"Character formation can not be taught. It comes from experience and not explanation"

- Maria Montessori

Calendar

Monday, May 28th: Memorial Day - School Closed
Thursday, June 14th: Field Day
Friday, June 15th: Graduation Ceremony

VMS Announces New Scholarship for Middle School Students

VMS is pleased to announce the 2018 Rising Star Full Scholarship Program! This scholarship is available to students entering 7th grade the fall of 2018. Our Middle School inspires students to pursue their interests while achieving academic and leadership excellence in a safe community setting. Any student entering 7th grade this fall is encouraged to apply for the full scholarship, so please share this with your friends. Contact the office for full details and application information by emailing: admin@vineyardmontessori.com or by calling 508-693-4090. Application deadline is June 3, 2018.

Teacher Transition in Primary 2

Holly Bruguiere, the assistant with
Chris Rasmussen in Primary 2, is leaving VMS after 13 years. We are truly thankful for all Holly’s hard work, dedication and commitment to VMS; we will miss her and wish her all the best.

We are excited to announce that Caroline "Pecker has been hired to assist Chris. Caroline is a certified Montessori master teacher who most recently worked as a head Montessori teacher and lead kindergarten teacher at Raritan Valley Montessori Academy in Bridgewater, NJ. She also held the position of art and drama teacher at Raritan Valley and at Cherry Blossom Montessori School. Caroline holds a B.A. degree in art history and in psychology from Rutgers University. Please join me in welcoming Caroline to VMS.

VMS Announces New Members to its Board of Trustees

VMS is pleased to announce that three new members have been appointed to the school’s board of trustees. They are Laura Seguin, Tom Tate, and Pat Thompson.

Laura Seguin has been a resident of Martha’s Vineyard for over four years. She and her husband reside in Edgartown with their two daughters, Adelaide (4) and Grace (2). Currently, Laura is a sports marketing consultant working with private clubs on hosting major championships.

Tom Tate moved to the Vineyard in the spring of 1981 where he managed the Manter Memorial
Youth Hostel for 10 years. He then started his own building company, Tate Builders, Inc., which continues to this day. His daughter enjoyed three fantastic years at the Vineyard Montessori School when she was younger, and Tom has been grateful ever since.

Pat Thompson has been a VMS board member since October 2017. As a dedicated Montessorian for 37 years, she was a former Head of School at Thacher Montessori School in Milton, as well as being its recent consultant and Interim Education Director. She has taught both Lower and Upper Elementary for a total of 23 years. Her proudest lifetime accomplishment is raising, with her husband, Mike, two Montessori children, now adults – Ben, a surgeon and Geoff, a musician.

Welcome, new board members!

MV Museum Article Features VMS Students

VMS students were recently featured in an article published by the MV Museum. The article, In Class, 'Students Become Sea Captains', highlights the Museum's collaboration with VMS students on their project, 'I Am the Captain Now'. Since last fall, the students have been learning all about the history of whaling at the MV Museum, to the extent that they will be able to portray the role of a sea captain in an exhibit at the end of the school year. Read the full article here.

Middle School- Miss Ty

Men with hands and no head, and men with head and no hands are equally out of place in the modern community....Therefore the work on the land is an introduction both to nature and civilization and gives a limitless field for scientific and historic studies....The rural atmosphere offers students a kind of ‘place apart’ – a safe and
healthy environment to promote their transition to adulthood. (From Childhood to Adolescence, M. Montessori)

One of the goals of Vineyard Montessori’s Middle School program is to create an extended experience out of the classroom, rooted in Montessori’s vision for the adolescent that provides meaningful, authentic work as well as learning experiences. We are excited to have finally found a plot of land that we can call our own, so students can accept the challenge of hard, physical, real work. We have rented a plot in the community garden at Island Grown Initiative’s Thimble Farm. We are starting small ...... 5’ x 20’ at this time. There is definitely an option to increase our plot in the future, however, as our program grows!

Students are in the process of preparing the soil organically and amending it naturally to improve its quality. We will plant some pumpkins, gourds, and other fall crops to harvest next school year. From work on the land, students gain knowledge of geometry, botany, zoology, history, archeology, geology, and physical science.

Elementary II Classroom
- Miss Irene

Our class is finally on the last portion of our ancient civilizations timeline, the Americas. The timeline starts around 4,600 BC when the first maize production began. It progresses through many civilizations and events up until 300 AD when the classic Mayan period begins in Mesoamerica. We watched an exciting documentary called Ancient Americans: The Mayas and Aztecs on YouTube. We learned about their gods, sacrifices, kings, discovery of gold, farming, many types of temples, and how Cortes was the final downfall of the
Besides continuing to work with the timeline to assist in remembering important events, students were given their first assignment. They were asked to think about what they have learned so far and write a proposed project outline for themselves that is due in four weeks. They are free to choose anything relating to the ancient Americas as long as it is not the same topic proposed by their peers. They need to include a written portion and can choose from models, drawings, posters, collages, videos, slide presentations, food, handiwork, historical fiction stories, monologues, etc. If their proposal sounds like they could do a great job in four weeks, it will be approved and they may begin.

