



MMCA Newsletter – October 2017

Upcoming Events:

10/26 - Family Dining Out @ Panda Express
10/27 - Pizza Lunch
10/31 - Cultural Day Parade
11/8 - Free Dress Day
11/9 - No School - Teacher In-Service
11/10 - No School - Veteran's Day

Welcome to our Newsletter!

Every other month, instead of a *Friday Flyer*, we publish a detailed Newsletter with articles from each of our classrooms, parent groups and many others. This month's *Newsletter* is jam-packed with information. Please take a few minutes to check it out!

Thank you,
Mr. B

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MMCA Board Elections

Each Fall MMCA seeks parents interested in taking an active role in the governance of the school by serving as a MMCA Board member. A Board member serves a two-year term which fulfills their family's annual 40-hour volunteer requirement.

The Board of Directors defines the mission of the school and clarifies its philosophy. In conjunction with the School Administrator, the Board establishes the financial, educational, and operational goals of MMCA and ensures that they are achieved annually. The Board may be involved in facility planning, review and approval of legal documents, annual operating budgets, and staffing decisions.

To apply, please click on the link below for an application or pick up a paper application in the school office. The deadline to apply is Friday, November 3, 2017. If you have further questions, please contact current Board member Julie Moeller at 4moellers@gmail.com or Principal Brent Boothby at brent@mmcharter.org.

http://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/72cec9_e537fa9cf5704d1e_bf8eb08c3951d166.pdf

Thank you,
Julie Moeller, MMCA Board President

Together we can **HELP** the **CALIFORNIA FIRE VICTIMS**

MMCA DONATION DRIVE

Collection begins **MONDAY, OCTOBER 16TH** through **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20TH**

Please bring donations to your child's classroom or the Harvest Festival.

We ask that each classroom bring in the following:

Children's House-Socks/Non- Perishable

Food Items

Yellow-Underwear/Non-Perishable Food Items

Purple- Children's clothing

Red-Adult clothing

Blue- Towels/Washcloths

Coral-Dog supplies

Aqua- Cat supplies

Orange- Blankets/Pillows

Green-Outerwear/Shoes



"We shall walk together on this path of life, for all things are part of the universe and are connected with each other to form one whole unity."

— Maria Montessori

2017 CAASPP Testing Update from Mr. B:

We received the student score reports for last year's CAASPP testing this week – this is about six weeks later than normal. Apparently, the state had to deal with several internal issues for school districts in the latter testing window which we were a part of. Our Office Manager, Cynthia Brown mailed copies home last week.

The CAASPP testing system is still a relatively new, computer-based test that takes a "moment in time" measurement. As a school, we use it as one piece of information when we are making placement decisions within our learning groups. At its core, besides assessing ELA and MATH, it's ultimately assessing computer fluency and attention as well. As I've mentioned to each of you who have taken a tour with me, I am not a big fan of extended 'screen time' for younger students, and as a school, our K-3rd students spend less time on computers than other places – though our 4th-8th grade students are probably spending more time with digital curriculum than others. It's also fair to characterize our program as one that doesn't make its primary focus "teaching to the test" as other programs do.

The Placer County Superintendent of Schools issued a release earlier this week congratulating Placer County students for having the 2nd highest scores in the state for English Language Arts and the 3rd highest scores in the state for Math (by county). MMCA's composite scoring was higher than Placer County's composite this year. Of note, our 5th and 7th grade students had the *highest* district scores of the entire county. If you have any questions about your child's CAASPP scores, please feel free to contact me at brent@mmcharter.org.

MMCA Communication Pathways Policy (*est. 2005*)

(School communications policy)

From Parent:

1. Individual /classroom issue: discuss with Teacher
2. School-wide issue or unresolved issues with classroom or Teacher: discuss with Principal, may include an additional meeting to include Teacher
3. System issues or issues unresolved after discussing with Teachers and Principal: bring to MMCA School Board by:
 - speaking with any individual MMCA Board member , or
 - emailing any Board member (addresses on website), or
 - written communication with any Board member: use Board mailbox in office.

