The goal of early childhood education should be to activate the child's own natural desire to learn.

-Maria Montessori

Calendar

Tuesday, October 17th: Admissions Open House at 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 21st: Truckin MV' at MVRHS from 11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Thursday, October 26th: Parent-Teacher Conferences -- Noon Dismissal

Friday, October 27th: Parent-Teacher Conferences -- Noon Dismissal

Thursday, November 2nd: Special Visiting Day -- 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Saturday, November 4th: Family Yard Day -- 9:00 a.m. - Noon

Friday, November 10th: Veterans Day -- School Closed

November 22nd - 24th: Thanksgiving Recess -- School Closed
Help Us "Gear up" for "Truckin' MV"

We are “gearing up” for “Truckin’ MV”, one of VMS’ largest annual fundraisers. One week from Saturday, children of all ages will enjoy seeing, touching, interacting, and exploring dozens of cool, big trucks and vehicles.

We need your help to make this amazing community event a success! There are many ways in which you can help. We are looking for volunteers the day of the event (October 21st from 10:00am – 2:00pm), as well as help providing baked goods. We need volunteers to help set up and break down. We also need help managing the various tables for the bake sale, the tickets, and the t-shirts/grab bags. Please email Debbie at headofschool@vineyardmontessori.com with your volunteer activity choice. Thank you!

VMS to Host Admissions Open Houses in October -- Invite Your Friends

VMS will host one more admissions open houses in October. Please help us spread the word to families of preschool children through middle school students to join us on Thursday, October 12th or Tuesday, October 17th at 7:00 p.m. Families are invited to attend an open house and learn about VMS' curriculum, tour the campus, and meet staff and faculty members. For more information, please contact Debbie Jernegan at headofschool@vineyardmontessori.com for more information.

Primary 1 Classroom - Miss Cristina and Miss Rebecca

It is fun to have Miss Joyce for music class every Wednesday. The children love playing the instruments and singing her songs. We also enjoy having Miss Ava from Island Grown visit to teach about gardening every Thursday.

We love to spend time in our outdoor space, either watching our garden or working on different activities. These activities include hammering, using big funnels with the water tank, and playing with shells and shovels in the sandbox. It is so much fun!

This week, the children are working on many math activities. These help them understand the concept of math by manipulating and not just learning numerals, but understanding real amounts. The Golden Bead
material consists of Unit beads, which are individual beads, Ten bars which are short lengths of wire strung with ten beads, Hundred squares which are made of 10 ten bars wired together to make a square, and Thousand cubes which are made by wiring together 10 hundred squares. They can visualize the amounts and hold these bead groups in their hands.

The children work from the visual and tactile to the abstract. Numbers are handled in real materials until the abstraction of the concept is reached. For example, number rods show the physical difference in the amount of the number 1 and 10. Working with these materials helps the students prepare for abstract reasoning and problem solving.

In our classroom, the very young children are manipulating beads and buttons as they learn the '1 to 10 work'. Older children are adding and counting beads and buttons with different prepared materials.

The children are still enjoying the sunflower seeds activity. They are studying the parts of trees. This work involves a puzzle and cards placed in sequence. Some children are making a Parts of the tree booklet, coloring in the different parts and others are including labeling the parts of a tree in the booklet.

Primary 2 Classroom
-Miss Chris and Miss Holly

The children had fun harvesting the celery for our garden this week. They were able to pull bunches of celery from the soil and view the long roots that had grown. The children washed the celery, and Miss Ava trimmed the bottoms off. The stalks were cut and re-washed, and the children helped scoop some sunflower butter into cups. They counted out two stalks per cup and then we shared a group snack. Most of the children enjoyed the fresh celery from the garden. We are keeping a few of the bottoms to keep in water to see if they will sprout again. Our peas have developed sprouts, and the children were excited to water them.

We had our first music class with Miss Joyce on Wednesday. The children were introduced to the Hello and Goodbye songs, learned some new finger plays and songs, and got to play a variety of instruments. The children had fun moving their bodies to different beats and pretending to be different animals moving around the circle.

