Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.

-Nelson Mandela

Primary 1 Classroom
-Miss Ty, Miss Cristina and Miss Rebecca

The older children who work with Miss Chris and me in the afternoon went for a nature walk in our Vineyard Haven neighborhood last Friday afternoon. Each child had a small paper bag for collections. Most collected leaves, acorns, small stones or pieces of weeds and flowers. We had a spontaneous science lesson on the parts of a plant (roots, stems, leaves and flowers), and the children enjoyed examining many types of weeds and trees.

One of the new lessons we have in our classroom is rockwashing. This complex exercise involves putting on an apron, carrying a very heavy rock to a basin, getting water in a large pitcher, pouring the water in the basin, scrubbing the rock with very sudsy soap, rinsing it, drying it, putting it away, dumping the basin of water into a bucket, emptying the bucket into the sink, and finally, folding the towel and re-rolling the apron! So many steps to aid in the child’s concentration!

There has been a huge interest in geography this week. Many children trace the continents of the world onto pieces of construction paper, and then carefully “punch” around the outlines so the continent pops out. A few children have also pasted them onto a large paper to create a map of the world, complete with labels of the continents and the oceans. Please be on the lookout for these amazing pieces of work.
Primary 2 Classroom

- Miss Chris and Miss Holly

The Sensorial materials have been very popular this week. During the years between ages three and six, as children develop their senses, their attention is directed toward the environment. The primary purpose of the Sensorial Exercises is that "the child train himself to observe, that he be led to make comparisons between objects, to form judgements, to reason and to decide." (Dr. Maria Montessori in “Dr. Montessori's Own Handbook”). These materials are specifically designed to help the child develop discrimination, order and to broaden and refine the senses. These materials also help prepare a child to be logical, aware and perceptive. Materials such as the Pink Tower, Brown Stair, Red Rods and Knobbed Cylinders help develop visual discrimination of difference in dimension, width, length and size. Other activities that enhance visual sense are the Color Tablets, Geometric Cabinet and the Constructive Triangles. The Touch Tablets and Fabric Matching isolate the tactile sense, while the Sound Cylinders train the auditory sense. Many of these lessons can be given a more complex outcome by adding a blindfold, removing one sense while relying on others.

The older afternoon children had the opportunity to go on a nature walk with Miss Ty and myself. We observed some beginning signs of autumn and collected items found in nature that symbolized the changing of seasons. We will begin leaf rubbings and creating leaf booklets next week.
Elementary Classroom  
- Miss Irene and Miss Nora

The Elementary Class wants to thank the rest of the school body for purchasing their coffee and baked goods this past Monday. We will continue sales every Monday throughout the fall until winter break. If we don't have school on a Monday, we will be here waiting for you on Tuesday! This Saturday, we will beat the Agricultural Hall from 10:00-3:00 selling popcorn. Students will answer questions about Montessori Model United Nations if you are curious.

Elementary I students have been busy with handwriting lessons, map making, grammar boxes, stamp game, word drawers and much more. This is also the first week that all students are using work plans. We use work plans to guide the students during their work time. Please be aware that the work plans are used to reinforce the lessons given and to help the children explore their own interests. These are individual work plans, and they differ from child to child and day to day. Each child's daily accomplishments may differ, dependent upon the work assigned or chosen, and lessons given. The lessons and work required increase in difficulty throughout the year and should take more time. With the work plan in hand, the child then has a guide from which to choose his or her work. A child can also check or cross off work (or the teacher may do this) as work is completed. Crossing off a completed work helps give the child a sense of completion. As the child enters middle school, the work plan easily translates into a student planner. The student planner lists upcoming projects and due dates. By using work plans and planners, students are practicing a lifelong skill that will help them to organize and plan their work.

Elementary II students have received lessons on sentence analysis with emphasis on adverbial extensions answering questions of time, location, reason and manner. Some students are reviewing regular polygons, quadrilaterals and types of triangles before receiving equivalency and area lessons. Other students are reviewing area formulas for parallelograms, right, acute and obtuse triangles. After much practice, they will learn to find the area of three dimensional shapes.

Late Day  
- Miss Weezie and Miss Cristina

We received a lovely new book this week for our library. It is an autographed copy entitled, "Going Places" by Peter and Paul Reynolds.

The theme celebrates the spirit of collaboration and teamwork. Our Late Day students demonstrate those qualities when working with our new outdoor blocks. Recently, children built a "drink machine" with various beverage choices and prices (paid in acorns). This creative process involved social skills, large
motor skills, language skills and cognitive skills (counting and math).

