

CCLCS Newsletter



September 2011

Director's Corner

What a pleasure it is to be back in school! I can't imagine how anyone could love the summer more than I do—the sand and surf seemingly stretching off towards infinity, the ability to read for total pleasure for long, lazy stretches, barely bounded bonding with family members who magically appear on our Cape Cod doorsteps, the crack of the baseball bat against the still summer nights..... But in my book, nothing compares to the rejuvenation of fall, highlighted by the bright faces of our 228 students, armed with shiny backpacks and eager smiles, ready to tackle the new school year. Thank you to all of the families who supported your children in preparing for this important transition, and thank you to the remarkable CCLCS staff and faculty, who have hit the ground running, in full gear.

An important part of the fall educational cycle is the release of last spring's MCAS scores. I would like to take a moment to discuss our school's strong performance in spring 2011. Here are some key points from last spring's MCAS performance:

*Our students continue to perform very well. Our English Language Arts (ELA) performance rating was "Very High", and our Math performance rating was "High".

*Our Composite Performance Index (CPI) for all grades increased over 2010 from 95.5 to 96.4 in ELA, from 83.4 to 84.3 in Math and from 81.3 to 82.4 in Science and Technology/Engineering.

*Student Growth Profile (SGP) tracks a student's performance over several years. In school Accountability Plans, the state expects schools to have SGP numbers above the 40th percentile as a measure of strong progress. I am pleased to report that we met these goals this year. Our ELA SGP improved from 44.5 in 2010 to 49 in 2011, and our Math SGP improved from 33.5 in 2010 to 47 in 2011, a 40% improvement!

*For the 3rd consecutive year, CCLCS students outperformed students from the composite sending districts (a weighted average of the districts from which we draw our students) in all tests administered: (in CPI)

Subject	Grade	CCLCS	Composite	DIFFERENCE
ELA	6	93.1	90	3.1
	7	97.4	92.8	4.6
	8	98.7	93	5.7
	ALL	96.4	90.8	5.6
MATH	6	84.5	82.7	1.8
	7	89.5	75.9	13.6
	8	78.7	76	2.7
	ALL	84.3	82.3	2

-Among Cape Cod middle schools, our student performances ranked first in 7th and 8th grade ELA and first in 7th grade Math, second in 6th grade ELA and Science and Technology/Engineering, fourth in 8th grade Math and 5th in 6th grade Math.

We are extremely proud of our school's high standing on this measurement system, and on the improvements that our students made from 2010. Despite these improvements, we missed making Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) in Math by less than one point. AYP expects all schools to reach total proficiency by 2014, a noble but difficult goal. As we get closer to 2014, many high performing schools like ours find themselves in a similar situation. We take this seriously, and expect our scores to continue to rise as we fine tune our benchmark systems, our Individualized Student Success Plans, and as we integrate Khan Academy into our math programming.

We strongly that MCAS is just one measure of a student's proficiency across a very wide range of complicated skills and talents. In this light, we will always take MCAS very seriously, but we will not waver in our desire to develop high quality performance assessments (project work) designed to teach a wider range of skills that the MCAS can assess. We will still dare to devote hours of programming each year to seminars, which teach skills and values that reach well beyond the narrow scope of the frameworks and the material on standardized test. Walking this line to determine the appropriate curriculum focus is a creative enterprise that occupies our attention every day, even as we gaze out into the infinite surf on lazy August afternoons. Thank you for entrusting us with your child's education, and please feel free to join in on the conversation at any time.



WELCOME 6TH GRADE!



Kayaking Pleasant Bay

The 6th grade spent two amazing days paddling around Pleasant Bay looking at and studying the effects of erosion. This was made possible when the Friends of Pleasant Bay awarded Mr. Bates a grant to research different means of how to prevent erosion on the bay without having an environmental impact on the waters and land. Students and

teachers enjoyed perfect weather conditions for students to make new friends, enjoy the water, and learn while having fun. Kayak guides Dick Hilmer and Erin Bates provided expertise in the field as well as kayaking instruction that made for two wonderful days. We are looking forward to returning to the spots in the spring and hopefully continuing this trip for future years.

Nature's Classroom

The Sixth Grade made their annual trek to Nature's Classroom last week and had a blast! Despite the rainy weather, students and teachers alike had a wonderful week full of dissections, sing alongs, outdoor adventures, and a hike up Mt. Monadnock. A big thank you from the Sixth Grade team to all the parent chaperones who gave their time and energy to

this fantastic trip! We couldn't have done it without you!





Welcome to the newest member of the CCLCS community!

Hayden Bear Novak was born on July 25, 2011 at 6:54 AM to CCLCS staff members Liz and Andy Novak. At birth, he weighed 8 pounds 7.5 ounces and was 21 inches tall. He is growing fast, as he already weighs 11 pounds 7 ounces and is 23 1/4 inches long! Mrs. Novak is staying home to take care of young Hayden until Christmas. She is thrilled to have Cathy Graham serving in her place until then. Cathy is no stranger to CCLCS, nor to teaching math. Congratulations to the newly expanded Novak family!

