

## **PRESS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



### ***Vineyard Montessori School Announces Its First Year-Round Classroom***

*Vineyard Haven, MA (July 23, 2018)* – Vineyard Montessori School (VMS), an independent, non-profit school, serving children pre-kindergarten through grade 8, announced today that the school will offer year-round schooling for children ages 2.9 to 6 years beginning this September. Education experts say that students who learn year round benefit academically and have a competitive advantage. This will be the first time VMS, the Vineyard’s only independent school, has offered a year-round program.

The VMS preschool and kindergarten program provides children with many opportunities for hands-on exploration, experimentation, and expressions of new ideas and skills. Their dedicated teachers help the children discover and develop their natural abilities and interests to prepare them for academic and community life. By offering year-round schooling, students will be able to continue their learning and spend more time outside for subjects such as science, language, art, and math. Teachers will be able to incorporate various teaching ideas into the curriculum that takes advantage of the good weather for outdoor learning.

“We are very excited to offer a year-round Montessori classroom on the island,” said Deborah Jernegan, Head of School at VMS. “According to the results from a community needs assessment done by the Martha’s Vineyard Family Center, VMS will be helping to close a summer programming gap in the community for the 3-6 age group. Additionally, we believe that following a seamless educational calendar will positively affect our students’ learning and achievement.”

Current lead teacher, Cristina Martino, has been appointed to run the year-round program. Cristina was born in Cadiz, a small city in the south of Spain, and moved to Martha’s Vineyard in 2015. Cristina recently completed her first year as Lead Teacher and earned her American Montessori Society Lead Teacher certification. She also leads the Spanish language curriculum at VMS.

Currently, VMS has two primary classrooms for preschool and kindergarten children. Parents will have the option of choosing the school’s year-round program or the traditional ten-month program. Although, Cristina Martino will teach year-round in her classroom, all preschool and kindergarten children are eligible to enroll in the year-round program. The “summer classroom” will run from 8:30 - Noon Monday through Friday with a lunch bunch option that runs from noon to 1:00 p.m. There are 20 spaces available in the year-round program.

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For more information, visit [www.vineyardmontessori.com](http://www.vineyardmontessori.com) and find us on Facebook @ Vineyard Montessori.

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### **About Vineyard Montessori School**

Vineyard Montessori School (VMS) is an independent non-profit school educating children from pre-school to grade eight. An exceptional progressive school, VMS fosters self-motivated, creative, independent thinkers who will develop within themselves the foundational habits, attitudes, skills and ideas which are essential to a lifetime love of learning. The mission of VMS is to follow and execute the philosophy and curriculum for the education of children developed by Italian physician and educator, Maria Montessori. VMS is governed by a volunteer Board of Trustees and is a member of the American Montessori Society (AMS) and Montessori Schools of Massachusetts (MSM). For more information, please visit <http://vineyardmontessori.com/> and find us on [Facebook @ vineyardmontessori](#).

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