



## VMS Weekly News - December 2, 2016

***"independence, real world experiences, multi-aged peers, choice, movement - this is real life, this is a joyful child. This is Montessori."***

***~Maria Montessori***

### Primary 1 Classroom

*-Miss Ty, Miss Cristina and Miss Rebecca*

A big THANK YOU goes out to Minah and Richard Worley, Richard's parents, for their kind donation of blinds for our windows. This donation really helps during sunny afternoons, as our classroom gets a lot of sun! During the warmer seasons, these will be especially helpful. Even now, though, in the cooler months, the addition of the blinds gives a cozy feeling that is really noticeable. Please check out the new blinds the next time you are in the building.

Several new lessons have been added to the environment. Children have been exploring the new materials independently. The children are curious about everything, eager to explore and discover. The Montessori 3-6 learning environment is designed to encourage each child to move, touch and manipulate. The children have freedom to work independently, based on their own initiatives with gentle and respectful guidance from the adults. Some new examples of the lessons and materials include magnet exploration, dinosaur matching, and various new puzzles and sorting exercises.



Remember that "Show and Tells" are welcome but should only consist of natural objects, art projects or books. Toys are not to be brought in, as they are a real distraction to the other students. Also, we ask that each child bring something in no more than once a week or so.



## Island Grown Schools Seed to Apple Sequencing Curriculum

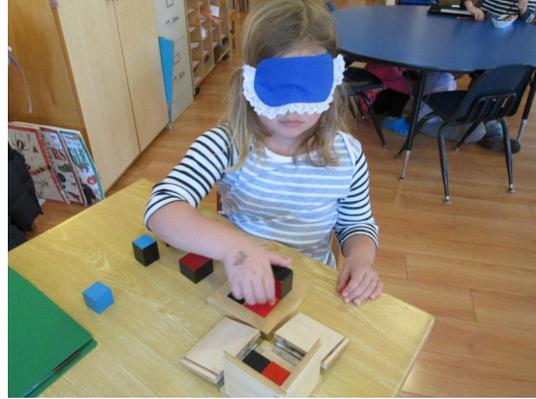
### Primary 2 Classroom - Miss Chris and Miss Holly

As map making is still one of the children's favorite activities, I thought I would share the process of creating one of these beautiful maps. When a child decides to make a map, the first step is to practice the puzzle map of either the continents or an individual continent. The child transfers each piece of the map to a control map, learning the names of each piece. From there, the child can trace each piece onto similarly colored paper and begin to pin-poke the outline. This process develops fine motor skills, concentration and a sense of order. When the child feels that all the pieces have been completed, he can check to make sure it is complete by laying each piece on the map, making sure no country or continent has been forgotten. The next step is to lay each piece out on a large piece of paper, using the puzzle map as a guide. Each piece is glued down and then the child paints in the water surrounding the continent. The final step is to label each country/continent by cutting out names from a large list and matching each name to the control map, finding the correct name to each piece. Each map that is created incorporates many skills, such as matching, cutting, gluing, fine motor, concentration, memorization and nomenclature.



Many children have been working in the Sensorial area, which allows a child to further develop his/her senses. Some children have been adding a blindfold when doing their lessons. By using a blindfold, one sense is being removed, allowing the child to rely on other senses, such as touching and hearing. It adds a new dimension to the lesson and adds a greater degree of difficulty.

For the next few weeks, Miss Ava will be sharing a unit on apples with the children. This week, she showed the children many different varieties of apples and introduced the life cycle of an apple. The children made booklets of the life cycle, going from seed to apple.



## Elementary Classroom

*- Miss Irene and Miss Nora*

The elementary class came back from the breakin full swing! We started the week out with a fresh walk down to the MorganLearning Center to learn about the heath hen habitat: frost bottoms. The ElementaryII students did research and graphs on the unique abiotic features and extremetemperatures. Elementary I children worked on a beautiful big floor map andwere able to see the physical attributes of the frost bottoms in relation toother geological areas on the island.



Elementary I students continue their study of time moving into timelines. Thisweek, they made timeline graphs for each member of the family. All of the elementarystudents have been working hard on writing this week. We discussed identifyingmain characters and themes in summary reviews, compare and contrast writing,punctuation, editing and publishing. The students have also begun working ontheir study of Spain in the holiday season with beautiful music and art. We aregetting very excited for our presentation before winter break! Mark yourcalendars for 1:30pmon December 22nd.



## Late Day

*- Miss Weezie and Miss Cristina*

We are fortunate to have had lovely sunny days to walk to art class on Mondays. Children are paired with a partner (not necessarily a best friend) to share the walk. Our older students are responsible for demonstrating rules for safety and group behavior, including coordination and order. Pam's class included more work with Will at the potter's wheel for some children, and others worked on tracing shapes to create animals or familiar objects. This was an ideal extension of our "shape turkeys" that we had done last week on our school whiteboard.



Rainy afternoons have allowed for some indoor play, including Duplos, Marble Run, Model Magic and floor puzzles. As I observe and listen to our students at play, I am reminded of Fred Roger's important message: "Play is the expression of our creativity which is at the very root of our ability to learn, to cope and become whatever we may be."



## Check out VMS' Online Store!

Looking for a unique item or holiday gifts? Purchase our school-themed items and support VMS at the same time. Check out our collection of t-shirts, sweatshirts, mugs and more by clicking [here](#).



## Upcoming Events

**Tuesday, December 6th at 7:00 p.m. 1st Big Night Out Team Meeting at the Ocean View**

*In the spring VMS holds it's Big Night Out. The Big Night Out is our schools largest fundraiser. This years event will be on Saturday, April 8, 2017*

*Let's get together to plan an evening that is representative of this incredible community.*

*Anyone interested in participating in the Team Meeting is welcome to attend. Please bring theme, music, location ideas. If you are not able to attend please send your thoughts to us via email or let us know in person.*

**Thursday, December 22nd at 1:30 pm Elementary Winter Gathering**

**Friday, December 23rd at 11:00 a.m., Primary Winter Gathering**

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## Recommended Reading

*"What do P. Diddy, Sergey Brin, and Peter Drucker have in common?"*

by Glenn Rifkin

*"Succeeding at their own pace"* by Alex Beam, Boston Globe Columnist

## Book Corner for Parents

*"LastChild in the Woods": Saving our children from Nature-Deficit Disorder*

by Richard Louv

*"Montessori Madness!": A parent to parent argument for Montessori education*

by Trevor Eissler

*"Montessori: The Science Behind the Genius"* by Angeline Stoll Lillard

## Book Corner for Children

*"What Do You Do With An Idea?"* by Kobi Yamada

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