Some of our younger students chose to make apple trees using torn paper, glue and dot markers. We accompanied this craft with the words to a poem and finger play, "Way Up High in the Apple Tree". Additionally, books this week included: "Circus Ship", "A Tree is Nice" and "Welcome Fall".

Chess Workshop was a Success!

This past Tuesday afternoon, the VMS K-6th grade students went to MVRHS to participate in a chess workshop organized by Minah Worley (Natalie's & Richard's mom).

THANKYOU so much to Dan Sharkovitz at the MVRHS for hosting our VMS Chess Team. Above is the picture of our chess master class with the two chess champions as well as the MVRHS Chess Captain! Thank you, Brahmin, Maja and Sandra.

Maja Milanovic is a master chess candidate with an ELO of 1918. She won the youth Serbian tournament and will be playing as a team member of the 1st Women's Serbian Chess League.

Sandra Dukic is an international master chess champion and her ELO is 2145. She also won the youth Serbian tournament, and in 2009 she won the Serbian Seniortournament for women. Sandra will be joining the 1st Women's Serbian Chess League as well.

We are all looking forward to October when our VMS team begins.
Every Monday Coffee & Muffins

The Elementary II students are selling coffee and muffins every Monday morning to raise money for their Montessori Model United Nations (MMUN) trip in the spring of 2017. If you are interested in learning more about MMUN, you can visit https://montessori-mun.org/us/. This year, there are eight students traveling to NY representing VMS.

Please grab a cup of coffee or tea and/or a muffin at drop-off on Monday to support the students' trip.

VMS Fall After-School Programming Registration

If you are interested in your child participating in any of the after-school programs, please register with Debbie by sending an email or stopping in the office.

**Art Studio at Sense of Wonder**
Mondays, October 31 - December 12
Fee: Included for extended day students; $70.00 for all others
Open to all VMS students

**Chess**
Morgan Learning Center and MV Regional High School
Tuesdays, October 11 - December 12
Fee: No additional cost
Open to K-6 students

**Global Leadership**
Morgan Learning Center
Wednesdays, November 2 - December 12
Fee: No additional cost
Open to K-6 students

Vineyard Montessori School Family Association (VMSFA)
Mark your calendar!

October 11 is School Picture Day!

Eli Dagostino will be taking the kids' photos this year. All VMS students will receive a class photo. If you wish to purchase a disk with your child's individual picture(s), the cost is $30.00 per child. The online order form is here.

Or you can make a payment to VMS via cash or check, and we will order your child’s photo package for you.

We need parent volunteers that morning immediately after 8:30 drop off for about an hour to assist teachers in bringing the children to the Vineyard Haven Yacht Club for their photographs. Please email VMSFA@vineyardmontessori.com if you can help.

Stop and Shop A+ Rewards Sign-Up Day

Points for the Stop and Shop A+ Rewards starts accruing October 7, 2016. Your everyday purchasing for family essentials at Stop and Shop will earn points for our school. That results in cash for VMS.

Monday at drop off, we will be available to sign up your Stop and Shop Rewards card. If you need assistance signing up, please email VMSFA@vineyardmontessori.com for help.

Greens and Grounds

The Greens and Grounds Team is meeting Tuesday at 2:45. Please let us know if you would like to join in.

Upcoming Events

Saturday, October 1, 2016 -- Montessori Model UnitedNations (MMUN)

Popcorn Sale Fundraiser

Attend Living Local Harvest Festival

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.

Friday, October 7th -- Noon Dismissal

Professional Development Day

Monday, October 10th -- School Closed

In observance of Columbus Day
Tuesday, October 11th  
School Picture Day

Friday, October 14th -- Geoff Krill from Eastern Adaptive Sports  
Geoff will be coming to VMS to speak to the older primary and elementary class about how people with limitations participate in sports.

Tuesday, October 25th and Thursday, October 27th -- Noon Dismissal  
Parent Teacher Conferences  
Conference sign-up sheets will be posted on each classroom door the week of the 17th. Please sign up for the conference which best suits your schedule. Child watch is provided on each day from 12:30 – 4:00 for your conference time.

**Recommended Reading**

*Why Montessori for the Kindergarten Year?*  
by Tim Seldin with Dr. Elizabeth Coe

**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

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**Vineyard Montessori School**  
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An independent non-profit school  
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