences, November is a very short instructional month. We are so Thankful for all that November brings us though! Having a time set aside to chat with all of our families individually is really a “gift” everyone! These gatherings are beneficial for everyone and set the tone and expectations for the remainder of the school year.

FCPS has been surveying families, students and staff this past month to determine where each of our schools strengths and challenges lie. If you are a two parent household, please make sure both parents take the survey. It is very import for our upcoming annual report that we have a good representation of parent participation in this survey. Please follow this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HSFYNL5> FCPS chose a “sampling” of students to take the survey starting with third graders. Not every student from a given grade was chosen to take the survey. Our Continuous Improvement Team and the Governing Council are looking forward to collaboratively reviewing the results and determining our next steps to ensure our school meets the needs of everyone as best as we can each day.

MMCI will present our Annual Report to the FCPS Board of Education in February. This is a snapshot of the progress we have made in several areas over the past year. We will be reporting on Attendance, Staffing, Academic Progress, the Culture of the School and Finances. This report is a good reflective tool for us to take stock in our school as a whole and plan accordingly.

Our Grant Writing committee has been working very hard this year. We recently were awarded two grants. One grant will partially fund our lower elementary students connecting with the rich agricultural community we live in. The other grant was from the Fender Music Company which included eight beautiful new guitars with cases, tuners and several other wonderful musical accessories. What a blessing for our school!

In addition to receiving gifts, our community is a very giving one. Our Blessings in a Backpack project helps many of our CCM families. Your donations to this project are put to use immediately here for our students. After the hurricanes, one of our upper elementary classes led a drive to collect funds for Montessori schools that had suffered damage in the catastrophes. We collected \$940.79 which was then matched by AMS and Nienhuis (a Montessori materials company) for a total of \$2,043.15! So amazing to support other Montessori schools in a direct way that made a huge difference!

We will have our very favorite day of the year December 22nd— PAJAMA DAY! Look for more information in your teacher’s newsletter.



We are now an AMS Full Member School and a Level 8 on the Pathway to accreditation (the only way to be higher than an 8 is to pay an accreditation fee which is not currently in our budget).

## 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.

## Counselor's Corner

Dear families,

The following flow chart will help support what children have been learning in classroom lessons. Students are really working to identify problems and solutions to peer conflict and other classroom-related problems.

Quick guide to helping your child develop social "tools"

What to do when other people mess up your message...

(aka "What to do when they come home and tell you something that makes you want to scream!")

### Ask Yourself...

*Is it news?*

**YES.**  
(my child is just sharing information from the day)  
**Listen.**  
**Say,** "I'm sorry"  
Give a hug.  
Do something fun together.

**NO.**  
(my child is genuinely distressed about what was said)  
**Ask,**  
"Do you believe that to be true?"



Child says, "YES".  
**Say,**  
"I'm sorry".  
Offer hug.  
**Ask,**  
"How would you like me to help with that?"  
Remember to help child re-frame thinking into more positive self-messages using "I Am, I Have, I Can".

Child says, "NO".  
**Ask,**  
"Then why do you think they said it?"  
**Listen.**  
"Is this something you could handle next time or do you need ideas?"  
**Brainstorm together.**

Mandi Kearney,  
School Counselor  
Carroll Creek Montessori Public Charter School  
301-663-7710

## From the Art Room

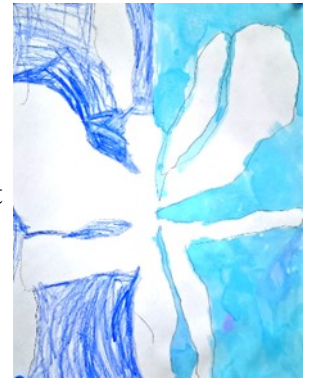
As we move into the second quarter, five-year-old primary students are learning about composition and positive and negative space. They have completed a color pencil and watercolor piece on positive and negative space and are beginning a printmaking project on positive and negative space.



