"Establishing lasting peace is the work of education..."
~ Maria Montessori

Calendar

**Friday, January 12th:** Professional Day - School Closed  
**Monday, January 15th:** Martin Luther King, Jr. Day -- School Closed  
**Thursday, January 18th:** Dine to Donate at Offshore Ale Company

Primary 1 Classroom  
- Miss Cristina and Miss Rebecca

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a wonderful break. The children seem happy to be back at school and excited to see their friends.

I would like to welcome Enzo, Lucas, and Tatum to our classroom. They joined us this week, and they have been settling in nicely and exploring the environment. I love seeing how not only the teachers try to make the new students feel comfortable, but every child does as well, wanting to show them how to do lessons and happy about having new friends.

It was also great to observe the children in the transition back into work this week. Some new exercises, along with many old ones, were popular this week, including magnets, building with blocks, and more explorations with other sensorial materials.
Happy New Year and welcome back! The children are happy to be back at school and are re-establishing themselves into our routines. They were very excited to share the tales of their holiday vacations and to spend time with their peers.

We welcomed four new students on Tuesday. Olive Rosbeck and Dylan Klein are the younger sisters of Peter Rosbeck and Elliot Klein who have been at VMS for a few years now. Hannah and Samuel Delgado are commuting over from Falmouth each day to attend our school. They were previously at a Montessori school in Connecticut and have recently moved to the Cape. Please join me in making all of our new students feel welcome, and please introduce yourselves to their parents, Caitlin and Peter Rosbeck, Jennifer and Tim Klein, and Amy and Robert Delgado.

Knowing that this was going to be a short week and having just returned from the break, I didn't add any new activities to the class. Sometimes having the classroom the same as the children left it before the break can be a source of comfort for the children. They can pick up where they left off, knowing that the familiar lessons are still there. At times, it takes a few days for the children to re-acclimate themselves to being back at school, and therefore, the children might seek the comfort and security in the familiar.

We will be starting an artist study on Norman Rockwell. We will be using his most famous paintings as matching cards and discussing his life as an artist. We will also begin a 3-4 week program on "Getting to Know Your Neighborhood Safety Personnel". The students will be introduced to police officers, firefighters, EMTs, doctors, and nurses. This is always a highlight for the children.

Our enrichment programs will begin again next week.
Elementary I Classroom
- Miss Nora

Happy New Year to all! The Elementary I students were very proud of their Greek presentation and artwork that they completed before the break. We would all like to send out a huge THANK YOU to the Stratakos family for providing authentic and delicious Greek food!

The Elementary I students jumped right back into the groove of things this week. We have been working on our lines for the upcoming play, *Trouble with Trolls*, which will be performed in the classroom on Friday, February 2nd. We plan to be off script next week.

This week, we chose seeds to plant in the garden with Mary-Sage when the weather breaks in the spring. We will be planting a wide variety of roots and vegetables to share with the class.
Elementary II Classroom
- Miss Irene

Welcome back, everyone. Since this is a short week, and some of us just arrived back to school this Wednesday, I am focusing this week’s article on information on upper elementary children taken from http://montessoritraining.blogspot.com. Carly Coggins will be reporting back to you next week.

We are confronted with a considerable development of consciousness that has already taken place, but now that consciousness is thrown outwards with a special direction, intelligence being extroverted, and there is an unusual demand on the part of the child to know the reasons of things. Knowledge can be best given where there is eagerness to learn, so this is the period when the seed of everything can be sown, the child’s mind being like a fertile field, ready to receive what will germinate into culture. ~ Maria Montessori, To Educate the Human Potential

Between the ages of 9-12, children use imagination and move from concrete representation to abstract thinking as they seek to bring order to the various disconnected facts and ideas they encounter in the world. They are able to think hypothetically. Montessori believed it is also a time of great moral development. No longer merely concerned with right and wrong, good and bad, the Montessori upper elementary student now seeks to understand the motivation behind behavior. When confronted with moral issues, the upper elementary student seeks to imagine and develop possible solutions. Please click here to read about the Montessori Plane of Development for Upper Elementary Children.

Middle School
- Miss Ty

The Thursday before our holiday break, the children hosted their parents for a wonderful presentation of holidays around the world. Actually, each team of two students researched the December celebrations of the country they are representing at Montessori Model UN (which will be held in March). Our seventh grader, Mathew Coggins, has teamed
up with Silas Stanek, a sixth-year student. Their presentation was on Uruguay, which they were happy to announce has summer during their Christmas! They prepared some excellent cookies that people in Uruguay love to eat.

In science, we are starting a new unit on ecosystems. Energy roles and flows in a nutrient cycle have been studied, for instance producers, decomposers, and consumers. Food chains and food webs were also examined. Presently, Matthew is researching and identifying the various ecosystems that exist in Massachusetts. These include Boreal forests, salt marshes, ocean shore, pond/lake, river, and wetlands. How many of these are found on Martha’s Vineyard?

Late Day
- Miss Weezie and Miss Cristina

Happy New Year to all! We are happy to be back at school, and we welcome our new students, Dylan, Lucas, and Tatum to the late day program.

Our last art class with Miss Pam before the break was a celebration of form, color, and materials using wooden shapes to decorate. It is always interesting to note the degree of involvement and attention to detail within the class. The students’ work often reflects, not only developmental ability, but also each student's personal style.

We watch the temperature closely to assure safe outdoor time for our classes. Our newly donated Tetherball game has been installed and will be a fun and challenging piece of equipment for all levels to enjoy.

Our favorite books this week had a winter theme and included *I Drive a Snowplow*, *100 Snowmen*, *Katy and the Big Snow*, and *Over and Under the Snow*. Stay warm!

Recommended Reading
"There's No Such Thing as the Real World" by Peter Piche in MontessoriParent
Read article here.

Book Corner for Parents
"Yardsticks: Children in the Classroom Ages 4-14" by Chip Wood

"The Six Stages of Parenthood" by Ellen Galinsky

Book Corner for Children
"What Do You Do With An Idea?" by Kobi Yamada
An independent non-profit school
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