"The whole purpose of education is to turn mirrors into windows."

- Sydney J. Harris

If anyone has a small rottetiller that would be helpful to "fluff up" the sand in the sand area.

VMS will provide drinks, coffee and water, if anyone can bring a morning healthy (peanut and nut free) snack.

See you Saturday.

**Calendar**

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

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

*Special Visitor Day is your child’s opportunity to invite a special person, parent, or guest into his/her*
classroom. The visitor has an opportunity to learn by participating and observing how the child chooses a lesson, works with the materials, and puts the work away. This particular morning is filled with your child’s excitement over the arrival of the special visitor and the pride in teaching the lessons that they have learned so far this year to their guest.

**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

**December 22nd - January 1st:** December Recess -- School Closed

**January 2nd:** School Reopens

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**Thank You for Supporting Truckin' MV**

Truckin' MV was a successful community fundraiser due to the collaboration among VMS families and the Vineyard community of truckers and emergency vehicles that were in attendance. There were 32+ community vehicles. More than 390 people, including 190 children attended this VMS event.

There are still Truckin' t-shirts available. Please see Rhiannon if you are interested.
Primary 1 Classroom
- Miss Cristina and Miss Rebecca

The sensorial work in our classroom lays the foundation for later work in geometry. For instance, there are materials for dimension, the cylinder blocks, the geometry cabinet, and the geometric solids.

The constructive triangles allow children to see various shapes that can be made with the triangle, whether the triangles are equilateral, isosceles, or scalene. The last box of triangles is filled with identical blue scalene triangles, which allows the children to see that the scalene triangle can produce a huge amount of shapes. The children explore these, making interesting shapes and designs. The letters presented this past week were e, v, k and d.

On Thursday, Miss Rebecca and the children cut apples and placed them in her dehydrator. Today, they have the most delicious dried apples as an option for snack.

The flower-arranging lesson in Practical Life is one of our favorite activities. On the shelf, there is a tray with a pitcher, a place for a vase (and a supply of these), and a pair of scissors. From a large supply, the child chooses a flower or two and some greenery if available, and he/she carefully cuts the stem or stems to fit the vase. These arrangements are lovingly placed on tables or shelves to decorate the class and to bring the beauty of nature indoors. This activity needs the help of our parents. Please think about pursuing your gardens for late-blooming perennials and greens. Your child will be happy to share these flowers with the class. Thank you in advance.
Miss Chris and Miss Holly

We are beginning our botany lessons, and so far we have been studying different types of leaves. The children are looking at leaves with magnifying glasses and feeling the veins with their fingers. Some children have made rubbings of the leaves and will put them in a booklet form once the different types have been introduced. We are also studying the parts of a tree and using a puzzle and control chart to learn the names of the parts, such as the roots, the trunk/stem, the branches, and the leaves. The children can then make a book by coloring and labeling each part.

This week, during gardening, Miss Ava helped the children make a cranberry relish. The harvest of the month is the cranberry so she felt making the relish would be an ideal project. The children first learned about cranberry bogs and how the cranberries float on the water. Each child had the chance to place some cranberries in a bowl of water to see for themselves how they float. The children then chopped apple slices and added them to the food processor along with the cranberries and a few squirts of maple syrup. We all had the opportunity to taste the relish, and the overall consensus was very positive.

We have been enjoying new songs, poems, and finger plays during our group times. Learning songs and poems is very helpful in a child’s language development. Hearing the rhyming words, following the rhythm of the songs, and doing the motions that go along with the words all aid in vocabulary, gross and fine motor skills, and memorization.
Elementary I Classroom
- Miss Nora

This week, the Elementary I students planted bush beans with Mary-Sage that we will be observing and watering daily. We will be tracking all the students’ individual seeds and observing one another’s growth. Mary-Sage brought in a stereoscope so that the students could observe lima beans close up. Emily gave a wrap up of the hour: "We planted bush beans by poking our fingers in the soil to make a hole to put our seeds in. They need lots of room so the roots can get fatter and split to grow. We are going to give them 10 sprays of water a day. I'm going to give mine 11, one for good measure. I might give two sometimes, if they need extra water. When we looked at the lima beans under the stereoscope, they looked really sparkly."

