A calendar of school events can be found at www.vineyardmontessori.com.

“Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all.”

~Aristotle

Primary 1 Classroom
-Miss Ty, Miss Cristina and Miss Rebecca

Beth Seabourne of the Martha’s Vineyard Museum visited the afternoon class to introduce maps and what they represent. The children learnedand
talked about the fact that maps tell a story, and that we can learn many things from them. Beth displayed a huge, rug-sized map of the United States, upon which we all identified where tiny Martha’s Vineyard was, right off the coast of Massachusetts. This was followed by another enormous map, this one of our island. Everyone got to place structures and representations on this interactive map of Martha’s Vineyard.

Joyce Maxner started music last week, and returning students enjoyed the familiar rhythm of her classes, starting with warm-ups, then going to singing and movement and finishing up with instrument playing. The new children learned all these routines easily and did very well with following along with the directions. We had a wonderful time and learned some new songs.

Miss Ava from Island Grown Schools started her weekly visits to our classroom. The children went outside in small groups and visited our very overgrown garden. They picked some of our tomatoes, observed the squash growing and saw our huge kale! Students love these weekly visits to the garden!

The new sounds we learned are: f, z, w, i and p. Keep asking your children about these very popular lessons!

**Bird Feeder Bracket Arm.** I have an extra bird feeder that I’d love to hang on our deck so the children can watch birds this winter. If anyone has an extra bracket to hang over the deck railing, I’d love to use it. I used to have one in my old house, but it somehow got lost in the move two years ago. In my current house, I only use shepherd’s crooks which are too low for the feeder to be visible from the classroom.
"Science is all around us. Young children interact with the natural world everywhere they go. Investigating what flowers smell like, how a leaf feels or what happens when you pull the cat’s tail is how they learn how things work and how they are to interact with it. Maria Montessori recognized the young child’s need to observe and absorb information about the world around them. She believed that experience with real objects should always precede before learning the names or looking at pictures of things." (Quoted from the North American Montessori Center)

The children and I reviewed the life cycle of a pumpkin and talked about how a pumpkin becomes the shape and size the children see during autumn. Starting from a seed, a seedling sprouts from the ground which turns into a vine. The vine
develops flowers which eventually turn into new green pumpkins which ripen into orange pumpkins. By using a real pumpkin, I cut the pumpkin in half vertically, allowing the children to see the internal parts of the pumpkin. They were able to feel the flesh and seeds and smell the aroma. One child exclaimed the one side (inside) was flat while the other side (outside) was bumpy. There were many more scientific discoveries observed by your class. From the group lesson, a new individual work was added to the classroom: Tweezing pumpkin seeds out of the pumpkin which will be saved for planting in the future.

We had a beautiful day for taking our school pictures. The children walked down to a local beach and waited patiently for their individual picture to be taken. I was so impressed seeing the children enjoying songs and finger plays while waiting their turn.

Our older afternoon group walked down to the Morgan Learning Center to continue their study of maps. Last week, Beth from the MV Museum, came to our school and talked about maps and how each map tells a story. The children used giant-sized floor maps to locate different areas and had the opportunity to add some loose pieces to create new landmarks on the map. This week, the children had the opportunity to create their own maps of Martha's Vineyard, adding things such as stickers to show lighthouses, ships and whales. They ripped colored paper to create the water, grass and sun. Some children used colored pencils to draw houses, roads and other details. Everyone made their own map based on what they thought should be included. It was a wonderful experience as many children are now working on creating maps in the geography area.
Miss Irene and Miss Nora

After a long weekend, the VMS students were able to start the week with a nice crisp walk to the beach for school photos. That led to some fun discoveries on the beach. Benjamin found a big piece of blue sea glass and Natalie found a big, aged white piece that was the top of a bottle. They were great finds!

Joyce started to work with the students this week. They spent the first half of the hour using rhythm sticks which transitioned into quite a bit of movement. The classroom was opened up so there was a great deal more room for them to move. The Elementary I students focused on language arts this week, including spelling, creative writing, word study and phonogram boxes. For a short week, there has been a great deal of activity.

Last year, the Elementary II students studied the history of the Revolutionary War. This week, they have been researching post-Revolutionary War events from 1791-1797. Each student was surprised by the specific event they would be studying: A bowl full of topics was put in front of them, and they picked a blind topic for themselves. For instance, topics included the first bank in that period, the finalists in the Democratic and Republican presidential race and the Judiciary Act of 1789. The students are required to name the people involved, the date, the significance of the event and three photos. Together, the students will build a timeline to be displayed in the hallway. The Elementary I students are intrigued by the research and the facts the students are sharing. The classes work really well together.

