

VMS Weekly News - December 9, 2016

Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire.

~William Butler

Yeats

Primary 1 Classroom

- Miss Ty, Miss Cristina and Miss Rebecca

We have been highly blessed this year to have had RebeccaDeloughne working in our classroom for many mornings. Her calm and strongdemeanor was wonderful for the children as she welcomed them into early care, and then as she helped during the work time. She was a consistent presence atlunch with them and helped smooth the transition for some going into Ms.Chris's room for rest. We wish her the best as she takes these days away



inpreparation for her new arrival! We will miss her until she returns after a fewmonths at home.

In our classroom, on the art shelf, we have *scissoring* as a choice of activity. Atthe beginning of the year, the children were using scissors on a blank piece ofpaper; learning to put the proper pressure on the blades, making small snips. As the year progressed, we placed other strips of paper as options to cut. Somehad straight lines, some had diagonal lines, some had large zig-zag designs and some had wavy lines. Well, several of the children's hands grew stronger, and they became more adept at this activity, so this week a new paper was added for them to try: perfect for making a snowflake! The children have made quiteintricate designs to decorate the windows of the classroom or take home.

In class, after the initial songs and lessons have takenplace on the blue line, I always ask my students to close their eyes and thinkabout what work they would like to begin with that day. I walk around thecircle and gently tap each child on the head (one by one). It is a really calmway to begin the day and helps each student begin the day focused and ready tofind an activity to work on. While the children work independently, I provide individual and group

lessons while my amazing Montessori teaching assistantreinforces the important rules and routines of the class and helps diffuse anyissues as they arise throughout the morning.





Primary 2 Classroom

- Miss Chris and Miss Holly

Each and every morning, our day begins with us gatheredtogether on the rug. Being together as a classroom community allows for theopportunity to share; sharing lessons, sharing songs and poems and mostimportantly, sharing thoughts and feelings. Some mornings, I share alesson with the children. Today's lesson was about



hibernation, migration and adaptation. After the lesson was over, I taught the children a poem aboutwinter animals.

Often times, the children take turns sharing a story withus. These opportunities allow for each child to be the center of attention, addressing the class while the rest of the group sits attentively, being respectful and patient while waiting for their turn to share.

After the children have shared their stories, we fill in ourcalendar, practicing the days of the week, the names of the months and theactual date. We count the numbers, first in English and then again in Spanish,up to the date where we are currently. We discuss the weather and find theappropriate weather card to place on the calendar. Finally, I tell them any special news regarding the day, and then each child is dismissed to choose their first lesson.

Our morning gathering is a wonderful opportunity for thechildren to practice being respectful, patient and kind. It is a beautiful wayto start our morning!



Elementary Classroom

- Miss Irene and Miss Nora

During Monday'strip to the Morgan Learning Center for this week's museum class, we werepresented with a demonstration of how our island was formed by a glacier. Using plaster replica of a glacier, rocks and sand were pushed onto a map of ourisland and then receded to show the



moraine and glacial out-wash that formedour island. Students were surprised to find out that what we refer to as *up-island* was named so because ofthe increasing latitude numbers and not the island's elevation. Nora and I wereasked to leave the center for a short time while students and museum teacherschoreographed a dance to demonstrate the glacier forming our island.

Bead frames, beadchains and working on personal timelines occupied Elementary I students'mornings this week. Nora continued to read aloud from the Newbery Medalwinningbook, "Mrs.Frisby and the Rats of NIMH" by Robert C. O'Brien, as students listenedintently.

Elementary II studentstook turns practicing their out-loud reading from Augustus Pelletier. We arehalf way through reading about the Louis and Clark Expedition. They are alsolearning how to communicate and submit writing assignments through googleclassrooms. Descriptive essays were the focus this week for our writers. They were to choose a familiar place that they have visited, make a web aroundtheir place with information on the five senses and write their first draftwith as much description as possible.

Thursday night the Elementary II students met with Cassie Stanek at VMS to makewreaths. The wreaths will be sold during Christmas at our Montessori ModelUnited Nations (MMUN) sale in Edgartown this Saturday. We will be set upoutside of Dock Street Coffee Shop from 11:00 am until 2:00 pm. Students will beselling the wreaths, hot cider, goodies and chances to win a lottery tree(lottery tickets in the shape of a Christmas tree)! All money will go towards the the three of the tree of t

The kids were pleasantlysurprised to meet Cristina's parents today during Spanish class. They speakonly Spanish, so Tomas Carreno helped me to greet them at the gate and invitethem inside. Read more about it in Miss Cristina's post.

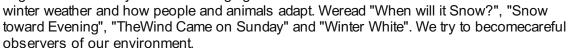


Late Day

- Miss Weezie and Miss Cristina

Our weekly walk to the Art Studio on Monday was abruptlycancelled due to a sudden downpour. As it turned out, within the next hour theskies had cleared. We will be extending our session one week to make up for theloss. The last class will be Monday, December 19th.

This weather occurrence was the perfect segue into ourlibrary theme of changing



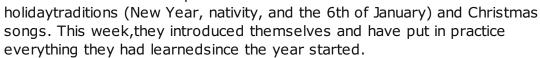
Late Day students enjoyed another puppet show this week. "TheThree Little Pigs" is a finger puppet kit available through our wonderful librarysystem. Students' listening skills are improving, and children are learning tobe an enthusiastic and appreciative audience.



- Miss Cristina

This week, we had very special visitors from Spain. Myparents, Jose and Maria, came to meet the students and answer a lot ofquestions about the Spanish traditions during the holidays.

During the month of November, the students learned about Spanish



My parents were very happy to see the place where I work and meet the students.It was an amazing experience for all, and for me to see them talking with thestudents in Spanish. I am very proud of the Spanish class and how the students were able to enjoy and carry a conversation in spanish with my parents.



Check out VMS' Online Store!

Looking for a unique item or holiday gifts? Purchase our school-themed items and support VMS at the same time. Check out our collectionof t-shirts, sweatshirts, mugs and more by clicking here.



Upcoming Events

Saturday, December 10th from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm -- Elementary II Wreath Sale

Elementary II students will be selling wreaths that they have made. They will be set up outside of Dock Street Coffee Shop in Edgartown from 11:00 am until 2:00 pm. Students will be selling the wreaths, hot cider, goodies and chances to win a



lottery tree! Proceeds go to their Montessori Model United Nations trip.

Thursday, December 22nd at 1:30 pm -- Elementary Winter Gathering

Friday, December 23rd at 11:00 am -- Primary Winter Gathering

Recommended Reading

"What do P. Diddy, Sergey Brin, and Peter Drucker have in common?" by Glenn Rifkin

"Succeeding at their own pace" by Alex Beam, Boston Globe Columnist

Book Corner for Parents

"LastChild in the Woods": Saving our children from Nature-Deficit Disorder byRichard Louv

"Montessori Madness!": A parent to parent argument forMontessori education by Trevor Eissler

"Montessori: The Science Behind the Genius" by Angeline Stoll Lillard

Book Corner for Children

"What Do You Do With An Idea?" by Kobi Yamada

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