

Christopher Columbus Middle School

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Ms. Kane - Co-Advisor
Mr. Giblin - Co-Advisor



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Dear CCMS Community,

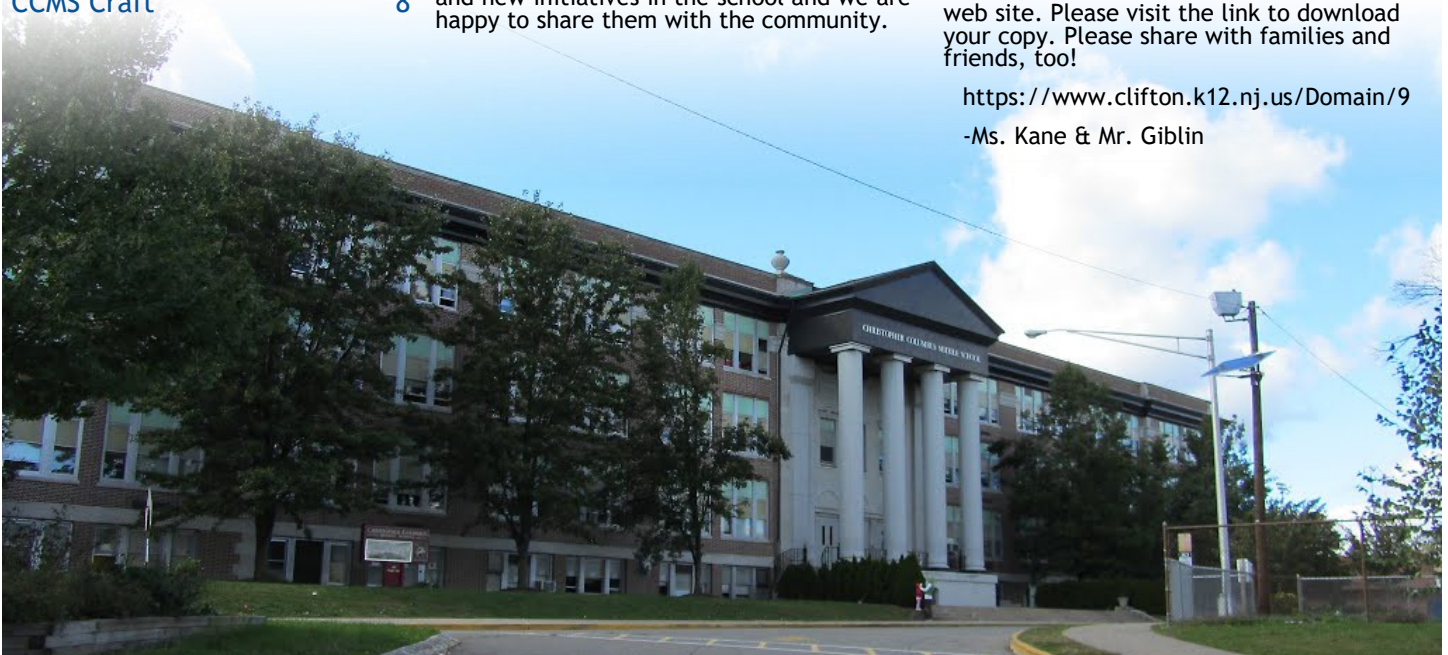
The start of a new year is always exciting! There is always an abundance of new staff, new students, new goals and new hopes. We are very excited for you to enjoy a recap of some of the new happenings in our community. We have had a several events and new initiatives in the school and we are happy to share them with the community.

We would like to thank all of the teachers, administration, parents, and the Clifton community for supporting our students as they work hard to create this newspaper.

This issue and past issues of the Columbus Columns can be found online at the CCMS web site. Please visit the link to download your copy. Please share with families and friends, too!