For LE, UE, and MS sculpture, the focus of this nine weeks is the art of architecture. Our LE students are creating artworks inspired by the stained-glass windows of Europe. UE and MS sculpture students are drawing facades of their dream homes. Next, they will design a building inspired by the top ten, playful building designs in Europe. Using a variety of methods and materials, they will turn their designs into three-dimensional works of art.

MS oil painting students are working on several projects. They are completing their value studies in oil paint and developing still-life drawings in oil pastels. The students will use the oil pastel drawings to create an abstract oil painting influenced by the Precisionist Movement in art.

*Mrs. Reed*



## Music Notes

Kindergarten music classes have now begun their bell study with our first lessons on carrying, striking, and restoring. Students are also honing their listening skills as they experience how long a bell's ring can last if it is the only sound you can hear. A Turkey Named Bert and the Mayflower were our November dances in honor of Thanksgiving.



Lower Elementary students are continuing their study of the woodwinds family watching video demonstrations performed by the US Army Field Band. Students are also listening to selections focusing on the clarinet, oboe, and bassoon and noting the different timbre of each. For our Thanksgiving fun, students enjoyed dancing to the My Friend Tom song about a turkey who avoided becoming someone's dinner!

Upper Elementary music students have been all about finding missing beats in duple and triple meter measures. Students have to combine their knowledge about rhythm values and time signatures to complete measures correctly. Exercises started out easy with basic quarter notes and rests, but now students are using eighth notes, sixteenth notes, and the corresponding rests to fill in the blanks.

### Middle School Music

*7th Grade:* our Jazz unit is wrapping up after studying swing and its enormous amount of instrumentation and comparing it to the virtuosity and complexity of bebop. Students wrote essays about the development of Jazz from angles such as geographical, historical, influential artists, and popularity.

*8th Grade:* students shared informal performances in what they learned so far in their independent study and the selections ranged from short entertaining segments of pieces to student compositions.

Performing Ensembles: Our winter concert is Thursday December 7, 7pm here at Carroll Creek!

*Mrs. Reynolds*

## Physical Education

November has been a busy month in P.E.! Primary students have been working on teamwork and cooperating with teammates through team oriented games and activities. Primary students have also started practicing hopping and jumping landing on both

feet and one foot! We continue to emphasize the importance of warming up before exercise and cooling down afterward. LE, UE, and middle school students have been working on basketball this month. Students have practiced a variety of skills

used within the game including dribbling stationary with both hands and at different levels, dribbling with both hands while moving, and successfully utilizing the chest, bounce, and overhead passes. UE and middle school practiced some different



types of shots and had the opportunity to play in some small-sided games. We are all excited to start our next unit which will be hockey!

-Mr. Hickman

## Spanish Spoken Here

At the start of the month, students of all levels (with the exception of Pre-K) got to learn about Dia de los Muertos. Dia de los Muertos is a holiday celebrated in Mexico and throughout Central America – the holiday celebrates those whom have passed away in people’s lives. The students all had an opportunity to color their own individual “Calavera”, which is a skull. The skulls hung in the classroom for a few weeks for students to enjoy and admire. Some students even made homage to pets that have passed.

Primary students have been learning about classroom objects, colors, counting (Pre-K counts to 20, K has counted to 50) and the alphabet. Each day, the students are reinforced the alphabet, Spanish greetings and days of the week through song. Recently, kindergarteners have gotten to work with vowels and spelling words in Spanish that contain vowels. Also, kindergarteners get writing practice in Spanish through tracing of letters from top to bottom – the words that they trace are related to what we have learned this month.

Like primary, Lower Elementary students also start the day in Spanish with songs. As of now, a good portion of Lower Elementary students have gotten to lead their class in singing the alphabet in Spanish. This month, 1st grade students have gotten plenty of writing practice through tracing of letters. 2nd and 3rd grade students get practice through modeling. I show the students what their paper should look like and model it as close as I can to a tee on the whiteboard, and I model for them how to do their tasks. Along with that, Lower Elementary students have learned about family, what is in their neighborhood and most recently, what they are thankful for this Thanksgiving. Students got to draw and label what they most appreciated (in Spanish, of course).

