



Carroll Creek Communicator



Various Visitors to CCM

October is always a busy month at CCM as we begin hosting guests to our school. Every time we invite a visitor to tour or observe we are sharing a window into an experience that most people have not been exposed to previously.

Each year we invite the leadership from FCPS to tour our school so they have an idea what a Montessori school looks like. These tours previously have been very brief with a “bird’s eye view” of the school presented and some philosophy shared. This year we scheduled visits with Dr. Alban, Dr. Markoe and Mrs. Tracey Lucas, who all have significant voices in the backing of our school by FCPS, for an hour each so they could join a class of their choice and observe for a good amount of time. Your MMCI President, Amy Duvall, and I met with Dr. Alban and Dr. Markoe before they toured the school to discuss the presentation of our annual report this winter. After that brief meeting the FCPS leaders toured the school then chose a class to observe for a half an hour. It was Dr. Markoe’s first visit to CCM so he had many inquires that allowed him to learn more about our school. Dr. Alban chose to spend time with our middle school students and then as she was headed back to my office a preschool student took her hand and asked her to sit with her in Spanish. Who could turn that down? After enjoying a few songs in Spanish, she joined Dr. Markoe and I in my office. He had been visiting Spanish all along learning more about how our middle school students are learning Spanish. Their hour visit ended up being close to an hour and a half. They had great questions and seemed to appreciate the time they spent with us. Mrs. Lucas’ visit was equally successful when she visited on her scheduled day.

Peter Piche’, the validator from the American Montessori Society, spent the day observing in classes and talking with staff and students October 11th. Upon reading the report that he prepared for AMS about his visit the common threads that he shared were; common language/procedures are heard throughout the building (like “restore your work” and coughing in elbows), the children are joyful and students were actively engaged in appropriate work across the building. These are the kinds of observations that indicate the high quality Montessori education our students are receiving. There are only a few pieces of paperwork to complete and we will have our AMS “Seal” that indicates that we are a Level 8 on the Pathway to Accreditation.

Another very important group of visitors that began to come through our doors this month is prospective families. Yes, it is time for school tours for families who might apply to come to our school next year already! Please share with your family and friends that our lottery will open in January for the 2018-2019 school year and they should schedule a school tour now. We try to keep the tour groups to under three families at a time, so scheduling tours soon is important. Thank you for your help in spreading the word about the great things that are happening at our school!

11-8	7:00 MMCI Annual Meeting @ MVM
11-9	Picture Re-Takes
11-10	No School Teacher Work Day
11-13	7:00pm GC Meeting
11-17	11:15 Dismissal (All Students) for Parent/Teacher Conferences
11-20	8:30-1:00 Parent/Teacher Conferences
11-20	1:00-3:45 School Day (no PreK)
11-21	12:45 Dismissal for Parent/Teacher Conferences
11-22 to 11-24	No School Thanksgiving Break
12-6	MMCI Meeting @ CCM

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

The month of October has flown by! First quarter classroom lessons focus on self-awareness and personal growth. Lessons are geared towards identifying people who can help (home, community, family), as well as determining whether it is a problem that can be solved by the student, with a peer, with an adult, or an adult with specialized skills. Lower Elementary and Upper Elementary focused on identifying the size of the problem by using the poster to the left.

How Big is My Problem?

5	Emergency, Tragedy, Danger	Crying uncontrollably, Very Upset, Scared	
4	People talking about you, someone hits you	Crying, Very Sad, Mad, Frustrated	
3	Having to work with someone you don't like, receiving consequences for unexpected behavior	Nervous, Sad, Irritated, Disappointed	
2	Not being first in line, having to wait or take turns	Uncomfortable, Dissatisfied	
1	No Real Problem	Happy, Calm, Relaxed	
<p>The size of my REACTION should match the size of the PROBLEM! *Don't overreact 😊</p>			

Lower Elementary students are working on identifying problem solving strategies for problems that are within their scope of solving. Additionally, Upper Elementary students are identifying coping strategies.

Enabling our students with the skills to solve problems within their scope is an important life skill. It is equally important to help students identify whether or not their reaction matches the problem at hand. Coping strategies for the problems that students “let go” can mount. It is important that they learn strategies to cope with the stress in their lives. Help your student identify ways to relax and destress. Here are some examples:

- Deep breathing, meditation.
- Physical exercise.
- Talking about it.
- Spending time with friends or family.
- Reading or journaling.
- Listening to music.

Please feel free to seek me out for more information or with any questions!

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

Health Room

As we prepare for cold and flu season...

