The whole purpose of education is to turn mirrors into windows.

~ Sydney J. Harris

Truckin' MV Update

On Saturday, November 5th, the 4th Annual Truckin' MV welcomed over 180 children to the event, which is more than we have ever had in attendance! Truckin' MV was a successful community fundraiser due to the collaboration among the VMS families and the Vineyard community of truckers and emergency vehicles that were in attendance.
Because we have worked all semester on basic Practical Life lessons, the children have learned to be careful and orderly in their work. They have learned to follow the whole lesson from beginning to end and to clean up and leave the exercise “ready for the next child”. Now we can begin introducing the fun, exciting and more complicated exercise of apple cutting. Trusting children with real tools is a huge hurdle for many of us, so we follow the child’s pace and provide child-sized tools.

The child washes his or her hands, chooses an apple from the supply shelf and then begins the task. Putting on an apron, scrubbing the apple, using the apple slicer and then chopping the slices into bite-sized pieces takes quite a long time. Then the children learn to be gracious by offering the prepared apples to others. We direct the children to ask, “Would you like an apple?” The other child either says, “Yes” or “No, thank you.” If the other child says, “Yes” and accepts the snack, he should say, “Thank you.” The child who has prepared the apples says, “You’re welcome.” Lots of words to remember!
And then, of course, there is the clean-up. This exercise involves taking all the implements to the sink and washing them, drying them and replacing them on the table. Rolling the apron, sponging off the table, folding the towel.... there are many skills learned and practiced in this one lesson! These skills include concentration, order, completion of task and independence.

Primary 2 Classroom
- Miss Chris and Miss Holly

Our class went on our first field trip this week. We traveled up to Cedar Tree Neck for a beautiful hike through the woods. Our guides, Samantha and Kendra, explained that we were going to be searching for signs of animal habitats. Sam read us a story, "A House is a House for Me", which illustrated that different items could become houses for other items. We then hiked down to the beach and made our own Piping Plover nests using sand, seaweed and rocks. The children took a nice break for a snack and ended their hike by using magnifying glasses to look at different aspects of nature. They then collected items that they will use the next time we meet with Sam and Kendra during the winter.

I put out some new science lessons this week. The properties of sink and float and magnetic and non-magnetic were introduced to the children. The topic of sink and float has become a new favorite work with the children. Objects are
placed in a tub of water, one by one, to see if they either sink or float. The child then places the object under the coordinating label. There has been interesting observations as to what makes an item sink or float.

We are wrapping up our study of the parts of a tree and leaf and will be moving on to the animal kingdom activities. We will be talking about hibernation, migration and adaptation and will move on to animal tracks and habitats. I also will be introducing animals that live on different continents and will tie these new activities into the geography area.

Elementary Classroom  
- Miss Irene and Miss Nora

The Elementary students have been busy as usual. Elementary II students finished their study with the Martha's Vineyard Historical Society. They made beautiful collages to honor the graves and lives of deceased Martha's Vineyard residents from the mid 1700’s-1800’s. Both Elementary I and Elementary II classes are excited to start our 15-week study on the extinct heath hen on Monday. This unit will cover all areas of the curriculum and include fieldtrips to various places on the island. The Martha’s Vineyard Historical Society received a grant for the outreach program and Vineyard Montessori School will be the first...
Tuesday was Election Day! We started the day by explaining how the United States voting system was set up and why electoral votes are so important. Then there was a class election. The candidates wrote speeches and presented their ideas and plans to the class. Ballots were printed and a private voting booth was set up where the students could cast their ballots. As with the true presidential race, our outcome was close. We had two tie votes that were decided by a random pick from a box. There was victory and disappointment, which was a good learning experience for the class. Knowing how to be a gracious winner and loser is an important life lesson.

Elementary I students began the study of time, learning about early time keeping and tools up to modern day. They learned the year and its parts broken down concretely with an introduction to fractions.

Late Day
- Miss Weezie and Miss Cristina

We had the pleasure of walking to art class on Monday surrounded by the sights and sounds of fall. Children held their partner's hand and "crunched" through the leaves using marching feet. Pam greeted us, along with her assistant, Angie, and gave each student a ball of clay. It felt "cold, hard and not very squishy". The children were shown how to make a "pinch pot" by pressing down with their thumbs and then turning the ball round and round while continuing to press with their thumbs. The second round of sculpting involved a variety of tools to create texture to their design. Pam will fire all of these works in a kiln, and the finished projects will be saved for an art show later in the year.

Our favorite book of the season is
"Mousekin's Golden House" by Edna Miller, as well as some traditional folktales using hand puppets. Our arts and crafts project included an introduction to weaving using multi-colored paper strips.

P.S. Some children are having difficulty adjusting to Daylight Saving Time, and their nap routines have been affected. This is not unusual, and they will shortly settle in.

Spanish

- **Miss Cristina**

Every week, we begin the class greeting each other and saying the date and the weather occurring that day. This week, the students added new words to the vocabulary list, and we talked about the meaning of the flag of Spain.

Also this week, I received two books that I ordered from Spain. These books are for children between 7-11 years old. It is a basic and progressive way to learn Spanish in the most fun way by drawing, singing and listening to audios. One of the books is a text book with wonderful activities. The other book has interactive activities to make learning more fun and put into practice what the students have just learned.

As I do every week, I am looking forward to our next clase de español!
Upcoming Events

Saturday, November 19th – Family Yard Day
9:00-Noon

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
Pre-k through sixth grade.
Fostering a lifetime love of learning, one child at a time.

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