Thank you so much to the PTO and all the families that worked on building the new climbing structure.

The children are all enjoying climbing and challenging themselves.

♦ Tonight at 4:00 p.m. Most Likely to Succeed at the MV Film Center. The flyer is attached to this newsletter.

♦ Wednesday, February 17th, Jeannine Fitzgerald is coming to VMS for a Parenting Education Evening just for our families Please sign up at pto@vineyardmontessori.com if you are interested in attending.

♦ Monday, February 15th VMS is closed in observance of Washington’s Birthday.

♦ Monday, February 22nd through February 26th the Vineyard Montessori School is closed for winter break.
This week two special friends of mine came to our class for a visit. The children got to meet "Officer Max" and "Officer Liz". Tisbury police officers, Max Sherman and Liz Hourihan visited our class and had the opportunity to read stories to the children and talk to them about what it means to be a police officer. They came in full uniform and showed the children the many parts to their uniforms. The children got to play a version of "Simon Says..." but instead of it being Simon, they played "Officer Max says...". Max and Liz gave each child their own police badge to bring home. Officer Max will be returning next Friday and will be bringing a special friend of his. I wonder who it will be?? Stay tuned.........

The children began a unit on seeds and planted some peas with Miss Emily. Within a week, the pea shoots have already begun sprouting. In the upcoming weeks, the children will be harvesting them and making their own hummus.

I have described some of the purchases made from the generous donations from parents at holiday time. Another purchase was in our Geography area. Several of our Montessori continent maps were missing pieces. These were tiny countries within the continents. For example, in the continent map of North America Honduras and Belize were missing. The continent map of Asia had South Korea and Sri Lanka missing. There were several more missing pieces, including Rhode Island, Connecticut and Delaware on the United States map. Well, I ordered those missing pieces and the children were delighted to have complete maps with which to work! We have several beautiful representations of North America hanging on our wall. Be sure to check them out.

I also purchased a beautiful frog puzzle, which is of beautifully crafted wood that the children can take apart while working on the parts of the frog work. We have begun a whole “amphibian” unit, and have discussed some of the main characteristics of frogs, salamanders, and newts. The children learned that they lay eggs, that the young are hatched in water, that the young breathe through gills, like fish, until they change into adults. That change is why they are called amphibians! I am hoping to find some tadpoles in the spring to keep in the class for a few weeks before returning the adult frogs to the wild. If anyone could help with this, that would be great! Of course, that’s a long way away.

We’ve begun some new sewing projects and many of the children are getting quite adept at threading needles and stitching on a card. There is also a finger knitting exercise on the shelf that seems quite complicated and only a few have tried. All this is to set up an embroidery unit that will make its appearance in the next week or so.
Happy 11th Birthday Tomas! Today our Model Montessori United Nations students practiced giving their opening speeches. They are expected to memorize their one minute speech which is an introduction of their country, the history of the topic that they are covering and what their country proposes to do in order to rectify the problem. Previously, each student wrote a 2-3 page research paper on their topics. they used these to organize their speeches. They are also working on their country display boards which will include information such as their country’s landmarks, clothing, food, sports, water and land formations, animals and unusual facts.

Our class is so excited and thankful to Debbie donated an additional laptop to our classroom. There are often times when all of the students are eager to research biomes, elements, countries, continents, islands and animals. This additional computer is very helpful and greatly appreciated. Thank you Debbie!

If you happen to be walking down Main St. in Vineyard Haven please stop at Mad Martha's to view our new window display. The students have some of their writing pieces and artwork there.

Late Day with Miss Weezie and Miss Cristina

The children are really enjoying the new climbing structure.

Afternoons are full of literacy and play. We have read many books in the afternoon this week including The Dog Weearing Shoes by Sangmi Ko, Lets Get a Pup! By Bob Graham, and This book just ate my dog!
Film Screening

Saturday, February 6th, 2016, 4:00 P.M.

Martha’s Vineyard Film Center
$12. General Admission $9. Member
$7 child 14 or younger
Doors open for admissions 30 minutes prior
You can pre-order your tickets at:
http://mvfilmsociety.com/2016/01/most-likely-to-succeed/

Panel discussion Q&A immediately following with:
Matthew T. D’Andrea, L.P.D., Superintendent of Schools
Richard Smith, Assistant Superintendent
Donna Luther, Head of Inly School, faculty member of Creative Education foundation and adjunct faculty member at Lesley University
Timothy Madden, State Representative for Falmouth, Martha’s Vineyard, the Elizabeth Islands and Nantucket

Presented in collaboration with the Vineyard Montessori School

The current educational system in the United States was developed a century ago during the rise of the industrial age and was once the envy of the world. However, the world economy has since transformed profoundly, but the US education system has not. Schools are attempting to teach and test skills, when mastered, that still leave graduates woefully unprepared for the 21st Century. After presenting this problem, the documentary focuses on the story of a school in San Diego that is completely rethinking what the experience of going to school looks like. As we follow students, parents and teachers through a truly unorthodox school experience, the audience is forced to consider what sort of educational environment is most likely to succeed in the 21st century.

"...a message Americans need to hear, and desperately test." -Huffington Post

"...among the best edu-documentaries ever produced." -Education Week