Parental participation improves student learning whether the child is in preschool or in the upper grades.

Many parents have inquired about how they can help. There are so many different ways that you can connect with or be involved in your child’s VMS experience that may fit into your busy life. Below are just a few ways in which you can participate.

As educators we know that when parents, families, and members of the community are involved with schools, all children benefit. Adult participation sends the message that school is important and the work children do there is worthy of adult attention. “Research regarding the effects of family involvement on educational outcomes has shown that parent involvement makes a difference in children’s academic achievement.”

My hope is that you feel welcome at VMS and want to be a part of the community in a way that feels comfortable for you!

**Opportunities To Be Involved**

- Board of Trustees Building and Grounds Sub-Committee
- Board of Trustees Marketing Sub-Committee  
  1st meeting Wednesday, September 23rd
- PTO Playground Committee  
  1st meeting Tuesday, September 22nd
- School Banking Representative
- Attend PTO Meetings
- Help the week of and day of PTO events
- Volunteer as a chaperone on a field trip
- Help on Fun Fridays by providing an activity or healthy snack.
- Participate in events that build your understanding of the Montessori learning environment.
- Borrow a book from the lending library to learn more about the Montessori Way
- Offer your ideas and suggestions to your teacher and/or Debbie about new ways to be involved.
- Communicate with your child’s teacher with any concerns and always share joys!

*IF you have interest in participating in any of the opportunities above please feel free to stop in the office, email or call me.*

*Debbie*
Miss Chris and Miss Holly’s class

After reflecting back on our first full week of school, I wanted to share some amazing moments that took place this week. I observed an older child offering to help a new student open his lunch containers. I observed a once reluctant child now entering the school confidently, not even looking back for that last goodbye from his mom. I witnessed new friendships being created out on the playground. There were lessons being given, not only from Holly and I, but from child to child. Routines were starting to fall into place and the children seemed at peace knowing what was going to happen next based on these routines. It was a wonderful week.....

Our class begins their day as a group, meeting together on the rug. We take attendance, fill in the calendar and weather and then I give a group lesson. The lessons we have been working on as a group have been learning the sounds that letters make. In a Montessori class, the sound of the letters are taught first followed by the name of the letter. For example, we say "This is "S" (and then make the "sss" sound). Some children may already know the name of the letter so I will tell them that the name is "S" but the sound it makes is "sss". When beginning to read, it is easier to blend the sound of the letters then to try to blend the name of the letter. Each Sandpaper Letter has a coordinating box of objects that start with that sound. The children have been enjoying exploring these objects and creating sound stories with the objects. If you would like a copy of the sound/letter groups, please let me know and I will be happy to share that with you.

Miss Ty and Miss Rebecca’s class

I have such a wonderful class! I often sit for a few quiet moments before I leave for school to reflect on the day ahead, and this year my thoughts are filled with your wonderful, exuberant children. What lessons will I give that day? What stories will I read? Shall I teach a new song? Everything is surrounded by the faces and happiness of your children, from the youngest to the oldest!

We have had two children turn five years old this week, with the resulting birthday celebration in the class. The children held a globe while they walked around the “sun”, which was represented by a candle, each revolution accompanied by a count of their age. “One, Two, Three, Four, FIVE!”

I need someone to volunteer to be a class parent this year. Please consider this, especially if you would like to get to know the rest of the parents in the class. This job calls for emailing parents for field trips and organizing rides and such. I would really appreciate the help! Speaking of such, please be sure to get your CORI approval so that you can drive if necessary. This is a relatively painless check of your driving past so that you can be deemed “safe” to ferry the precious cargo of your child’s friends on field experiences. Check with Debbie for the details.

Does anyone have a STUMP I can have for the hammering exercise? I’d love to get it going within the next few weeks.... It should be around 18 to 24 inches tall and it usually is at least 18 inches in diameter. It will stand out on the outer deck for the children to work on. THANK YOU!
This week was very busy for all of us. The students started on Monday reviewing their knowledge of hominid studies that we began last week. They broke up into small groups and focused on different hominids to research. Afterwards they made a 15' timeline of early humans using art materials, photos from the internet and used an app called "Devolve Me" which takes their photo and changes them into early humans. It's free on the internet and fun to do with your family!!

For science we have been having lessons and demonstrations on the work of wind. They are learning how winds are affected by the heat during the solstices, equinoxes and by obstructions such as mountains, promontories and islands. For grammar we have reviewed and practiced rules for commas, apostrophes, collective nouns, hard and soft c and g. We have gone over stories they wrote last year and talked about creative adjectives and transition words.

Each student has chosen a book to read for the next week and given an outline for a Paper Bag Book Report. On their bag, they make a scene from the book, write characters, settings, conflict, and resolution. Inside the bag they place 8 objects that represent subject matter or characters within the story with three of the objects being hand made. The children will present their reports next week.

Today during Fun Friday, the students played a few games with Cristina to get to know her better. She will be my assistant on Mondays and Tuesdays. Jen will join us for the rest of the week. We are so happy to have Cristina join our staff. She will be teaching French to us starting next Wednesday.

We are also excited to have Joyce begin our Theater and Movement classes next Tuesday. The following week we will head to Vineyard Youth Tennis Center for lessons on Thursdays.

Enjoy the weekend!!!
Information & Reminders

◊ If your child stays for late day, please remember to pack an additional labeled snack.

◊ There is a well equipped library, filled with many books about the Montessori philosophy, located in the office. If you are interested in borrowing any from the lending library, please stop in and choose one.

◊ If you would like your child to be a part of the school savings program, Save America, please drop off the form. Bank day will be Thursday. We are looking for two more parent volunteers to have facilitate the program for a 1/2 hour the first part of the morning.

◊ The PTO’s first meeting is September 29th. The PTO is looking for a secretary to join the board. Please email Nicole deBettencourt or Rachel Shea at pto@vineyardmontessori.com if you are interested.

◊ Our doors open every morning at 8:30 a.m., unless you have signed up for early drop-off.

◊ Make sure your child has extra clothes in their cubby or locker. If clothes come home please remember to repack their cubby or locker.

◊ If you have any questions about your child’s day or want to share news of their morning please email your teacher. They would like you to contact them with any concerns or joys you have to share.

◊ Please take the opportunity to let your child walk into the school on their own by saying goodbye at the gate or the bottom of the stairs that lead into the school. Try to establish a routine of saying goodbye at the front door of the school. The teachers will be there to help your child enter the room and put away their belongings. Your child will begin to feel a sense of confidence by being able to achieve these beginning goals independently.