"Within the child lies the fate of the future."
- Maria Montessori

Outside Movie Night

Thursday, September 21, 2017
6:30 PM

Featuring the movie

SING

VMS Field
Bring a beach/camp chair
Family and friends are welcome
Weather permitting

Generously donated by Martha’s Vineyard Audio Group

Www.vineyardmontessori.com
Calendar

**Monday, September 18th:** VMS Community Meeting
1st Truckin' MV Team Meeting

**Thursday, September 21st:** World Peace Day
Big Screen Movie under the stars. Come watch the movie *Sing* with your family and friends at VMS. Please bring a beach chair. Popcorn served. 6:30 P.M. Donations welcome.

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

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

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

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

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

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Spread the Word for VMS

It has been a great start to the new school year. As most of you know, our elementary students moved from our Main Street location to Greenwood Ave location in Vineyard Haven. This expanded campus has resulted in extra space for more students. If you know of someone who would be interested in attending VMS, please let them know that there are a couple spaces open in each program: preschool, first through third grade, fourth through sixth grade, and in our new middle school for seventh and eighth grades. Please contact Debbie Jernegan at headofschool@vineyardmontessori.com for more information.

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Primary 1 Classroom

*—Miss Cristina and Miss Rebecca*

The first week with all the students attending their full schedules was a success. We try to build structure into the day that will be familiar to each child: Coming into the class, changing into indoor shoes, sitting on the rug, and talking with friends. Some of the songs you may have heard at home are “Hello Everybody”, “Buenos Dias”, and “Baby Beluga”.

Every day, I introduce Spanish words. This week, the students have been learning some colors and numbers.

During the working period, I play some relaxing music to create a calming environment in class.
The returning students are working on more challenging lessons that they worked on last year. It is precious to see them feeling very proud each time they learn something new.

We are using our outdoor space every day. We have been very lucky with the weather, so we went for a nature walk to Little Owen Beach. All the students collected rocks and a great deal of sea glass. Julianna even found a huge conk. It was a lot of fun. We will definitely do more nature walks throughout the year.

Last week, a friend donated a stump on which the children could use to practice their hammering skills. We love this addition to our practical life area. This is extremely popular and is something that lasts throughout the fall and then starts up again in the spring. We are spending some time on the deck, not only for hammering, but also to observe a beautiful sunflower blooming. The children have been going outside with a clipboard and paper to draw the sunflower.

*When the child goes out, it is the world itself that offers itself to him. Let us take the child out to show him real things instead of making objects which represent ideas and closing them up in cupboards.* – Dr. Maria Montessori

What an amazing week we have had! The children are becoming acquainted with each other and developing new friendships. They have been getting used
to the full-day routines, and many of the returning students have done a wonderful job of offering help to our new students. As each child enters the room in the morning, they go straight to their cubbies to put away their belongings and change into their slippers. When they have completed that part, the children then join the group on the rug for our morning meeting. After that, the children are free to choose lessons off the shelves to work on, either independently or with a friend. By keeping our routines consistent, the children can begin to anticipate what happens next in our day and can ready themselves and become more independent.

Often times during our morning meeting, I present a lesson to the whole group. One of the lessons I presented this week was on geometric solids. The children were introduced to the cube, cylinder, cone, and sphere. After learning the names and having a chance to hold and feel the shape of the solid, we played a memory game called ‘What's missing?’. I asked the children to close their eyes as I removed one geometric solid from the group. When I asked the children to open their eyes, they had to try and guess which solid was missing. The children really enjoyed this game, and I reminded them that this is something they could do with a friend. Many children did try this lesson, and some even practiced it on their own. By observing the children work with an activity after I present it allows me to see if they have absorbed the lesson and are able to recall the vocabulary that goes along with the lesson. If I see that the child is missing a key point to the lesson, I will present it again individually to that child.

As a reminder, some children still need a blanket/pillow for rest time. Let me know if you are unsure if your child is resting in the afternoon.
Elementary I Classroom
- Miss Nora

This week, the students began individual work plans. Working more independently, the children were able to break off into smaller, cooperative groups, partnering with equally matched levels of curriculum. We started art and the study of Henri Matisse, the famous French artist. We read a book explaining the story and reasons behind his famous paper cut-out compositions and the approach he took. We made our own brightly colored sheets of paper as Matisse did and created our own compositions. The masterpieces will be going home shortly.

The study of geometry is still very much alive in our class. Addison spent an extended amount of time working with the Blue Triangle Box, which includes twelve right angle scalene triangles of equal size. He made some amazing discoveries. "I was just making different shapes, and I made a big long rectangle, a square, a trapezoid, a rhombus, quadrilaterals, and really cool stuff," he said. "I made a bunch of sailboats, too!"

This week, we started Show-and-Tell. Ask your children what they learned today from their friends.
Elementary II Classroom
- Arin Atema

We started this week looking at ancient civilizations, which I personally love. Also, we covered word problems, and we reviewed converting fractions and equivalent fractions. In science, we learned about different types of energy, including potential, kinetic, gravitational, elastic, nuclear, and so on.

We have had excellent recesses with badminton, and now we have even more equipment like Velcro hand paddles. There is really nice scenery here at Camp Jabberwocky, including lots of sassafras trees. The inside of our classrooms are really nice, too. I love how we get to do working snacks whenever we want.

On Thursday afternoon, we went to the library to choose books for silent reading time and book reports. It is a nice space, and I hope that the year just gets better from here.
Middle School
- Miss Ty

This week was excellent in the middle school. Matthew works closely with the upper elementary students in all non-academic areas like lunch, recess and specials, including Spanish and drama. He also spends time with them during free work times and some combined lessons, although the academic expectations for him may be different. Together, upper elementary and the middle school make a great school experience.

This week, math lessons continued with Matthew working his way through an algebra 1 textbook. In language, Matthew worked on a book report on a summer reading choice, various vocabulary studies, and a short story. These accompanied the literature study of *Far North*, with a study of the map of Canada being completed.

History began with an overview of early humans and an examination of one of the earliest hominid fossils. We read a book that examined Lucy, an example of Australopithecus afarensis. A timeline of early hominid and humans is next,
leading up to the examination of the beginnings of civilization.

It seemed the most activity came in science this week. The students in both classes are working on several experiments in energy – potential and kinetic. This work will prepare them for the Living Local Harvest Festival at the Ag Hall on Saturday the 23rd of September. Matthew also continued working on botany studies with an experiment with clover seeds. Five different plastic-wrapped saucers held seeds with different types of water and/or exposures to light. Which ones will germinate best?

The Late Day Program
- Ms. Weezie

I am happy to report that our VMS Late Day Program began successfully on September 11th with twelve students participating.

Late day afternoons include an after-school snack (sent from home), songs, stories, puppetry, manipulative games, arts and crafts, and outside play. Please provide comfortable clothing and footwear that is seasonally appropriate. I will include photos and descriptions of our activities in each newsletter and always welcome parent comments or questions. We look forward to full and happy afternoons spent at the Vineyard Montessori School.

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

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An independent non-profit school
Pre-k through sixth grade.

Fostering a lifetime love of learning, one child at a time.

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