



## VMS Weekly News - October 28, 2016

A calendar of school events can be found at [www.vineyardmontessori.com](http://www.vineyardmontessori.com).

### Please Sign Up to Help...

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

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

Please [sign up here](#) to help.

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

4th Annual



### TRUCKIN' MV

Saturday, November 5th  
11:00-1:30

Martha's Vineyard Regional High School Parking Lot

Refreshments and food available for purchase  
\$10/child or \$25/family

Truckin' MV is a unique and interactive family friendly event that allows children an opportunity to see, touch and explore their favorite big trucks and vehicles from the Island Community

Rain or Shine



An independent non-profit school  
Pre-K through 6<sup>th</sup> grade

Fostering a lifetime love of learning, one child at a time.

[www.vineyardmontessori.com](http://www.vineyardmontessori.com)

### Primary 1 Classroom

*-Miss Ty, Miss Cristina and Miss Rebecca*

The sensorial work in our classroom lays the foundation for later work in geometry. For instance, there are materials for dimension, the cylinder blocks, the Geometry Cabinet and the geometric solids. The constructive triangles

allow the children to see various shapes that can be made with the triangle, whether the triangles are equilateral, isosceles or scalene. The last box of triangles is filled with identical blue scalene triangles which allow the children to see that the scalene triangle can produce a huge amount of shapes. The children explore these, making interesting shapes and designs.



The letters presented this past week were h, u, l, j, and q.

Last week, our visit to the Farm Institute was wonderful. The drivers picked up their students at nine o'clock and we all caravanned out to the farm. Once there, the Farm Institute staff met us and we divided into two groups. Tim and Rebecca were the two staff members who guided the groups around; we basically had wonderful hands-on time with a variety of animals. The chickens generously moved aside and allowed little hands to gather their precious eggs. The sheep welcomed us all into their pen, patiently letting the children pat their woolly backs. Elvis the pig, a huge boar, was observed with eyes only, as were the herd of cows and calves. The day was crispy and the sky was blue – a gorgeous fall Vineyard day. Thanks to all the volunteer drivers and to Jenn Doyle for organizing the whole trip.



## Primary 2 Classroom

- Miss Chris and Miss Holly

I have really enjoyed having the opportunity to share with each of you the wonderful and exciting things your child has been working on at school. Throughout



conferences, I discovered that many parents were curious as to the different areas of the classroom and how each child was able to work on individual lessons without the whole class having to be doing the same thing at the same time. Maria Montessori believed, as do I, that each child is valued as a unique individual. We recognize that children learn in different ways, and we accommodate all learning styles. Children are also free to learn at their own pace, each advancing through the curriculum as they are ready. A Montessori

classroom contains specially designed, manipulative materials that invite children to engage in learning activities of their own individual choice. With the help of the teacher, children in a Montessori classroom learn by making discoveries with the materials, developing concentration, motivation, self-discipline and a love of learning. It is an approach that helps children learn in their own way at their own pace. It takes to heart the needs, talents, gifts and special individuality of each child.

We were fortunate to have Miss Joyce visit us twice this week. The children are enjoying the songs, rhythms and musical instruments that she shares with us. Often times hear the children reciting songs and finger plays that she has taught them when they are out on the playground.

This week in gardening, the children went out to the garden with Miss Ava to plant different types of seeds, such as Swiss chard, spinach and other greens. After turning over the soil, each child had the chance to poke holes in the soil with their fingers and place seeds into them. Next week, we will be taking a field trip to Cedar Tree Neck to learn about different animal habitats, so we will not be having gardening. I will send more information regarding the trip soon.

Just a friendly reminder, we do not celebrate Halloween in our class, so please keep masks and/or costumes at home.

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## Elementary Classroom

*- Miss Irene and Miss Nora*

The Elementary I students had two field trips this week. On Thursday, they took a trip up to Cedar Tree Neck to learn about mapping and to take a scenic hike. Early Friday morning, they headed to Misty Meadows for an exciting morning of horseback riding! Thank you, Jen Doyle, for organizing these memorable trips and Karyn Borella for driving the students.