A Familiar Face at CCLCS

Cathy Graham has returned to CCLCS from retirement to substitute for Liz Novak. While Liz is home caring for Hayden, Mrs. Graham will be teaching 8th grade math. Cathy lives in Harwichport with her husband. She has 7 grandchildren (oh yeah, she doesn't look like she could have that many!) She loves teaching math, and when not in school, she spends time with family, gardens, travels, and does Sudoku puzzles.



Teacher and student work showcased at the Met

Seventh grade social studies teacher Daniella Garran and sixth and eighth grade art teacher Debby Greenwood recently shared their best practices at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. Their interdisciplinary lessons on ancient Near Eastern art were highlighted in the annual Fair Share at the Met.

The lessons were based on an interdisciplinary unit incorporating the study of Mesopotamian ceremonial drinking vessels (visual art) and the history of the art of the ancient Near East (social studies). In conjunction with their study of the history of the ancient Near

Eastern artifacts, students created original 3-D functional clay sculpture for which they chose an animal that represents qualities that they identify with (e.g.: brave, loyal, strong) much like the ancient Near Eastern monarchs did in the reliefs which adorned their palace walls. Students also created a virtual Mesopotamian Museum for



which they studied five works from the Met's collection and wrote corresponding didactic labels.

The work of eighth graders Toni Powicki, Holden Ramage, Christina Tomasik, Robert Sanborn, Joe Annis, Jess Kimball and Meg Borowski was featured!

We spoke with many New York City based educators who were not only amazed that we traveled from Cape Cod to present but also that we were able to get middle school students to produce this caliber of work. But we've always known middle schoolers are capable of exceeding expectations!

New Faces



Colin Martin

Colin Martin was raised in upstate New York and Cambridge, Massachusetts. He is a graduate of Carnegie Mellon University. Most

recently, Colin lived in Los Angeles for sixteen years. For the past eight years Colin taught at Chatsworth Hills Academy and also served as Head of Middle School there for three years. He has two sons (Jordan, 6, and Des, 2) and one cat and is looking for

a new dog to join the brood in North Eastham. Little known facts about Colin: his favorite vehicle is his now-retired CB-740 Honda motorcycle; he used to have long hair; he loves sports (thrilled to be back in New England with his beloved Red Sox, Celtics, Bruins, and Patriots – although he still thinks the Revolution was a war for independence); he enjoys movies and books; and he loves to run marathons. Most of all he is very happy to be on the Lower Cape (the beaches on the Cape are the best) and at such a great school with wonderful students and amazing teachers.

Stefanie Toner Patterson

Stefanie is happily returning to the world of education after taking some time off to raise her two daughters, Maya & Calla, who are now 11 & 9. She taught high school English for many years before branching into the field of special education. She has an undergraduate degree in English + Secondary Education and a Master's in Education. Stefanie is also a certified yoga teacher and youth empowerment counselor. She works with girls' groups on the Cape teaching yoga, meditation and social-emotional health and well-being. Stefanie enjoys taking long walks, running and seeking out any adventure on the waters of Cape Cod. She lives in Sandwich with her daughters, her husband, Steve, and their beloved "therapy dog," Lila Brown.

Erin Bates

Erin has been connected to CCLCS for many years as the wife of sixth grade science teacher Brian Bates and as the mother of a CCLCS alumna (Autumn, now a junior at Nauset High). Erin has also helped with the Art Spark program in the past, lending her jewelry-making skills to our student body. She is also a busy mom of Sky and Zoe, now age 7 (hopefully future members of the CCLCS community). She is also a local kayak guide and she enjoys stand up paddleboarding in her free time.

Carolina Larrain

Carolina Larrain, a native of Chile who has resided on Cape Cod for over a decade, has been coming in on Wednesdays to teach Spanish to our 7th and 8th graders since last year. Before that, she taught in Barnstable and in the DY school system. Señora "L.", as her students call her, works closely with Señora "H." (Sandra Hemeon-McMahon, who has been teaching Spanish here at CCLCS for 11 years) to ensure that their students receive the very best introduction possible to a language which they both love. In addition to being a teacher, Carolina is also a student at Cape Cod Community College (studying to be a paralegal); she also works part-time at Cape Cod Hospital as a medical interpreter. Last but certainly not least, she is the mother of three and the grandmother of two. She is one busy "señora"!



MUSEUM VISIT



CCLCS Continues Annual Tradition of Visiting CCMA

Cape Cod Lighthouse Charter School students connected with their community and the visual arts during the first few days of school. The entire student body visited the Cape Cod Museum of Art in Dennis last week. Students were busy drawing, writing poetry and discussing what they saw and felt about many of the works in the different galleries with the assistance of museum educators and their teachers. The 8th Graders had the special opportunity to learn about the history of the Rockwell Kent Mural at the Cape Cinema with Cinema Director, Eric Hart. He explained the history of the Cinema and the mural as the students gazed at the colorful and massive ceiling. This annual visit is a unique tradition that reinforces CCLCS' commitment to the arts and its mission of providing educational opportunities outside the traditional classroom and exposure to the many cultural resources in our community.