Let the children be free; encourage them; let them run outside when it is raining; let them remove their shoes when they find a puddle of water; and when the grass of the meadows is wet with dew, let them run on it and trample it with their bare feet; let them rest peacefully when a tree invites them to sleep beneath its shade; let them shout and laugh when the sun wakes them in the morning.

Maria Montessori

Final tally and update from the Annual Big Night Out. Thank you so much to the Big Night Out Committee and all the families that donated, supported and came to our Annual fundraising event. It is exciting to report that the evening exceeded expectations by having more than 155 people in attendance and raising a net amount of $21,500.

Calendar

**Thursday, April 5th:** Special Visiting Day - 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM

**Monday, April 16th - Friday, April 20th:** School closed-Spring Recess.

**Saturday, April 28th:** Family Yard Day

Primary 1
Finally, we have had a couple of warm and sunny days. I took out the big bag of yarn that was filled with the strands that the students cut out during our snipping yarn lesson at the beginning of the year. While this is primarily a preparation for necklace making, the lesson resulted in piles and piles of yarn, perfect for the birds to make nests! We all went outside and talked about how birds make nests. Then we scattered some strands around the school for that purpose. The children are excited about this opportunity to share their winter work with the birds. Hopefully, we will find a nest with one or two colorful strands woven through it!

Some new exercises, along with many old ones, are keeping the children busy. These include working with many reading cards and making books with the words, painting with water colors, map making, and exploring the sensorial materials. The students also completed some elaborate work with math materials, including the Montessori ‘45 Layout’, an early place-value work. To complete this, a child explores and builds a physical place-value chart on the floor with Golden Beads and large number cards with units through to the thousands. This layout helps a child visualize and develop an understanding of place value, order of numbers, and concentration.

The children and I are very excited that spring is here. We enjoy being outside, especially when we take nature walks to the beach.

Our class was excited to have William return from his trip. He spent almost two months over in Vietnam visiting his relatives. The children wanted to show William all the new lessons that were in the class, but William found comfort in some of his favorite activities done with a few friends. Our other classmate, CC Stratakos, will be returning next week from her trip to California and New Zealand. I know the children are anticipating her return.

The children have been very busy choosing work independently and mastering many new skills. Many have branched into new areas of the curriculum, whereas some children are re-visiting lessons that they have not worked on in quite
some time. I always love seeing the expression on a child's face when he/she re-visits a lesson and finds that now it is very easy for him/her. Their confidence in their skill level shines bright these days.

Seed sorting was the topic of this week's gardening lesson. Miss Ava, along with Lynne Whiting, played a game with the children, first naming the different types of seeds and then showing them pictures of what the seeds would grow into. The children were then given a pile of seeds, and they had to sort them according to what plant they would become. Next week, we will be out in the gardens, preparing them for some spring planting.

The children have completed their third session of skating, and their confidence level is quite strong. All of the children are able to move about the ice on their own. They can fall down and get back up without assistance, and some are skating up and down the full length of the ice. Our bakers made us some soft and chewy oatmeal raisin cookies that were delicious! We shared them together when we returned to school.

Last week, our class went to singing story time at the Vineyard Haven Library. We walked over to the library and had a wonderful time listening, singing, and dancing to the music.

Elementary I Classroom
- Miss Nora

This week, we read more about influential women in history. So far, we have read about Elizabeth Stanton and Susan B. Anthony, Helen Keller, Jane Addams, Sacajawea, Elizabeth Blackwell, Florence
Nightingale, Harriet Tubman, and Rosa Parks. There are still more to come before the month is over. It is wonderful to see the children respond with such indignation about the way these women were treated and how hard they had to work to fight for their rights.

Finally this week, we were lucky enough to get outside with Mary Sage and wake up and prep our garden. Hopefully, we will be able to plant our four varieties of peas that we have been germinating for the past few weeks in Mary Sage’s greenhouse.

Measuring can be all sorts of fun! The students got busy measuring everything in the classroom. They measured the height, width, and depth of all sorts of furniture and materials. We went over inches, yards, and miles. Then we covered liquid measurement. How many cups, pints, quarts, and half gallons are in one gallon?

We are finishing up our studies on the sun, earth, and gravity. Next, we will move onto more science and geography, which is always interesting and exciting to learn about.

Elementary II Classroom
- Miss Irene

Some of our Upper Elementary students have been working on binomials, squaring binomials, and expanding binomials. When introducing these works, we use the colored beads from the bead cabinet and go through the process of FOIL (first, outer, inner, last) to find the squares of binomials. Later, we use the peg board with squaring guides. We also reviewed the story of the Three Kings with the trinomial cube and identified each part with its algebraic name. We will later give each cube and rectangular prism in the trinomial cube a value to find the total value of all of the pieces.

On Wednesday, students presented research findings to each other on the life and culture of the Greeks. We heard about architecture, four types of government, battles, and types of dramas, including comedy and tragedy. Afterwards, we watched a video on the battle of Marathon in which the outnumbered Athenians outwitted the invading Persians.

Mary Sage worked with students to get three varieties of kale started for our raised garden bed. As the weather warms up, we will begin some outdoor sprucing up of our grounds here to show Jabberwocky residents that we appreciate our time here on their beautiful campus.
Middle School
- Miss Ty

The backbone of the Middle School’s curriculum is the study of humanities: how we humans process and document our experience here on Earth. Humanities include history, literature, art, music, and philosophy. Matthew’s study of history and literature are integrated. We now are beginning the next section of American History. We finished the French and Indian War with a viewing of the movie, *The Last of the Mohicans*.

Then comes the Revolutionary War. This goes along with his literature study this session; he is reading *Johnny Tremain*, a story of a young man who is coming of age and maturity in Boston during the years right before the battles of Lexington and Concord. He also extended the timeline of explorers that he began last session to include the “Road to Revolution”. This timeline will be added to throughout the end of the semester.

We have kale seeds starting! All six of Matthew’s sprouted after only five days! We hope to get them in the garden by mid-April. The students are looking forward to some kale chips. Also, the worm bin is slowly but surely developing into a bona-fide vermicomposting bin!

Late Day
- Miss Weezie

Several of our book choices this week celebrated the coming of spring. We discussed being good "nature observers", recognizing signs of spring all around us in...
the natural environment. Pussy willows are one of the earliest harbingers of spring, and each student was able to closely examine a branch. We learned a song about pussy willows, and with our bodies, we mimicked how they push up through the snow to grow. Some students chose to create their own version of pussy willows by drawing a brown stem and adding fingerprints with grey paint.

Book choices also included a Caldecott-award winning book entitled, What Do You Do with a Tail like This? This book is a well-written and illustrated book displaying unusual animals’ parts and how they are used. We played a guessing game, and students demonstrated their extensive knowledge of the animal world.

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

Book Corner for Parents
"Robot-Proof: Higher Education in the age of artificial intelligence." by Joseph Aoun

"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

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