



VMS Weekly News - September 9, 2016



Welcome Families

I would like to welcome back all of our returning students and families and extend a warm welcome to all of our new students and families. September is always a time of excitement, yet with that comes anxiety and nervousness for many children. We will do our best to ensure the transition is as seamless as possible and to ensure that each child feels loved, respected and safe. A Montessori learning environment is like no other... our main objective at the Vineyard Montessori School is to provide a carefully planned, stimulating environment which helps children to develop within themselves the foundational habits, attitudes, skills and ideas essential for a lifetime of creative thinking and love of learning. Respect and courtesy in our Montessori school is the foundation for everything we do and each child will soon learn the following important skills:

- how to care for their community and environment
- how to put their work away where they found it
- how to tidy up after themselves
- the importance of helping a friend in need
- the importance of respecting the materials, the teachers and each other

- howto tuck in their chair when they leave the table
- howto walk in the classroom
- howto be self-directed and find their own ‘work’ and most importantly, howto be independent!

Each child will feel empowered at the VineyardMontessori School and learn how great it feels to do things on their own! Eachof the teachers and myself are here to nurture, support and guide them each andevery day and are committed to making your child’s Vineyard Montessori Schoolexperience productive, stimulating and fun!

I am honored that you have chosen VMS and I amconfident that this will be a wonderful year for everyone involved!

- DeborahJernegan, Head of School

Primary 1 Classroom

-Miss Ty, Miss Cristina and Miss Rebecca

The first two days of school were wonderful in our class. Theyoungest new children were there for the first time, all nine of them! Theylearned to sit patiently and listen on the blue line while I taught them songsand read them stories. They also practiced rolling rugs, pushing in chairs, walkingquietly in the classroom and greeting each other politely. They worked withtransferring objects, drawing, stringing wooden beads, using play dough andpuzzles, along with the Montessori sensorial materials of cylinders and PinkTower. All nine new children worked hard at learning the rules of their newclassroom and are making great strides in their understanding and memory.



We were so happy to see the returning students on Thursdayand Friday, along with two older students who are also new to our school. Theyeagerly examined the classroom and remarked on any changes they noticed –especially the fact that many of the materials had been tidied away for thesummer, and some of the shelves were bare! I explained to them that we bringout those materials one or two at a time throughout the next weeks. Hopefully,each of the exercises will be greeted with enthusiasm when they are broughtout, as old friends. This phasing in keeps the environment fresh.

I have seen many instances of the “old” students assistingthe “new” ones. If a young one has a spill, the older ones help to pick up thepieces. At the end of the day, the older ones quickly tidy up the rugs orvolunteer to wash a dirty tray. Please be on the lookout for when it’s yourturn to bring in snack. Miss Rebecca or Miss Cristina will put a note in yourchild’s backpack as a reminder, along with shopping suggestions.

Just a reminder that our classroom is a Peanut FreeClassroom.

Thank you so much!!!

Primary 2 Classroom

- Miss Chris and Miss Holly

Holly and I are so excited to welcome our new students andto welcome back all of our returning students. Our class has seven new studentsthis year and one new student starting in January. These

children have been at school for a shortened day to help with their transition from home to school. We have been going over ground rules and practicing the beginning lessons, such as rolling and unrolling a work rug, pushing in chairs, interrupting a friend/teacher and even how to sneeze/cough into your arm. I know they will be ready to meet their returning classmates on Thursday. For our returning students, the shortened days will be helpful so that everyone can get to know each other and to go over ground rules and expectations for the beginning of the year.



Helping each child to learn the names of their friends is an important step to building relationships. One way we foster this is by having a photo album containing pictures of each child and teacher in our class. By looking at that photo album daily, the children can start putting together names to faces and will be able to address their friends and teachers by name. If you have yet to send in two recent pictures of your child, please do so as soon as possible.

Don't forget to send in a labeled water bottle with your child daily, or you are welcome to leave their bottle at school during the week to refill as needed. VMS is doing its best to "go green" and will be doing away with plastic/paper cups and plastic utensils. Please help us by remembering to send in the proper utensil with your child's lunch.

I hope that everyone is excited and enthusiastic about the beginning of the new school year. I am always available to discuss any questions or concerns you may have throughout the year. By sending me an e-mail or leaving me a message in the office, I will get back to you as quickly as possible to answer any questions you may have. I look forward to working with your children and to watch them grow and blossom throughout the year.



Elementary Classroom - Miss Irene and Miss Nora

The Elementary classes had a very busy week. They established rules, jobs, and they celebrated two birthdays! We started the year with a time capsule we will unveil again at the commencement of the school year. In the time capsule, we included various interview questions on a variety of topics, photos from the first day of school,

current events from August and September, and last but not least, a prediction for the outcome of the Presidential election. The students ended the week with weeding and cleaning up the gardens of the school yard. Most importantly, they took advantage of the privilege of Martha's Vineyard living with a walk and picnic at the beach followed by a toes dip and a beach clean-up to finish off the week.

Just a reminder:

You MAY bring in items that have been made in a factory that could contain traces of nuts.

You may NOT bring in any food CONTAINING nuts.



The Late Day Program - Miss Weezie and Miss Cristina

The Late Day Program will begin on Monday, September 13th. Eighteen students will be participating this year. Cristina and I have enjoyed getting to know the children in the Primary Classes who will be new to our Program.

I ask that you notify your teacher if your child is to be picked up by someone other than a family member (such as a baby-sitter, visiting relative, etc.) and be sure to make contact with Cristina or me before you leave at pick-up time. Teachers and children shake hands when leaving for the day.

I will include a description and photos of our Late Day activities in the weekly newsletter. We have a wonderful Late Day curriculum which always begins with an afternoon snack, followed by a literacy activity and ending with active playground time. Please don't hesitate to ask should you have any questions. We look forward to providing a fun and worthwhile experience to your child's day at Vineyard Montessori School.

- Weezie and Cristina

Information and Reminders

- If your child stays for the Late Day Program, please remember to pack an additional labeled snack.

- Inside shoes are worn in the classroom, so please remember to place them in your child's cubby and/or locker. If you would like to order from Montessori Movers, please email me or stop by and I will give you the website.
- There is a well-equipped library, filled with many books about the Montessori philosophy, located in the office, if you are interested in borrowing any from the lending library.
- Please remember to take the opportunity to volunteer through the VMS Family Association. Please ask Debbie or Emily in the office or email vmsfa@vineyardmontessori.com.
- All families should have received a Save America package. The first day of banking is September 15th. All children are welcome to participate in the Vineyard Montessori School Banking program. Our school banking day will be Thursday. The program is run by volunteers and takes about 1/2 hour on Thursday mornings. I am looking for an additional volunteer to join Cassie (Silas's mom) and Emily Melnick (Amelia's mom) in sharing the responsibility of the program.
- Our doors open every morning at 8:30 a.m., unless you have signed up for early drop-off.
- Make sure your child has extra clothes in his/her cubby. If clothes come home, please remember to repack your child's cubby or locker.
- If you have any questions about your child's day or want to share news of their morning, please email your teacher. They want you to contact them with any concerns or joys you have to share.

Please give your child the chance to walk into the school on his/her own by saying goodbye at the gate or the bottom of the stairs that lead into the school. Establishing a routine of saying goodbye at the gate and/or front door directly supports your child's transition to school. The teachers will be there to help your children enter the room and put away their belongings. Your child will begin to feel a sense of confidence by being able to achieve these beginning goals independently.

Upcoming Events

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

Annual 5k Run/Walk & FREE Kid's 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.

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

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.*

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