Upper Elementary students have been learning how to take notes and reference their notes in class for the past 2 months. Most classes will consist of verb conjugation practice and sentence translation to help the students ease into thinking in Spanish. Along with that, the students get the chance to express themselves in class, specifically through questions like “cómo estás” (how are you), “qué te gusta hacer (what do you like to do). Most recently, students have learned about the body parts in Spanish, and recently got to draw and label for what they were most thankful. To add, students have also been learning how to reference a dictionary for a lot of the questions they have about vocabulary.

Middle School has covered a range of topics. Right before the beginning of November, the students got to learn a little about Mexican American history, specifically about the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo in 1848 which resulted in the United States obtaining 7 states which formerly belonged to Mexico – Utah, Wyoming, California, Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico and Nevada. Since then, the students have been learning more about expressing themselves, the body parts, verb conjugation and the different forms of “to be” (ser and estar). Along with that, the students have also been learning about the “mandatos”, which are commands in Spanish. Additionally, some of the students have participated in reading or performing work that they’ve written or translated themselves. Like Upper Elementary, Middle School has also been learning to reference dictionaries.

Finally, at the end of the month, all the students at CCMPCS have been learning to follow the rules and expectations of the Spanish class, and it has certainly created significant progress in behavior and classroom management.



**Tidbits from our GC**

Congratulations to our newly-elected and re-elected parent representatives to the GC and BOT! Thank you to all of you who took the time to vote in the very important process of electing your next parent representatives! I am delighted to welcome (and continue welcoming) the following parents to the CCMPCS Governing Council (GC) and the MMCI Board of Trustees (BOT). Please give them a big congrats and THANK YOU for serving our school next time you see them!

**CCMPCS**  
 Governing Council  
 Parent Representatives (Jan. 1, 2018 to Dec. 31, 2019):  
 Kate Chasse  
 Carrie Jean Rathmell  
 Eric Riccio

**MMCI Board of Trustees**  
*CCMPCS*  
 Vice President (July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2020):  
 Liz Seal  
*MVMPCS*  
 Vice President (July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2020):  
 Kathleen Lutrell  
 Treasurer (July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2020):  
 Kevin Wilfong

**CCMPCS**  
 Parent Trustees (Jan. 1, 2018 to Dec. 31, 2019):  
 Lisa McCrohan  
 Matt Mills

**MVMPCS**  
 Parent Trustees (Jan. 1, 2018 to Dec. 31, 2019):  
 Jeff Koehler  
 Deb Korth

Friend of Education (Jan. 1, 2018 to Dec. 31, 2018):  
 Susanne Abromaitis

Friend of Education (Jan. 1, 2018 to Dec. 31, 2019):  
 Libby Miller

We also received word late last week that we are one of the recipients of the Fender Music Foundation grant, and our school received a donation of 6 classical guitars, stands, tuners, and strings this week! Huge kudos to Desiree Mortenson for submitting this grant!

We are fortunate to have such dedicated parents volunteering so much of their time and energy to the continued operation and success of our school...much to be thankful for, indeed.

I hope you and your family had a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday!

Sincerely,  
 Amanda Erard  
 CCM GC Chair

**Attendance**

As you can see from the graph, our attendance took a HUGE nosedive in November. We lost over two percentage points in one month which is very concerning. If this happens another month we will be well below our expected level of 96%. Attendance is one of the specific areas FCPS determines if we are being successful or not as a school. Please do not send your children to school when they are ill, but please also plan vacations and “get aways” when school is not in session.

Please remember that your child is “tardy” if they come late or leave early. If your child is going to be late to school and would like a school lunch, please be sure to call the school before 9:30 so one can be ordered.