The radish and flower seeds that we planted with Mary Sage during gardening are already sprouting! The class is excited to work with Miss Ty and Matthew at Thimble Farm for the rest of the year and throughout the summer. Parents and any friends are welcome to go with the students any time to care for the plants.

Lastly, I am so happy to receive all the beautiful flowers, food, cards, and gifts for parent appreciation week from the students, parents, faculty, and trustees. I love being part of the VMS staff and working with all of you!

Elementary I
Classroom
- Miss Nora

Elementary I students have had a great week taking advantage of the spring weather. The week started out with a trip to Cedar Tree Neck. They had a great hike and enjoyed the rope swing in the woods. "Just like monkeys, but we are orangutans!" We saw fiddlehead ferns, frogs, and old twisted beach
trees. On the beach, each person picked a special rock to bring back to class and identify it with our rocks and mineral guides. Declan found a horseshoe crab and was very excited to see an animal whose ancestors date back millions of years. We brought back a few different types of volcanic rock since we just started studying volcanos. They are perfect for our classroom collection.

Last week, we looked at stellar nucleosynthesis. This week, the students were introduced to the periodic table of elements. They are studying atomic mass (weight), the relationship between protons, neutrons, and electrons. They were taught how to use the Bohr Board, which concretely shows them how the parts put together form an element.

With Mary-Sage this week, we planted poppy seeds that Eleni brought back from California. They were planted all around the playground. We are experimenting to see which conditions they like best. Hopefully, they will survive the foot traffic!

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Primary 2 Classroom

- Miss Chris and Miss Holly

I want to thank all of the grandparents, aunts, uncles, parents, and siblings who attended our visiting day this week. The children always look forward to having this opportunity to share what they have been working on at school. This is also a wonderful experience for the visitors as they are able to see the lessons that your child may have been talking about and will allow for that connection from school to home.

Parents who are in tune with what is happening in their child’s classroom are better able to establish a connection between what is learned at school and what takes place in the home. This connection is a key component of a child’s development and supports further learning. Not only does family or parental involvement help extend teaching outside the classroom; it creates a more positive experience for children and helps children perform better when they are in school.

Another way that helps to connect school and home are the parent/teacher conferences. This is a wonderful time to meet and discuss your child's progress, not only academically, but socially as well. I really enjoyed having the opportunity to meet with all of you and share your child's progress over the course of this year.

In our older afternoon group, the children have been working hard to reach a milestone, reaching 1000 on their number rolls. Sam was the newest member of this group and joins Hugo, Peter, and Levi. Some of the other children are working hard in hopes to reach 1000. I enjoy watching this group set a goal
Primary 1 Classroom
- Miss Cristina and Miss Rebecca

We welcomed a new student to our classroom this week. His name is Nazadrian "Naz" and his parents are Ashleigh and Adrian. Rebecca, the children and I are so thrilled to have him join our community.

Miss Rebecca and I were presented beautiful bouquets of fresh flowers brought in by the children in honor of Teacher Appreciation Week. The bouquets had a wonderful variety of flowers and greens from everyone's gardens. We felt very special and loved and want to thank you all for your generous donations of flowers. It is such a gift to work with your children each day and to know that we are supported by an amazing community of families.

“Sensorial” is one of the most beautiful areas in our class. Dr. Montessori designed each material as a means for the child to explore and refine his or her senses. Each material encourages the child to compare, categorize, and make order. These ideas then carry over, and the child can use these sensorial experiences to see patterns, etc. The materials provide the child the means to help interpret his or her world.

As the tower is built upon the carpet, the child goes through the exercises of kneeling, rising, etc. The control is given by the irregularity of the tower as it decreases toward the apex. A cube misplaced reveals itself, because it breaks the line. (The Montessori Method, Maria Montessori)

Now that the weather has become beautiful, please remember to send your child to school with a water bottle that can be re-filled throughout the day. We have a limited number of drinking glasses that are used at the snack table, and the children are needing to re-hydrate both during and after recess. Please make sure to put your child's name on his/her water bottle.
**Late Day**

- **Miss Weezie**

We welcomed a NSW student to our Late Day Program this week. Naz is in Miss Cristina's class. He is friendly, energetic, and enjoys all of our outdoor activities.

Some of our afternoon students made beautiful butterflies using coffee filters, construction paper, and fine-tip markers. They first attached the body to the wings and then we worked on symmetry. Students matched their choice of color and design on one wing to be the same on the other wing. We completed the project by adding antennas. Our favorite song lately has been the *Butterfly Song* that tells the story of the magical metamorphosis.

We read *Mother's Day Mice* by Jan Brett and discussed all the wonderful work that moms do for their families. Enjoy this special day!

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**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

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**Book Corner for Children**
"What Do You Do With An Idea?" by Kobi Yamada