"Do not tell them how to do it. Show them how to do it and do not say a word. If you tell them they will watch your lips move. If you show them, they will want to do it themselves."

~ Maria Montessori

Alumna Spotlight: Monica

My strongest memories of Vineyard Montessori School consist of coloring world maps, learning the continent song and spending time with my childhood best friends, Elizabeth, Amanda and Ben. I had the pleasure of going to school with Ben and Amanda for many years following our time at Montessori. We started at Vineyard Montessori, we then attended the Tisbury School and now we are all graduating seniors at the Martha’s Vineyard Regional High School. Unfortunately, due to a one-year age difference, I was only in the same group as Elizabeth until I entered second grade. However, in my sophomore year of high school, we rekindled our friendship when we both became members of the high school tennis team.

It has been a pleasure to grow up alongside my Ben, Amanda and Elizabeth. I have seen them strive and turn into outstanding young adults, and thanks to Montessori, we have a lifelong connection. Now, I am spending my senior year in Tenerife, Spain on a Rotary International Youth Exchange program. I am going to a local Spanish school, living with host families and learning a new culture. Next year, I will be studying international relations with ties to political science, and as of right now, it looks like I will be continuing my education in Madrid, Spain this fall. My love for traveling and the world began at Vineyard Montessori School, and I am certain that it will not end here in Tenerife.
VMS Student Takes Action to Help MV Community

Third-grade student, Quin Doyle, recently found out that the Island Food Pantry is experiencing a scarcity of food. When he learned of this community need, he immediately went into action. When Quin was asked what made him want to take action, he responded, "I think it is important to take care of all people and animals. It's the right thing to do. Gathering food for our island friends is one way we can do that."

Quin will begin Tuesday at school. If you are able to bring in non-perishable food items, or would like to make a donation to the Island Food Pantry to support this community need, Quin will be taking donations all next week.

Save the Date for Big Night Out

Mark your calendars for our “Big Night Out”. Saturday, May 6th at the Harborview Hotel in Edgartown. Many of you are asking, "How can I help?" You received an envelope with all the information necessary to get sponsors and donation items.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask. The BNO team is working together on creating an event you won’t want to miss!

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

A new science activity I introduced was “Air Takes up Space”. I got this idea from Meg Fedorowicz’s guide to hands-on physics, Nurturing the Young Scientist. The first exploration is having the children fill a tank with water and then up-end a glass in the water, being sure to keep the rim of the glass level with the bottom of the tank. After the glass is at the bottom, the child lifts one side and watches the air bubbles come out. They find
out first-hand that indeed, airdoes take up space! This is only the first one: we will have many more experiments with air in the next weeks.

The steps of Scientific Inquiry are introduced.

1) Observe.

2.) Discuss: “I wonder what will happen when I push this glass down to the bottom?”

3) Make predictions: “I think the air will be trapped inside the glass”.

4) Perform the experiment.

5) Observe. Are the results the same or different from the prediction?

   “Oh! The air bubbled out of the glass under the water when I tipped it to the side!”

6) Record the results. Most children will verbally record their results, some will draw a picture.

7) Name the phenomenon: “This is caused because air has volume!”

The four-, five- and six-year olds had their first skating session at the MV Ice Arena. Thank you so much to Jenn Doyle for helping to coordinate drivers for this activity. Also, thank you so much to all our drivers! These drivers are also very necessary as “skate-put-on-ers”! We could not do this without them. For the children, the first lesson was how to get up from the ice when they fall... which is very often for first skaters! This lesson is done on the rubber mats outside the rink. Once on the ice, new skaters tried to get their feet under them and move. As usual, we have a spectrum of abilities, and some children are able to get from point A to point B with joy and passion. Others are on the learning curve. Everyone had a wonderful time, however, and we came back to the class to cookies made by Ms. Cristina and the very proud three-year-olds. Yum!