<https://www.clifton.k12.nj.us/Domain/9>

-Ms. Kane & Mr. Giblin



All About Mr. Luzzi—Our New Administrative Intern

Hanna Rmero Molina



Mr. Luzzi is our new Administrative Intern. As a Vice Principal in training, he supports students, assists teachers, meets with parents, contributes to emergency drills, attends meetings and after-school events, and helps monitor the hallways and cafeteria.

Outside of work, Mr. Luzzi enjoys sports and spending time with family and friends. He is an avid fan of Penn State's football and wrestling teams, the Miami Dolphins, the New York Yankees, Juventus, the Italian National Team, and Johns Hopkins Lacrosse. He also enjoys listening to music, particularly The Grateful Dead, Queen, Bruce Springsteen, and classic oldies. In his spare time, he likes watching movies—especially action and comedies, but not horror films—and spending time outdoors. He is currently working on becoming fluent in Italian.

Before coming to CCMS, he worked as a special education teacher, and also at an after-school program at CHS where he taught students who couldn't be in the building during the day. He also coached high school wrestling at Leonia and Nutley High Schools.

Mr. Luzzi loves CCMS, calling it a wonderful place with great students and staff. He appreciates the energy and spirit that everyone brings to the school. We are glad to have you, Mr. Luzzi!



Interviewing Ms. Olivo

Kimberly Hidalgo Lopez

I am excited to introduce Ms. Olivo! Ms. Olivo is a new health and gym teacher at CCMS, though she previously taught at the high school level.

She became a teacher because she was inspired by her own teachers and now wants to share the knowledge she's gained. With nine years of experience teaching high school health and gym, Ms. Olivo is comfortable working with both older and younger students. She is known for being a kind, approachable teacher who helps students develop respect and attention in the classroom.

Thank you for taking the time to talk to me, Ms. Olivo. We are excited to have you here at CCMS!



Ms. Feliz is Passionate and Excited about Science!

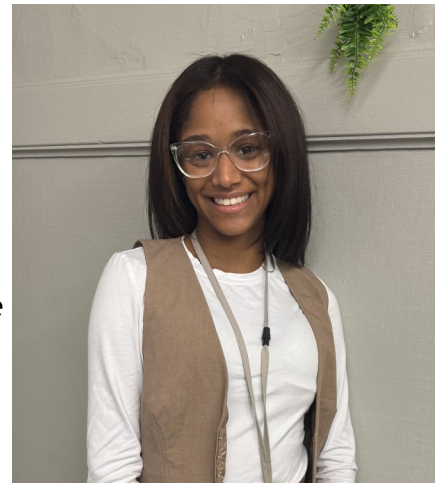
Gunnar Gutshteyn

We are excited to introduce our new 8th-grade science teacher at CCMS, Ms. Feliz! She loves working with children and finds joy in knowing that her students leave her class with new knowledge. Her goal is to one day meet a former student in the store and hear about all the great things they've accomplished. Before coming to CCMS, she worked as a camp counselor and a paraprofessional at Watsessing Elementary, where she helped students improve their reading skills.

At CCMS, she plans to make learning fun and engaging by creating interactive lessons that students will enjoy. She believes strong classroom management is key to a successful learning environment, and she is committed to minimizing distractions, especially from cell phones. She also believes in showing compassion and empathy, offering extra time for students when needed to

help them succeed.

Outside of teaching, she enjoys crocheting and cooking for her family and friends. Originally from the Bronx, NY, she studied at Penn State University and later moved to California before returning to New Jersey. After having a baby in 2023, she decided to follow her passion for teaching, and she is excited to be part of the CCMS community for years to come. Welcome to CCMS, Ms. Feliz!



Diversity Dinner offer Fun and Food for CCMS Families

Kimberly Hidalgo Lopez

The Diversity Dinner is an event at CCMS designed to encourage students to try and learn about new foods. This year the dinner was on October 17th. It takes place every year in the CCMS cafeteria in the evening. During the dinner, students have the chance to bring in and try foods from various cultures. Each family brings in a dish that they can share with everyone who comes. Participants can sit wherever they like and enjoy a fun activity after eating. The Diversity Dinner offers a great opportunity to explore different cultures while having fun.

