“If you want to do something great for a child give him an environment where he can touch things as much as he wants.”
~ Buckminster Fuller

The Big Night Out

Please sign up to help at the Big Night Out. The Team has been working hard to make an evening not to forget. May 13th, Harborview Hotel, Edgartown MA. The Team raises money for all the students at VMS!

We are still accepting silent and/or live auction items and sponsors. We are asking for your help in collecting as many items as possible! Donation and sponsor forms are located in the school hallway. If you would like us to email them to you, we are happy to do so. Feel free to email erin@vineyardmontessori.com or headofschool@vineyardmontessori.com.

Calendar

**Thursday, May 11th:** Grand-Friends Visiting Day

**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, Harbor View Hotel, Edgartown

**Friday, May 26th:** Fun Friday, Camp Jabborwocky.

**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. Graduation Ceremony, the Tabernacle at MV Camp Meeting Association
Chess club: Great strategy, sportsmanship and games during chess this week.

Kentucky Derby Party to Support VMS

There is a Kentucky Derby Party on May 6th at the Harbor View Hotel. It is a “dress to impress” in Kentucky Derby-themed attire. Guinevere, Annie Sylvia, and Debbie are representing VMS at the party on Saturday night. VMS has the exclusive non-profit fundraising table that evening. For information on the event, please contact Debbie at headofschool@vineyardmontessori.com.

Primary 1 Classroom - Miss Ty, Miss Cristina

We began the study of the flower this week. We use a flower puzzle that the children can take apart and learn each part's name: corolla (the petals), stamen (the male parts, with the pollen), pistil (the female part), and calyx (the part that attaches the flower to the stem). As a group, we dissected a flower,
too, so the children could see the real parts. Some of the children then chose to make their own “Parts of the Flower” booklet to identify and isolate the parts by color. This is a very popular lesson, and very timely, with all the spring flowers popping out!

Most of the sunflowers that were planted with Miss Ava from Island Grown Schools sprouted. The few that did not were re-planted, and happily they finally began to peek out of the soil, too. These were watched carefully and pampered with a spray bottle of water and plenty of sun from our window. The children took them home this week, and hopefully you have been able to add them to your garden for a beautiful sunflower later in the year.

Speaking of flowers—I’d really like to thank all of you for the fabulous Teacher Appreciation Week you gave us! Here is a photo of me with the great bouquet of flowers; it was extra special having it made up of flowers from each of the children. I can’t say enough about how sweet it was to receive every little hand-made gift of a little plant for my garden. Thank you so much!

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

Holly, Rebecca, and I were presented beautiful bouquets of fresh flowers brought in by the children in honor of Teacher Appreciation Week. The bouquets had a wonderful variety of flowers and greens from everyone’s gardens. We felt very special and loved and want to thank you all for your generous donations of flowers. We were also given thoughtful notes and gifts and treated to a breakfast and lunch, which was unexpected and greatly appreciated. It is such a gift to work with your children each and every day and to know that we are supported by an amazing community of families.

This week, I was observing two first-year students working together with materials that they had been presented at the beginning of the year. They had been working with them all year and eventually mastered these lessons. The children decided that they wanted to
tries something new and brainstormed a unique way of combining many lessons together. Still maintaining the initial concept of each lesson, grading by size and dimension, the children created a "train with lots of people on it". I was amazed at the planning, implementing, and cooperating that took place while incorporating imagination and creativity.

We started a unit on the solar system last week. The children have been matching and identifying pictures of the planets. Some children have been coloring and cutting out paper planets and then gluing them in order from the closest to the sun to the furthest away. Our class is also showing a huge interest in dinosaurs and spiders......more on those to come!

Miss Ava created pictures of parts of a flower by having the children glue on different pre-cut flowers and greens to their picture. She brought back our sunflower plants—some have taken off and some have yet to sprout. The children will be bringing them home to plant in their gardens this week. Our peas are growing nicely, and the garlic is getting ready to be harvested. We will be adding to our gardens weekly.

Elementary Classroom
- Miss Irene and Miss Nora

This week, the elementary students finished their Google slide shows on the causes of the Civil War. The students worked efficiently as if they had worked with the program before. They presented their slide shows to the Elementary I students and to each other. We learned a great deal from their projects. Some of the groups included photos, short videos, and music. Our plan was to continue on with the study of the key events in the Civil War by making a movable timeline to keep on the history shelf. However, the students...
suggested that we divide up the key events between small groups to make more slide presentations because they thought that it was fun. I will be making the timeline, so they can work on their chronology of the War!

We also had our first literature circle on the book, "Trouble Don’t Last". It is a fast-moving, exciting, and sad historical fiction novel about life on the run for a young boy and his grandfather. It takes place a year before the Civil War begins and will give students a deeper understanding of why President Lincoln and abolitionists like John Brown, and slaves themselves, felt the need for a change in our country.

Elementary I has moved into the plant kingdom. This week we started our study of trees and leaves. All of the Elementary students have been working on their projects for Big Night Out. Be prepared to see some wonderful and creative work from all of the students!

Late Day
- Miss Weezie and Miss Cristina

I was happy to return to school after a wonderful trip to Austin, Texas with family. F.Y.I.: Austin is a great city to explore with children, including the most exciting Children’s Museum called The Thinkery. Another more local recommendation for families is the monthly "Learn with Me" series held at various island locations. It involves learning about creatures of the land in an interactive way. Pre-registration is suggested through the Vineyard Family Center by calling 508-687-9182.

Afternoon children have enjoyed using Wikki Sticks, one-of-a-kind creatables that are reusable and ideal for independent imaginative fun. Late Day students were busy "painting our fence" one recent sunny afternoon. We continued our art class on Monday, focusing on the use and technique of a potter’s wheel as demonstrated by a masterpotter. The children's creations will be fired and saved for our art show later this spring. Books this week included "Yucky Worms" by Vivian French, a humorous, informative, and timely story with our recent rainstorms.

Thank you to all of our VMS families for your thoughtful and generous gifts for Teacher Appreciation Week. Please know that we also appreciate you!
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.