Meet the Board of Trustees
Robb Moriarty, Chairman of the Board

Robb Moriarty is a lawyer with the law firm of McCarron, Murphy & Vukota LLP in Edgartown. He previously served as an Assistant District Attorney in the Cape & Islands District Attorney’s Office. He was born in Holyoke, MA, but has spent most of his life on the Vineyard. He is a graduate of the Martha’s Vineyard Regional High School, Boston College and Suffolk Law School. He lives in Edgartown with his wife Eileen and sons Jack and Robbie.

Robb is now in his 3rd year of serving as a member on the VMS Board of Trustees.

We are excited and pleased to have kindergarten aged children in the primary classrooms. These students are capitalizing on the huge scope of Montessori lessons they received in their 1st years in the classroom. In this crucial year, these older students are increasing their academic and social competence skills to fully prepare them for the next level of learning.

Information

◊ Banking is every Thursday.

◊ The next Truckin’ MV subcommittee meeting is Tuesday, September 20 at 8:30 a.m. in Debbie’s office.

◊ School picture day is Tuesday, October 20th! Please remember to bring your school picture form in to your classroom teacher.

◊ The next PTO meeting is Tuesday, October 20th from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Child watch will be available.

◊ This fall weather is unpredictable, it can be hot one day and cool another. Please send in extra long sleeve and short sleeve clothing, extra socks, etc with your child for their cubby and/or locker. We go outside every day.

◊ October 27th and October 29th are Parent Teacher Conference days with a noon dismissal. Please sign up on your classroom door for a conference time that best fits your schedule.
**Miss Chris and Miss Holly’s class**

Many children have been introduced to or have been working with the Math materials. After having been shown many of the Sensorial lessons, the children are then introduced to the beginning Math lessons. Beginning with learning quantities and symbols of numbers 1-9, the child will begin to understand the correlation between a number and it’s quantity. Once this is achieved, children are then introduced to teens numbers, the decimal system and basic operations. In the Montessori philosophy it’s stated that the child has a “mathematical mind” and an internal drive to understand the environment around them. It can therefore be said that children have an inborn attraction for math. Their minds are full of energy that propels them to absorb, manipulate, classify, order, sequence, abstract, and repeat. These tendencies are those which help the child to acquire a greater depth to his mathematical knowledge.

This week in gardening, Emily brought in different types of seeds and seed pods. The children collected the seeds to plant in the garden next spring. Every child was fortunate enough to take home a packet of seeds to plant in their home gardens. Our "greens" that we planted and placed in our mini hot house have sprouted and are continuing to grow. The children are enjoying tracking their progress.

Dance class begins next week. We are fortunate to have Jesse, from the Yard, returning this year to work with our children. I know the children will enjoy this fun experience. I have placed a folder on the wall outside our classroom for the returned picture forms. If you haven't returned yours yet, please do so soon. Picture Day is Tuesday!

**Miss Ty and Miss Rebecca’s class**

Last week I talked about the advantages of having a multi-aged group of children learning together. To build on the ideas presented last week: the mixed age group also allows children to witness their own growth in a very concrete way. During their second year they can see that they are able to do activities more easily and with many less spills than the younger children who have just joined their group. Then, in their third year, they are so comfortable with their environment that they function as resources for the younger ones. This is a great ego booster! Older children can often be seen helping a less experienced child carry a heavy map, set out an activity in sequence on their work mat or read an unfamiliar word. And I often don’t even have to ask! It is wonderful to see these older ones rushing to help someone in need. Often the younger ones seek out the older “mentors.”

News from our garden: Emily Duncker of Island Grown Schools visited our class on Thursday. This was her second visit, as she also was here last week to assist the students in “putting the garden to bed” for the winter. Today she helped the children harvest seeds. I hope you save them over the winter to plant next spring! She is a wealth of knowledge and enthusiasm for the children about plants and gardening.
Late Day

The rain storms of Tuesday morning provided children an opportunity to play and explore using water and sand. Rain water was carried to the sand area to create rivers, trenches, dams and volcanos. Teamwork was evident through the conversations, productive collaboration and the spirit of fun. Please continue to send appropriate outerwear and boots. We will continue to enjoy outdoor activities on our playground throughout the winter. Richard Louv, author of *Last Child in the Woods*, reminds us that "outdoor play enlivens and excites all of the senses that become narrowed in our automated world." Books we read this week included: *Time To Say Please*, *The Hat*, *Harvest Time*, *Miss Brooks Loves Books* and *Little Streak-Wing's Vineyard Adventures*. 

Elementary

During the last two weeks our class has been reading a book called *Archimedes and the Door of Science*. Students are assigned a chapter or two to read at home. The next day they fill out role sheets for our Literature Circle. The students use their text as support and to find evidence while filling out information on the role sheets. We gather as a group to share our findings. There are eight different roles that a student may be assigned to. The Director asks the group questions about the passage and runs the meeting while keeping everyone on topic. We have an Illustrator who artistically represents any scene from the passage to see if the other students recognize it. A Travel Tracer records where and when the action takes place. Our Character Captain analyzes the personality and physical description of the main character. The other roles are the Connecter, Passage Master, Vocabulary Builder and Summarizer. After each student presents, the floor is open for comments or additional information. The roles are rotated after each assigned reading. Literature circles give students an in-depth look at books and the many skills that a good writer needs. Additionally, this work develops critical thinking skills, comprehension, and group cooperation and offers exposure to literature with powerful messages.

Today, Emily of Island Grown brought a copy of the Wampanoag alphabet, flashcards for garden words and a record of a speaker saying the words. We talked about the Wampanoag people and the history of their language. Afterwards, students practiced saying the words. This was such a valuable lesson to be a part of especially after our trip to the Aquinnah Cultural Center! Later, students and Emily discussed what they are interested in learning together for the rest of the year.
Dear VMS Families,

The *Truckin’ M.V. sub-committee* had its first meeting Tuesday the 13th.

With only **4 weeks to go**, we are looking for more members to join us. We need your **input** at our next meeting **Tuesday 20th at 8:30am in Debbie’s office**. There will be coffee!!

*If you are unable to attend the next meeting but would like to be a part of this sub-committee, please email Kim D’Arcy or Nicole deBettencourt at pto@vineyardmontessori.com.*

Thank you,

Nicole deBettencourt, Co-President

**Vineyard Montessori PTO**
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