Changes at CCMS

Gunnar Gutshteyn

There have been many changes at CCMS since I first started here in 6th grade. Now I am in 8th grade and I've noticed quite a few updates. One of the most noticeable changes is the bathrooms. The old bathrooms were in poor condition, but now they look brand new and much better maintained.

Another change is the stricter policy on cell phone usage. Cell phones have become one of the biggest distractions for students, with many sneaking them into class (I've done this once myself) and using AirPods to listen to music while hiding them under their hair.

Also, several rooms have been redesigned, including the nurse's office and the Child Study Team room. The Technology Lab, sometimes called the woodshop, has been split into two separate classrooms! Additionally, using the bathroom now requires an online pass called a Smart Pass. This pass tracks how long you've been out, and if you exceed your time, it gets flagged.

These changes have made CCMS a better more comfortable place to be a student. I think most of these changes are positive even though some of the rules can sometimes be frustrating. The construction is starting to wind down, there is heat and air conditioning in rooms that did not used to have it, and I am glad to see the progress. I am interested to see what more is to come in the future!



Clubs at CCMS

Mahala Campbell

There are so many cool clubs here at CCMS! I wanted to feature some of the ones that I participate in. If you are interested in any of these clubs, feel free to reach out to the advisor to see if you can join us! If these clubs do not sound interesting to you, you can look at the list of clubs on the CCMS website!

One of the clubs is the Helping Hands Club, where we assist those in need. We donate items to animal shelters, organize food drives for people in need, and contribute to Saint Peter's Haven.

Another great club you can join is Student Orientation. In this club, you help give tours to 5th

graders who are new to the building and show them around the school.

Finally, there's Advanced Chorus. If you're passionate about singing, you can audition for this club. Advanced Chorus, run by Ms. DiLauro, is an excellent program for those looking to improve their vocal skills.

With all of these options, including ones I did not list, there is sure to be a club that fits you and your interests! Good luck, have fun, and stay involved!



CCMS Trunk or Treat

Mahala Campbell

The Trunk or Treat event at CCMS was a fun experience, perfect for those who couldn't go trick-or-treating on Halloween or simply wanted to walk around, admire the decorated cars, and collect some candy. Some of the coolest costumes at the event included Steve Harvey, Mario and Luigi, inflatable chickens, inflatable dinosaurs, Eric Cartman, characters from the movie *White Chicks*, and many more creative outfits.

There was a food truck serving delicious food, and an amazing DJ kept the energy high throughout the event. Ms. DeStefano was giving out awesome books to everyone. Everyone had a great time dancing to the music, collecting candy, socializing with friends, and enjoying the food. Additionally, there was a friendly competition for the top three best-decorated cars, with the winners receiving gift cards to various places.



CCMS Robotics Prepares for their match at the FLL Qualifier on November 23rd. They finished in 8th place of 40 teams.



***Zoey 101* is a Great Show!**

Liam Lama

Zoey 101 is a popular show from 2005, starring Jamie Lynn Spears, Britney Spears' sister, and actor Sean Flynn. The first episode aired on January 9th, and since then, the show has earned a 4.5-star rating on Google.

The show follows Zoey Brooks, a girl who is accepted into a school in Southern California. The school had previously been all-boys, but for the first time ever, it opened its doors to girls. On her first day, Zoey meets her first friend, Chase Matthews, a boy who had been attending the school for a while and offers to give her a tour.

Zoey 101 is an entertaining show filled with all kinds of adventures, from hiding a dog to solving problems with her roommate. Zoey is a great character, always trying to help her friends while balancing her own life. Each episode presents a new adventure, including Zoey managing school while having fun. She learns to adapt to her new school and surroundings.

I was introduced to the show when I was 7, and I've loved it ever since. I highly recommend it if you're looking for a fun show with quirky adventures along the way.