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Primary 2 Classroom
- Miss Chris and Miss Holly

The development of language can be seen and heard throughout the classroom. Children have been reciting poetry and expanding their vocabulary by learning the names of objects, continents and comparison labels.
are learning their letter sounds and names of numbers while others are reading stories to their friends. In a Montessori classroom, teachers model speaking using correct language and shy away from using "babytalk" or slang words. A child at this stage is in a sensitive period for language and needs a rich and expansive vocabulary from which to learn. Sharing songs and poems at home helps to build a bridge of connection between school and home.

In the sensorial area of the class, some students that have mastered certain lessons have now incorporated the use of a blindfold while working with that material. By using a blindfold, the child must rely on other senses besides sight. This not only adds a higher degree of difficulty to their work, but it also gives a new interest to an already mastered work.

Miss Ava helped the children create some felted squares that they will be able to bring home next week. Officer Max returned this week with the firefighters. This was his last visit to our school, and we would like to thank all of our special visitors who took the time to come to our school and to share their expertise with our children.

Elementary Classroom
- Miss Irene and Miss Nora

The elementary class would like to thank everyone for bringing in plastic caps of all colors and sizes for our Big Night Out Project.
Keep them coming!

We started our 2 ½ dimensional heath hens with the MV Museum this week. Ann Ducharme made up the term 2 ½ dimensional because the heath hens are made out of cut-up foam board and decorated with layers of cut paper making them more than 2 and less than 3 dimensional. We can’t wait for everyone to come and visit us at our open house at the MV Museum for our heath hen exhibit. It will take place on March 24th between 3-5 p.m., so mark your calendars!

During Fun Friday last week, the Elementary II and Elementary I students worked on 7 cultural lessons for 10 minutes each, rotating clockwise from work to work. Older students were paired with the younger students. Vigorously, they worked. They would then place the work back the way it was found and moved eagerly on for the next challenge. These lessons were a review for the Elementary II students, but they were happy to revisit some of the lessons that they never tire of, such as the Fundamental Needs of Humans, Roman Numerals, History of Timekeeping and the order of the presidents.

Here is a little information on The Fundamental Needs of Humans lesson: Dr. Maria Montessori believed that all humans share common basic needs which, when met, help open the doors for human freedom, respect, cooperation and environmental accountability; all of which are crucial for creating civilizations and establishing peace. Fundamental Human Needs are divided into two categories: material needs and spiritual needs. Humans are born with material needs. Food and clothing are obvious needs. However, humans also have a need for shelter, safety/defense, transportation (land and water), physical health and communication. The second fundamental need is spiritual in nature. When all the basic, material needs are met, humans have a desire for social acceptance as well as artistic, cultural, social, philosophical and religious expression and interaction. These are the elements that help us compare and contrast various civilizations. Picture cards are matched to a heading, such as clothing. Some of the photos feature poor people and others feature wealthy people to help children understand that no matter how much money we have, we still have the same basic needs and desires.
Late Day
- Miss Weezie and Miss Cristina

This has been a busy and active week for Late Day students. The afternoon group created a heart collage by gluing pink and red shapes on a very large, pre-cut heart. This was a co-operative effort with each child adding to the design. We also continue to use Model Magic for hand strength, dexterity and fun. Our puppet show this week was Little Red Riding Hood. The student audience was attentive and used good listening skills. Children will be encouraged to recreate this show as puppeteers. We also introduced several new Where's Waldo books. Students enjoy the shared activity while promoting observation, discrimination and awareness of detail.

Yogamotion continues this week with Anne Caldwell. The first week this was held, students responded eagerly to learning basic yoga poses and techniques, enhancing self-regulation. We are grateful to be able to offer these sessions as part of our Late Day Program. Parents are asked to please wait in the hallway for pick-up following yoga class.
Recommended Reading

"Montessori Builds Innovators" by Andrew McAfee

"Why Small Schools Work: Good Things Come in Small Packages" by Tim Seldin

"Choosing Montessori for Kindergarten" by Colleen, “Children First, Always.”

"Develop Leaders the Montessori Way" by Ambiga Dhiraj

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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