The Elementary II students started their week with a visit to the Morgan Learning Center to learn more about island history. An MVRHS senior, Nevin Wallis, is doing volunteer work for the museum. He is working on our unit called *Math: Life or Death*. Last week, Nevin did some research and presented it to our students. He gave us information on life expectancies and frequent causes of deaths during the late 1700's on the Vineyard. After reviewing this information, the students got busy on

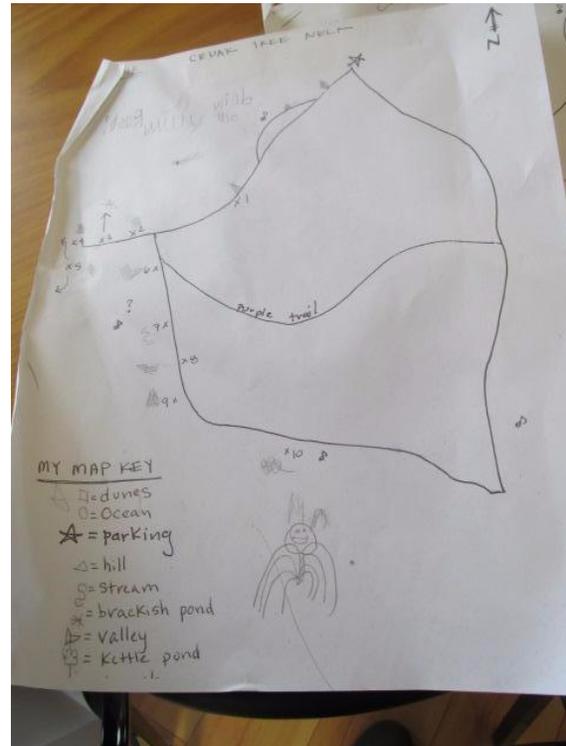


fictional creative writing pieces about their chosen person from Village Cemetery. They speculated the causes of their deaths based on headstone symbols, epitaphs, age of death, male or female and family members buried near them. Students' written pieces included biographies, autobiographies and letters.



This week, two of our students, Tomas Carreno and Carly Coggins, joined other island students at the Tisbury School for orchestra practice in the early morning. They will be presenting later this year at the MVRHS performing arts center!

All elementary students were invited by the Touch-A-Truck committee to volunteer some of their time at our school event this year. They will be selling baked goods and toys to raise money for the school. We will need some adults to supervise the kids as they work by overseeing money counting, merchandising, resupplying and selling, selling. Please encourage your child to help out for an hour during the event. A sign-up sheet for students and parents will be available at school. You can also sign up [online here](#).



## Late Day

- *Miss Weezie and Miss Cristina*

Our Afternoon and Late Day Programs were shortened this week due to Parent Teacher Conferences. However, we proceeded with literature, songs and projects relating to seeds. The latest addition to our VMS Library is entitled "Miss Maple's Seeds" by Eliza Wheeler. This beautifully illustrated story

celebrates the potential found in each seed. We read that "even the grandest tree and most brilliant flower had to grow from the smallest of seeds." This concept led to interesting awareness and shared discussions about the growth of seeds. Additional books we used included "Seeds by Wind and Water", "Sunflower", "The Tiny Seed" and "Junior Science Book of Seeds". We sorted and compared seeds that we collected outside as well as sunflower and pumpkin seeds for art projects, focusing on sequence of steps.

We will be walking to Pam Benjamin's Studio starting on Monday. Please have children dress appropriately.



## Upcoming Events

### **Thursday, November 3rd – Special Visitor Day**

Primary (2.9-K) 9:30 am – 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.

### **Wednesday, November 9th – Open House for 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

*"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

## Vineyard Montessori School

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