***One Piece* is a Fun Adventure**

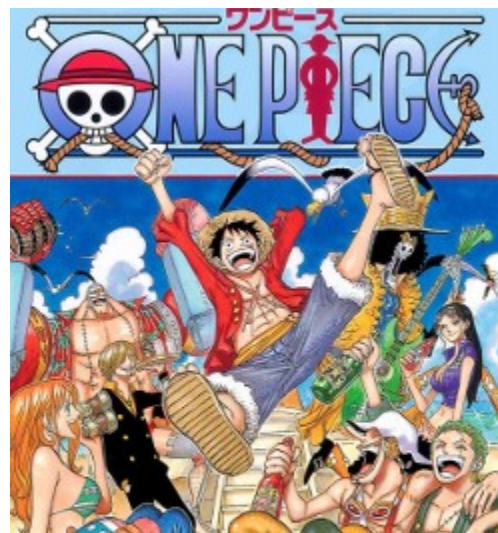
Jaxxel Ledesma Duran

One Piece is my favorite anime. There are many characters on the show, but Nami, Brook, and Sanji are my favorites because they are funny and are the best characters. I enjoy how they interact with each other and with the storyline.

At the beginning of the show, the main character, Monkey D. Luffy, is introduced as a child. After eating a mysterious "Gum Gum Fruit," Luffy gains the ability to make his body into rubber and sets sail from the East Blue Sea to the Grand Line in search of a legendary treasure.

In the first few episodes, Luffy and his friend Koby arrive at Shell Island, where they meet Zoro. Luffy saves Zoro from the Navy, and Zoro joins his pirate crew. They later meet other characters like Nami, Usopp, and Sanji. Their quest to find the legendary treasure, "The One Piece," drives the rest of the story.

One Piece has been airing for 24 years, starting in 1999, and there are now 1,117 episodes. I recommend watching *One Piece* because it's funny and has many great moments. I'm sure people will enjoy it.



Looking for Autumn Fun? Try Pumpkin and Apple Picking

Liam Lama

One of the most fun fall activities is pumpkin and apple picking. Pumpkins and apples are the most popular fruits during October, whether you're baking with them or using them for decoration in your home. Pumpkin and apple picking are great activities to enjoy with friends or family.

Pumpkin picking is especially fun and becomes very popular in October. Pumpkins are closely associated with Halloween, and picking your own pumpkin is an exciting experience. While pumpkins from stores may not always be the best, visiting a farm allows you to find the perfect one. The best part is taking a tractor ride across the fields and seeing how the pumpkins grow—it's a fun and cool part of the pumpkin-picking experience.

Pumpkins have many uses, and one of the most popular is making pumpkin pie, a favorite treat across the U.S., especially during October and Halloween. Many people also enjoy carving pumpkins, whether it's creating a funny face or an intricate design. It's a fun activity to do with friends or family. Pumpkins are so tied to Halloween and October that they're everywhere in the first few weeks of the month. The best part is that pumpkins last for a good amount of time—anywhere from 8 to 12 weeks, so you can enjoy them well after October.

Apple picking is another enjoyable fall activity, offering the chance to pick some of the freshest apples. I once went apple picking, and the apples were delicious. It's a fun experience, especially when shared with friends or family. The

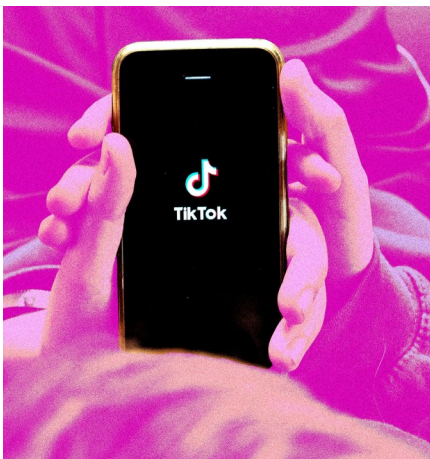


peacefulness of being in the apple orchards, combined with the scents of fresh fruit and the crisp October breeze, makes it a relaxing activity in the fall. Apple picking is also enjoyable because you can choose the perfect apples and, after a quick rinse, eat the freshest fruit or make a delicious Halloween-themed snack.

