September PTO Meeting
Tuesday, September 29th
6:00 p.m.—7:00 p.m.

Please find the PTO Agenda for Tuesday’s meeting on page 4.

Please email Nicole & Rachel at pto@vineyardmontessori.com if you would like to use child watch. Child watch is available for siblings as well as currently enrolled VMS students.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR
School Banking Program
1st banking day is Thursday, October 8th

If you would like your child to be a part of the school savings program, Save America, please return the banking application, to Debbie, prior to Thursday, October 8th.

We are still looking for 2 parent volunteers to help facilitate the program. The time commitment would be from 8:30 a.m.—9:00 a.m., alternating weeks with the other parent volunteers.

If you have any questions about the program, please feel free to talk to Debbie.

Reminders

◊ If your child stays for late day, please remember to pack an additional labeled snack.

◊ 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 stop in and choose one.

◊ 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 their cubby or locker. If clothes come home please remember to restock their 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 would like you to contact them with any concerns or joys you have to share.

◊ Please take the opportunity to let your child walk into the school on their own by saying goodbye at the gate or the bottom of the stairs that lead into the school. Try to establish a routine of saying goodbye at the front door of the school. The teachers will be there to help your child 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.
**Miss Chris and Miss Holly’s class**

As our week progressed, I noticed that the children are independently choosing lessons that interest them. Each child has different developmental needs and are free to choose activities in the areas that fulfill those needs. One of the favorite areas of the classroom is the Practical Life area. The Practical Life area of the Montessori environment has some basic goals. The activities found in this area of the classroom, provide real life experiences for children. The exercises in Practical Life provide purposeful activity, develop motor control and coordination, develop independence, concentration, and a sense of responsibility. Both large and small muscle coordination and development are involved, helping a child to have control over his movements. Children are able to work with real tools and items found in their everyday lives. Often times children observe their parents doing chores around the house and want to be able to do the same. The Practical Life activities help the child to develop the skills needed to become independent and help to take care of not only themselves, but their environment as well.

Azul, the class beta fish, passed away over the weekend. Our class now has two beautiful goldfish which the children enjoy feeding and watching.

Enrichment programs will begin next week. Music with Joyce will be starting along with Spanish lessons for the older afternoon children. Dance and gardening will begin in the weeks following.

**Miss Ty and Miss Rebecca’s class**

We continue to relax into the routine of school. We try to build the day into a structure that will be familiar to each child: coming into the class, changing into their indoor shoes, sitting on the blue line, talking with their friends.... THEN: the roll call, calendar, songs, and finger plays. Some of the songs you may have heard at home are “1,2,3,4,5, I Caught a Fish Alive,” “There Was a Little Turtle,” and “1 Little, 2 Little, 3 Little Children...” The children are mostly all very participatory in these songs and I’m very happy that they appreciate my singing!

We have explored the first six sounds of the alphabet: a, m, s, t, r, and g. Some of the children have already committed these sounds to their memory and are ready to begin putting words together. The older children from last year are greeting these sounds like old friends!

Remember: Any unnecessary help is a hindrance. When we do for our children anything they can do for themselves we slow down their progress towards building strong independent people. Independence is a word you’ll hear me using a lot with your children. We hope to help them make viable, independent decisions for all their work, play, and social interactions throughout their day. For example, when a child asks a simple question like “Where should I put my rug?” we would ask the child to look at the classroom and figure out for him or herself where a good place would be. “Where do you think a good place would be?” Most often the child feels wonderful as he or she solves this simple problem for themselves.
This week the Elementary class continued with math and language lessons. They had group lessons in Geography and Science. We had our first French class with Cristina. They started learning about time, date, weather and how to greet one another. As they learned new phrases they practiced them with a partner. Beginning next week, we will be looking at Early Americans in our history studies. By winter break we hope to be up to Pioneers. We will be presenting a play about these settlers for the other classes and the parents. To prepare the students, each child researched an item from pioneer days and shared their findings with the class. Miss Jen read them the book Narcissa Whitman’s Brave Pioneer. She was the first female pioneer to venture west in 1836. Today the class presented their paper bag book reports. They were all very creative and left today knowing how to find conflicts and resolutions in a book and when they take place.

Yesterday, I observed at the Inly Montessori School in Scituate, as part of my fall seminar training working towards the completion of my Elementary II certification. I observed and took notes regarding the classroom environment noting it's materials, layout, traffic flow, etc. As always, when observing other classrooms, you walk away with many great ideas for the present and future of your own classroom. I look forward to implementing some of the ideas that I got from their classrooms to our elementary environment.

Late Day

Children in the Late Day Program enjoyed glorious sunny days this week minus the extreme heat. Our afternoon transitions are going smoothly as students become familiar with the routines. Through Practical Life activities children learn basic skills which will carry into the classroom and into their adult lives. Two developmental aims of Practical Life are co-ordination and independence, both of which are practiced on the playground every day. Play is children’s work! The literacy component of our afternoon is expanding. Children are improving their focus, attention and listening skills. Students are sharing favorite books from their home libraries. This week we read: "Blueberries for Sal", Happy Birthday Moon", "The Little Engine That Could" and "Are You My Mother". Our local library system is a great supporter of early childhood education.

Weezie
1. Welcome and introductions

2. Secretary position

3. Montessori Moment presented by
   
   Irene Wendt, Elementary I & II Teacher

4. PTO Board

   Looking forward

5. Director's report

6. Treasurer's report

   Flatbread Benefit evening

7. Playground subcommittee update

8. Fundraising

   Truckin’ MV

9. Request for funds

10. Open