



## VMS Weekly News - April 28, 2017

*"Play is the work of the child."*

*Maria Montessori*

The Big Night Out is fast approaching. The money raised that evening directly supports scholarships, Music Together, art, theatre, and Spanish.

In order for this to be a successful event, we need silent and/or live auction items and sponsors. We are asking for your help in collecting as many items as possible! Donation and sponsor forms are located in the school hallway. If you would like us to email them to you, we are happy to do so. Feel free to email [erin@vineyardmontessori.com](mailto:erin@vineyardmontessori.com) or [headofschool@vineyardmontessori.com](mailto:headofschool@vineyardmontessori.com).

## Calendar

**Monday, May 1st:** Monday, May 1st begins Teacher Appreciation Week

**Thursday, May 11th:** Grand-Friends Visiting Day

**Thursday, May 11th:** Noon Dismissal for Parent-Teacher Conferences

**Friday, May 12th:** Noon Dismissal for Parent-Teacher Conferences

**Saturday, May 13th:** Big Night Out, The Lighthouse Grill, Harbor View Hotel, Edgartown

**Friday, May 26th:** Fun Friday, Camp Jabborwocky.

**Monday, June 12th:** First Peas to the Table Contest

**Thursday, June 15th:** Last Day of School / Field Day

**Friday, June 16th:** 10:00 a.m. Graduation Ceremony, the Tabernacle at MV Camp Meeting



## Chess Volunteers Needed

We are looking for a few parentvolunteers for chess, which takes place on Tuesdays at 2:50pm. If you can help, please contact Emily at [admin@vineyardmontessori.com](mailto:admin@vineyardmontessori.com).



## Primary 1 Classroom

- Miss Ty, Miss Cristina

A basic premise behind Maria Montessori's philosophy of earlychildhood education was that every child is eager for real work. Evenwhen we as adults think that the work is a chore, children in the primaryclasses love to clean! I am so happy when a child takes out the tablewashing exercise, lays out the mat, the soap, the scrub brush, and the sponge,and begins to scrub a table that may have had a small mark from an art projecton it. I also love to see someone sweeping some crumbs from snack into a pile and then using a brush and pan to pick them up. Dusting shelves isanother way the children help maintain the environment. All these lessonsnot only help clean, they help children develop concentration, become aware oforder and sequencing, gain more control over their movements, and also becomemore independent.



Exercises in grace and courtesy, part of Practical Life, consist of things such as walking, sitting, greeting others,manners ("please", "thank you", and "may I") how to interrupt ateacher or another child ("excuse me" and placing a hand on ateacher's shoulder and waiting to be responded to), passing objects, followingdirections, how to open and close a door, and control of body through silencegames and walking on the line. Even theabsolute silence when a bell is

ring in the classroom is a practice in grace and courtesy. All of these exercises are in process, and have to be re-learned again and again. As the children grow and gain more control of themselves, hopefully they will become more graceful and more courteous!

## Primary 2 Classroom

- Miss Chris and Miss Holly

I hope everyone had a wonderful and restful vacation. The children seemed very eager to be back at school and spent the beginning of our morning sharing the highlights of each child's vacation week. Afterwards, the children were anxious to get back to their lessons and spend time with their friends.



One activity I have been using in our class recently is the Silence Game. During this activity, I light a candle and place it in the center of the rug. The children are gathered together, either to begin our morning work period or at the end of our morning. I tell the children that I am going to ring the bell very softly and at that time silence will begin. I encourage the children to close their eyes and listen to the sounds around them. We sit silently for a minute (which is not always easy to do), and when the minute is up, I gently ring the bell again which signals the children to open their eyes and share with the group what they heard. Other times, I use the Silence Game to dismiss children to their lessons by leaving the group and moving across the room where I will whisper each child's name to go off to work. The children need to remain silent until every child's name has been whispered. This is a wonderful way to start our morning with calm and quiet minds and bodies.

Today, we live in a noisy world, filled with the sounds of the television, electronics, phone conversations, leaf blowers, sirens, and traffic. Many of us rarely have the opportunity to experience silence or to savor the quieter sounds of bees buzzing, wind rustling the leaves, or a fire crackling in the fireplace. The Silence Game can give children a precious gift that could last a lifetime: the ability to cultivate and appreciate silence.

*"When the children have become acquainted with silence...(they) go on to perfect themselves; they walk lightly, take care not to knock against the furniture, move their chairs without noise, and place things upon the table with great care.... These children are serving their spirits."*

—Maria Montessori, *Dr. Montessori's Own Handbook*



## Elementary Classroom

- Miss Irene and Miss Nora

It has been a busy and wonderful return to the classroom this week. We were thrilled to welcome Emery Fullin to our classroom on Monday.

While we were gone on vacation, all varieties of our peas sprouted! The kids watered them right away.

The 'Premium' peas are the tallest right now at around 3". The others are close behind. Our students will be communicating with students from other island schools

with postcards that Mary Sage, Island Grown School guide, will pick up and deliver. They will write about why they chose the varieties of peas that they did, how they are growing, and how often they water them. They are hoping to get some insight from other kids for next year's competition.

We also wrote postcards to Cuinn Borella in New Zealand. Cuinn was interested in hearing about how things are going at VMS. Students wrote about school, sports, hobbies, instruments, and about how much they miss him and hope that he comes back in the fall.

All students began learning about the Civil War this week. We used our projector and screen to watch a quick animated overview of the war. Elementary II students made a trip to the library and found several books about this subject. They sat in the young adult section and paired up with each other to research the causes of the war and later shared their findings in a group discussion. They will work together to make a PowerPoint presentation on the causes to present to Elementary I students. Next week, Elementary II will begin a literature circle on the book titled, "Trouble Don't Last" by Shelley Pearsall.

"One of the best Underground Railroad narratives in recent years . . . This succeeds as a suspenseful historical adventure." – Kirkus Reviews

Joyce came in for theater this week to find all of the students present, which was the first time in weeks. She is working with the students on using body language and voice variations for dramatic emphasis.

One of the elementary II students celebrated their birthday this week. He shared photos of his life before his walk around the sun on Wednesday. Can you guess who? Happy 10th Birthday.

Last week, the *Martha's Vineyard Times* published a wonderful article about our in-depth heath hen project and exhibition hosted by the museum. Check out the calendar section you can't miss us!



## Recommended Reading

*"Montessori Builds Innovators"* by Andrew McAfee

*"Why Small Schools Work: Good Things Come in Small Packages"* by Tim Seldin

*"Choosing Montessori for Kindergarten"* by Colleen, "Children First, Always."

*"Develop Leaders the Montessori Way"* by Ambiga Dhiraj

## Book Corner for Parents

*"Last Child 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

## Vineyard Montessori School

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