

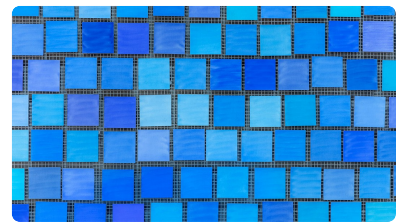
CFCI Community Communication

A Message From Our Leadership Team

September 9, 2023

Dear CFCI Families,

This Monday, is the 22nd anniversary of September 11th. Please consider taking a moment to remember all of the heroes for their bravery and selflessness. On 9/11, take the time to remember how important courage, compassion, resilience and hope are. For me, I will be participating in a global effort called [Remember the Sky](#), a digital commemoration campaign effort by the 9/11 Memorial & Museum to help educate a new generation about the lessons of 9/11 as - together- we fulfill our collective promise to never forget. *On September 11, 2001, the sky across the U.S. was crystal clear. Now 22 years later, [The 911 Memorial and Museum](#) encourages us to take part in active remembrance and recognize the fact that the same big sky connects us all.*



What a wonderful week we had, including the first of our two curriculum nights. Thank you to everyone who was able to make it to the Grades 4-8 evening. We hope you were able to learn more about what will be happening this year in your child's classroom and through field experiences! We look forward to welcoming our K-3 families into our classrooms on Thursday, September 14th beginning at 6pm. Remember, if you need care for the evening, our afterschool partner - The Superlative Club has agreed to provide care for the evening for a fee. [Please see the link here.](#)

Remember, this Friday is a Designated Work Day for our teachers - so no school for students. This is a day when our teachers engage in professional development and curriculum work. We look forward to personalized learning opportunities this year as well as our continued work with Heidi Mills and Inquiry Learning.

Upcoming Dates: (Remember, you can see all of the upcoming activity at the school by clicking on the [Activity Calendar on our website and here.](#))

Tuesday-Thursday, **9/12-9/14** Middle Grades Retreat to Betsy Jeff-Penn 4H Camp

Thursday, **9/14** Curriculum Night for Grades K-3

Friday, **9/15** Designated Green Day - **No School for Students**

Tuesday, **9/19** PCN Meeting at 3:30pm

Tuesday, **9/19** CFCI Board Meeting at 6pm

Friday, **9/22** Partnership Family Picnic

We hope you have a great week. Please let us know if you have any questions or need support with your child at school.

Kim and Susan, Co-Directors

Lisa C, Ben P, & Kelly - Coordinators

Debra & Ben R - Front Office

Our Partnership News - Please Read

The attached flyer has upcoming Events and Partnership Meetings.

Thank you for your interest in our Partnership.



Partnership.pdf

[Download](#)

2.4 MB

Middle Grades Retreat Fast Approaching!

It's that magical time of the year again, folks...when our middle grades student embark on a retreat to the Betsy Jeff-Penn 4-H Camp for 3 days and 2 nights. This is our 14th year returning to this 200+ acre retreat which provides our students with the opportunity to develop critical thinking, creativity, communication, leadership, and other important life and learning skills in order to be effective and productive humans in the world. Learn more about the experiential learning at [Betsy Jeff-Penn here](#).



Did someone say “Thin Mints and Samoas?”

Local Girl Scout organizers heard at our recent CFCI Open House that there is interest in starting a troop in the CFCI community. Parents and students (of all ages), are invited to attend an introductory meeting on Thursday, September 21st at 4:30 to explore starting a group.



Please RSVP to office@cfcf.net so we can plan on the best location on campus to hold the meeting.

SMILE! It's School Photo Time with Jenny Ryder

Mark Your Calendars: Student Photos will be taken on October 19th and 20th. We'll share the date details once a schedule has been finalized. Also, we want and need parent/guardian volunteers to help with an after-school sibling photo session.

Burning Questions...What Are You Curious About?

