



VMS Weekly News - September 16, 2016



Working collaboratively on the Hundred Board.

Devyn and Hazel take great pride in the completion of their lesson.

Primary 1 Classroom

-Miss Ty, Miss Cristina and Miss Rebecca

The class is settling in nicely. All the children are so wonderful and unique. There has been a lot of activity in all the areas of the classroom. I have begun to introduce the letter sounds. So far, I have brought out m, s, a, t, r, and g. These lessons are a review for the returning children, but brand new for the new ones. The children repeat the sound of the letter, and then they say the names of objects that begin with that sound. For instance, the "m" box has a monkey, a marble, a mushroom.... you get the picture! When all the letters in the first group have been introduced, children will be able to review them and even spell some words!

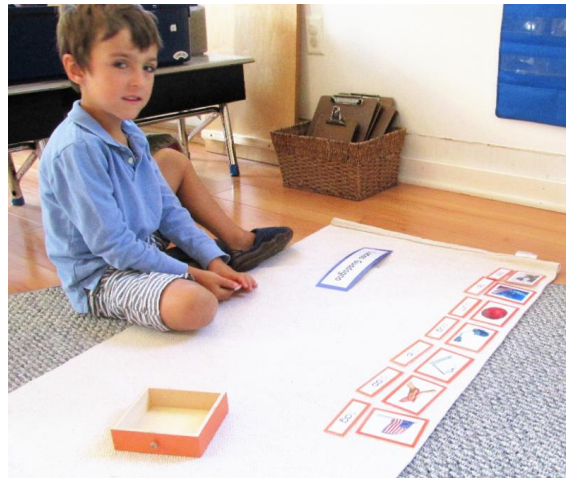


In the math area, children are working with 1-10 number recognition and counting, while the older ones are re-visiting units, tens, hundreds and thousands from our Golden Bead material. The sensorial area is one of the most highly-used areas in the classroom, with all

children choosing cylinders, towers, puzzles and peg boards daily.

We have had four birthdays this week! Two children turned six years old, one turned five and one turned four! The resulting birthday celebrations in the class were delightful. The children held a globe while they walked around the "sun", which was represented by a candle, each revolution accompanied by a count of their age. "One, Two, Three, FOUR, FIVE, or SIX!" Very cool.

Please be on the lookout for any little "treasures" that may come home in pockets or backpacks. We have so many lovely little things in the classroom. Small cubes, counting jewels, sound objects, picture cards.... all these things are integral to the Montessori curriculum and are collected over the years by us teachers. Many are hard to replace, so please keep a lookout! Thanks.



Primary 2 Classroom

- Miss Chris and Miss Holly

The children have been settling in nicely and are enjoying their full-day schedules. Many beginning lessons are being given to the new children, and the returning children are practicing lessons that they have worked on last year. Grace and courtesy lessons have been introduced and the children are learning to push in chairs, roll up work mats, replace their work to the shelves and respect others while working. Many more of these vital lessons will be given throughout the remainder of September.



Some parents have asked how we teach the children the alphabet. In a Montessori classroom, the children are introduced to letter sounds by working with the Sandpaper Letters. The sounds of the letters are taught before the child is introduced to the names of the letters. Research has shown that it is best to learn one concept at a time. It is too much to have to remember both names and sounds. If the child is taught both the names and the sounds in the beginning, it has been found that the child gets confused when trying to sound out a word because it is difficult to remember which the letter represents. The teaching of the sounds and letters is through a multi-sensory approach. The child will hear the sound, see it in the form of a letter, and feel the way it is written as the child traces the sandpaper letter with his fingers. Each letter has a corresponding object box which contains objects that start with that sound. Man, monkey, marble, mushroom and money might be found in the "m" object box. Once a child has learned each sound, he can begin to blend the sounds together to make words.

Music with Joyce will begin on Wednesday, September 28th and Gardening with Miss Ava will begin the first week in October. Creative movement will also begin in October. I know the children will be excited to participate in these wonderful enrichment programs.

Elementary Classroom

- *Miss Irene and Miss Nora*

What a week! Last Friday was certainly a fun Friday! Only at Montessori can you do three awesome science experiments, gardening, walk to the park overlooking the ocean for a picnic, do a beach clean-up and jump in the water fully clothed. I think we saved all of you a trip to the beach that day. It was 86 degrees here.

