Happenings around the VMS campus—

On Saturday, January 9th, weather permitting, there will be an installation of the climbing structure. Sam Hall, Lucia’s dad, has volunteered to organize the installation and could use a few volunteers to help with the installation. Installation will begin at 9:30. If you are able to come please email me and let me know.

Ty, Chris, Cristina and I will be attending the Montessori Schools of Massachusetts Annual Conference on Saturday at Dean College in Franklin. The Keynote Speaker for the 2016 Annual Conference is Dr. Steven Hughes. Dr. Hughes speaks about education and brain development at conferences, universities, schools, and training centers all over the world. Immediately following we participate in workshops for the remainder of the day.

VMS will offer a two week, Letgo Your Mind summer program and registration begins on January 14th. Visit Letgoyourmind.com for all the information you need on this unique program and to register. Letgo Your Mind offers fun and enriching programs using LEGO in the areas of simple machines and robotics, and an introduction to stop animation. Letgo Your Mind Summer Programs are for students between the ages of 4 and 13 and are offered in NH, MA and VT. The programs focus on the vital STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) and challenge children to think creatively, problem solve, work as part of a team and reinforce skill sets while the students have lots of fun. If you have any questions about Letgo Your Mind please feel free to stop in the office or email me.

Off Shore Ale Company is hosting a Dine to Donate evening on January 21st for the Vineyard Montessori School. It would be great to see many families and friends of VMS there that night. You will need a coupon to hand in when you pay for your meal for VMS to get a % from your dining. I will have coupons soon and will email all families the coupon when I have it.

Save the Date!
Saturday, February 6th at 4:00 p.m., the VMS Board of Trustees is sponsoring a screening of the film Most Likely to Succeed at the MV Film Center in Vineyard Haven.

Film Synopsis: “For most of the last century, entry-level jobs were plentiful, and college was an affordable path to a fulfilling career. That world no longer exists. The feature-length documentary examines the history of education, revealing the growing shortcomings of our school model in today’s innovative world. It’s artistic quality is extraordinary and the story it tells will hold the attention of the audience. Second, it points to the critical issues affecting education today and conveys the urgency for moving our school into the 21st century…but in an inspiring way. Finally, the film poses questions rather than attempts to shove a point of view down the throats of the audience. As a result, we find people across a wide range of audiences engaged and inspired by the film, with lots of energy and commitment to a future possibility.”
Primary with Miss Chris and Miss Holly

Happy New Year to all…..

I hope everyone had a restful vacation. The children were very excited to return to school and share with us the many adventures they had over the break. Sharing stories at morning meeting is a wonderful opportunity to practice many of the social skills that each child is developing. Speaking in front of a large group, a child needs to use a loud, clear tone of voice and be able to organize his/her thoughts in order to recall the sequence of events. The children listening to the speaker need to be attentive and patient as they wait for their turn to share. We try and give the children the chance to share any stories or information each morning.

Miss Emily returned this week to show the children how to twist the wool and make it into yarn. She showed them how strong the wool becomes when the fiber is twisted together. Each child was able to make a yarn bracelet to wear.

The children enthusiastically welcomed Miss Joyce back to our class. Music has become one of our class’ favorite activities. They are enjoying singing the songs, following rhythms and using the instruments.

As the weather is now turning colder, please send your child’s winter weather gear each day packed in a backpack or tote bag. It is nice to have these things in case the weather changes throughout the day. It is helpful to practice with your child putting on and take off snow pants, gloves/mittens and their boots. We strive to have each child develop that sense of independence. Thank you for your help!

Thank you so much for all the generous donations to our class before the holidays. I have made many orders of books, materials, and map pieces… now all we have to do is wait for them to come in.

There was an excitement that was palpable as the children returned to their classroom Monday. The adults observed an ease of transitioning back into their work and a quiet “busyness” all week. Some new exercises, along with many old ones, were popular. These included spelling words with the moveable alphabet, water color painting, reading cards and explorations with the sensorial materials. Some elaborate pieces of math materials were completed, which the children promptly called “Huge Work!” Much art was done. Please check out your child’s necklace when he or she brings it home!

We are excited to welcome Mabel O’Connor to our class, along with her parents Beth and Mo. Mabel is three years old and will attend Wednesday, Thursday and Friday mornings. She has made a peaceful, joyful transition into our community, and we are all excited to have her. Some of her favorite pieces of work are painting and apple cutting. She gets much support and assistance from the other children in the class, who have shown care and kindness to their new friend.

Primary with Miss Ty and Miss Rebecca
Late Day with Miss Weezie and Miss Cristina

Happy New Year to all! The children were eager to return to school and classmates after the holiday break. Everyone appeared refreshed and enthused especially when we were treated to our first snowfall of the season. We were able to purchase some new snow shovels just in time to put them to good use building roads and snowy pathways.

Our books this week included: *Tracks in the Snow*, *Island Winter*, and *Lost in the Snow and Henry the Explorer*.

We made snow scenes on construction paper using white chalk. Students created snowmen, snowstorms, snowflakes and blizzards. We have used folded white paper and scissors to design unique snowflake patterns to adorn winter windows. Weezie and Cristina