Late Day
- Miss Weezie and Miss Cristina
The Afternoon and Late Day Programs often use the concept of Story Stretchers. These are activities designed to expand upon favorite books or themes. This week, we played a game of Leaf Lotto using fall colored leaves and a collecting basket. Students used listening and visual discrimination skills to play. They also practiced language and social skills by patiently taking turns.

Our books this week included: "The Leaf", "Harvest Time", "Welcome Fall" and "Winners Never Quit" by Mia Hamm (for our young soccer stars). Enjoy this beautiful fall weather!

Spanish
- Miss Cristina

Buenos días! This week, the students started to say the date, some numbers and colors and began to read short greeting conversations in Spanish without my help! They also were very excited to add more new words to their long vocabulary list; words such as pingüino, bruja, collar, lápiz, sangre (penguin, witch, necklace, pencil, blood).

We always have fun and laugh in Spanish class. The students love to correct my English, and I love when they do. I learn from them every single day. I always tell them that I was where they are now for many years, sitting in a class, learning the days of the week, months, colors and verbs in another language. My emphasis is on speaking Spanish more than learning how to write it, but both are important. They are very interested in knowing if I speak Spanish at home or to my dog, and they are curious about my first time in the USA. I always tell them I would rather not talk about it (hahahaha). They can imagine how bad my English was then.

I am looking forward to next week to spend time with them again and to see their excitement and progress in learning more in Spanish class.
Creative Movement

This week, both Primary classes had their first creative movement class. Jesse and Danielle, from the Yard, showed the children how to warm up their bodies creating high and low shapes and sharp and curved shapes. The class ended with a freeze dance using brightly colored scarves.

VMS Fall After-School Programming Registration

If you are interested in your child participating in any of the after-school programs, please register with Debbie by sending an email or stopping in the office.

Art Studio at Sense of Wonder
Mondays, October 31 - December 12
3:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Sense of Wonder Studio, 23 Grove Avenue, Vineyard Haven, MA 02568
The students walk from school to the studio. Pick up is at 4:00 p.m. at the
Studio on Grove Ave.
Fee: Included for extended day students; $70.00 for all others
Open to all VMS students
space is limited

**Chess**
Tuesday, October 11 - December 13
2:50 - 4:00 p.m. at VMS
Fee: No additional cost
Open to K-6 students

**Global Leadership**
Morgan Learning Center
Wednesdays, November 2 - December 14
2:50-4:00 p.m.
Fee: No additional cost
Open to K-6 students

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**Upcoming Events**

**Tuesday, October 25th and Thursday, October 27th -- Noon Dismissal**

**Parent Teacher Conferences** -
- Conference sign-up sheets will be posted on each classroom door the week of the 17th. Please sign up for the conference which best suits your schedule. Child watch is provided on each day from 12:30 – 4:00 for your conference time.

**Friday, October 28th -- Fun Friday, Fall Festival Afternoon**
2:30- 4:00 PM  If you pick up at your child at noon, come back and join us.
If you pick up at 2:30, pick up your child from their class.
Thursday, November 3rd – Special Visitor Day
Primary (2.9-K) 9:30am – 10:30 am
Elementary 1 9:00 am – 10:00 am
Elementary 2 10:00 am – 11:00 am
Special Visitor Day is your child's opportunity to invite a special person, parent or guest, into their classroom. The visitor has a chance to learn by participating and observing how the child chooses a lesson, works with the materials and puts the work away. This particular morning is filled with your child's excitement over the arrival of the special visitor and the pride in teaching the lessons that they have learned so far this year to their guest.

Saturday, November 5th – Truckin' MV, MVRHS
11:00 pm - 1:30 pm
Alyssa Dubin & Kim Darcy, Co-Chairs
This a community event hosted by the VMS Family Association. All parents are welcome to participate the day of Truckin' MV. The event offers children the opportunity to touch and explore over 25 big trucks and vehicles from the Island Community.

Wednesday, November 9th -- Open House Kindergarten - 3rd Grade - 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
(Note that the date has changed, on your calendar, from November 5th, due to scheduling the MVRHS for Truckin' MV)

Recommended Reading

"A Classroom Without Walls - Deepening Children's Connections With Nature" by Seth Webb | Montessori Blog
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

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(508) 693-4090

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