"The goal of education is not to increase the amount of knowledge but to create the possibilities for a child to invent and discover, to create men who are capable of doing new things."

~Jean Piaget

Family Yard Day is Saturday!

Please join us for Family Yard Day on Saturday, as we have a lot of work to get done. We plan to shingle the small house and install a post and mailbox there. We will chain saw small logs in Ty's garden, hang black baskets, rake, and tidy and fluff the sandbox.

We are in need of the following items: A four-foot post, shingles, chainsaw, rakes, tarp, clippers, leaf blower, wheelbarrows, and shovels.

The weather looks just right for the morning work. You are welcome to bring a morning snack to share.

Save The Dates

On Saturday, April 8th, there

Calendar

Tuesdays: Chess from 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Brahmin, MVRHS
Chess captain, will be here to play chess! The program needs a parent volunteer.

**Saturday, April 8th:** Family Yard Day from 9:30 a.m. to Noon

**Saturday, April 8th:** Violin & Cello Concert at 4:00 p.m. at the Old Whaling Church featuring VMS students and all schools.

**Monday, April 10th:** Open House 4:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. at the Martha's Vineyard Museum, Edgartown, featuring the VMS Elementary Health Hen Project.

**Monday, April 17th - Friday, April 21:** School Closed - Spring Vacation

**Monday, April 24th:** Late Day Art Program at Pam Benjamin's

**Thursday, April 27th:** Spring Social at Farm Neck Cafe, Oak Bluffs

**Monday, May 1st:** Monday, May 1st begins Teacher Appreciation Week

**Thursday, May 11th:** Noon Dismissal for Parent-Teacher Conferences

**Friday, May 12th:** Noon Dismissal for Parent-Teacher Conferences

**Saturday, May 13th:** Big Night Out, The Lighthouse Grill, Harborview Hotel, Edgartown

**Monday, May 29th:** Memorial Day - School Closed

**Monday, June 12th:** First Peas to the Table Contest

**Thursday, June 15th:** Last Day of School / Field Day

**Friday, June 16th:** 10:00 a.m.
Chess Volunteers Needed

We are looking for a few parent volunteers for chess, which takes place on Tuesdays at 2:50pm. If you can help, please contact Emily at admin@vineyardmontessori.com.

Primary 1 Classroom
- Miss Ty, Miss Cristina

All year long, the children have been snipping yarn. While this is primarily a preparation for necklace making, the result has been piles and piles of yarn, perfect for the birds to make nests! So we all gathered outside and talked about how birds make nests. Then we scattered some colorful strands around the school for that purpose. Each child also had a small plastic bag of yarn snips for “home-scattering”. The children are excited about this opportunity to share their winter work with the birds! Hopefully, someone will spy a nest with one or two colorful strands woven through it!

I observed a quiet “busyness” all week. Some new exercises, along with many old ones, were being used. These included many reading cards and making books with the words, water color painting, map making, and explorations with the sensorial materials. Also, some elaborate pieces of math materials were completed, which the children promptly called, “Huge work!” These included some of the longer “cube chains”, which is a linear counting exercise. All this
work took place along with many art activities.

Children are excited that spring is here, and I must admit, I am too! I do enjoy being outside with the class at recess each day and watching them interact with each other in the non-structured environment of play. I learn so much about each child and his or her personality and problem-solving skills. The warmer weather will make my job a lot more pleasant, and I am looking forward to being able to stand outdoors with no hat, scarf, or gloves! Those that have seen me outside with the students know that I really bundle up in the cold. For now, though, remember all the mud around, and be prepared for muddy shoes: boots are still a very good idea on these rainy and post-rainy days!

Primary 2 Classroom

- Miss Chris and Miss Holly

Special Persons Visiting Day has always been one of my favorite days during the school year. Even though the day usually does not play out like a regular school day, the children have the most enjoyable time showing their special visitor all the work that they do on a daily basis. The children get the opportunity to be the "teacher" and teach their visitor the rules of the class, the lessons that they have mastered, and ones that they are still practicing. Many children offer their parents snack, and many do art work together. Each child feels proud and excited to share with their visitor all the daily activities and routines that make up their day at school. Parents come away with the knowledge about the various activities their child is working on and who some of their child's friends are. Overall, it is a very special day for both the children and their visitors.

The children have planted some sunflower seeds that will begin sprouting by next week. Some of these seeds will be transplanted into our garden and others will be brought home to be planted. We will be planting our peas next week with Miss Ava after the garden beds have been turned over and are prepped for spring planting.
Elementary Classroom  
- Miss Irene and Miss Nora

This week, students touched up their heath hen/moth projects and practiced being docents with Anne and Kendra. During the week, ElementaryII students worked in pairs to tackle research topics on heath hens and moths. These final preparations are for the museum exhibit on Monday, April 10th at the Martha’s Vineyard Museum in Edgartown. Parents of elementary students should know that students were asked to dress up or look neat and professional when they arrive. This is an event open to the public, and we are representing Vineyard Montessori School. Please bring any and all family and friends!

On Monday morning, our cello players had the opportunity to work with Andres Vera for an hour on specific pieces. Students were impressed with his ability and background and felt at ease working with him. We would like to thank Rebecca Laird for exposing our students to such inspiring talent!

In addition to Spanish on Thursday, we had a chance to work with paper mâché on our prop designs for “The Quiltmaker”. The play was originally scheduled for May 22nd, but it turns out that Joyce needs to postpone it until June. We will let you know when we have a date confirmed.

Ben Saunders, a visiting charter school student, spent the day with us and experienced a Montessori birthday celebration for Carly and Gracie. The girls shared photos from each year of their lives, did the traditional walk around the sun, and treated everyone to cake. Happy Birthday, girls! Ben was a hot commodity with the students, who offered to present lessons on several works.

It was a welcome and exciting break in our week when parents came in to see what was happening on visiting day. Elementary I students were proud to exhibit their skills with many new works. ElementaryII students practiced their speaking skills by presenting their president projects to all the parents.
Late Day
- Miss Weezie and Miss Cristina

Our Late Day students, like most of us, are so eager for spring. On rare sunny days, children want to cast off jackets and hats; however, boots are still appropriate. We try to get outside, even briefly, in all types of weather, so please keep that in mind when sending outerwear to school.

The afternoon students, who are no longer napping, continue to have some rest time on their mats, often with books. Those same children are engaged in arts and crafts or practical life and/or language lessons before we all adjourn to Ty's class for snack.

We have observed some very creative building using our outdoor blocks. Students are able to work cooperatively with a longer attention span to complete a planned project.

Books this week included: "Bulldozers", "Diggers", "Knights and Dragons", "Old Bear", and "Finding Spring". Pam Benjamin's Sense of Wonder art classes will resume on Mondays after April vacation. More information to follow.

Recommended Reading

"Montessori Builds Innovators" by Andrew McAfee

"Why Small Schools Work: Good Things Come in Small Packages" by Tim Seldin

"Choosing Montessori for Kindergarten" by Colleen, "Children First, Always."

"Develop Leaders the Montessori Way" by Ambiga Dhiraj

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

Book Corner for Children

"What Do You Do With An Idea?" by Kobi Yamada

Vineyard Montessori School
P.O. Box 994, 286 Main St, Vineyard Haven, MA 02568
vineyardmontessori.com
(508) 693-4090

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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