Along with pumpkin picking, apple picking is an important part of Halloween traditions. While apples are more commonly eaten than used for decoration, they play a big role in fall festivities. Caramel and chocolate-covered apples are especially popular during October. Chocolate apples make a great Halloween snack, but apples can also be used for apple pie, candy apples, and cider. While apples may not be as widely associated with Halloween as pumpkins, they are still a great treat during the season.

Creators on Tik Tok Make a Variety of Videos

Hanna Romero Molina



A lot of people use social media like Instagram and TikTok. In fact, there are over 1 billion people who use TikTok. TikTok is a social media website where you can post short videos to share with other people. Popular posts include things like dancing, lip singing, cooking, original music, and showing kindness.

The top 10 TikTok creators are Charli D'Amelio, Addison Rae, Dixie D'Amelio, Kimberly Loaiza, Domelipa, MrBeast, Jason Derulo, Zach King, Sabrina Carpenter, Jenna

Ortega. There are even kids or teachers that create TikToks about school, which many people enjoy. TikToks can make you wonder, laugh or even learn new things! You can also follow posts that talk about delicious but unhealthy food like fast food or desserts!

At the same time, kids have to be careful of who they talk to on TikTok. Sometimes people lie about their identity, or don't have honest intentions. If you do not know who is trying to talk to you, block them and tell a trusted adult!

CCMS

A Short Story: Big Blue Bottle

Gunnar Gutshteyn

One day, I entered a home that seemed just a small cabin in the woods, but I realized someone had left the door open. This seemed wrong, so I left the house and found a man nearby. He seemed as old as the oak around him with a staff-like cane in hand. I noticed his sunken eyes, and a welcoming gentle smile that made me trust him. He bought me back to the house.

His gentle demeanor convinced me to sit down and talk a while. He said, "I can see it in your eyes, You've been hurt a couple times. I have the perfect antidote to cure a heart of stone." This made me wonder, and I was speechless. His small comment had me wondering about all the things I did in my life. He turned around with something in his hands. Tiny red pills in a big blue bottle. He put them right in my hands, making me shiver with a thousand thoughts.

He said "This stuff can do wonders, Take you to Nirvana, Make you a better man." I should have known something was amiss when I saw his smile turn to an almost devious grin.

Then as he left me there, confused, he turned and said "One to numb the hurt, Two to ease the pain, Three wash to clear your mind, Forget all the hate, Take as I advised, Not more than prescribed, Several weeks and you'll be fine again."

This shook up my mind a lot as I had absolutely no idea what to do. So I left for home, my heart confused because I

could not make sense of what had just happened. I didn't know what to do... But I popped the cap anyway and took a dose. After all, what I could I lose? "One to number the hurt," is what he said. I closed my eyes.

I touched the clouds and bathed in sky within a magic broom beside a carpet ride. Then I fell and woke in bed trying to repeat the words he said. What was it again? One to numb the hurt, Two to ease the pain, Three to clean your mind, Forget the all hate... What did he say next? I forget the rest... Several weeks and I'll be fine again.

As time went on, the last part of the text changed in my mind... Five could never hurt, Just to calm my nerves, Several weeks and I'll be fine again. But the pills were not right... Fix, six, seven pills... the more I took the more I slowly lose touch on reality.

I eventually returned to the cabin in the woods, but I can't find the man. When I knocked on the door, His neighbors say no one had lived there in years. Strangely, I realize that each week the bottle seems to be full. Now all my days just blur in haze, the bottle keeps refilling and the words from the man repeat in my mind.

"One to stop the chills, Two to ease the pain, Three to wash my guilt, Forget all my shame, Five could never hurt, Six couldn't be worse, Several weeks and I'll be fine again."