When should I keep my child home?

Based on information obtained from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), your child should stay home from school if he/she has one or more of the following symptoms:

- Temperature of more than 100
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Undiagnosed rash or skin infection

Please keep your child home from school for 24 hours after the last episode of vomiting, fever, and/or diarrhea. If these symptoms persist for more than 24 hours, you should contact your child's health care provider.



From the Art Room



Art in the First Quarter

In our first nine weeks, all classes have completed their designs for Square 1 Art.

Five-year-old Primary students continue to practice making sketch book entries. They have completed their beginning of the year self-portraits and are being introduced to the element of line through projects in a variety of mediums.

Lower Elementary students have also completed their beginning of the year self-portraits. Some LE students participated in the Maryland Mediation and Conflict Resolution Office's annual Conflict Resolution Day Bookmark Contest.

Upper Elementary students and Middle School sculpture students have nearly finished their typography sculptures. The paper pieces are designed using the elements and principles of art and the letters of each student's name. The sculptures are dynamic assemblages of line, shape, and color.

Middle School oil painting students are focusing on value, form, and space as they continue to develop their still-life studies.

Have a peaceful and beautiful school year!



Mrs. Reed

"Beauty both promotes concentration of thought and offers refreshment to the tired spirit"

Music Notes

Kindergarten music classes have been working on becoming familiar with many classroom instruments through the 5 Little Pumpkins rhyme. Students have used drum pads, tambourines, bongos, tubano drums, guiros, the xylophone, vibraslap, and suspended cymbal to represent the many sound effects in the poem. Students continue to increase their dance repertoire to now include the Clap, Stomp, Shake and Elephants Have Wrinkles pieces.

Lower Elementary students are expanding their rhythm review to include quarter rests in our class patterns. Classes are challenging each other with solfeggio singing by going outside the standard octave now to include the low sol. We began our study of instrument families with Benjamin Britten's "Young People's Guide to the Orchestra" piece, and are now focusing on the woodwinds specifically.

Upper Elementary music students are quickly gaining on Lower Elementary in solfeggio skills by regularly singing outside the octave to low ti, la, and sol. Directed listening lessons are focusing on tempo markings and using a timer to count the exact number of steady beats. "The Horseman," a poem by Walter de la Mare set to music, has students combining multiple skills including Irish drumming patterns, tone bar ostinato, and round singing.

Middle School Music

7th Grade: we are deep in our study of Jazz with lessons focusing on the genres contributing to the development of the music form like Spirituals, Blues, Ragtime, and Dixieland, then pulling these elements out of pieces from the Jazz era. Students have listened and analyzed selections by Joplin, Louis Armstrong, King Oliver, Lonnie Johnson, Benny Goodman, and Count Basie.

Independent study: students at various levels are practicing technique builders, progressions, hand positions, assigning note names and values, and preparing repertoire pieces for an in class performance.

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



Mrs. Reynolds

Physical Education

Over the last month our students have been very busy in PE. Kindergarten continues to learn new locomotor movement's everyday which are applied through a variety of games and activities. Kindergarteners are learning the importance of warming up and cooling down before and after exercise as well as the importance of stretching.

The rest of our students have just finished up the soccer unit. LE classes focused more on the skills associated with the game which includes striking and dribbling with the feet. UE and middle school classes took a class or two to practice the skills and then transferred those skills into a game-like activity.

This past month our

school participated in ACES (all children exercising simultaneously). I was very happy to see the entire school get outside and walk two laps around our building to promote exercise and being healthy! This was a great activity for our school and we hope to continue it throughout this year.

Our next unit is going to be basketball!



Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions or concerns.

- Mr. Hickman

Spanish Spoken Here

Mrs. Gomez has been hired as an assistant to help Mr. Kramer in our Spanish class this year. Having two Spanish speaking adults in the class will boost our students' opportunity to learn Spanish.

Students in our primary classes have been working on learning the Spanish words for fruits and clothes. They have been studying words that have to do with fall this month. Mr. Kramer has read books in Spanish to them including the book, "Fly Guy."

Our Lower Elementary students have also been learning Spanish words for clothes and fall. They have also been writing in Spanish what they have been learning. Mr. Kramer has read the book, "Bad Case of the Stripe," in addition to other books in Spanish to the Lower Elementary students.

Upper Elementary students have been working on higher level writing skills in Spanish. They have been conjugating verbs and changing stems to words. Students at this level have also been asking and answering simple questions both verbally and in writing in Spanish.

