"The child has a different relation to his environment from ours... the child absorbs it. The things he sees are not just remembered; they form part of his soul. He incarnates in himself all in the world about him that his eyes see and his ears hear." - Maria Montessori

Only 3 Weeks till Summer Camp!

Visit our website

Summer Camp registration is open! Space is limited so be sure to visit our website and read about this exciting opportunity for both currently enrolled families and the greater Vineyard community.

Thank You!

The VMS Staff extends a sincere thank you for celebrating our incredible teachers during Teacher Appreciation Week earlier this month. We are so grateful to have such dedicated and thoughtful families in our school!

Another big thank you to Nicole Curelli who generously donated her talents to a fun morning of face painting, popsicles and popcorn, made possible by the family who purchased this one-of-a-kind Big Night Out auction item!
**Important Dates**

**Thursday, June 13:** Last Day of School & Field Day
We'll be serving up pizza, watermelon, popcorn and popsicles to celebrate our last day of school during our school-wide field day! Students who normally leave at 12:00 should plan to stay until 1:00. Parents are welcome to attend the festivities! Please be sure to apply sunscreen before drop-off and send in a blanket for your child to sit on during lunch. We will have an obstacle course, rock-climbing wall, field games, bouncy house, crafts, face painting, bubbles, music, and lots of FUN! Let us know if you would like to volunteer to help out!

**Friday, June 14:** End of Year Ceremony (10:00 - 11:00 AM)
The End of Year Ceremony will be held at the Tabernacle in Oak Bluffs. All families attend, and students should be at the Tabernacle by **9:30**. The ceremony will start at 10:00, followed by a short reception.

**Monday, June 24:** Summer Camp Begins
Space is still available, [click here to find out more!](#)

**Monday, July 8:** Tisbury Street Fair
Be sure to stop by and visit us at our popcorn booth! Want to help out? Just let us know!

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**Middle School**

- **Miss Ty**

We had a wonderful time in Washington, DC! Matthew, Carly, and Gracie Coggins and Marysol Jurczyk took this educational odyssey. After an event-filled trip down to Reagan National Airport on Monday, May 20, where we found that our original flight had been cancelled, we got on another flight and arrived in good order at our hotel much later than we planned.

We stayed in a downtown hotel that was three blocks from the National Mall, and very close to a Metro stop as well. We got to walk to everything, or else take a metro. We felt very lucky to have such a convenient site! Emily Coggins, Matthew’s mother, was the other adult with me, and I’m going to tell you the truth – I couldn’t have done it without her! Her cheerful demeanor and unbounded energy made so much of the trip easy. Thank you, Emily. The first day we began our time in Washington with a visit to Arlington National Cemetery. After that tour, which included JFK’s tomb and a very inspirational changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, we traveled back to the city and made our way to the office of William Keating, the Representative from our Congressional district. There his intern gave us a personal tour of the capitol building and got us in to see a session of the House of Representatives. After dinner the students and their chaperone walked over to view some of the monuments and memorials: Lincoln, Vietnam, Korean, and World War II.

The second day we started at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, where we watched millions of dollars getting printed right before our eyes! We were lucky to get tickets to the extremely meaningful Holocaust Museum after that, and then we went on to the Smithsonian Museum of American Culture. A short bus tour of the main sites in the city followed, along with a visit to the...
Archives to see the original Declaration of Independence and the Constitution/Bill of Rights. Very cool! A quick “pop-in” to the National Gallery of Art rounded out the day.

On Thursday we had a scheduled tour of the FBI, which was a quite long but very interesting view of that organization. We then visited a brand new museum, called the Bible Museum, with many cool and interactive exhibits. After that we went to the Air and Space Museum, which included a movie on Apollo 11 (it is the 50th anniversary of its flight this July.) After dinner we saw the National Portrait Gallery, before going back to the hotel.

Friday was a travel day – we left the hotel at 7:30 AM and walked into our houses on Martha’s Vineyard at about 8:45 PM. Whew! Long day, tired students, even more tired adults!!! However, looking back on the trip I have to say it was extremely wonderful and I wouldn’t have missed it for the world. The students were extremely pleasant to travel with, and they were so interested in everything we experienced. Matthew and I, the Middle School of Vineyard Montessori School, wish to thank each of the families who supported our fundraising efforts with the Pizza Company who made this trip possible.
This past week the 6th grade students went to Washington D.C. for an educational field trip with Ty. They had a jam-packed, fun-filled and informational trip and you can read all about it in the Middle School portion of this newsletter.
While the 6th graders were gone, the remaining students went with me to discover some trails unfamiliar to us on the island. We headed over to Chappaquiddick to hike a trail called North Neck Preserve. This trail is touted for having views of Cape Poge Bay and Nantucket Sound. However, when we started out on the trail, we found that beach portions were unfortunately no longer passable due to erosion. We were unable to do the full loop but we did find beautiful views of both bodies of water and the tip of Cape Poge. That day we also went to see so many beautiful plants and trees in full bloom at Mytoi Gardens.

The other hike we took was to Peaked Hill Reservation. This reservation includes two of the island’s highest points, the old radar site on Little Peaked Hill at 203 feet and Peaked Hill, the highest point of the island at 311 feet. The beautiful view from the former WWII radar site has a 180-degree panorama of the western and southern sides of the island. There were many glacial boulders here too.

