



October 2026 Newsletter

Dear Friend,

The start of a new school year always brings a little bit of everything—anticipation, excitement, new routines, and sometimes a little nervousness as children and families settle into what comes next.

We're feeling that same sense of transition; we're welcoming new families, classrooms are finding their rhythm, and children are already enjoying our new outdoor learning spaces. At the same time, we're reaching more families through the Community Food Pantry and the partnerships growing around it.

This fall has already been full of meaningful moments, from families gathering for Open House, preparations for our upcoming Health Fair, celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month with the City of Carpinteria, and welcoming new leadership to our Board.

As we head into the final months of the year, I'm grateful for everyone who continues to grow alongside CCP. Your support helps make these relationships and opportunities possible, and I'm excited for all that is still ahead.

With gratitude,

Teresa Alvarez

Executive Director

OPENING OUR DOORS



Open House was an evening to meet teachers, explore classrooms, and get a closer look at what children have been learning and experiencing during the first few weeks of school.

The night also created space to learn more about the support available beyond the classroom.

Our Family Resource Center was there to welcome families and share more about the services, resources, and upcoming classes available throughout the year. Several community partners also joined us, helping families get to know more of the people and organizations they may connect with beyond CCP. Thank you to Wilderness Youth Project, ExploreEcology, and Montecito YMCA for taking part in our Open House!

We were also grateful for the many donations brought in for our loose parts drive. Egg cartons, paper towel rolls, yarn, fabric, and other everyday materials may seem simple, but they become powerful tools for creativity, problem-solving, language, fine motor development, and imaginative play.

Our Open House helps families feel part of CCP, not just as visitors to a classroom, but as members of a community growing together throughout the school year.

[Watch Our Open House Highlights](#)

RESOURCES, WELLNESS & FAMILY FUN

We will host our **Annual Community Health Fair on Friday, October 9**, bringing together more than 30 local organizations and partners for an afternoon focused on health, wellness, and access to resources.

From 3:00–6:00 PM, the community can access free flu vaccines and vision screenings, take part in a healthy meal cooking class, and connect with local organizations. There will also be food, raffle prizes, music, and a pumpkin patch for families to enjoy.

Our Parent Advisory Council will also be distributing free children's books throughout the afternoon.



A special thank you to our Cate School volunteers for helping us prepare goodie bags for the big day!

We hope you'll stop by and help us spread the word.

CELEBRATING HISPANIC HERITAGE

"El idioma que un niño habla en casa es una fortaleza, no algo que deba dejar en la puerta."



The City of Carpinteria recognized September 15 through October 15 as Hispanic Heritage Month, honoring the culture, history, and contributions of the Latino community. Teresa Alvarez joined CCP staff, families, and community members at the City Council meeting to accept the proclamation on behalf of our community.

For Teresa, the recognition was both organizational and personal. Speaking as CCP's Executive Director and as an immigrant herself, she reflected on the culture, language,

resilience, and contributions Latino families bring to Carpinteria and the importance of making sure those strengths are recognized and valued.

"This community, Carpinteria, has been shaped by the hands and hearts of Latino families—in the fields, in the classrooms, in the small businesses, and in the homes where multiple generations show up for each other."

BOARD UPDATES



This season brings a few meaningful transitions for our Board, along with the steady leadership and community perspective that continue to guide CCP forward.

Marybeth Carty has transitioned to Board Emeritus, and we're incredibly grateful for the leadership and lasting impact she has had on CCP and our community.

We're also excited to welcome Jabari Smith Fraser and Tim Cohen to the Board.

Jabari is a CCP parent with a strong personal connection to dual-language education and previously served on our Program and Evaluation Committee. His family's experience at CCP inspired him to become more involved, and he brings a background in analytics, digital strategy, research, and communications to his new role.

Tim brings decades of management and leadership experience, along with a long history of service in Carpinteria. He has served on the boards of Girls Inc. of Carpinteria and the Lynda Fairly Carpinteria Arts Center, and has already supported CCP through our outdoor classroom capital campaign.



We're grateful for the experience and perspective they both bring to CCP.

HELP STOCK OUR CLASSROOMS

Our teachers have put together Amazon Wishlists with a few items they're still hoping to add to their classrooms this year. Each item helps create welcoming spaces for our children!

If you'd like to support, we invite you to take a look and choose an item from the list.

Hummingbird Classroom

[Shop Our Wishlist](#)

Butterfly Classroom

[Shop Our Wishlist](#)

Ladybug Classroom

[Shop Our Wishlist](#)

STAY IN THE LOOP

Don't forget to visit our [News & Updates](#) page to catch up on past newsletters, recent highlights, and CCP in the headlines.

Our Contact Information

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