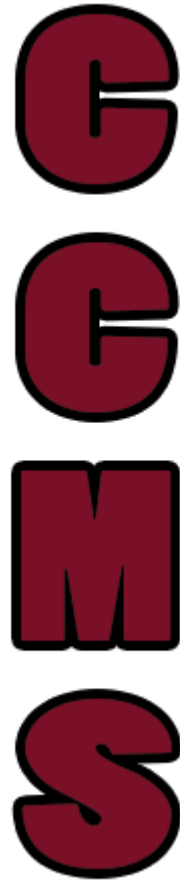
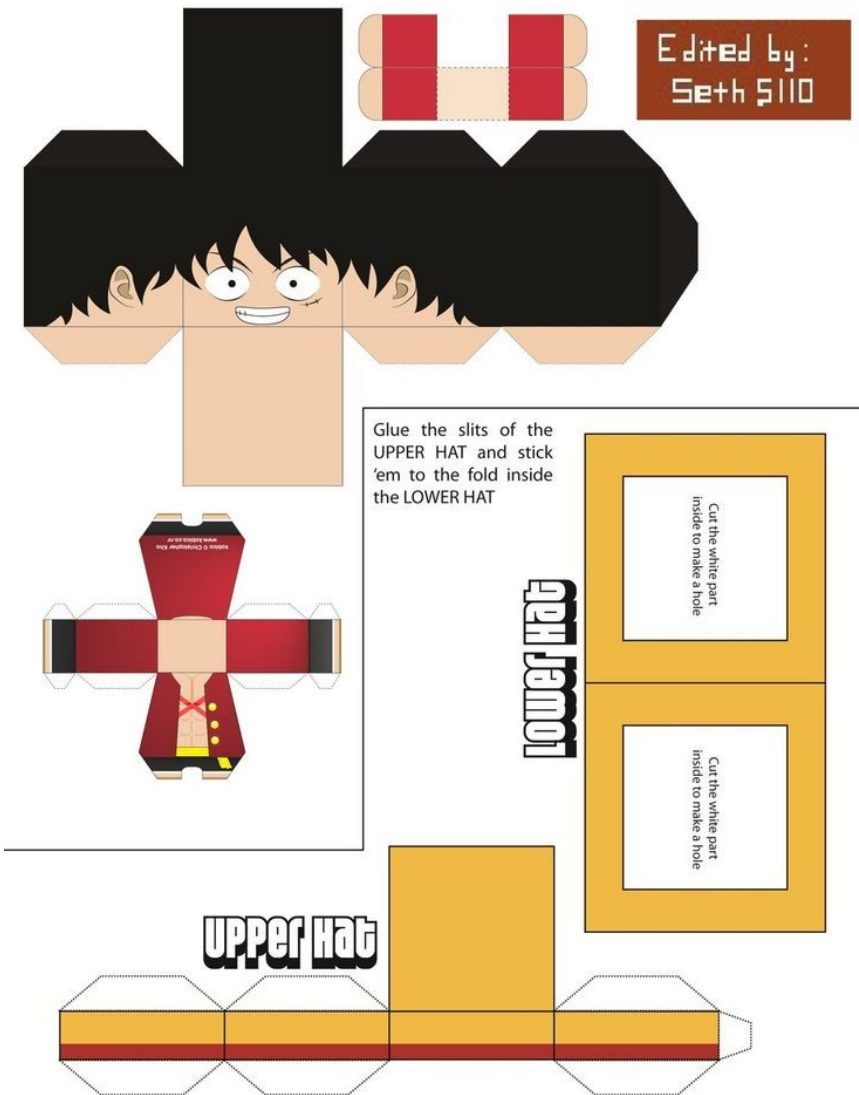


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Edited by:
Seth S110

Luffy Cut Out!

Cut out the pieces and fold them into their shapes. Glue the head, torso and hat together to make your own Kind of the Pirates Straw Hat Luffy!



Snowman Cut Out!

Cut out the pieces and glue them together! Use a crayon or marker to decorate and make your own Frosty!