Please respect that individual discipline issues and personnel issues/complaints carry privacy concerns. These should be directed in writing to the Board President or the Principal.

The Board can take action only on those items on the Agenda. Please contact us at least 1 week prior to a meeting if you'd like your issue placed on the Agenda. Any person wanting to attend a Board meeting is welcome, and will be given 5 minutes to speak if desired.

To & From Teachers:

MMCA teachers send home weekly packets including completed schoolwork, notices of upcoming class events, field trips, projects, etc.

The monthly newsletter contains an update from each classroom on the efforts and accomplishments happening there.

Teachers provide two annual parent-teacher conferences. They are also happy to meet with you at any other mutually convenient time. Contact them by email, by leaving a message on the office phone, or by sending a note with your child.

To & From Principal, Board of Directors and PTA:

A weekly "Friday Flyer" is sent by email. It contains updates from the Principal and the PTA on general school-wide events and issues.

The Principal is accessible to parents by phone (630-1510), by email (brent@mmcharter.org), or by stopping by to make an appointment as needed.

The MMCA Board meets monthly. All are welcome to attend. The minutes of each meeting are placed in an accessible binder in the front office and on the website after they are approved (usually at the following month's meeting).

The PTA meets three times a year and invites everyone to attend.

YEARBOOK INFO

Don't forget to order your 2017-2018 MMCA Yearbook!

Cost:

\$19 by February 1, 2018

\$25 by April 1, 2018

To guarantee that your child will receive a yearbook, order before April 1, 2018! Yearbooks are only available for order online through our publisher, go to <http://www.jostens.com>

Also, we need your pictures!!

Email to mmcayb@gmail.com



Recruiting After School Club Leaders

We're currently in the middle of our second session of After School Enrichment Clubs this year. Each session will have 3-4 different enrichment opportunities (some of which will be age restricted). Generally, a club will meet one time per week for approximately 75 minutes. We are looking for parents interested in leading a club during one of our upcoming sessions. Examples of past clubs include chess club, choir club, Early Engineers Club, Self Defense, Drama and much more. If you have questions about leading a club, please contact After School Enrichment Programs Coordinator Ray Baldonade at rbaldonade@mmcharter.org.

Independent Study

It is always best for your child to be in class, but if an absence is unavoidable and your student is going to miss three or more days of school, please sign him/her up for independent study. Independent study benefits the school by allowing us to collect ADA money for your student during the absence and your student will benefit by keeping up on their class work. To sign up, you must sign an independent study contract in the office and make arrangements with your child's teacher to collect their work before their absence. It takes time to put together I.S. Contracts. We likewise request at least (3) days notice for our teachers if you're going to be signing up for I.S. If you have any questions, please contact Denise Thorman in the office at dthorman@mmcharter.org.

Recording Volunteer Hours

Be sure to record your volunteer hours in the binders in the office. If you have not already done so, start a page for your family and keep a cumulative total of the hours you have volunteered.

Second MMCA School Uniform Order Coming up

For families interested in school-based apparel, we partner with All Awards of Citrus Heights as our Uniform vendor. The order form is available here:

http://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/72cec9_023e8b9c787f4aa4a555fbf090b050a4.pdf.

We are now collecting order forms from interested families for our second round of ordering. The deadline for your order to be included in this round of ordering will be 10/28/17. Orders take about 10 days to be processed. Especially for field trips, we encourage all families to purchase the white t-shirt available on the order form.

Children's House Chatter

October 2017

The children enjoyed studying the seven continents and invertebrate, as well as the difference between living and non- living last month. In October, Children's House will study the parts of a pumpkin, bats and skeletons. We will be learning about the Fall Season while creating a winter garden. We will be starting our winter garden, where we will plant green beans, carrots, broccoli, snap peas, lettuce, and snap dragons. Very soon we will be focusing on different root systems and how they are used by the plant to drink water, absorb minerals and store food for energy.

Our bi-monthly fitness and health program from **Amazing Athletics** has been a big hit! Fabulously fun fitness for happy, healthy kids! The program teaches our children to make healthy food choices and the love to exercise at an early age.

