



## VMS Weekly News - May 19, 2017

*"The wider range of possibilities we offer children, the more intense will be their motivations and the richer their experiences."*

~ Loris Malaguzzi

### Calendar

**Friday, May 26th:** Fun Friday,  
Main Street Campus

**Friday, June 9th:** String concert at  
the Unitarian Universalists Church

**Monday, June 12th:** 11:00  
a.m. Elementary "Quilt Maker"  
Theatre Production

First Peas to the Table Contest

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

**Friday, June 16th:** 10:00 a.m. Graduation Ceremony, the Tabernacle  
at MV Camp Meeting Association



### The Big Night Out was a Big Success

The BNO Team wishes to thank all of you who joined us last Saturday for an evening of fun and celebration. It was a wonderful night of music, dancing, bidding, and community. The evening was able to raise over \$22,000 for VMS.



Each year, the Big Night Out raises money for scholarships, programming, such as music together, Spanish, string, art class, ice skating, theatre, etc. The event directly benefits each and every child enrolled at VMS.

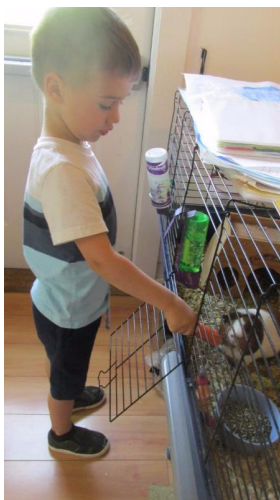
## Primary 1 Classroom

- Miss Ty, Miss Cristina



I am so glad we have our wonderful classroom pets! Last year, there was a great article in one of the quarterly Montessori publications called *CARING*. In 1984 and 1992, educational philosopher, Nel Noddings, stated that the primary aim of education is not about the intellectual abilities, but of the "maintenance and enhancement of caring". Care for animals and plants foster that caring. Dr. Montessori stated way back in 1909 that care for animals is instinctive. However, she said, "Children need contact with them for these feelings to thrive. We cannot confine a child to an artificial world and expect these feelings to flourish." Montessori continued to write that modern children often grow up in synthetic, human-made environments, estranged from nature. It is amazing for me to see which children are horrified if I ask them to get a tissue and pick up a piece of Blossom's poop!

In our classroom, one child a day gets to feed the fish and care for Blossom's needs. (There are often other children tagging along to watch the ritual.) Together, we observe the fish eat their food and are happy to watch them gobble it up. Then Blossom, who has to have fresh water and food each day, along with an enormous supply of lettuce, carrot peelings, and apple cores, squeaks her welcome. I often tell children that we have to stop feeding her so she doesn't get a belly-ache! We listen to her all day long and notice if she is sleeping. These animals inspire your children to care for something other than themselves. Those children with pets at home are extra fortunate!



## Primary 2 Classroom

- Miss Chris, Miss Holly, and Miss Rebecca

This week, I added the sand table to our outdoor

This week, I added the sand table to our outdoor environment. Besides using the Romper Stompers, hammering, and the trampoline, the children are now able to build sand structures. There are plastic animals and people for the children to incorporate into their structures. The only downfall to our outdoor environment is that the porch gets direct sun and can become extremely hot.

I would love to have an awning that would help shade that area. If you are willing to donate one or know of someone who might, please let me know.



Our bug houses are becoming full with the many little inchworms and roly polys that the children are finding out on the playground. The children love to create environments for their insects and then use a magnifying glass to observe their movements. It is a wonderful collaborative effort to see how many inchworms one can find during recess.

There are still a few paintings from the Big Night Out that have yet to be purchased. If you are interested in buying your child's artwork, please stop in the office to pick it up.

Now that the weather has become beautiful, please remember to send your child with a water bottle that can be re-filled throughout the day. We have a limited amount of drinking glasses that are used at the snack table, and the children are needing to re-hydrate both after and during recess. Please make sure to put your child's name on his/her water bottle.



## Elementary Classroom - Miss Irene and Miss Nora

This week, the Elementary I students continued their botany studies by identifying leaf shapes and creating a leaf chart. We have also been moving through the different characteristics of each planet in the solar system. The students are comparing the number of hours in a day on the planets to the number of hours in a day on Earth. Pluto's day is 153 hours. Jupiter's year is 4,331 earth days compared to our 365, and it has 63 or more moons.



Elementary II students completed their timeline layout of the Civil War and will

continue to study abolitionists of that time period. Several of the students are working on a culminating project for the imaginary island work. This includes research and a 3-D scale model of their islands. Everyone has been finishing up unfinished work and will begin compiling their year-end portfolios. The whole class is working on paper mache horse heads for our play and recently sketched and painted still-life objects from items in the classroom.

We are working diligently on the theater project, getting prepared for both on and off stage.



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## Late Day

- Miss Weezie and Miss Cristina

We can finally exchange our boots and winter coats for sneakers and shorts. Children are celebrating by demonstrating their growth and new skills on the playground. Many of our Primary students are using the newer climbing bar apparatus. Children are engaging in group games, such as "freeze tag" and are able to share roles of leader or participant. Bubbles, water table, painting the fence, digging in the sand, and building complicated structures with outdoor blocks all fill our outside playtime.

Afternoon students have enjoyed pages from a Martha's Vineyard coloring book, donated to us and done by a local artist. We have started with a map of the island and will continue with local scenes familiar to the children. Art class will continue through May, culminating with an art show in early June that will feature the students' work. This week, we used masking tape to make designs on large colored paper. Some students also added small cut-out shapes. Next week, we will paint over the paper and eventually peel off the tape to reveal the designs beneath. Enjoy the lovely weather with your families!

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## 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

*"LastChild 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

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Pre-k through sixth grade.*

*Fostering a lifetime love of learning, one child at a time.*



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