VMS Weekly News - November 4, 2016

If it hasn't been in the hand, and in the body, it can't be in the brain.

~Bev Boss

See You tomorrow

Saturday, November 5th is Truckin' MV at MVRHS from 11:00 am - 1:30 pm. This a community event hosted by the VMS Family Association and is co-chaired by Alyssa Dubin and Kim D'Arcy.

The event offers children the opportunity to touch and explore over 25 big trucks and vehicles from the Island Community. All parents are needed to participate the day of Truckin' MV and are an important part of the day's success. Please sign up here to help.

Thank you for volunteering your time. This is a great event!

Primary 1 Classroom

-Miss Ty, Miss Cristina and Miss Rebecca

We began the study of vertebrates in our classroom lastmonth with an examination of our own vertebrates. The students loved feeling for the bumps along their back! Then they
learned about the five classes of vertebrates: fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals. After an in-depth study of fish these past weeks, we just introduced the FROG. We talked about the frog being an amphibian and that that word means change....the frog’s immature, tadpole form changes from water breathing to air breathing. The children can work with cards that lay out the life-cycle of the frog and also work with the parts of the frog, which they can make into a book.

There are some beautiful designs being made in our classroom with the sea glass and the Cuisenaire rods. The sea glass came into our classroom several weeks ago when we were talking about the oceans, and the mighty work that water does tumbling glass to make it smooth. The children layout the small pieces of glass in rows, in spirals or in circles, carefully examining each piece. Just recently, I placed a box of Cuisenaire rods on the shelf and the students have been happily placing them in intricate designs.

Primary 2 Classroom  
- Miss Chris and Miss Holly

Our class has been very involved in geography lessons. Geography helps us to understand ourselves and our relationship to our Earth. It is about people and places in the world as well as how the Earth has and is still changing. As in all areas of a Montessori classroom, each lesson begins with the concrete and moves to the abstract. In geography, a child learns about this connection to our world by introducing him to a sandpaper globe, showing just land and water. The second globe has each continent colored with different colors defining one from the other. When a child moves to the puzzle maps, we start with the world map of the seven continents and then move to a map of each individual continent, highlighting all the countries in that continent. The children enjoy creating each of the puzzle maps by pin-poking each piece and then gluing them together to make a map of their own. After gluing each country to the map, the children paint in the
The children planted garlic in our outside garden beds and then covered them with hay to keep the beds insulated for the winter. The plastic has been put over the hoops to finish our hoop houses. Next week, our class will be going on a field trip so there will not be gardening.

Thank you all for coming to visit our class during Special Persons’ Visiting Day. The children were excited to show you what they have been learning and which of the lessons are their favorites. I hope you all enjoyed your visit!

Next week, we will be taking a trip to Cedar Tree Neck to explore animal habitats. I am looking for a few parents to join us on our trip. Please let me know if you are willing to help.

Elementary Classroom
- Miss Irene and Miss Nora

Students researched Spanish holidays, important events, animals and traditions this week for Spanish class. Some topics included the Pas Doubles dance, Fandango dance, Flamenco dance costumes, the Three Kings Day, Constitution Day, the Iberian lynx, the long-haired mountain goat, islands of Spain, the flag, feliz cumpleaños and facts (such as Spain is number one in olive oil production and has the fourth longest life expectancy at 82).

The students are very excited that we have six new Acer Chrome Books for research in the classroom. In addition to those, we have an internet projector for lessons, up-close and detailed maps and current events. Debbie came in to talk about the use of the computers. We discussed how we handle them and then she taught small groups how to sign on. The Elementary I students have already utilized them for animal research. Older students looked up product and landmark maps for MMUN research.

On Halloween, the Elementary II students headed back to the graveyard to sketch grave stones with Beth Seabourne of M.V. Museum. They will use these sketches for their culminating project, which is a collage of their writings, drawings, photographs and math information.

Joyce began her class with each student singing about his/her Halloween costume. Next,
she paired up older students with younger students for musical routines with their hands while sitting. Afterwards, using a large drum, she pounded out beats that students would coordinate movements to. They had plenty of time to move their bodies by dancing to songs with different musical rhythms.

Tennis has been coming along splendidly. King of the Court, Freeze Tag and Kings and Queens are some of the games that the children play after doing warm-ups. We have two weeks left of tennis. If your child would like to continue with tennis lessons after that, please see Barbara about when the next eight-week public session begins.

Late Day
- Miss Weezie and Miss Cristina

The highlight of our Late Day week was our first art class at Pam Benjamin's studio. The children walked with a partner, showing good caution and enjoying the beautiful fall weather. Pam's studio is an inspiration with so much natural light and a variety of tools for creative design. Students were able to arrange a fall collage using pre-cut shapes, buttons, ribbon, raffia and glue sticks. They enjoyed the process and were proud to take their finished products home.

We read a story/concept book entitled "Where is my Friend". The book introduces and reinforces concepts of space, direction and position. We followed this with a game using a small pumpkin and placing it "on, under, beside, above, below or around" two small chairs. This helped to reinforce the children's
understanding of these prepositions. Students also practiced some "squiggle art" on the white board using markers to draw something "real" from another student's made-up squiggle. This was a fun way to demonstrate imagination and creativity with one another.

See you all on Saturday!

Upcoming Events

**Wednesday, November 9th – Open House for Kindergarten - Elementary  6:00 pm-8:00 pm**

Come see for yourself the wonder and gift of a Montessori education beyond the preschool years. All parents of preschool age children are invited to learn about the Montessori kindergarten curriculum and what it means to complete a final year in a primary classroom. Then visit Miss Nora's classroom and learn how the lessons in the kindergarten year prepare students for elementary. You will walk away understanding the fluid relationship between Primary and Elementary Montessori.

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

"Last Child 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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