Strategic Plan for CFCI

This past year, our School Board, Faculty, Community and Leadership created a new strategic plan that will help guide us in our planning and focus for the next three years. Strategic planning involves creating a vision, with supporting goals that can be regularly measured and adjusted as needed. The strategic plan becomes the guide that the board and leadership will use to align our improvement efforts. It allows the board to focus on effective governance processes and school leadership to direct their efforts on operational leadership practices. Our new strategic plan provides the structure for the board to monitor progress toward achieving goals and create a process for evaluating the school leadership. As a school, we look forward to using this important tool to continue to grow and improve our school for the next three years and into the future. As we begin the two year charter renewal process and look at celebrating our 25th year as a charter next year, we feel this is an exciting time for our school and we are happy you are here to be a part of it. We have attached our new Strategic Plan below. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

Have you got a question about CFCI? We want to try and answer it for you or find someone who can! Email kmccormick@cfcf.net if you are curious and would like to know more about CFCI!

Super Sound Waves in Grade 4



Our 4th graders explored how sound waves looked and how they travel through different mediums. They discussed sounds that relate to the roller skating rink including differentiation in speaker pitches and tones. After this amazing STEM lesson and activity, students had the opportunity to skate, scooters, and enjoy a pizza party! What an awesome Friday!





Request from the Office. No Deliveries From Outside the School During the Day!

A friendly request from the Front Office. We are asking that you please do not order food from outside vendors to be delivered to the school during the school day to your students. This creates an unanticipated influx of work for the front office and creates undue stress for the classroom teachers. If your student forgets their lunch or snack, the school has a limited number of items that we can share. Thank you for your cooperation.

Backpack Twinning and Thankful for Our Safety Patrol

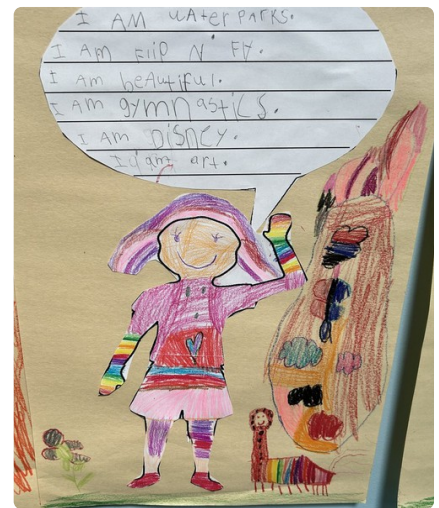
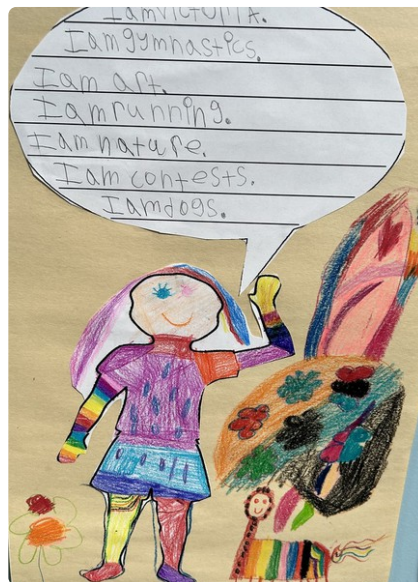
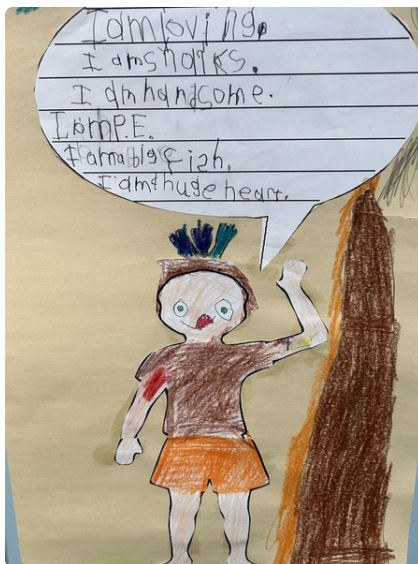
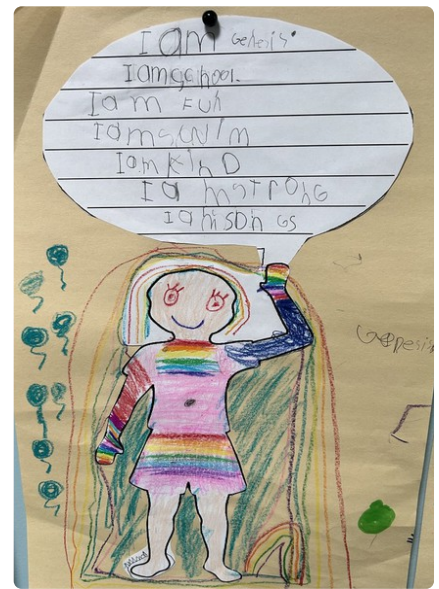
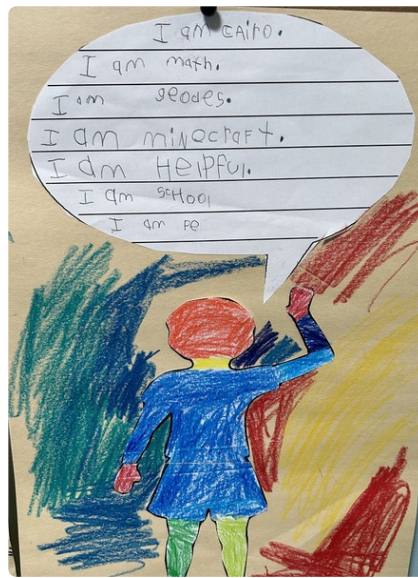
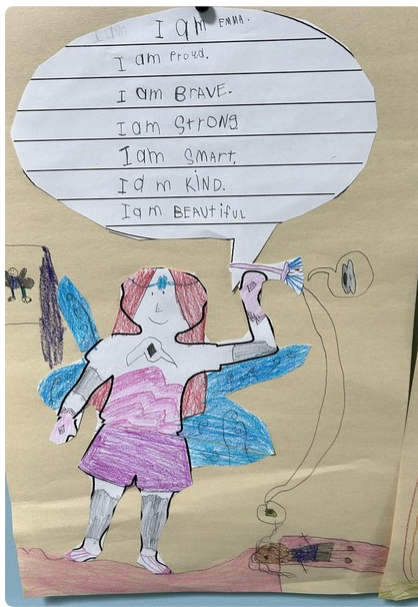