We hit the ground running this week. We continue our creation stories from different cultures. Although we are still doing a bit of assessing, everyone has slipped into a smooth comprehensive work mode.

The second year students have started the Word Study Towers with guide words and compound words. All of the Elementary I students have been working on Geography. Puzzle and Pin maps of various continents have been spread all over the classroom. Math has certainly not been forgotten. We have been doing static and dynamic addition and multiplication stamp game and snake game. Elementary II students have been doing fabulous writing which they share regularly with the group. Their comfort level in front of an audience is amazing! The Elementary I students are fascinated with the fractions and algebra older students are learning. Elementary II students working on Rivers and Mountain Ranges on their Pin maps are a great motivation for the young students.

We have not yet pinned down a library day since the former children's librarian at the Vineyard Haven library has left. As disappointing as that is, it gives us some flexibility with our afternoon specials. Banking has started. Do not worry if you have not signed up and forgot to send money in with your child. You can sign up at any time.

We hope to see most of you at the Vineyard Haven Library FunRun! It is a free, 1/2 mile kids run for ages 13 and under. We encourage all school families and friends to do the *"RUN FOR YOUR LIBRARY" 5k*. The cost is \$20 for pre-registration and \$25 the day of the race. A free t-shirt is given to all participants. It is a casual walk/run with all proceeds going to the "friends of the library". It is also a great way to show your children how fun exercising can be, especially with the family. Elementary 1 students received VMS t-shirts to wear the day of the race to show support of the school. We hope to see you there.



Miss Irene presents the Weight of Substance lesson as a follow-up science experiment to the Creation Story.



Miss Irene presents a volcano's eruption as an activity discussing and depicting how land mass forms.

The Late Day Program

- Miss Weezie and Miss Cristina



Our Late Day Program is off to a successful start. We are always pleased to observe children from each class making new friends, learning and playing as they join for the afternoon. This week, we read *Because of an Acorn*, a well-illustrated children's book about ecology. Children have been collecting, counting and sorting these treasures from nature. Some students chose to make an acorn collage.

We have introduced a new outdoor block set for imaginative construction. The blocks are sturdy and well-designed, promoting muscle development, motor skills and co-operative play. We are so thankful to Matthew Tobin of Eden Garden Center for his generous donation of a wooden shed to store the blocks. Students will be able to participate in clean up and storage of our new equipment.



Drop-Off and Pick-Up Procedure

Our goal at VMS is to take every precaution to make sure each and every family has a safe experience dropping off and picking up their child/ren from VMS. Our space is limited, and because of that the following procedure has been in place at the school for several years.

When dropping off and picking up your child, please park in an available space directly across from the school. Please do not park along the fence in front of the school. If there is not a space available, please park on Tashmoo Avenue and walk your child up to the school. Parking on Tashmoo Avenue is a great option, historically used by many families. To make this option safe, walk along the split rail fence area and enter the gate furthest from the VMS building.

8:00 a.m. Drop-off: Please bring your child into their classroom.

8:30 a.m. Drop-off: Please bring your child to the gate and/or door.

Noon Pick-up: You may pick up your child from the playground or from their classroom.

2:30 p.m. Pick-up: Please wait outside and we will dismiss your child to you from your child's classroom.

4:00 p.m. & 4:30 p.m. Pick-up: You may pick up your child from the playground or from their classroom.

Vineyard Montessori School Family Association (VMSFA)

The Vineyard Montessori School Family Association (VMSFA) is up and running. Many caregivers have generously donated their time and efforts to VMSFA. Many projects and events are currently in their planning stages. It's exciting to see this strong home and school connection.

Please consider joining an existing Core Group or expressing a talent you'd like to share with our school community. You can reach us at:

VMSFA@vineyardmontessori.com.

