"A child more than anyone else, is a spontaneous observer of nature."

-Maria Montessori

Calendar

Friday, October 6th: Professional Development Day -- School Closed

Monday, October 9th: Columbus Day -- School Closed

Thursday, October 12th: Admissions Open House at 7:00 p.m.

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

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

VMS will host two 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.

Possible Summer Program at VMS

VMS is considering a summer program option next year. If VMS were to offer a summer program or a vacation week of care on our campus, would you have an interest in having your child attend? Please click here to email Debbie Jernegan to say “yes” or “no” that you would like to send your child to a VMS summer program.

Support VMS While You Shop

Welcome back to the start of a new school year and to a new year of A+ School Rewards! Beginning October 6, 2017, Vineyard Montessori School (ID #40324) has the opportunity to participate in and earn cash from A+ School Rewards, a great fundraising program run through our local Stop & Shop.

PLEASE NOTE: You DO NOT need to re-register your card if your school selection(s) remains the same as last year.

To participate beginning September 11, 2017:
- Visit www.stopandshop.com and select Savings & Rewards. Follow the prompts to create your online account. You’ll need your 13-digit Stop & Shop Card number and the School ID #.

IF YOU DON’T KNOW YOUR STOP & SHOP CARD NUMBER CALL 1-877-366-2668 OPTION #1

To earn points:
1. Use your registered Stop & Shop Card each time you shop at Stop & Shop, and you will earn CASH for our school. You can track the number of points you are earning for our school by checking your grocery receipt.
2. At the end of each month, your points are calculated and converted to
CASH rewards. These CASH rewards for our school are updated monthly. You can track our progress when you sign in to your online account.

3. Our school will receive one CASH awards check at the end of the program and can use this cash for any of our educational needs.

Also, please encourage your family members and friends to support our school. This could result in more CASH REWARDS! Thank you for supporting our school!

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**Primary 1 Classroom**  
*Miss Cristina and Miss Rebecca*

Happy October to everyone! This week, I began the week with a geometry lesson introducing the children to 4 of the 10 geometric shapes (a sphere, cone, cylinder, and cube) using the Geometric Solids.

Every time a lesson is presented, there is an element of excitement and "awe" the teacher uses which draws the child's interest to the lesson. The lesson is first presented without a cloth, and each child touches the shape saying the name of the solid. The second presentation is with the cloth covering the solids. The children get so excited to guess what shape will come out from under the cloth. After the presentation, the children are free to choose this lesson off the shelf independently or with a classmate "work/play" with the lesson. They get so excited when they find the shape without peeking, and you can observe the joy in their face as they revisit this lesson with a friend.

Since last week, our sunflower has not been doing well. However, there is still so much to discover by investigating the sunflower that has passed. The children enjoy investigating and discovering the sunflower in it's new "state" using tweezers to pull out the seeds and a magnifying glass to look closer at its parts. They are all exploring the life cycle of what once was a beautiful sunflower.

Miss Ava, from Island Grown Schools, made sunflower butter with the children. The children worked with Ava to prepare the butter and then the tasting. They really enjoyed the butter! Volunteer drivers are still needed to make our field trip to the Farm Institute possible on Thursday, October 19th. Please email me if you are able to help.
Primary 2 Classroom
- Miss Chris and Miss Holly

We had our first gardening lesson with Miss Ava this week. Ava took small groups of children out to our garden beds and had the children pull weeds. They also turned over the soil and removed any leftover leaf litter that was remaining from Hurricane Jose. Once the soil was ready, the children had the opportunity to plant pea seeds. Next week, we will be harvesting the celery, tomatoes, and kale that is still growing in the garden. Once the pea shoots have grown, we will harvest them and create a salad and dressing using the shoots.

I observed that many children have been interested in the math lessons this week. Some children have been working with the sensorial materials in preparation for being introduced to the early math lessons. Other children are using activities to internalize the concept of identifying numbers and their quantities. Some are working on one-to-one correspondence, and a few children have been working on beginning to advanced addition equations. It is an amazing display of the many different levels of learning going on in our class. Each child can learn at their own developmental level without the feeling of competition to achieve the same level as another child.

Our kindergarten students have joined the Elementary I class for a botany study. They recently went on a field trip to Polly Hill Arboretum and are participating in the botany lessons.

Our class celebrated two birthdays this week. A Montessori birthday celebration is a wonderful, peaceful acknowledgement of a child's birthday. The child uses a small globe, which represents the Earth, to carry as he/she walks around a wooden sun with a lit candle which represents the Sun. The child walks around the sun as many times as he/she is old--four times around the sun for a child turning four-years old. After each turn around the sun, the parent tells us a little bit about the child at that age. Once the child has completed circling the sun, he/she passes out a special snack to each classmate. It is a lovely gathering,
Elementary I Classroom  
- Miss Nora

The second month of the school year has started out busy and fun for the Elementary I class. We began with a visit to the Martha's Vineyard Museum (MVM) and started our unit on whaling. We were told the Wampanoag creation story of Moshup and the whales. As the story goes, Moshup always kept a fire going to keep the tribe warm and ready for cooking. He would catch the whales with his massive body and then pound them on the cliffs to kill them. That is why we have colored cliffs in Aquinnah. The red is whale blood and the grey and white are from the bones.

