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

Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn.
~Benjamin Franklin

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

Hazel Ehrman’s uncle, Geoff Krill, came to our afternoon class last Friday for a wonderful, informative visit. The elementary students also joined us. Geoff is a paraplegic and is eager to share his experiences of living with physical challenges with students. He is an extremely active athlete and competes in races with a specially equipped bicycle – actually a tricycle. He also snow skis, water skis and plays soccer! He entertained the children with his easy manner and honest answers. The children asked thoughtful questions and were very engaged in the presentation. Thank you, Geoff, for sharing with us!

We are exploring the life cycle of the pumpkin this week. This work involves cards to be put in a sequence, as well as an actual pumpkin from which to
pick the seeds.

Math activities help the children understand the concepts of math by manipulating not just numerals but real amounts (i.e. one golden bead, a hundred square, a thousand cube) that they can hold in their hand. They work from the visual and tactile to the abstract. Numbers are handled in real materials until the abstraction of the concept is reached. For example, number rods show the physical difference in amount of the numbers 1 and 10. All this manipulation prepares the students for abstract reasoning and problem solving later.

In our classroom, we have the very young children manipulating beads and buttons as they learn the “1-10 work”. Older children are adding, subtracting and multiplying, along with working with the hierarchical categories of units, tens, hundreds and thousands. Lots of wonderful math!

Primary 2 Classroom
- Miss Chris and Miss Holly

Learning mathematical concepts in a Montessori classroom begins concretely
and progresses towards the abstract. They are developed from simple to complex. Process is taught first and facts come later. Order, coordination, concentration and independence are experienced by the child using these materials. As children develop in the Montessori environment, they are ready to encounter more concrete math materials in which to explore more abstract thought, beginning with quantity. A child who can count and recognize the symbols 1-9 could possibly count quantities of hundreds and thousands. Many of our children have been working diligently in the math area. Some children are acquiring the concept of recognizing numbers 1-9, some are working on symbol/quantity relationships and others are beginning equations using the Strip Boards and Golden Bead material.

This week during our gardening class, the children had the opportunity to help Miss Ava build hoop houses over our garden beds. Ava explained to them how the plants need protection from the colder weather and the hoop houses will give the plants some insulation to help keep them alive. The children also picked some purple runner beans that had grown, and they got to eat them right from the garden. They were surprised to find out that the beans change color when you cook them. They are always finding new scientific discoveries.

I introduced the tree puzzle, similar to the leaf puzzle, which teaches the children the names of the different parts of a tree. We talked about how important the root system is and how roots act like straws, sucking up moisture and nutrients from the soil to send to the rest of the tree. I also put out a gluing lesson, which has the children glue different colored leaves to a bare tree. Often times, I try to incorporate the seasons into our lessons by adding seasonal colored beads and stones to our practical life area or changing the color of the playdough and adding leaf-shaped cookie cutters, which give subtle references to the season.
Elementary Classroom
- Miss Irene and Miss Nora

The post-Revolutionary War studies that Elementary II students are currently covering ties in well with our current presidential election. The formation of the constitution, the Bill of Rights and the election of our first president are topics that will give students a foundation for further studies involving the lives of the presidents. Both classes listened to a humorous book entitled, "Duck for President", which subtly demonstrates the need for democracy in a barnyard and the concepts of campaigning, voting and the rigor of being a president. Some of the shelf work that students explored today were the presidential information cards, floor puzzle of the presidents and a matching work of presidential faces and years in office.

Although Joyce was out this week, her class last week was a great introduction for learning rhythm and movement. To replace Joyce’s class, we decided to let students practice SCRABBLE, which was taught to them last Friday. We use three boards and play in teams of two. Elementary I students are paired up with Elementary II students in order to learn collaboratively. Students are learning to challenge players with unusual words. Teams have the opportunity to use a dictionary before they place a word down or take a chance with an uncertain word and risk losing their turn for incorrect spelling.

Elementary I students are moving along on their reading, spelling, country research, bead frames, golden beads and maps. The Elementary II students are continuing fractions, sentence analysis, product and landmark maps of countries and historical research for timeline assembly.

Our class wanted to thank the school body for continuing to bring in Box Tops for education. We will be making a submission before November, so please continue to look for the Box Tops on your General Mills products.

Our students would also like to thank everyone for their support by purchasing coffee and baked goods from us on Mondays!
Late Day
- Miss Weezie and Miss Cristina

Many parents of Late Day students have been pleased to tell me that their children are sharing songs that we sing at school. This is a great way to encourage speech and literacy with pre-readers.

We continued the Story Stretcher concept this week with books about spiders. We read "The Very Busy Spider", "Little Miss Spider" and a West African folktale, "Anansi the Spider". Some students chose to make spider webs using a pie pan lined with construction paper and a marble dipped in paint. We held the sides of the pan and slowly rolled it back and forth watching the marble create a web. We added a spider sticker to complete the effect.

These warm days are great for outdoor play, and let’s encourage children to use their water bottles for hydration.

Spanish
- Miss Cristina

Elementary
Buenos días! This week, I began asking the students how they are and the date, and I added the topic of weather. We also talked about the Spanish culture. We looked for information about the holidays, the flag, traditional dance, food and music in Spain and how different it is from American culture.
Primary
Hola! We always have so much fun in class, singing songs about the greetings, counting to 10 and learning the colors. I read a story about autumn and then asked the students three questions that they could answer using the new vocabulary. At the end of class, I like to read a short story from a book collection from Spain.

Upcoming Events

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

**Parent Teacher Conferences** -- Conference sign-up sheets are posted on each classroom door. 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
*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

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