Miss Lisa our music teacher had two lessons with your children so far and they enjoy her tremendously. You will be amazed about how much they will learn about music theory this year.

The children are learning the basic concepts of mathematics in two ways. First by using a variety of concrete manipulates and then by recording the abstract method through documentation. Working with this equipment gives the child an opportunity to discover many mathematical facts.

We will be celebrating Cultural Day on Tuesday, October 31st. (No Make-up and No masks please) The Children's House will be dressing as **Realistic Animals (No cartoon characters)** for our Cultural Day Parade. The more creative the better! Please label all costumes, because the children will be changing back into their school uniforms. The all school parade starts at 8:45-9:30 in the quad. Our class will join the kindergarten/first graders for a sing-along, then we will walk to the fire station. Volunteers are needed for this fun adventure. If you would like to help with our Cultural Day party on Tuesday from 12:00-1:30, please contact Christine Pascua on Shutterfly.

We had many parents sign up to help in our classroom. We still have a few positions to fill, please ask the teachers where you can help out. Thank you to all the parents who have donated their time in the month of September. The monthly library books from Rawan Johnson (Adam's mom) have been wonderful. We really appreciate you taking care of all the little details.

Independence of oneself is a common goal we are trying to develop this month. Please remember when you drop your child off or pick them up that they are responsible for their own property i.e. back pack, lunch box, sweater, water bottle, homework, etc. It will really help them know where everything is when they organize their items themselves, plus it is establishing their own sense of independence.

Mrs. Bass, Mrs. Baldonade and Mrs. McKinnon

Upcoming Dates:

Oct. 31st - Cultural Day Parade-8:30 and afternoon activities 12:00-1:30

Nov. 10th - No School (Veteran's Day)

November 16th - Friendship Soup (details to follow)

November 20th through 24th - Thanksgiving Holiday



Yellow Room's Busy Little Bees

October 2017

Cultural Day Parade
October 31st
Yellow Room Fall Party
October 31st
Friendship Feast
November 16th
Community Canvas Art
Nov. 29th

We have amazing Parents!
Sewing, art, crafts,
games, science, garden,
and so much more!
WE couldn't do it ALL
without you!



Our first field trip was a success! Thank you to all the parents that shared in the adventure with us.

Science: We have been exploring patterns in the environment. They are noticing signs of fall and are asking inquisitive questions about what they see.

First graders have started a science notebook to keep track of their thoughts and questions as well as their experiments and answers.

Reading: Students are discovering that reading can happen in many ways; picture walks, predicting and looking for sight words as well as sounding out words. We are all readers!

Cultural: Students are learning how the people in our community help each other. Be sure to take notice of community members and ask your child how they contribute.

Geometry: We will begin to look for shapes in our world; flat shapes and 3-D shapes. Go on a shape hunt!

Math: Number recognition from 1-20 in many different forms. Play board games with dice or dominoes.

Purple Room Classroom News

NOTES

Science – Asking, observing & researching in our environment

Math – Counting, place value, number writing

Language – Story writing, handwriting, sight words

Cultural – Exploring community helpers, American symbols

WHAT WE ARE LEARNING

October 16-20:

Community Helpers & American Icons

October 23-27:

Food Groups

October 29-November 3:

Pumpkins

November 6-10:

Communities/Where I Live

November 13-November 17:

Native Americans/Pilgrims

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 31: Cultural Day and Harvest Party

November 17: Fun Friday Friendship Theme

**THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR
WONDERFUL VOLUNTEERS!**



Blue Room News

We had another great month. October went by so quickly. The students have been working hard and are doing well in all of the subject areas. We are so happy to have a class full of Self-Managers.

In reading, we have been working on various reading comprehension skills and decoding skills. All of the students are showing great growth. You should be seeing your child's reading book come home every Monday. They are to read to you and you are to sign the Post-It note. This is a job on their work chart.

The students are enjoying the math jobs. They are using the Stamp Game, Golden Bead Materials, and Place Value materials. They seem engaged as well as having a good time. Both grade levels are learning place value. The 2nd graders are learning to the thousand's place, and the 3rd graders are learning place value to the ten thousand's place. They are also learning to write numbers in expanded form, standard form, and written form.