We also learned about a great Wampanoag Indian named Amos Smalley. In the summer of 1902, off the shore of the Azores, a whale was spotted about 5:00 pm. Amos killed a 90-foot white whale three times the size of their boat with one harpoon strike to its heart. He remembers the captain saying that he had never seen anything like that white whale before. He didn't know until 35 years later that Herman Melville had written a book about him. Then a history professor went to his house and asked him about "Moby Dick". He heard from the professor the story whalers used to tell 50 years before his time of an all-white sperm whale that raged around the Pacific. He said he didn't know if he killed Moby Dick, but he did remember what the captain said when he examined the worn-down teeth of his white whale: "He's at least a hundred years old and maybe two hundred."

We continued our botany study with the parts of a tree and trees of North America and their foliage. It was followed by a beautiful trip to Polly Hill Arboretum. We collected seeds that travel by air, animals, and mystery
travelers, and we brought them back to the classroom to examine. It was amazing to see such a grand variety and size of all the trees there that started from one tiny seed each. Two trees that are thriving there are from the dinosaur ages: the dawn redwood from the Jurassic Period and the tulip tree from the Cretaceous Period. We were lucky enough to set a butterfly free whose wings had just dried and was ready to go. He was named Tom Petty in honor of his passing.
Elementary II Classroom
- Miss Irene

Last Wednesday, Mary Sage, our Island Grown gardener, came and took a look at our soil samples. She told us that we should use the one that had a mix of clay, sand, and nutrient-rich silt for planting. The next time she comes, we will be putting a cover crop over our soil.

Matthew wrote a petition to have a monthly pizza day. Most of us signed the petition, and we scheduled pizza day for this past Friday. Matthew got us in a line, and when it was our turn, we told him what we would like on our pizza. We assigned ingredients for people to bring in. When the day came, we had a surprise. The pizza would not fit in the oven! So we baked it with the door partly open on a higher temperature. The girls made pepperoni, cheese, and olives on one and olives and mushrooms on the other. The boys made sausage and pepperoni, some with cheese and some without.

In tennis, we played the Laser Game. Mike, the instructor, threw us forehand and backhand balls. If we hit five, he would give us the laser ball (fast ball). If we hit it over the net, we would win the game. I, Grace Coggins, won!!

We put together the tree of life as a group. It took us about 1/2 hour. The next day, we worked on taxonomy. We were told a long story about Irene's missing dog named Maximillian. It taught us about Kingdom, Animalia, Phylum, Class, Order, Family, Genus, Species, Breed, Name (Maximillian). We watched videos about it and filled out worksheets after choosing two animals that we wanted to research. I researched dogs and penguins. The taxonomy of the penguin is as follows: Animalia, Vertebrate, Chordata, Aves, Sphenisciformes, Spheniscidae, Aptonodytes, Birds, Penguin.

On behalf of the Elementary II and Adolescent Programs, we would like to inform you of our bake sale at Truckin M.V. We will be raising money for MMUN.
Middle School
- *Miss Ty*

The middle school class has been actively working on two projects this week. One of them is the classification of living things based on the work of Carolus Linnaeus, Swedish scientist who lived in the 1700’s. Matthew is studying the current theories of classification, which are in some ways very different from Linnaeus’s.

In the 1700’s, all living things were classified as either plants or animals. Now the class is finding out two different processes to classify life: that there are three domains (Bacteria, Archaea, and Eukarya) and also that there are six different kingdoms of living things. The six-kingdom model uses the names: Archaebacteria, Eubacteria, Protista, Fungi, Plants, and Animals. After kingdoms, come phylum, class, order, family, genus, and species. These groupings are from the most general to the most specific.

The first four kingdoms (of the six-kingdom model) are being investigated now, with the study of the classification of plants to come later in the semester.

The Late Day Program
- *Ms. Weezie*
Our beautiful fall weather has allowed us many opportunities to play outside, observe, and explore nature's changes. Students have collected acorns for counting, sorting, and peeling, and they have also used them for pretend money and to roll them down a ramp in our block area. This week, we observed a beautiful sunflower and created our own out of torn paper. We identified all the parts, including the seeds, which we found to be very tasty! Students then helped mount our sunflowers for a poster garden and labeled the parts.

There is such an abundance of quality children’s literature about autumn and its changes, including "Apples and Pumpkins", "A Tree is Nice", "Autumn Orange", and "Leaf Jumpers". Children learn to love books and reading when adults around them share their own pleasure in reading and language. We can show our children that words are everywhere from cereal boxes to shops and street signs. They love to identify the letters that they know. Enjoy the long weekend!

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

VMS Wish List
Magnetic Blocks

Vineyard Montessori School
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(508) 693-4090

An independent school serving PreK through Grade 8.
Fostering a lifetime love of learning, one child at a time.