"Joy, feeling one's own value, being appreciated and loved by others, feeling useful and capable of production are all factors of enormous value for the human soul."

- Maria Montessori

Calendar

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

**Monday, October 23rd:** Picture Day, 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

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

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

**Monday, October 30th:** Bring a friend to school day. Elementary - Middle School students

**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

**Monday, November 6th - Monday, December 11th:** Late Day Art Class at Pam Benjamin's Sense of Wonder Studio

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

**November 22nd - 24th:** Thanksgiving Recess -- School Closed

See You Tomorrow and it is not too late to volunteer

Tomorrow, children of all ages will enjoy seeing, touching, interacting, and exploring over 40+ cool, big trucks and vehicles.

We still 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 (Saturday 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!

**Picture Day is Monday**

Heidi Wild, Professional photographer will be at VMS taking our students' photos on Monday, October 23rd. All children will have their picture taken. Please send in the Heidi Wild photo form if you would like your child's school photo.

**Primary 1 Classroom**

*Miss Cristina and Miss Rebecca*

One of the new lessons we have in our classroom is rock scrubbing. This complex exercise involves putting on an apron, carrying a very heavy rock to a basin, getting water in a large pitcher, pouring the water in the basin, scrubbing the rock with soap, rinsing it, drying it, putting it away, dumping the basin of water into a bucket, emptying the bucket into the sink, and finally, folding the towel and re-rolling the apron. So many steps to aid in the child’s concentration!

Joyce Maxner started music last week, and the returning students enjoyed the familiar rhythm of her classes, starting with warm ups, then going to singing and movement, and finishing up with instrument playing. The new children learned all these routines easily and did very well with following along with the directions. We had a fun time and learned some new songs.

Our visit to the Farm Institute was full of exploration and discovery! The drivers picked up the students at nine o’clock, and we all caravanned out to the farm. Once there, the Farm Institute staff met us and guided the whole group around. Our time at the farm was hands-on with a variety of animals and in the garden picking vegetables. The chickens generously moved aside and allowed little hands to gather their precious eggs. It was a beautiful day, a gorgeous fall Vineyard day. Thanks to all the volunteer drivers for making this possible.
Many children have shown an interest in the geography area of our classroom. The first lessons given in this area were on the Sandpaper Globe, and the children learned the three things that make up the earth -- land, water, and air. Working with the Sandpaper Globe, the children discover which parts of the earth are land by feeling the continents that are made out of sandpaper. They then discover that the water on the globe is represented by the areas that are painted blue and feel smooth. We then talk about the earth being surrounded by air even though they can't see it. The next lesson is matching pictures of different things to bottles that are filled with land, water, or air. Houses and baseball players go under the land bottle, birds and airplanes go under the air bottle, and fish and coral go under the water bottle.

Some children have begun tracing the puzzle map pieces and pin-poking out the pieces to create their own map of the world. They place the pieces on a large paper, glue them down, label them, and then paint in the water. Each map is a work of art and takes quite a bit of time. Many skills are developed through this process, including fine motor control, memorization, concentration, and visual discrimination.

The children planted kale and spinach seeds this week with Miss Ava. Our pea shoots have grown quite a bit, and we will be harvesting them next week to put in a salad.
Elementary I Classroom
- Miss Nora

This week, the Elementary I students had the opportunity to see and feel real whale parts as part of their whaling unit. Anne brought in different parts of the whale from the museum, and we talked about the various parts of the whale and what they were used for in everyday life. The students were taught that whale oil is extremely valuable. If there is a legal yield, it is so fine and pure it is used at NASA for space shuttles! They were able to examine teeth and scrimshaw, baleen, and whale bones. One vertebra was twice the size of the students’ hands. In language arts, we are studying the parts of speech. So far, we have studied nouns, articles, and verbs.

In math, we are now working on addition with like denominators and reducing equivalent fractions.

In botany, we are continuing to study roots. Mary-Sage brought in some potting soil, and we re-potted all of our classroom plants. Our radishes are coming along nicely and have already started to sprout!
Hello Y'all,

Last week, we finished up with country research for MMUN. The country that Matthew and I will be representing is a small country in southeastern South America called Uruguay. They won the World Cup two times and made it there 12 times. It borders Argentina and Brazil and has an expansive coastline on the South Atlantic. This weekend, they are hosting the World Health Organization Conference. We presented our information to the class to practice speaking.

Friday, we had a spelling test and gardening with Mary Sage. We planted our cover crop of peas and added some healthier soil. We also played Jeopardy to review some of our studies. The categories included Ancient Asia, Sumerians, Biology, Physical Science, and OH NO! OH NO was a mix of all of those questions or general knowledge questions such as, "Name two species of whales that have baleen."

On Monday, we watched an educational video of the history of the United Nations. I watched it from home because I was sick. Afterwards, I wrote a paragraph about it. It was established in 1945 after WWI, and there were 51 countries who helped to edit the rules of the UN in San Francisco.

In math this week, I continued on algebra. For history, as a group, we found drawings and pictures of the life of Sumerians which were printed up. We are making a project with them. Later in the week, we went to West Chop Woods to identify and collect some samples of plant and tree leaves. We brought them back for classification and to add to our tree of life.

See you at Truckin' MV! Have fun this weekend!
Middle School
- Miss Ty

Matthew’s long, involved project on the Ancient River Civilization of the Indus Valley was completed on time and extremely well. Please see the wonderful “diorama” of a clay brick, two-story house used by some of these early people. With the report, map, and diorama completed, he presented his work to the Upper Elementary students.

The next big project is the classification of the plant kingdom. Matthew will be photographing examples of the plants on Martha’s Vineyard in order to complete this chart. We have started out the study by examining competition in native populations and environmental communities. We have studied the “mile-a-minute” vine that chokes out some of our native species of plants on the island and surrounding communities.

Mary Sage from Island Grown Schools has been visiting our campus this fall, and the students are learning about the components of soil and what makes a good garden. Matthew is monitoring the growth of a cover crop of peas that we will hopefully harvest as pea shoots before the end of the season.

The Late Day Program
- Ms. Weezie

All children have an inborn sense of wonder and affinity for nature. As parents and educators, we can protect that kinship with nature. Besides the joy, research shows alarming consequences to a child’s physical, cognitive, emotional, and spiritual health when they do not play outside.
Afternoon students created some "apple prints". First, we cut the apple in half and found the star and seeds, then the children painted the halves with red tempera, and then stamped them onto white paper. We have read "Johnny Appleseed", "So You Want to Grow a Pie?", "Seed by Seed", and "Russ and the Apple Tree Surprise". Children also love our finger plays about apple picking. I hope to see everyone on Saturday!

Thanks to Tracy Stead for assembling our latest piece of outdoor equipment from "Nature Explores", an educational collaborative promoting nature as an integral part of daily learning.

**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

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

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