Room Parents function to communicate volunteer opportunities school-wide and in the classroom. Please accept e-mails from your Room Parent:

- *Elementary:* Minah Worley -- Minah@Worleyworks.com
- *Primary1/ Miss Ty:* Jenn Doyle -- Jennifersdoyle@gmail.com
- *Primary2/ Miss Chris:* Emily Vanderhoop -- EmilyQVanderhoop@gmail.com

Effortless Fundraising

VMS has been set up to receive donations from several businesses. By shopping for your everyday essentials, you can help build funds for our school. The following businesses are affiliates for VMSFA Effortless Fundraising program:

Stop and Shop A+ Rewards

School Code 40324

Please sign up on the Stop and Shop website and enter your savings rewards card number. Anyone experiencing difficulty can e-mail for help -
- VMSFA@vineyardmontessori.com.

Box Tops

Please save your Box Tops for Education and send into school with your child.

Amazon Smile

Sign up for Amazon Smile with Vineyard Montessori School as your non-profit organization. .5% of your ordering will be funded to VMS.

Island Card

Designate Vineyard Montessori School as your charity when signing up or renewing your membership.

Vineyard Propane

Please send your purchasing receipts to the VMS office. The school receives rewards dollars based on collected receipts.

Mabel's Labels

Designate Vineyard Montessori School when shopping at Mabel's Labels online shop.

Tea Collection

School Days are October 12-19. Shop online for Tea Collection during School Days promotion and receive 15% off your purchase with free shipping. VMS will receive a donation equaling 15% of your order. A discount code will be e-mailed to families prior to October 12.

An information packet will be sent home to each family with more information regarding Effortless Fundraising. Thank you for supporting our school!

Recommended Reading

Why dividing us by age in school doesn't make sense.

Upcoming Events

Come Run with VMS Elementary Students in support of the VH Public Library

Annual 5k Run/Walk & FREE Kids' Fun Run on September 18th

On Sunday, September 18th, the Friends of the Vineyard Haven Public Library will host the annual Run to benefit the Library. The USATF-Sanctioned 5k Run/Walk starts at the library with runners proceeding to the West Chop lighthouse and back. There will also be a FREE 1/2 Mile Fun Run for Kids (13 and under).

There will be medals for winners in all age groups, and all participants will be

eligible to win raffle prizes, including gift certificates from local stores. 5k registration includes a t-shirt. 5k starts at 10:00 am; Fun Run for Kids starts at 9:45 am; Registration begins at 8:30 a.m.

Save \$5 by registering in advance! Registration forms are available at the library or may be downloaded from the library's website.

**Chess Workshop
(A Kick-off to the VMS Chess Club)
September 27th at 3:00 p.m.**

VMS is honored to be collaborating with the MVRHS Chess Team for this school year. To "kick-off" the year, Minah Worley (Natalie's and Richard's mom) has coordinated a chess workshop facilitated by Maja Milanovic and Sandra Dukic on Tuesday, September 27th at 3:00 p.m. All kindergarten to 6th grade students are invited to participate.

Maja Milanovic is a master candidate and her Elo is 1918. Sandra Dukic is an international master and her Elo is 2145. (The Elo rating system is a method for calculating the relative skill levels of players; it is named after its creator, Arpad Elo.) Both women won the Serbian Youth tournament and they are also playing for the 1st Serbian Women's League. Lastly, Sandra won the 2009 Serbian Senior tournament!

Maja just reached out to VMS and the MVRHS to express her enthusiasm in facilitating the workshop "Thank you very much for inviting us, we are looking forward to this event and we will do our best to make this chess class interesting for everybody!"

As you can tell, these women are extremely talented, and it is very rare to meet such highly ranked players. I am excited that our students will have the opportunity to play alongside Maja and Sandra.

**Montessori Model United Nations (MMUN) Fundraiser
Attend Living Local Harvest Fest and Support the Elementary II
Students' Trip
September 30 – October 1, 2016
The Agricultural Hall in West Tisbury, MV**

Living Local MV is an organization designed to provide support of, interaction with and promotion of the many unique entities promoting living sustainably on the island of Martha's Vineyard. The Annual Living Local Harvest Fest is a celebration that brings together the many exceptional people and entities whom work and promote living sustainably on the island of Martha's Vineyard. The event celebrates and educates on important island issues such as; sustainable agriculture, local food advocacy and education, marine life, renewable energy, resource and land conservation and local living economies. For more information, visit their website.

Vineyard Montessori School

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

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

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