The students finished their Georgia O'Keeffe poppies and looked at other paintings and techniques she used throughout her career, especially her interpretation of color and nature.

Elementary II Classroom
- Connor Graves

Greetings VMS Families!

Last Thursday, we went on an exciting field trip to Tisbury Printer. First, we met the employees and asked a few questions. Then the owner,
Chris, came and showed us his desk, and we watched him as he printed up the newspaper which we wrote in class. It went from his computer to a computer in the back of the shop. Next, he showed us the pre-press room where the employees sit down with customers and help them to design what they like, including business cards, book covers, books, and greeting/holiday cards. After that, we went to the back where there were a few printing presses, a giant paper cutter, and a huge amazing printer.

He showed us how he printed business cards and our newspaper that he had sent back there. That printer can fold and staple books that come out ready to go.

On Friday, we baked many things, including rice crispy treats with colorful m&m's, chocolate chip cookies, sugar cookies, and brownies. Some of these we donated to the tennis center for the volunteers who put up the bubble, and the rest went to Truckin' MV. Some went into our stomachs!

We had a great turnout at Truckin' MV, and there were many interesting things to see there. My class and Miss Nora's class helped with the bake sale. I personally thought that the cement crane was the most interesting.

For our geography studies, Madeleine and Carly are making a map of Africa. Marysol and Carly are making a work for the classroom about the rivers of the world. Arin and Silas are making a map of the rivers, deserts, and mountains of the world. Grace is working with Madeleine on the islands of the world. I just passed my test on Oceania and am working on the map right now. Next, I will tackle Europe!!

Hope you all have a great weekend!

Middle School
- Miss Ty

In my training to become a teacher of
adolescents within the Montessori philosophy, I heard and became familiar with a word that I rarely had used before in the context of education. Maria Montessori spoke of ‘VALOR’. The dictionary definition of valor is “great courage in the face of danger”, with synonyms being worthiness, bravery, pluck, nerve, and heroism. Wait, why do adolescent students need to exercise valor? What danger lies ahead for them?

Montessori explains in her various writings that the young adolescent faces multiple emotional dangers as he or she grows and changes into the adult he or she will be. To help in this regard, Dr. Montessori calls for the school to promote “valorization of the personality”.

“This is the sense of Montessori’s meaning: to enable the individual, the adolescent, to understand his or her own worthiness, his or her own strength,” writes John Long, Montessori educator and head of the Post Oak Montessori School in Houston, Texas. This valorization of the personality could be compared to self-esteem or self-worth. However, often in modern parlance, this can be based on entitlement rather than a profound sense of accomplishment.

Long continues to write, “A young person needs to feel capable and effective. He needs to feel that he can contribute to society, that he knows how to help humanity in many ways. She needs to feel useful and capable of effort.” This is accomplished by the work of the mind, hands, and heart. This is accomplished by real work on the land or in the greater community, along with the academic expectations of the daily curriculum. It happens when adolescents have appropriate responsibilities and expectations and when they are able to experience the joy that comes from successfully meeting challenges. Character building occurs as the result of restitution when they have made poor decisions. Our Middle School at VMS provides some of the answers to questions the adolescents have about the evolution and functioning of society and their place in it. The students learn not just by reading, writing, and math but by developing the conscience of the individual; the values and personal visions are being created at this time, as they work towards valorization of their own personalities.
The Late Day Program
- Ms. Weezie

It was such a treat to see so many of our VMS families on Saturday. The beautiful, warm, sunny weather added to the enjoyment. Once again, we were reminded of the rich community spirit that our school offers.

Following the success of Picture Day, we read *Simple Pictures Are Best* by Nancy Willard, and we also read *Nobody Home but Me*. Both of these books give listeners a chance to participate in a recurring line of the story, capturing their attention and enjoyment.

We collected and pressed oak leaves this week, noting their unusual shape and texture of the veins. Students then "hid" the leaf between layers of thin art paper, making a "leaf sandwich". We rubbed the top layer using the side of a peeled crayon and discovered the magic of leaf rubbing. The process was fun, and the results were beautiful.

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