In Social Studies, the second and third graders have been working on Social Studies Weekly. They have been learning mapping skills, continent review, and California. The students seem to enjoy the crossword on the back of the magazine.

The students writing is improving with each writing assignment. They are also doing a great job writing about the Person of the Week. We hope that you have been enjoying reading about your child when they have been the Person of the Week.

The students really love the Weekly Science. They get to do experiments each week. The students seem to gravitate to those jobs first. They are learning about space and weather.

We are still looking for weekly volunteers. We appreciate the parents who stop by to help, but we need more consistent help. Please let us know when and what day works best for you. If you are going to stop in, please give us an email prior to coming. This will ensure that we have work for you to do.

Mrs. Harper
Mrs. Schmich

Red Room Newsletter Notes

This year is off to a busy start! August and September were spent settling into our classroom!! We have had a very productive first month of school. The children are working well in all areas of the classroom. Presentations have begun in Math, Grammar, Spelling, Writing, Social Studies, and Reading.

We also have started the afternoon activities, Computers, Art, P.E. and Character Education. Thank you for attending the Parent Information Night and thanks to all the parents that have been helping in the classroom!!!!

We still need parent volunteers Tuesday and Thursday from 9-11:00a.m. Please call or email us if you can help during those times!!!

Within the math groups, our children are working on static addition through static multiplication. We have started the Step Up to Writing program. The children are learning to select a topic and give supporting details. They are learning about the revision process.

We will celebrate Cultural Day on Tuesday, October 31st. The children should dress as Inventors or Innovators and make a poster to present to the class. - No Halloween costumes, please. The children may want to bring a change of clothes.

Weekly spelling lists go home on Fridays in your child's homework folder, ask your child to show you the new list. The spelling lists are available on our website. Spelling quizzes will be on Friday mornings. Be sure your child has a book at his/her reading level.

Please look for your child's Job Card in the Friday Folder, go over it with your child and sign and return it on Monday.

We look forward to a great school year!

Mrs. Bordelon & Mrs. Kelley

Aqua Room Events

We have had a fabulous start to our new school year! The students have been forming their own community within the classroom, reconnecting with old friends, and making new ones. We have been very active in P.E. with our mile run on Mondays and Wednesdays, and our group activities on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Noteworthy events:

- Our first field trip was to the Mother Lode River Center in Coloma. The students got the opportunity to test themselves and take risks with ropes courses such as the Leap of Faith, and the Climbing Wall. They also participated in group cooperation activities such as the Whale Watch. It was a beautiful day of self-discovery!
- We have had two colorful art docent lessons, and some creative garden docent lessons.
- We have a couple of "field trips" (at school) coming up. On Friday, October 20, Kids Studio of Fine Arts will be here to inspire our students to be creative. November 1, we will have Walk Through Time historical interactive programs. Students will all have a role/part in this fun presentation.
- Join the MMCA community October 20th for our Harvest Festival and Trunk or Treat event. Details on the MMCA website.
- We will celebrate Cultural Day on Tuesday, October 31st. The fourth graders will dress up as a historical figure from California who lived sometime between the years 1850-1985. The fifth graders will dress up as a historical figure from the United States who lived during the years 1700-1875. Remember to follow the rubrics for the poster and the speech.

We're looking forward to a wonderful school year!

~Mrs. Mitchell and Mrs. Halbert

"Education is a natural process carried out by the child and is not acquired by listening to words but by experiences in the environment." ~Maria Montessori

CORAL ROOM NEWSLETTER

Our newsletter articles are written by Coral Room students this year. We are excited to share their articles with you. Realize that we've kept the articles as the students have written them, so there may be some grammar errors. -Mrs. Boothby & Mrs. Crouch

Field Trips by Nathan

Field trips are our place where we go and learn, and of course have fun. I love field trips, but I am probably not the only one. Here is what Jimmy says, "My favorite field trip is the Mother Lode ropes course. I like it because I got to climb." I could agree with Jimmy that Mother Lode is the best. Here is what Payton says, "I liked Mother Lode because they taught us to work together." I agree 100% with Payton. I think field trips are the best, so try to enjoy them!

