IT IS NOT JUST A MAP! WE ARE LEARNING ABOUT OUR WORLD

Geography is the study of the life of man, the way humans live, and the way of life that has been established by a human society to sustain life. It is the study of the features of the earth, and the cultures that were developed in the various parts of the world by human beings. The needs of man are universal, but the way these needs have been met, differ. So we have many different people around the world who live differently, who have adapted differently to what the world has offered them in different locations.

Geography work as a whole is open ended. The teacher follows each child’s interest and supplies him with the information he is seeking. Geography work is done to teach the child about the society in which they live and others around the world. We want to convey the feeling of people around the world. This will help the child to realize that he is not only a member of his society, but a member of the world.

INFORMATION

- Vineyard Montessori School Website Please take the time to visit our new website at http://vineyardmontessori.com/
- Friday, March 11th, Noon Dismissal Professional Development Day
- Tuesday, March 15th, 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. is the next PTO meeting. Child watch will be available.
- Saturday, May 7th, 7:00 p.m.—11:00 p.m. is the Big Night Out. The PTO fundraising subcommittee is working towards an amazing and lucrative evening which will be held at Lola’s Restaurant in Oak Bluffs. Please find attached the Big Night Out (BNO) fundraising information and how you can help support a successful evening. It takes help from all families collecting auction items and sponsors will aid in make the evening a success! Money raised from the BNO supports enrichment (music and drama), scholarships, playground and language programs at VMS.
I hope everyone enjoyed their winter vacation. The children were anxious to share what they did during the break, but more importantly, to get back to their lessons. With a full class, the level of activity has been at a high point with many new lessons being presented. I put out two new units in our science area, one being the study of rocks and the other is the study of seeds. The children have been able to explore different types of rocks, being introduced to the words metamorphic, sedimentary and igneous. We will be doing some experiments next week using different types of rocks.

In the seed unit, the children are learning the different parts of a seed and using three-part cards to identify each part and labeling it. After labeling each part, the children then make small booklets of their own, showing each part of the seed. There are seed to plant matching cards along with a seed sorting activity. Miss Emily helped each child make a living seed necklace which many of the children are wearing daily. The children are very excited to see that many of their necklaces have started to sprout. We will continue with the seed unit next week and will begin planting different seeds to transfer into our outdoor garden beds.

Next week we will begin our ice skating and baking lessons. Some of our older students will be going to the MV Ice Arena for skating lessons while some children will be baking with Miss Holly. The children will create delicious snacks for the whole class to share upon returning from ice skating.

There is a new material in our class, called “The Continent Box.” This is a piece of extended work to teach the children about how various animals live on each continent. This has been an exciting and popular exercise with all the children. As they lay out each continent, they identify animal models and place them on their respective continent. The students identify and then place the plastic animal on the square. Older students, those beginning reading, place the identifying label on each animal…. how exciting it is for them to read “hippopotamus” and other wonderful animal names (i.e. crocodile, elephant, bison, dolphin….). An extension to this activity is that the children write the names of each animal on a take-home packet. This exercise straddles both geography and language work.

Miss Emily has been visiting with her current unit on seeds. The children made pea shoot hummus with the wonderful success of the flat of peas that they grew. They now have a “seed necklace” that they will hopefully see sprout during the next few days.

I got some flowers for Valentine’s Day, (which my husband was allergic to) and a parent donated some flowers this week. I realized it’s time to resurrect the donation of flowers to the classroom so the children can practice the beautification of their environment through flower arranging. They were so engaged and enthusiastic about this exercise. In a bouquet there are several stems of flowers. With a teacher’s help, the child clips one stem to a length suitable for a small (very small) vase. A regular supermarket bouquet can usually last a week with this method! If you happen to see a bouquet, and would like to share it with the class, please bring it in for our flower arranging activity. Spring is truly coming and maybe this activity will urge it to hurry. Please think about donating some flowers to the class!
It has been a very busy week after our return from vacation. Some of our students have been working on fractions and common denominators. Other students have been focusing on completing research of different countries. Our MMUN students have compiled all the necessary paperwork and presentation materials for the conference next week. They have learned about proper protocol, voting procedures and have practiced their United Nations opening speeches.

While Miss Cristina is in Spain for her wedding, Miss Diane has been working in our class. After just returning from a trip to South Africa, Diane sat with our class answering their numerous questions about her husbands' homeland. She taught them about the local people, food, sights and climate. The 4th and 5th grade students were interested in South African politics and Miss Diane was able to share her knowledge of apartheid, Nelson Mandala, border control, and natural resources.

Today, during show and tell, Gracie and Carly Coggins presented information on the history and the resurgence of the recreational sport of roller-skating. They made reference to it's popularity in the 1950's at restaurants, the 1970's at disco rinks and later the rough and tumble roller derbies. They presented research on in-line and 4-wheeled skates which are acceptable at present day rinks and very young children are outfitted with skates that have additional side wheels for balance and both front and back brakes.

