Wow, the evening is finally here.

Tomorrow night is the Big Night Out!

A fun night for a great cause! All funds raised support the scholarship program, playground improvements, enrichment programs such as art, music, dance, language and much more.

Thank you to the incredibly collaborative efforts of families, teachers and the community for their generous donations of time, sponsors and auction items.

The PTO is looking forward to seeing all the families and friends of VMS dancing to the Somerville Symphony Orkestar, eating Lola’s amazing food and bidding big on all the generous donations given by the community in support of each and every child at VMS!

Thank you so much to the PTO for honoring the teachers this week with a special lunch!

Thank you to Nicole de Bettencourt, Rebecca Laird, Kim D’Arcy, Emily Coggins, Anne Silvia and Sheylah Callen for making it possible.

**Fun Fridays** will start again beginning May 13th through June 10th. Parents host the **Fun Fridays** by bringing snacks, crafts and/or games for the children. All children not enrolled in the late day program should be accompanied by a parent and welcome to stay. Please email Debbie if you are able to host one of these fun afternoons.
Oh what a wet and rainy week we've had! The only ones happy with this weather are the worms!! Miss Emily, along with Miss Ava, brought in a large worm bin for the children to explore. The children got to hold the worms and help create an environment for them to live in for our classroom. They learned that the worms needed moisture, shredded paper, a small amount of food scraps, soil and darkness. We will be keeping track of the soil level in the container over the next few weeks to see how well the worms are turning the paper and food scraps into compost.

The children have been enjoying creating their own "masterpiece" watercolor paintings that will be on display and sold at the fundraiser this weekend. Each child took the time to create a beautiful painting which has been matted and framed. We held a mini art show within our classroom, where each child got to show off their piece and name it, just as the famous artists do. Every child got a round of applause in appreciation of their beautiful work. I hope everyone will be able to attend the fundraiser to see these wonderful works of art.

The children were introduced to one of a few outdoor lessons that will be stationed on our back porch. The first lesson that was introduced was hammering nails into a small tree stump. I am hoping to bring out more lessons, such as sanding and sawing at the workbench and the sensory table, as soon as the weather begins to cooperate.

"Sensorial" is one of the most beautiful areas in our class. Dr. Montessori designed each material as a means for the child to explore and refine his or her senses. Each material encourages the child to compare, categorize and make order. These ideas then carry over and the child can use these sensorial experiences to see patterns, etc. The materials provide the child the means to help interpret his or her world.

“As the tower is built upon the carpet, the child goes through the exercises of kneeling, rising, etc. The control is given by the irregularity of the tower as it decreases toward the apex. A cube misplaced reveals itself, because it breaks the line.” Maria Montessori, The Montessori Method.

Valentine Estabrook, visiting artist, helped the children with their individual water color creations for the auction. She talked to them about color choice, combinations, and use of space on the paper. She has also been helpful in the concept of FRAMING. This exercise helped the children see the essence of their completed work and to choose the most compelling part of the entire project. Each completed, cropped painting will be displayed at our auction for sale to interested parties. Just wait until you see them!
Elementary with Miss Irene and Miss Cristina

On Thursday, the elementary students were joined by the kindergarten students on a field trip to the Oak Bluffs bridge.

Quin’s dad, Jamie Doyle, Head of the Oak Bluffs Bridge project works for Middlesex Corporation. The students began the field trip in the “brains” of the operation, his office. He went over the basic information, the history of the bridge and the reason for the temporary. He reviewed some details in the plans and introduced the most important part of building a bridge, the safety at the job site. Then we went into the “field” to walk the bridge and talk about the equipment and what the men are doing.

When the students returned to the classroom, Jen Doyle had organized a bridge building project. They built some incredible bridges with tooth picks and gum drops. While they were building the bridges, the children discussed the ability these bridges had in holding weight.

Today they had the opportunity to Skype with Miss Irene. She met with each of the students to discuss their works and give them additional work for next week. It was great to have her back in the classroom for the morning.

Late Day Program with Miss Weezie and Miss Cristina

The rain held off on Monday for us to walk to Pam Benjamin’s studio. What a wonderful day exploring the work of Kandinsky!

It is difficult for all of us when the weather does not allow for outdoor play. We try to compensate with more music and movement games, but I have discovered that the children often enjoy familiar manipulatives like Legos, Lincoln Logs as well as the ever popular Marble Run.

The books we enjoyed this week included both new stories and old favorites. Many of our choices featured gardening and planting themes. They included: How Groundhog’s Garden Grew, From Seed to Plant, Little Farm by the Sea, and The Best Place. These cold rainy days are good opportunities to curl up with your child and share some quality time reading together.