Art Abounds and Ms. Michelle's Vision for Our Students Inspires Us All!





I am Peace and So Much More! First Grade Expresses Their Inner Selves



Social Emotional Learning at CFCI

For the next month or so, our learning community is diving into learning about Self-Awareness



Self-Awareness allows individuals to assess their own strengths, challenges, and interests while building confidence and utilizing a growth mindset.

After completing the lessons provided by teachers through Everyday Speech, students should be able to:

- Give examples of how to use a growth mindset
- Define accountability
- Describe why positive self-talk can be a helpful tool
- Use "I-feel" statements to express various emotions

Social Emotional Learning in Ms. Deprisco's Classroom Includes Empathy and Care

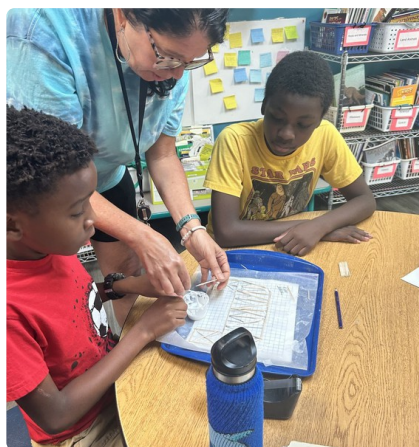
Good Friends and Wonderful Community Building..When there are two helpers for the day, & one says, "Don't worry, I'll erase just 1/2 the board, & save 1/2 for YOU to do!" Such great work happening in our First Grade Classrooms!



Bridge Building Beyond the Basics in Grade 5



What is the purpose of a toothpick bridge?



A toothpick bridge exemplifies engineering on a small scale to teach students about structural strength, capacity, resilience, and creativity.



The goal is to build a bridge that can span a wide river, hold a heavy load, or withstand shaking

SIGN UP TODAY TO VOLUNTEER AT CFCI!! Volunteer sign up window is from 8/17-9/30!

Women today
making a difference
for tomorrow.



FEMME in STEM

Saturday, Sept. 16 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Meet leading scientists and find out more about their work at the Aquarium and in the community.