Language by Julia

In coral room we practice a lot of language. All of this language will help coral room students in the future. In coral we are practicing linking verbs, irregular verbs, past tense, present tense, and future tense. Here are some students who tell me what they enjoy about language. Kelsey tells me that her favorite thing to do in language is linking verbs. Riya likes past tense. Kaitlyn says that present tense will help her in the future. Thank you for reading my paragraph.

Electives by Keeley

Coral Room does some really fun electives! Coral room did sushi, water games, artistic authors, school planters, little buddies, amusement parks and much more. In sushi, you get to make the sushi and then you get to eat it. In school planters, they got to spray paint pots and glue them together on the desert area. After, coral room got to put some soil in the pots. In little buddies you pick a preschooler/kindergartener to do crafts with. At the end you get a little snack. That's a cool one. Electives are awesome. I'm so excited to see what happens in the future!

Math by Sienna

In coral room we practice a lot of math. We practice lattice, multiples, box multiplication, factors, division, subtraction and addition. Here are some students who love one of these subjects. Emma who loves multiplication and Audrey who loves subtraction. Jordan's favorite subject is subtraction. Julia loves division. Abbey loves multiplication. Keeley loves multiplication. Thanks for reading this newsletter!

STEM by Audrey

This year in Coral Room we did a lot of fun STEM activities. One of the activities was building towers with 100 index cards and 24 inches of tape. The class was split into groups. Each group got 100 index cards and 24 inches of tape. Then we had to build a tower. The group that had the tallest tower wins. Another STEM activity that Coral Room did is that we had to build geodesic domes. We also got split into groups for this STEM activity. Next we got 50 straws and 25 pipe cleaners. Using those 50 straws and 25 pipe cleaners we did our best to build a geodesic dome with our group. This year Coral Room is having a lot of fun doing STEM activities and is excited to do more.

Art and Garden by Taylor

I like the garden because we do lots of fun activities, Jeremiah likes to pick food from the garden and eat it when we're allowed to eat it. Kelsey likes the garden because we do fun crafts. Abbey likes the garden because she also likes the food and I figured out that she really likes pomegranates because when we were making the scarecrows we had pomegranates. She almost ate the whole thing! Almost every Friday we do art. I love art so much because I never know what I can do. Emma likes art because she loves the teachers who are teaching it.





Welcome to Green Room

2017-18



**Maria Montessori
Charter Academy**

Dear Families,

As this year begins, we are excited for all of the upcoming activities and events.

Current Events:

Mrs. Wibbenhorst will be out on maternity leave until the end of January. We welcome her sub, Mrs. Lynch, to Green room!

Our first field trip to the Aquatic Center



ACADEMIC UPDATE:

History:

7th grade will be starting our study on Islam in Medieval Times. We will learn about how Islam started, spread and the different parts of the world that it is a part of. We will also discover Muslim innovations and adaptations.

8th grade will be continuing to study the original 13 colonies. Then we will begin to study the history of our nation, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights.

Math: Course 2 students are investigating operations with rational numbers while Course 3 students are beginning to learn about scientific notation.

Science: The 7th graders are learning about plant and animal reproduction. We will soon move into a unit on genetics and DNA. The 8th graders are finishing up their study of the life cycle of stars and the universe. Next, we will study sub-atomic particles, the elements and the periodic table.

ELA: The 7th graders have recently completed their first paper based on the use of figurative language. We are currently learning about different parts of a short story before beginning our first one in a couple of weeks. The 8th graders have started practicing annotation skills that they will be using on their upcoming study of their first short story of the year.

Literature groups: Literature groups are off to a good start and will continue as a weekly assignment.

THE WEEKS AHEAD:

11/17 – Movie “Wonder” field trip

11/20 – 11/24 -Thanksgiving break

12/18 – 1/5 - Winter Break

2/2 – Extreme Gymnastics field trip

