



VMS Weekly News - January 6, 2017

*"The essential thing is to arouse such an interest that it engages the child's whole personality. **Education** is a natural process carried out by the human individual, and is acquired not by listening to words, but by experiences in the environment." ~ Maria Montessori*

It's not goodbye, we will see you again!

VMS would like to say that it has been wonderful having the addition of Cuinn and Brea in our classrooms, even if it was for 1/2 a year. They were at a Montessori School in NZ, and their transition to our school felt so natural because of the Montessori philosophy and curriculum. I know that this is not goodbye, but we will see you again. We look forward to continuing our relationship with the Borella family, even from afar.

Debbie

"We would like extend a warm thank you to the VMS community for hosting us this fall! We have felt so welcomed and included. Please stay in touch...we would love to host you in NZ, or have our relationship continue by our kids hearing from yours!"

Karyn & Max Borella

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Primary 1 Classroom

- Miss Ty, Miss Cristina and Miss Rebecca

There was an excitement that was palpable as the children returned to their classroom on Tuesday. The adults observed an ease of transitioning back into work and a quiet "busyness" all week. Some new exercises, along with many old ones, were popular, including spelling words with the moveable alphabet, water color painting and explorations with the sensorial materials. Much art was done. Please check out our lovely snowflakes in our windows!



We would like to welcome Emery Fullin to our classroom.

Our class is exploring the virtue of "kindness". We will be discussing what it looks like to be kind – to our friends, to our siblings, to our teachers, to our parents. These social development lessons are a wonderful help as children learn how to behave nicely in an often confusing society. Every parent teaches these good habits, too, but learning these skills is done naturally and spontaneously when children live and work together in the same communal space with other children and adults. Hopefully, the children become sensitive to the needs of others as they engage in mutual help and show empathy. I am constantly filled with wonder when a child has a spill and other children leave their work to help with the clean up without even being asked. Cooperation rather than competition then becomes a natural response to many different situations.



Primary 2 Classroom

- Miss Chris and Miss Holly

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a wonderful and relaxing break. The children seem happy to be back at school and excited to re-connect with their friends. This week, the room has been bubbling with laughter and joy as

the children shared with each other their vacation adventures. I would like to welcome a new student to our class. Camden Fullin, Bo's sister, joined our class this week and has been settling in nicely, exploring the environment and receiving many lessons from both the teachers and her peers. The Fullin sisters are now all together at VMS, including Emery, who has returned to Miss Ty's class.



I would like to send my best wishes to Brea Borella who will be leaving our class at the end of this week. Brea and her family will be returning to New Zealand after spending the fall here on Martha's Vineyard. Brea has developed many friendships and will be sorely missed. Luckily, she will be entering a Montessori school in New Zealand, so much of what she has been working on can be carried over to her new school. I am sure our class will be staying in contact with Brea and her family and will be excited to share stories and pictures.

This week, our class has been talking about feelings and identifying how a person's face and body language might look like when that person is feeling a certain way. We listened to a story titled, *Giraffes Can't Dance*, where a giraffe named Gerald gets teased because he can't dance as well as the other animals. After being reassured by a friendly cricket, Gerald finds what makes him happy and begins to dance much to the praise of the other animals. When the story was over, I showed the class pictures of different faces and asked them to identify each emotion. The children then had the opportunity to create that same face. By encouraging the children to make different faces, some children might begin to understand how to interact with another person if that person is feeling sad, happy or angry.

In the next few weeks, Officer Max Sherman will be coming into our class to talk with the children about safety and the roles of our neighborhood police and fire departments and emergency personnel. We look forward to his visit, and I will keep you updated as to when he will be coming.

Elementary Classroom

- Miss Irene and Miss Nora

Welcome back, everyone! What a great holiday break! Although it took a day to get back into things, once the students got back in the swing of things, they were very busy. Elementary I is continuing its study of time and the clocks. We are now working on minutes as well as hours. In addition, we will hopefully be sending home the students' personal timelines this week. It is the history of "Me".

We are very sad to say good-bye to the Borella family! Cuinn has been an integral part of our elementary classroom. His kindness,



intelligence and fun sense of humor will be missed! We will also miss Brea, Karen and Max. Thank you for all of your help and support in the classrooms, driving and volunteering at all of the VMS community events. We will be having a small celebration of Cuinn's life concluded with a special treat from the Borella family.

Elementary students have been researching presidents for a project and presentation that will take place in March. Students will create a poster that will include a drawing of their president and facts and information about him. In addition to their posters, they have the option to choose one or more of ten president activities. Some of the activities include:

- Dressing up like your president
- Making a mobile featuring important events in his life
- Writing an interview with your president
- Making a model, drawing or map of the White House

In addition to research being done in class, a project outline will be sent home with students.

Elementary II students are continuing with geometry lessons in equivalence and area of a circle. A recent cause-and-effect writing assignment focused on experiences in students' lives that had negative or positive effects on others, themselves or the future.

Lastly, we would like to send out a big thank you to everyone for all of your thoughtful gifts and wishes! We are very grateful to be a part of such a lovely, caring and devoted community.

Late Day

- Miss Weezie and Miss Cristina

Happy New Year to all of our VMS families! Students and staff have returned to school well-rested and with new enthusiasm for the winter term. I want to remind everyone that unless it is raining or extremely cold, we will spend part of our Late Day Program outside on our playground. Appropriate clothing and footwear is essential. Learning to dress and undress oneself with outerwear is a lesson that promotes the aims of Practical Life. These include coordination, concentration, order and independence. Adults need to be watchful of not interfering with the child's natural process of learning and finding joy in their new abilities. At circle, we often "act out" the sequence of steps in dressing for winter weather. Repetition helps to reinforce these skills. Let's have fun this winter!

Library notes: Watch for new schedules for Story Hours and other children's activities at our local libraries.

Mentoring at VMS

VMS is currently collaborating with the MV Public Charter School's mentoring

program. We are fortunate to have Ryan, a senior at MVPCS. Ryan will be graduating in June and attending Hampshire College in Amherst, Mass in September. She will be pursuing a degree in early childhood. According to Miss Weezie, "Ryan is conscientious, and the children look forward to her visit. She is warm and kind. She is a great fit for the early childhood field."



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 at VMS this summer. Registration begins on January 13th. To learn about the courses offered, click [here](#). To view the dates of each session offered, click [here](#).





Snow Days

In conjunction with the Martha's Vineyard Public Schools, the Vineyard Montessori School will be closed when all "Martha's Vineyard Schools" are closed due to inclement weather. If there is a school delay VMS will also have the same delay.

Visit <http://boston.cbslocal.com/closings/> to learn if the Martha's Vineyard Public Schools are closed.

Check out VMS' Online Store!

Purchase school-themed items and support VMS at the same time. Check out our collection of t-shirts, sweatshirts, mugs and more by clicking [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

by Richard Louv

"Montessori Madness!": A parent to parent argument for Montessori 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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