



## VMS Weekly News - May 26, 2017

*"There is a great sense of community within the Montessori classroom, where children of differing ages work together in an atmosphere of cooperation rather than competitiveness. There is respect for the environment and for the individuals within it, which comes through experience of freedom within the community."*

~ Maria Montessori

### Calendar

**Friday, June 2nd:** Fun  
Friday, Main Street Campus

**Friday, June 9th:** String  
concert at the Unitarian  
Universalist Church 1:00 p.m.

**Saturday, June 10th:** Spring Sense of Wonder Art Show, 1:00 - 5:00  
p.m.  
23 Grove Ave, Vineyard Haven

**Monday, June 12th:** Elementary "Quilt Maker" Theatre Production  
11:00 a.m. Tisbury Amphitheater, 325 W. Spring Street, Vineyard Haven

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

**Friday, June 16th:** Graduation Ceremony at the Tabernacle at MV  
Camp Meeting Association, Oak Bluffs. The students are dropped off at  
9:30 a.m. and the ceremony begins at 10:00 a.m.



## - Miss Ty, Miss Cristina

We still have a few gorgeous, hand-painted water colors from our sale at The Big Night Out. If you have not purchased your child's painting, please see me.



The last week has been calm but very productive for most of the children.

Language, math, geography, and also those wonderful practical life and sensorial exercises have all been used. I am so proud when I see the care and respect each child gives to the materials. Imagine all twenty children moving about the classroom – getting materials, conducting experiments, working with friends, eating snacks, and reading books all at the same time! There are, of course, daily periods when the noise and activity level escalates – we call that “false fatigue”, but at most times, it normalizes back to a quiet work period.

*"The task of the educator lies in seeing that the child does not confound good with immobility, and evil with activity, as often happens in old-time discipline . . . A room in which all the children move about usefully, intelligently, and voluntarily, without committing any rough or rude act, would seem to me a classroom very well disciplined indeed."*

~ Maria Montessori, The Montessori Method

The caterpillars have all formed chrysalises. The children are watching them carefully and are, of course, anticipating the metamorphosis! It is not as exciting as watching the caterpillars squirming around, but the children are patiently waiting. They are learning that these natural phenomena take time!



## Primary 2 Classroom

- Miss Chris, Miss Holly, and Miss Rebecca

Last week, the children in our class got to enjoy what we call "Stinky Feet" day. On very hot days, the children are invited to take off their slippers and go for a short period in the day in their bare feet. This is always such a special treat for the children, and they will often ask if it's a Stinky Feet day.



Many children's slippers are too warm for this time of year so a lighter type,

such as a Croc, might be needed for some children.

During gardening, Miss Ava had the children paint signs signifying where each type of plant is growing. The children really enjoyed this project and are looking forward to putting them out in our garden. Our peas have really taken off and are growing very quickly. I am hoping that we will be able to harvest some before the end of school.

I want to send out best wishes and congratulations to two of our families that recently had babies. Stella and her parents, Jennifer and Joel, welcomed a little girl, Emie Glickman. Stella has been giving us daily updates about her new sister. Payton and her sisters, Emily and Kylie, and their parents, Holly and Wayne, welcomed a baby boy, Ryder Lawyer, to their family. Payton has been waiting for the special event quite eagerly and loves sharing the exciting news with everyone. We wish them all the best.

---

## Elementary Classroom

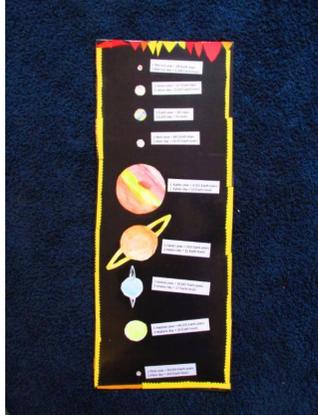
### - Miss Irene and Miss Nora



This week, the Elementary I class continued its study of the solar system. We are now taking a more detailed look at the characteristics of each planet. The students have become very interested in researching all sorts of topics. This week, I brought in a number of new books on the solar system and an interactive book on Earth that includes unexplained wonders and mysterious phenomena and the deadliest animals on Earth. They spent an enormous amount of time exploring these books and researching all sorts of topics. Some students are making small books of individual states. They are researching their capitals, major industries, waterways, and bordering states. In addition, they are researching the state flags and their meaning and then drawing the flags in color. We have been reading fun books and poems. This has been a very well-rounded language arts week!

The two oldest elementary students have been preparing for entry into the first-ever Vineyard Montessori Adolescent Program! Most of the preparation has been working towards readiness for the 7th grade pre-algebra Saxon Math program. They just recently started writing a two-page essay on why the characteristics they possess will benefit them in the program and within the VMS and island community.

Some of the goals of this program are to incorporate creativity, choice, and collaboration while strengthening growing independence through organization and time-management skill building.



## Late Day

### - Miss Weezie and Miss Cristina

This has been such a busy time for all of us as we approach the end of another school year. Students in Late Day had a preview of a new book donated for us to review. The title is "The Roses on the Wallpaper", and both author and illustrator are Vineyard women who chose to collaborate on this charming and informative children's book. We gave it rave reviews!



Our final art class will be on Monday, and Pam would like to remind families about the Spring Sense of Wonder Art Show on June 9th and 10th from 1:00 – 5:00 with a closing party on June 10th from 2:00 – 5:00. The show will include exhibits of students' work as well as food, entertainment, and fun for all to benefit The Haiti Project.

My last note to families is about the children's programming this summer at the M.V. Film Society, including a free event on May 28th at 1:00. It is part of the Environmental Film Festival featuring a screening of "The Lorax" by Dr. Seuss.

The program on that day will offer children an opportunity to learn more about conservation here on the Vineyard. Enjoy the holiday weekend with your families!

## 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

P.O. Box 994, 286 Main St, Vineyard Haven, MA 02568

[vineyardmontessori.com](http://vineyardmontessori.com)

(508) 693-4090

*An independent non-profit school  
Pre-k through sixth grade.*

*Fostering a lifetime love of learning, one child at a time.*



CONTACT US

