VMS Welcomes New Office Administrator

VMS is so thrilled to have Rhiannon Fernandes join the office team as the new office administrator. Rhiannon is a graduate of Massachusetts College of Art and Design where she earned her BFA in architectural design. She has experience as a Montessori student, parent, and volunteer and is thrilled to become a part of the VMS community. Please join me in welcoming Rhiannon to
our school community.

Calendar

**Monday, September 11th:** School opens for Primary Students (Full Day)

**Thursday, September 14th:** School Banking Begins

**Thursday, September 18th:** VMS Community 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

Primary 1 Classroom

*-Miss Cristina and Miss Rebecca*

I am very happy to be part of the Vineyard Montessori School community. I feel blessed to have the opportunity to teach such a wonderful group of children this year.

Rebecca and I welcomed five new children into our classroom this Tuesday and Wednesday and nine returning children on Thursday and Friday. They learned to sit patiently and listen on the rug while I taught them songs, read them stories, and gave them lessons on how to take care of each other and our environment. They also practiced rolling rugs, pushing in chairs, walking quietly in the classroom, and getting to know each other.

I am very excited to introduce Spanish words to the students every day. They can find Spanish books and bilingual activities in the classroom. They love it!

According to studies, "preschool students are constantly developing their brains, which allows them to learn and retain new languages easier than older counterparts. Since these students continue to develop their English language skills, foreign language can be developed simultaneously."

Miss Weezie came to our classroom on Thursday and Friday morning to meet the students. She read a book and sang with them. It was very nice to have her join us before we start a full day routine next week.

I’m looking forward to a wonderful year with your children!
Welcome to our new families and welcome back to our returning families.....We have had such an amazing first week of school. Our new students are settling in nicely and are beginning to understand our morning routines. They have been introduced to some of the lessons on the shelves and are enjoying some songs, finger plays and stories. We had group snack the first two days and then the children were shown how to self-serve snack from the snack table.

Our returning students were so excited to get back into the classroom and pick up where they left off from last year. A few children were ready to start making maps and continue on their number rolls. They were very helpful to the new students by being positive role models and by assisting in any way they could.

The children were all introduced to our Late Day teacher, Miss Weezie, which will be helpful next week when the full day schedule begins. As a reminder, all children staying until 4:00p.m. will need an extra snack packed in their lunch or in a separate container marked "Late Day snack". Those children that will be resting will need a small crib-size blanket and pillow.

I am really looking forward to this year and to getting to know your children more each day.
Elementary I Classroom
- Miss Nora

What a great first week of school! The class bonded amazingly fast with a great deal of sensitivity and thoughtfulness. This is a group that loves to learn! The students have been eager for new lessons since day one. We got to know each other through some co-operative games at the school followed by a beach walk for some materials to use in the classroom. We enjoyed a picnic in Owen Park.

The first few weeks are always an assessment period for all students returning or new. This week, the long bead chains were popular with all the students. Once again, the beauty of the Montessori materials lent itself well to all of the different levels in the class. The students start with counting, then skip counting, then move into the squaring of numbers. We also began geometry this week, studying the different types of triangles and quadrilaterals. Language and reading are always blended in with every lesson.

I am waiting to hear back from the Tennis Center at the airport for class lessons. The Youth Tennis Program is short staffed this fall, so unfortunately that is not an option. I am also waiting to hear back from Anne Ducharme at the MV Historical Museum to set up a collaborative curriculum for the fall.

As of now, there is no addition to the September calendar. If things change, I will let you know as soon as possible.
Elementary II Classroom
- Miss Irene

Welcome Back!

The Elementary II students participated in a guided writing lesson this week. They helped me to brainstorm what we have done this week in order to write this article. After brainstorming, we worked on introductions/headlines and keeping news articles straightforward with facts while weeding out opinions and unnecessary details. As a follow up to our group lesson, the students were given an assignment to write a newspaper article with catchy headlines, supporting details, and a wrap up. Starting next week, one student reporter will work with me to write the weekly news article. This will continue throughout the year.

Although reluctant to return to school, we have all had fun so far. Our first day included a tour, introductions, getting to know Blossom, the guinea pig, math
assessments, and book report presentations. As a group, we did a scavenger hunt and celebrated Marysol's 11th birthday and Silas's 12th birthday!

While we were getting to know each other, we found out what each other did over the summer. Some of our summer fun included a trip on the Shenandoah, camping in Vermont, playing in baseball tournaments, waterskiing, jumping off a 25' pole, ultimate Frisbee, and skiing in Chile.

Please don't forget to join us at the Vineyard Haven Library this Sunday for the Fun Run at 9:45 a.m. and the 5K at 10:00 a.m. Registration is at 8:30 a.m. Volunteers to help out are always welcome!

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**Middle School**

- *Miss Ty*

The new year is off to a wonderful start over at the Greenwood Campus of Vineyard Montessori. The Middle School works with the Upper Elementary class, and together we have eight students and two teachers. Matthew Coggins is the seventh grader; our sole, hard-working middle school student. Blossom, the guinea pig, completes our menagerie!

So far this year, we have established the regular routine of math studies each morning, followed by literature, science, writing, or social studies. In literature, we are starting off the year with reading *Far North*, a survival story set in the Northwest Territories of Canada. Matthew will be studying the indigenous people of the region, as well as the geography of Canada.

Our first science class found us beginning the study of botany by studying the needs of plants. A lesson on photosynthesis culminated in a chart of the "green powerhouse", which is a plant.

We are really looking forward to a dynamic, stimulating, and fun-filled year.
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