Pin poking has been a very popular lesson this week. Children trace shapes from either the Metal Insets or the World Puzzle Map and then use a large push pin to create a perforation around the outline of the shape. With help from a teacher, the shape is carefully removed from its frame and then glued onto either paper with the frame or onto a paper map. This lesson helps to develop
a strong pincer grasp and fine motor control, which is essential for writing.

We are continuing on with the next grouping of Sandpaper Letters. The children have been working on matching objects to the letters, and some have begun to create three-letter words with the first letter grouping.

Elementary I Classroom
- Miss Nora

Elementary I students were introduced to fractions by splitting an apple into 1/2, then 1/4, and so on. We will be making apple sauce soon with some of the apples Emily brought in from apple picking while off island with her family.

We continue our botany studies with the parts of a leaf and root systems. Mary-Sage from Island Grown discussed with the students different types of roots and food we eat that are actually roots. We went out to the garden and prepped the bed to get ready for some planting. We planted two types of radish seeds in the garden, which we hope will be ready to harvest in 3 to 4 weeks. Music with Joyce started this week, and we had a great music hour focusing on tempo and movement.
Elementary II Classroom
- Carly Coggins

The second month before our long Columbus Day weekend, we started our Thursday by making apple crisp. Madeleine brought us apples from her weekend of apple picking at the Lake View Orchards in the Berkshires. I, Carly Coggins, peeled and cut some of the apples.

We presented our book reports while the apple crisp was baking. I did my book report on The Invention of Hugo Cabret. I definitely would recommend this book!

My brother, sister, and I left on the 1:30 boat to go to a MV Hurricanes cross-country meet. We ran 1.4 miles and our team won!! Over this past weekend, Marysol went to Rome. She told us that she went to the Colosseum and the Vatican. Silas played three hockey games over the weekend and won them all. Connor went apple picking in New Hampshire, and Arin had two play dates.

This week, we went to the beach to collect mollusks and arthropods. They are invertebrates on our tree of life. On Wednesday, we researched the taxonomy of what we found. Horseshoe crabs are more closely related to arachnids than crabs. Scallops have many eyes and are fast swimmers. The knobbed whelk eat mostly oysters and clams. The lady crab is very aggressive when with their babies, and they have flippers for swimming.

All of us have been working on the timeline of ancient civilizations focusing on Asia. Writing was invented in Mesopotamia. Another fun fact....by 5,000 BC, rice cultivation was well established in the Yangtze River Delta. In 206 BC, the Han Dynasty was founded, and in 1,867 BC, the Chinese recorded an eclipse, and it was the first time anyone recorded an event like this.

Totsiens!!! (That means, ‘until we meet again’.)

Middle School
- Miss Ty

Because we use a project-based curriculum, the work of the students is focused on their own research and projects. The class continued working on projects this week. Last week’s
Matthew is researching the ancient civilization of the Indus Valley. Along with a map of Asia that shows the four main river civilizations of Sumeria, Egypt, China, and India, he is making a diorama of the housing. He is also writing a report including the Indus Valley’s origins in agriculture, the governmental hierarchy, and the ancient religions. Add to that a description of the social divisions, the system of writing, and the conflicts that the civilization faced, and he will have an excellent knowledge of an ancient civilization.

Along with all our academic work, the middle school shares experiences with the Upper Elementary class. Last week, Matthew organized cooking pizza with all the students. Specials like gardening, tennis, and Spanish are shared, along with the all-important RECESS!

The Late Day Program
- Ms. Weezie

One of my goals is to provide activities for students to experience and improve coordination. In the classroom, those activities are found in the area of Practical Life. Afternoon students often choose to participate in seasonal craft activities that appeal to them and also enhance fine motor control. This week, we offered a sewing job using pre-punched pumpkin shapes and curly ribbon. Some students required some help with the process, but all enjoyed success and pride in the finished product. We can support dexterity, focus, eye-hand co-ordination, and hand strength by offering activities like beading, clay, squeezing, pouring, scissors, paper punch, and small manipulative. These will all enhance readiness for writing.

We continue to enjoy our playground during this lovely weather. Each day, we read and sing about the beautiful season of autumn. Has your child taught you
some of our songs and finger plays?

Recommended Reading
"There's No Such Thing as the Real World" by Peter Piche in MontessoriParent
Read article here.

Book Corner for Parents
"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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Fostering a lifetime love of learning, one child at a time.