



## VMS Weekly News - January 20, 2017

*"A child, more than anyone else, is a spontaneous observer of nature" ~ Maria Montessori*

### Welcome Liza Gallagher to Board of Trustees

My name LizaGallagher. I am the Executive Director at Camp Jabberwocky in Martha'sVineyard. During the year, I work from my home office outside of Boston. I live on a private school campus with my husband, four kids and two dogs. I move my entire crew to the island from the beginning of June through September each year.



When I am not working for Camp Jabberwocky, I work as a consultant for local independent schools, helping to develop their admissions process and marketing reach. I also work with schools to launch new external programs as another source of revenue outside of tuition and development, and to offer more year-round programming to their current families and the local community. Lastly, I worked at Cambridge Montessori School for eight years as their Director of External Programs. I love and appreciate Montessori--it is near and dear to my heart. I am excited to join the Vineyard Montessori Community and to serve on the Board of Trustees.

### Save the Date Big Night Out

Our **"Big Night Out"** is coming up in the spring. Mark your calendars for Saturday,

May 6th at the Harborview Hotel in Edgartown. Many of you are asking "How can I help?" You should have received an envelope with all the information necessary on sponsors and donation items. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to ask. The BNO team is working together on creating an event you won't want to miss!



## Primary 1 Classroom

*- Miss Ty, Miss Cristina and Miss Rebecca*

One of the rituals in our classroom is having a Student of the Day. I basically go down a list of the children's names, so everyone has a turn. The first job of the student picked is to change the calendar during morning meeting time. I ask the child what day comes after the one that is already posted. For example, "What comes after 16?"

Together, we identify the next number:

17! I then say something like, "Today is Tuesday, January 17th, 2017," as the child places the card in the hanging calendar.



The next job for the Student of the Day is helping me feed the class's pets. First, the fish (Hi-ho and Silver) have to be fed. I place the appropriate amount of food in a small cap, and the child opens the lid to the aquarium and carefully dumps the food in. Then, we observe the fish and talk to them, telling them how handsome and good they are. The child always enjoys how happy the fish are as they race around catching the swirling food and eating their breakfast.

Then off we go to Blossom. She has to have a scoop of pellets and usually some fresh water. Then, the child can give her a carrot. Blossom is getting so tame that most of the time she allows a small hand in her cage to stroke her silky fur. I spend a lot of time talking to the students as a group about proper care of animals. If we cage an animal, we have a tremendous responsibility to help it stay clean, healthy and happy by figuring out its needs and supplying them.

Lastly, the student is asked to be the line-leader as we head outside for recess and then return to the room for lunch. As you can see, being Student of the Day is a big job, and all the children take it very seriously!



## Primary 2 Classroom

- Miss Chris and Miss Holly

In a Montessori primary classroom, often times you may find children cleaning the environment. Part of the Practical Life curriculum is the care of the environment. Children are shown how to keep our classroom clean and organized. By participating in activities, such as watering the plants, dusting the shelves and sweeping the floor, a child gains a sense of purpose and learns that the classroom belongs to each and every student. It creates a sense of community and respect for our environment. Children never feel that they are having to do chores, rather they are eager to help when given the tools (child-sized brooms, dusters, watering can, polish) when a need arises.



This week, I introduced the flags of North America to our older students. Many of these children have been working on learning the names of the countries in North America and have created their own maps. Some of the children began to match the flag to the country using the puzzle map.

Miss Ava brought in the clean wool, and the children were able to compare the wool that had been cleaned to the wool that still needed to be cleaned. Afterwards, the children picked a large piece of the wool and placed it in a baggie and added food coloring. Once the bag was sealed, the children squeezed and manipulated the bag in order for the wool to change color. Miss Ava gathered all the bags and will return next week with the dyed wool and will begin to turn it into yarn.

The children were very excited to have Miss Joyce return this week. She has been away since the vacation, so we have not had our music class. We are glad to have her back.



## Elementary Classroom - Miss Irene and Miss Nora

Joyce is back! The elementary class has begun work on their spring production of *The Quilt Maker*. They read through the play and talked about costumes, set design and props. Next week, they will be assigned parts and will begin memorizing lines right away. Please

encourage your children to practice every night until they have learned their lines. Once they start acting, the real fun begins!



Both elementary I and II students have been working on writing skills. This week, they all practiced public speaking and shared fun pieces of creative writing. The cultural lesson from the Montessori curriculum and MMUN continues in depth. Lower elementary has been practicing time and money. The upper elementary students continue their advanced studies in algebra. Spanish was a lot of fun this week. The students learned about the famous Spanish artist, Joan Miro. Christina broke them into groups to do research on his life and accomplishments. They were all excited and intrigued by the information they discovered in such a short amount of time.



## Summer LEGO Fever

LEGO Your Mind offers fun and enriching programs using LEGOs in the areas of simple machines and robotics, along with an introduction to stop animation.

LEGO Your Mind Summer Programs are for students between the ages of 4 and 13 and will be offered atVMS this summer. Registration begins on January 13th. To learn about the courses offered,click [here](#). To viewthe dates of each session offered, click [here](#).



## 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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