 **GILLS CLUB**
Love sharks? Girls, ages 11-14, can join the Gills Club local chapter.

ncaquariums.com/fort-fisher

 **NORTH CAROLINA
AQUARIUM**
Fort Fisher

Before and After School On-Site - Superlative Club - Register Today

Click Here to Register Today ~ (888)-262-4322

After School Van Transportation and Alternate Programming - Off-Site

BOURELLE MARTIAL ARTS
Dan 901-409-3306

CHILDCARE NETWORK
Sandra 910-392-3430

FAST (Sports-related)
Mike 910-620-5555

KIDDIE ACADEMY
910-232-0881

YMCA (Midtown)
910-515-6095

Educational Opportunity Form - Please Review for Planning Purposes This Year

Click Here if Your Child is Pursuing an Educational Opportunity This Year

Lunches

We will once again be teaming with My Hot Lunch Box to provide lunches from local restaurants to our students. Our plan is to begin sometime mid-September. We will be sending additional information to families when everything is ready to go.

Also, if your family is in need of free or reduced lunches/snacks, please reach out to Ben Rose (brose@cfcf.net) in the front office with help filling out the form. The form is included in our Beginning of Year packet but we are here to help you get what you need.

Change in Our Chromebook Protocols

For the past 6 years, CFCI has been a 1-1 school with students having access to Chromebooks in grades 2-8 and iPads in Grades K-1. During that time we have had many opportunities to assess the benefits of having a 1-1 program at our school. These include:

- Increased student engagement and participation
- Increased familiarity with technology that helps prepare our young learners for a more tech driven world
- The ability for teachers to access unlimited digital resources such as apps, interactive websites, digital media, games and more
- Increased equity in our learning environment

Along with the benefits, we have found that there have been challenges that include increased screen time and budget concerns (including management of devices.)

This past school year, our Technology Committee had many discussions about the 1-1 program. Looking to mitigate some of the negative aspects while supporting students and teachers with

what has become an important tool in our learning environment, we have decided to try a new approach to our 1-1 program for this school year. Our plan is to limit the use of chromebooks to the classroom, they will no longer go home with students each day. Instead, chromebooks will be assigned to classrooms (not students) and be available as a resource for students during the school day. The intent is to be purposeful in how students utilize chromebooks for learning and minimize the amount of damage that is occurring with chromebooks traveling from classroom to classroom as well as from school to home. On occasion, a teacher may assign a special project that will require students to take a chromebook home but this will be an exception to the norm. The technology committee, classroom teachers, school leadership, students, and families will all be a part of monitoring the usefulness and merits of this new plan. If you have any concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to reach out. We appreciate your support and look forward to a successful implementation.

Weekly Wellness with Nurse Jen and Mrs. Horne

Separation Anxiety

Many kids and teens experience separation anxiety or school refusal, especially at the beginning of a new school year. Here are some tips that parents & guardians can follow to help ease the transition back to school:

- Be supportive and understanding of their fears, yet firm! Explain that not going to school is not an option.
- If they complain about feeling sick, explain that sometimes worry or fear can cause physical symptoms as well, such as a stomachache.
- Praise them for even the small accomplishments! Reward and praise for waking up, getting dressed, and getting in the car.



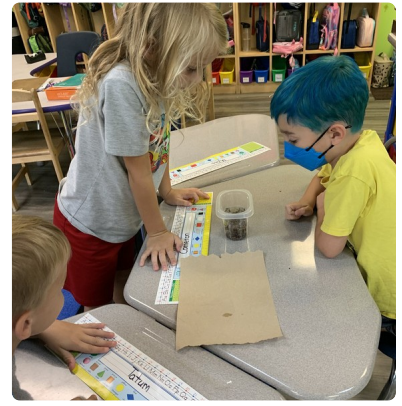
For our younger students, check out the following books to help children with separation anxiety:

- *The Invisible String* by Patrice Karst
- *Wilma Jean the Worry Machine* by Julia Cook

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to Olivia Horne, School Counselor, at ohorne@cfcj.net

Ms. Jordan's Dancing Raisins

Student scientists explored how and why raisins “danced” when placed in different liquids, some with bubbles. Observations led to hypotheses.



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Cape Fear Center for Inquiry
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