Danny Carreno taught us how to play the children's board game Wits and Wagers which is similar to Balderdash. Participants write down answers to questions and then place bets on who they think is the closest to the correct answer before it is revealed.

Next week while the students and I attend the Montessori Model United Nations, the 2nd and 3rd grade students will be taking a field trip to MV Community Horse Center at Misty Meadows. At the center, the children will observe and identify the characteristics and needs of a horse. They will have the opportunity for hands-on experience caring for horses.
Dear Families,

As you know the VMS PTO Big Night Out (BNO) subcommittee has been working diligently on our upcoming spring fundraiser. We have been able to set the date and secure the venue, so mark your calendars for Saturday, May 7th at Lola’s on Beach Rd in Oak Bluffs. The subcommittee is working together on creating an event you won’t want to miss.

The fundraising goal is to provide scholarship support to families in need, offer enrichment activities for our children and to make improvements to our playground. These funds support a mark of excellence otherwise not covered by operating income. The success of this event largely depends on your help. So you’re probably asking, “How can I help?”

**HOW YOU CAN HELP**

- **Obtain corporate sponsors** A corporate sponsor (table sponsor) is a way to offset our costs of the evening. There are five levels of sponsorship $50, $100, $200, $300 and $500. The business or sponsor can write the check directly to VMS and provide you with a business card. In return, their donation is 100% tax deductible. We will advertise their business at our event. In addition if their sponsorship equals $200 or more, they will be handed 2 free tickets. Please use the attached *Donor form* when contacting businesses.

- **Get Silent or Live Auction Items** In the past we have had very successful silent and live auctions. Items that sell well are tickets to events (Patriots, Red Sox, Bruins, etc.) or to places (The Museum of Fine Arts, A Weekend Stay in a Hotel, The Taste of the Vineyard, restaurant gift cards, services, etc.). People love to see new things at an auction so your creativity is appreciated. Please consider something new and different. It is always helpful to think about what you might like to purchase at an event. You may use the attached *donation letter* when requesting an item. Please let us know when you contact a particular business. We will have a list outside Debbie’s office of all the businesses contacted. You can write on the list yourself or let Debbie know and we will happily write it for you. This will help us refrain from asking the same businesses multiple times. We ask that every family get at least three silent or live auction items! If you have any questions ask Debbie.

- **Sell Tickets for the event** Parents and teachers are asked to sell 6 tickets to friends and family for the event. If you sell 6 tickets you are given 2 tickets for yourself and/spouse or guest to attend.

- **Help the day of the event** At the end of April we will ask families to volunteer their time at the fundraiser. The PTO will need the support of families during the event along with helping setting up and closing out the event. The PTO is looking forward to working together with each of you.

Please help us make this year’s event a success. If you have any questions please feel free to contact us at PTO@vineyardmontessori.com
To whom it may concern,

May 7th from 7 p.m.—11 p.m., the Vineyard Montessori School parent organization holds our biggest fundraising event of the year. The evening will be held at Lola’s Restaurant in Oak Bluffs. The goal of the evening is to raise money to support the scholarship and enrichment programs offered to the children at the Vineyard Montessori School.

There are two (2) ways in which you can make a difference for the children at the Vineyard Montessori School:

1. You may make a donation of an item or a service and we will use it in our Silent and/or Live Auction the night of the event.
2. You can be a sponsor. The sponsor donations are $50, $100, $200, $300, and/or $500. If you choose to be a sponsor your company name will be placed on a banner, which will be hung, at the evening event, for all guests to see. In addition if you donate $200.00 or more you will receive 2 free tickets to our event.

The Vineyard Montessori School is a non-profit school incorporated in 1975. The school is dedicated to providing a quality Montessori education for children preschool through 6th grade. One of the goals of the Montessori education is to teach children in a manner that will enable them to grow into thoughtful, independent, clear thinking, problem solving individuals who contribute to society in a meaningful way. The children attending the school come from fifty local Island families, encompassing all aspects of our community. We work hard to maintain a tuition that is affordable for Islanders, while still providing an excellent educational program. It is difficult, and tuition only covers the operational costs of the school. The parent body solicits donations in order to provide funds for special educational activities like field trips, music, and art; to provide a scholarship fund for families in need; and to purchase necessary equipment and/or landscape materials for the outside classroom.

The education the children receive at Vineyard Montessori School is truly amazing; and it is enriched through the generous donations of our community.

Thank you for your generous donation of ________________________________.

You may keep this for your records as we are recognized as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization (#04-2566645) and you may consider your donation tax deductible.

With appreciation,

The Vineyard Montessori School Parent Teacher Organization (PTO)