On Thursday we took a trip over to M.V. Museum. Beth sent us on a mission to find Wampanoag artifacts and references to them within each of the displays. We also had a chance to see one of our parents, Emily Coggins, in a short video discussing her memories of growing up in the museum building when it was St. Pierre’s summer camp. Her mother Barbara ran the camp and Emily lived there for a while and was a camp counselor. To see her interview go to the oral history touch screen in the downstairs room which holds the history of the Marine Hospital building.

The remaining three weeks will be filled with the completion of slide shows, timelines, art projects, book reports, poetry units and more field trips!
Elementary I Classroom
- Miss Nora

It is hard to believe we are at the end of the year! We are finishing off the year with studies of the solar system, rocks and minerals and seashells. Our garden beds are full and blossoming! We have been watching and charting the plant's growth since we put them in the ground on April 10th. Last checked, the pea pods were forming and they measured 26” tall. Tim tells us that our real competitor for the First Peas to the Table Contest appears to be The Tisbury School. Our garlic leaves are 37 ¾” tall and we are just about to harvest our potatoes and radishes.

At Sense of Wonder with Miss Pam and Lenston we started painting our paper mache animals and are about to finish up all our clay work we started back in the winter. There will be a show the Saturday after graduation where the student’s artwork will be displayed. I will be sending details home.

The Island high school students had a give back day this month. They came to meet the kids and help with some yard work. They joined us for a big impressionistic lesson about the solar system. We went outside to the field and all the students saw the relative size of the planets. We started with a 12’ in diameter sun and had all the planets laid out in relative size to the sun. Mercury was the size of a hole punch. The students were able to visualize the enormity of the sun compared to the planets.

Golf has been amazing! The kids love the lessons and have learned an enormous amount. They learned how to chip, drive, putt and all the irons. As a wrap up we were able to play a hole on the course three times. This has been an invaluable experience. We are excited to continue the program next year.

In closing, make sure you and your children take time for books and reading.
everyday along with vacation fun!!
Primary 2 Classroom
- Miss Chris and Miss Carrie

Last Friday the children were able to have an extra long recess along with popsicles, popcorn and face painting thanks to the purchase of an auction item at the Big Night Out by one of our families. Nicole Curelli donated the fun-filled event and was there to paint the faces of so many children. What a wonderful way to end the week!

We will be having another fun-filled day on Thursday, June 13th during field day. The entire student body will participate in games, crafts, obstacle courses and free play out on the playground. We will also have the climbing wall and a bouncy house for the children to try. A pizza lunch will be provided along with watermelon and popsicles. Parents are invited to join us for this special last day of school. I will be sending out more information next week regarding the end of the year schedule.

Our peas are growing quickly and have started to climb up the netting. Our carrots are moving a little bit slower but are definitely growing. It will be nice to have the summer campers continue to care for our gardens over the next couple months.

I can't believe that we have only a couple of weeks left of school. Where did this year go?? I am so impressed in the way that each child has flourished from their Montessori experience this year and I am looking forward to seeing their continued progress next year. For those children that are moving onto other schools, I want to wish them the very best and hope they will come back for a visit. I would also like to send out a huge thank you to you, the parents, who have entrusted us with your children and supported us throughout the year. Have a great summer!!!
Primary 1 Classroom
- Miss Cristina and Miss Rebecca

What a great year this has been! All the children have done many lessons in all areas of the classroom, and all have made a huge amount of progress since our school year began. They have learned academic skills, social skills, and they have all made such great friends. I have loved watching them become a community, helping each other in all aspects of their days here at school.

The month of May we explored not only our neighborhood beaches but the far off solar system. The children are learning about their place in the world, locally and globally, as they use our new wooden nesting boxes which show our school, our town, our state, our country, our planet, and our solar system. Ask your child to sing the two new songs we learned this month about the planets and oceans!

Each of your children has brought such joy and happiness to our classroom. We are so fortunate to have such a wonderful group of children this year. They have all touched my life and the school as a whole in a very positive and rewarding way. It has been my pleasure working with not only your child, but you, the parents as well. Having parental support and open lines of communication are an essential part of any successful school year. Thank you for all you have done to make this year so fulfilling and memorable.

Have a happy and safe summer, and hopefully I will see you around the island. Remember my love for your wonderful children.
Late Day
- Miss Weezie and Miss Felicia
I want to thank parents for your generous and thoughtful gifts during Teacher Appreciation Week. Our V.M.S. community is unique in its loyalty and generosity. The support that is offered enhances the growth of our students and the spirits of the staff. I will not be returning in the fall in order to start a new chapter of my life. I will continue to work with children and families, but taking more time for new adventures. I am grateful for my association with the Vineyard Montessori School and hope to see many of you at the Vineyard Haven Library Story Time. Have a safe and happy summer!

Fondly, Weezie
Recommended Reading
"At Home with Montessori" by Patricia Oriti (available in the VMS office!)

Book Corner for Parents
"Robot-Proof: Higher Education in the Age of Artificial Intelligence" by Joseph Aoun

"Yardsticks: Children in the Classroom Ages 4-14" by Chip Wood

"The Six Stages of Parenthood" by Ellen Galinsky

Book Corner for Children
"What Do You Do With An Idea?" by Kobi Yamada

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An independent school serving PreK through Grade 8. Fostering a lifetime love of learning.