Middle school students have been developing personal questions and answering questions in Spanish about themselves (i.e. "What do you like to do?") They have been learning to tell time in Spanish. Our middle school students are gaining confidence as they use their Spanish skills.



Tidbits from our GC

Hello Carroll Creek Montessori Parents!

The Fundraising Committee is pleased that the school year has gotten off to a good start. We hope you all enjoyed the new assortment of Spirit Wear that was offered this year. We are also excited to have the Farmraiser Fundraiser for Middle School students to distribute healthy produce to our school community.

Did you know that all funds WE raise through our Annual Fund to go directly to Carroll Creek Montessori! We raised over \$16,000 last year and we're aiming for 100% participation this year. Take a moment to go to carrollcreek.org to make a donation. No amount is too small!

WHY ARE WE ASKING FOR MONEY?

Because, let's be honest, cash is very handy. While we are publicly funded, like all public schools, we could do more with more, and need

funds to:

- Begin saving for a FUTURE FACILITY
- Build up our new library with new English and Spanish books
- Reimburse our teachers for very specific and expensive Montessori training
- Build up our musical program by providing new musical instruments
- Buy new technology equipment for needed assessments

Every dollar ...every penny... we raise is important and will go to benefit the children! We hope you will all come out to the CCM Community Gathering activity that will be held at the Kittiwat restaurant on November 2nd. Next month, parent volunteers are working hard to coordinate a product sale of Lularoe Fashion and Touchstone Jewelry. These will make great Christmas gifts for you or your friends and family.

Also, do you work for a matching gift company? Want to maximize a donation? A simple way to help our school raise funds for student programs is to

stop by your company's Human Resources office to ask for a matching gift form and complete the required information. We can provide a receipt of your donation if needed.

Looking ahead, we are making plans to expand the Farmraiser Fundraiser to the entire school. Stay tuned for details about ways that your business can receive tax-deductions before the year's end too.

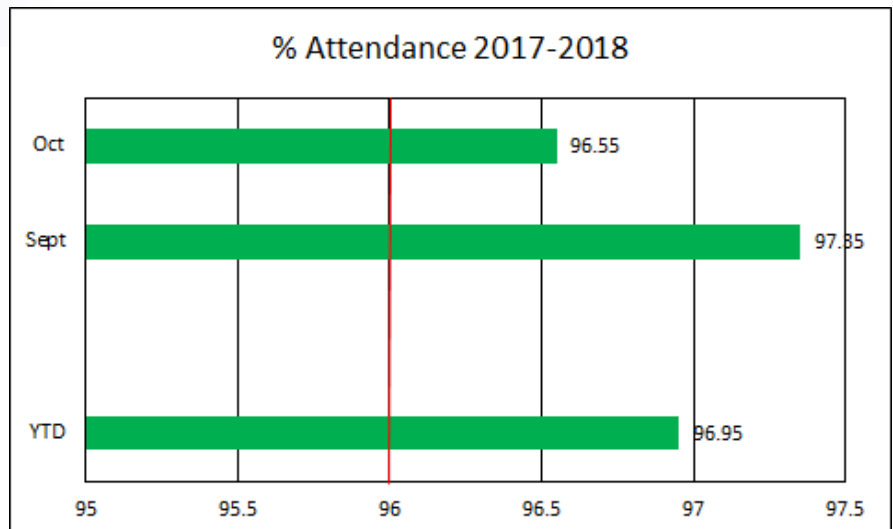
Do you have other great ideas to raise funds for our school? There is an opportunity to serve as the new Parent Representative to Chair the Fundraising and Grants Committee starting in January. If interested, please contact me.

This is the second year that my two daughters have been students at Carroll Creek Montessori and what a privilege it has been. Great things are ahead for our school!

Regards,
Desiree Mortenson
CCM Governing Council
Fundraising & Grants Committee Chair

Attendance

Our attendance for the month of September was 97.8% which has gotten us off to a wonderful start to reaching our goal of 96%. As you can see from the graph, October attendance to date is 96.55 which is still well above our end goal. We lost over a whole percentage point in one month though which is very concerning. 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 away" when school is not in session.



**Scantron Assessment Results: % of students with Average
(Includes High, Above and Low)**

	Reading			Math		
	Fall 2016	Spring 2017	Fall 2017	Fall 2016	Spring 2017	Fall 2017
All Students	84	92	85	88	87	83
Black	86	96	89	95	82	74
White	89	96	88	90	90	84
Hispanic	67	83	72	72	75	82
Multiracial	75	87	75	87	88	87
Special Education	62	64	50	64	43	40