"Look deep into nature and then everything will look better."

-Albert Einstein

Calendar

Wednesday, October 4th: Admissions Open House at 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, October 5th: SING, Outside Movie Night, VMS Main Campus at 6:30 p.m.

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

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

VMS will host three admissions open houses in October. Please help us spread the word to families of preschool children through middle school students to join us on Wednesday, October 4th, Thursday, October 12th, or Tuesday, October 17th at 7:00 p.m. each of these evenings. 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!

VMS Hosted the M.V. Early Learning Community this Week

Over 35 early childhood teachers and directors on Martha’s Vineyard were hosted at VMS on Tuesday evening. The agenda for this gathering included identifying professional development opportunities and advocacy.

Primary 1 Classroom
-Miss Cristina and Miss Rebecca

This week, we went for a nature walk in our neighborhood. Each child got to collect anything that was special to them. Most collected leaves, rocks, flowers, and shells.

We also finished all the red Sandpaper Letters (a, m, g, s, t, r). Some of the students are making booklets by drawing an object that starts with the letter sound and writing the word.

There has been a huge interest in geography this week. We talked about the Earth and the continents. Many children trace the continents of the world onto pieces of construction paper, and then they carefully “punch” around the outlines so the continent pops out. A few children have also pasted them onto a large paper to create a map of the world, complete with labels of the continents and oceans. Please be on the lookout for these amazing pieces of work.

“When children come into contact with nature, they reveal their strength.” - Maria Montessori
For the start of this week, I put many new lessons in the classroom for the children to work with. One of the large works was shell scrubbing. Many of the large scrubbing lessons, such as table scrubbing, hand washing, and plant washing consist of multiple steps. A child must first put on an apron, lay out the materials needed for the lesson, gather the appropriate amount of water, carry the water to the activity, fill the bowl with the water, and begin scrubbing. Afterward, when the child feels that the object/table is clean, he/she will begin the clean-up process. These lessons allow for many sensory experiences and a great deal of gross and fine motor movements. The feel of the cool water, the smell of the fragrant soap, and the sight of bubbles are all ways why the child finds these lessons so appealing.

Another new lesson that we started this week was using scissors. The children were very excited to cut strips of card stock into tiny pieces. This is another great activity to help develop fine motor control, which will later be useful when a child begins writing. I can already see the children’s fine motor skills increasing as they build towers with the knob less cylinders. The first few pieces are easy to stack, but as the size and dimension decrease, it becomes more of a challenge to place the piece carefully on top of the last without the tower toppling down.
We experienced our first emergency drill this week. The children did a great job of leaving their work when the alarm went off and lined up at the door quietly. We then walked down to our meeting spot, which is by the tire swing, and we waited patiently while attendance was taken, making sure every child exited the school safely. We will be having these drills on a monthly basis.

Gardening will begin next week. Ava Castro from Island Grown Preschools will visit our class each week to work with the children. She uses our outside garden beds and often does activities in the classroom. We look forward to her arrival next week.

Elementary I Classroom
- Miss Nora

This week, the Elementary I class started the history of time keeping. They began with the sun and moon. They learned early sundials spread through Egypt first. These sundials were only able to measure large blocks of time. Later, sundials were more complicated and more specific in the time they measured. The Babylonians adapted their system of 12-hour days to the face of their sundials. Other versions of this clock face were developed by the Greeks and Romans. This form of clock face continues in use today. The students were also introduced to different kinds of water time keeping, hour glasses, drums, cannons, analog, digital, and Greenwich Mean Time. Eleni and Declan worked on the months of the year derivations, abbreviations, and number of days.

We began botany this week with the study of seeds. We had a guest from Polly Hill Arboretum come and visit in preparation for a field trip next week to the Arboretum. Island Grown Schools starts next week, too, so we will be able to study characteristics of both fruit and vegetable seeds as well as plant and tree seeds.
Elementary II
Classroom
- Miss Irene

Thank you to all of you who came to visit us at the Harvest Festival. Some of your children made a great audience and willing participants for the upper elementary students with the energy experiments that we practiced. It was a pleasure for our kids to act as a part of the island community and visit the other vendors, listen to music, have a horse and cart ride, and go through the hay maze. We are grateful to have such a friend as Nevette Previd who connected us to Cape Light Compact and education program coordinator, Debbie Fitton. We look forward to working with her in future years.

This week, students looked at print advertisements in the MV Times and discussed target audience, ad placement, logos, word play, etc. They watched a short YouTube video from Business and Economics for Kidz. It included television commercials which were analyzed for using advertising techniques like "repetition", "plain folk", "association", and "wit and humor". Students came up with a good or service and wrote fictitious print advertisements. These will be added to their fictional newspaper articles to form a short paper.

This week was our first week of tennis lessons, and we were happy to have sunny, summer-like weather. Matthew and Connor replaced a basketball net with a nice new one that Debbie brought to us, and the weather also allowed us to get
This week, the middle school class worked on clearing an existing pathway behind our “house” to make a wider, more welcoming walkway to Greenwood Avenue. First, Matthew and students from Upper Elementary cleared the path of the many dead limbs that had come down from the recent storm. Then the weeds and small shrubs were clipped, and the whole thing was raked. Our plans are to make some benches from some of the dead logs littering the woods alongside the path.

The outdoor environment provides adolescents with the opportunity for real work – not busy work. This work needs to be done for the optimal working of the class. Pride, strength, and normalization occurs with real work. As Maria Montessori said:

“Men with hands and no head, and men with head and no hands are equally out of place in the modern community...Therefore the work on the land is an introduction both to nature and civilization and gives a limitless field for scientific and historic studies...The rural atmosphere offers students a kind of ‘place apart’ – a safe and healthy environment to promote their transition to adulthood.” (From Childhood to Adolescence, M. Montessori)

Real work in the outdoors is part of our exercises of Practical Life. Care of the environment gives all the students a sense of responsibility for themselves and their community.
Our afternoon students who are not napping are nevertheless resting quietly on their mats, listening to soothing music for approximately thirty minutes. Children may then choose selected rug work, puzzles, manipulatives, books, or arts and crafts. This week, we read "As an Oak Tree Grows" among other seasonal literature. Students helped gather acorns from our play yard and used some to decorate a large poster which they had colored. This was a small group activity promoting social skills, fine motor skills, as well as language and cognitive abilities. Late Day students helped with lettering on our project as well as gathering to supplement our acorn supply. Our outdoor environment is also a teacher!
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

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