Save the date!

**VINEYARD MONTESSORI SCHOOL PRESENTS**

**BIG NIGHT OUT**

Lola's, 15 Island Inn Rd, Oak Bluffs

Music by:

THE SOMERVILLE SYMPHONY ORKESTAR

"THE ULTIMATE PARTY BAND FOR THE CROWD THAT WANTS TO DANCE ALL NIGHT"

FESTIVE ATTIRE

EXCITING SILENT AND LIVE AUCTION

Music, Dancing, Drinks and Small Plates

**SATURDAY MAY 7TH**

7-11PM

**TICKETS $30**

AVAILABLE AT THE DOOR

AND FROM VMS PARENTS

PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT VMS

VINEYARDMONTESSORI.COM

**INFORMATION**

- **Vineyard Montessori School Website** Please take the time to visit our new website at [http://vineyardmontessori.com/](http://vineyardmontessori.com/)
- Please find attached the PTO Minutes from the Tuesday, March 15, 2016 meeting
Primary with Miss Chris and Miss Holly

Geography and map making continues to stimulate curiosity and creativity amongst the children. The older children have been discussing and exploring their placement in our world. Beginning with their address, to their town, followed by their state, country, continent, planet and finally galaxy. When creating their maps, the children are now able to understand how they fit into the grand picture of their world. Some of the younger students are exploring the continent boxes to see how other children live, dress and eat compared to how they live, dress and eat. Being exposed to other cultures and ways of life help the children to feel a part of a global community.

Our second week of skating showed big accomplishments in our skating progress. Today the children were able to skate/march their way across the ice, some making it all the way to the opposite end. Getting up after falling down is now much easier and each child is gaining balance and control. Thank you to Jennifer, Tracey, Karen, Nicole and Rachel for driving to skating.

Our bakers created wonderful peanut butter cookies for us to share together. While sharing our snack together, the younger children are able to recall each ingredient that was included in the recipe. If any parents are interested in the recipes, please let us know and we can get them to you.

So we march towards spring, which is only a few days away if you can believe it. Remember to look at your weather app for the actual temperature as you dress your child for the day. Often a child has only a sweatshirt or a sweater when we head outside and he or she gets cold in the wind off the harbor! Children can always take off layers if the wind dies down or the temperatures rise, but it is hard to find extra layers for those that get cold.

We have a new exercise on the sensorial shelf. Just to re-cap, the purpose and the aim of the sensorial area is for the child to acquire “clear, conscious information and to be able to then make classifications in his/her environment.” Montessori believed that sensorial experiences begin at birth, and through his/her senses, the child studies his/her environment.” (Montessori Primary Guide).

The new addition of the “Smelling Bottles” ask children to smell two random odors from various bottles and try to match them. This is harder than you think! Children of various ages have been exploring this exercise.

Another sensorial exploration has been the on-going learning of the names of three-dimensional figures. Sphere, Rectangular Prism, Square-based Pyramid, Cube. We frequently review the shapes in the Geometric Solids tray. Recently we began a group “hunt” for shapes in our environment. What are the same shapes as these solids? The children were delighted to find that there are many prisms (all the boxes in the room!), cubes, several spheres, and even a few cones! We had so much fun with this examination of our environment.
After our trip to MMUN in NY our Upper Elementary students settled back into their classroom environment and shared with fellow students their experiences. Younger students talked about Misty Meadows and Cristina told us all about her wedding in Spain. She shared traditions and showed destinations of places she visited while home. Thursday we went outside to watch Silas’s great aunts house being placed by a crane onto its foundation behind our school. Soon we will begin our island hikes as the weather warms to learn about the flora and fauna of our island and to get some exercise.

An important component of the elementary program is what we call “Going Out.” Going Out occurs for children when exploration of a topic exhausts the resources of the classroom. We want the children to be comfortable navigating the world, not just our classrooms. As a result, the children must “go out” beyond the limits of the classroom to find the information or resource that they need for their area of study.

A Going Out is a planned undertaking by a group of children. They find a resource in the community, schedule the outing, arrange for their own transportation and supervision (by staff or parent volunteers), prepare themselves for the experience, conduct themselves with dignity while out in public, and return to share their research with the rest of the class. Each Going Out is an entire course of study on independence, responsibility, and good citizenship—to say nothing of the intellectual rewards that children get from such experience. Montessori elementary children go out to the public library, to museums, to farms, to local businesses and public service institutions. They may attend plays, ballets, concerts, public lectures, tours, and other civic offerings. They spend time outside, having direct experiences with the natural world. Montessori children might go out occasionally or often, but the experiences are always deeply personal and memorable.
VMS PTO Minutes: March 15, 2016
Called to order by Nicole de Bettencourt at 6:00pm
In attendance. Nicole deBettencourt, Debbie Jernegan, Holly Jackson, Irene Wendt, Ty, Erin Slossberg, Guinevere Cramer, Holly Lawyer, Jennifer Doyle, Jennifer LoRusso, Emily Melnick, Nevette Previd, Skylar Menton

Montessori Moment presented by Irene:

Montessori United Nations.
Irene recapped the experience of the upper elementary children that went to New York City at the Montessori Model United Nations last week. Two thousand student delegates from around the country attended. Students from each school are assigned a category to study and they each get a question. Thomas and Silas both presented projects and gave speeches at the MMUN. They spent the day in caucuses with other students.

Treasury Report:
Income: No income was earned and no funds were spent in February.
Currently there is: $9,269.29 in the bank.
January Dine to Donate income deposited in March: 

Director’s Report: Highlights below
Enrollment Contracts for 2016-17 will be sent out at the end of March. Scholarship opportunities will be available in August 2016. Please contact Debbie for more information.

Sherriff’s Meadow Foundation has funding available to offer field trips to the school including transportation. Field trips will be planned and parents will be notified in early spring.

Big Night Out Update:
Somerville Symphony Orkestar will be performing.
Nicole will confirm seating capacity for Lola’s.
Tickets will be available for advance purchase and at the door.
Posters: We will post one at the Chilmark Community Center for the MVFF.

School distribution: Debbie will email the Super Intendants for permission to post. We will distribute posters three weeks prior: on or before April 16th.
Spring Social will potentially be scheduled for April 28th. More information to follow.

WE NEED YOUR HELP GETTING SPONSORS AND AUCTION ITEMS.
We are trying to raise $4000. from sponsors to cover the costs of the event.
We will email the list of businesses that already have been contacted for donations and provide a list of examples of ideas for parents to gather donations.
Please also check the board outside Debbie’s office for businesses that have already been contacted.

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