"How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world"
~ Anne Frank

Calendar

**Friday, June 9th:** String concert at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 1:00 p.m.

**Saturday, June 10th:** Spring Sense of Wonder Art Show, 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. at 23 Grove Avenue, Vineyard Haven

**Monday, June 12th:** Elementary "Quilt Maker" Theatre Production, 11:00 a.m. at Tisbury Amphitheater, 325 W. Spring Street, Vineyard Haven

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

**Friday, June 16th:** Graduation Ceremony at the Tabernacle at MV Camp Meeting Association, Oak Bluffs. The students are dropped off at 9:30 a.m. and the ceremony begins at 10:00 a.m.

Show Your School Spirit by Shopping on Lands' End and VMS' Online Stores

VMS has partnered with Lands' End so that families can order customized VMS apparel. Purchases can be made online, by phone, or in-store. From time to time, you will find special promotions.
on their website that you can utilize, too. Simply order using the school's preferred provider code 900182684. Click here for more information.

Additionally, families can purchase VMS school-themed items and support VMS by shopping on the school's online store. Check out our collection of t-shirts, sweatshirts, mugs, and more by clicking here.

---

Primary 1 Classroom
- Miss Ty, Miss Cristina

Caterpillars to Butterflies

The big buzz this week was the activity of our five Painted Lady butterflies. By Friday of last week (before Memorial Day weekend), all had emerged from their chrysalides. The children were mesmerized by the twitching, emerging butterflies. Since butterflies take a few days to “harden”, as they fan and exercise their wings to pump them full of fluid, we could not release them. As the children learned, “When the butterfly emerges from its chrysalis, its wings are small and wet, and the butterfly cannot yet fly. The butterfly must pump fluids from its abdomen through the veins in its wings, which causes the wings to expand to their full size. Next, the wings must dry and the butterfly must exercise flight muscles before it can fly.” (Butterflyschool.org)

On Tuesday, right after the weekend, we had to release them. It was not an optimal day, as many of our days seem to have been this month! Barely over the required 55 degrees, the butterflies took their time emerging from the habitat. We watched as two brave ones fluttered away, but then I moved the habitat to our back deck, placed a stool by the window for observation, and let the little creatures operate on their own time schedule. All morning long, children would observe the butterflies and report the progress of the remaining butterflies. Finally, with the arrival of a little sun, the last of the Painted Lady butterflies exited the mesh surrounding of their birth. With only a two-week life span, I hope everything will be fine!

This was a wonderful, visible science lesson for the children. Every child was mesmerized, attracted to, and curious about this process.

---

Primary 2 Classroom
- Miss Chris, Miss Holly, and
Miss Rebecca

I am amazed that there are only two weeks of school left. The year has flown by, and I am impressed by the level of development and progress that each child has been able to accomplish. Each child has followed his/her own interests, developed wonderful friendships, and become vital members of our school community. The children have been very busy practicing and mastering many lessons. Some children are still trying new lessons with great success. As a teacher, I am filled with joy when I am able to observe all the growth and development of my students.

The garden signs are now in the garden, and the first few pea pods have appeared. The children planted more lettuce, celery, and carrots, which hopefully will grow throughout the summer.

We will be having just one more music class. The children have really enjoyed having Miss Joyce do music with us. The favorite part of the class is being able to use the instruments. The children know the names of all the different instruments and their favorite song is a Spanish song called *Don Alfredo Baila*.

---

**Elementary Classroom**

- Miss Irene and Miss Nora

A short week sure makes a difference this time of year. We are continuing our solar system books and starting to finish up some old unfinished work. It is fun to see the students have a renewed interest in lessons given earlier in the year. We have been spending time getting ready for all of the end-of-the-year events. We have lines to memorize, songs to learn, and projects to present. As always, there are more lessons to be presented. We are very busy! Where does the time go?

The students were sad to end Spanish class with Cristina this week. She has been such a knowledgeable and inspirational teacher for our two classes. We look forward to seeing her in the fall again.

Elementary II students were assigned their last project for the year, which is a summary of their literature circle book. They have several choices to choose from for a 3-5 minute presentation of the book. Some of the choices include: rewriting the ending, board game, puppet show, poem, rap song, TV or radio ad, travel brochure or poster, and many others. They will present next Friday in lieu of educational show and tells.

The Elementary II students also took a trip on the VTA this Thursday. After heading to Cannonball Park in Edgartown to have an early lunch and viewing of the obelisk featuring Civil War veterans, we made our way to the MV Museum. There, Ann Ducharme brought out Civil War artifacts and documents for
the kids to view, bringing our study of the 19th century in the United States to an end.

Late Day - Miss Weezie and Miss Cristina

Many holiday activities were cancelled on Monday due to rain; however our afternoon students were prepared by creating their own American flags. We first studied pictures in a library book about flags of many nations. Next, we discussed color, shape, and size before adding a pre-cut blue rectangle and red strips to a white background. The finishing touch was drawing stars with
Our last art class at Pam's studio will be on Monday, prior to the Spring Sense of Wonder Art Show on June 9th and 10th. We hope our VMS families will attend.

We have been rehearsing a special song that the combined classes will sing for our Graduation Ceremony on June 16th at the Tabernacle. I understand that some of you are hearing children practicing at home with great enthusiasm. Keep it up!

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.