VMS Weekly News - June 8, 2018

All children can 'explode into learning'
- Maria Montessori

Calendar

Please look through the lost and found basket before the last day of school. All remaining items will be donated after June 14th.

Tuesday, June 12th: Paperwork for next year is due back to the office

Thursday, June 14th: Last Day of School / Banking Awards / Field Day 10:00 - 1:00

Friday, June 15th: End-of-Year Ceremony 9:30 - 11:00 at the MVCMA Tabernacle in Oak Bluffs (all students & families attend)

Friday, June 15th & Saturday, June 16th: Sense of Wonder Spring Art Show & Benefit from 1 to 5pm. The Party Celebration and Benefit for Godfrey Muwulya’s Rhythm Uganda orphanage will be on Saturday June 16th from 2 to 5pm. The artwork will be displayed in two tents, the Studio, and the side room to the left of the studio where all the amazing lantern puppets will be shown. Rick Bausman’s Beetlebung steel band will play music, and there will be jugglers, Louie the Lion, and some other surprise guest performers. They will have face painting, henna tattoos, art projects and a wood working table, mural painting, games, baby animals for petting, alpacas, a bake sale, drinks table and more. Some of the artwork will be for sale. Donation jars will be placed around the studio area with 100% of the proceeds going to the orphanage.
Calling all Volunteers!
Last Day of School & Field Day - June 14

Field day is on our last day of school, Thursday, June 14! Students who normally leave at 12:00 should plan to stay until 1:00, and we will serve pizza, watermelon, popcorn, and popsicles. Please be sure to apply sunscreen before drop-off and send in a blanket for your child to sit on during lunch.

Can you lend a hand? Volunteers are needed from 10:30 - 1:00 to make field day possible! We will have an obstacle course, rock-climbing wall, bouncy house, an alpaca visit, crafts, face painting, bubbles, music, and lots of FUN! Sign up for a shift in the office.

End-of-Year Ceremony - June 15

The End-of-Year Ceremony will be held at the Tabernacle on Friday, June 15th. All families attend, and students should be at the Tabernacle by 9:30. The ceremony will start at 10:00, followed by a short reception.

Annual Fund 2017-2018 Update

As with most independent schools, tuition alone does not cover all of VMS's expenses. Our Annual Fund provides the support needed to close
the gap between tuition and costs of educating our students. Your tax-deductible donation to the Annual Fund has an immense and immediate impact on our programming.

Participation is most important! Each gift, no matter the size, makes a significant difference.

Click here to donate and help us fill the pink tower!

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**Middle School**

- **Miss Ty**

What a huge, activity-filled week we are having, and will continue to have next week!! The Middle School is finishing up the curriculum for the end of the year now, this week. That’s right, a full week before the rest of the school. Why, you may ask? Because we rent our space from Camp Jabberwocky, and each summer they begin their program the second full week of June. All through the month of May, we have observed, (and sometimes helped) the staff of Jabberwocky prepare the campus for the arrival of the campers. By Friday June 8th, when you are reading this, we will have been moved out of our familiar, woodsy campus back to the “Main Street Campus.” The next week will usher in the “Classroom Without Walls,” which Irene and I have been planning: field trips and educational activities that take advantage of the wonderful island upon which we live.

Other activities this week: the culmination of the Martha’s Vineyard Museum’s “I Am The Captain Now” project was on Monday, and Matthew took the role of Jesse Everett, a seaman out of Boston on the whaling ship “Barnacle.” Tuesday we spent the day in New Bedford at the whaling museum there, arriving and departing on the “fast ferry!”

Wednesday we spent volunteer time at Island Grown with a Montessori Middle School from Cambridge Montessori. Matthew was able to interact with other Montessori students and also plant some strawberry seedlings. The Cambridge students and teachers were camping at Camp Duarte and were very welcoming to Matthew!

Besides all the practice sessions for our play that was performed this afternoon, Friday, June 8th, the culmination of the week was packing up the classroom and Matthew being hired by Debbie to be one of the movers!
What a wonderful year it has been, and I am thankful to my student, his parents, and the Upper Elementary students and Irene for one of the best years I ever have had (and there have been many!) teaching. Have a good summer.

Elementary II Classroom
- Miss Irene

Our last projects were presented this week by the upper elementary students. They worked on the early civilizations of the Americas including the Olmecs, Aztecs, and Mayans. Carly wrote about foods and agriculture of the Mayans and made a Mayan toffee bread. Connor built a model of an Aztec village with a temple and told us about how they build them and what their writing system was like. Madeleine taught us all about the oldest American civilization of the Olmecs and wrote a short fictional story on it. Other students will be presenting early next week.

Our class finished up our whaling unit by inviting parents and friends to come and hear their whaling captain monologues at the Morgan Learning Center (click here to read the MV Times article). Afterwards guests had an opportunity to visit each captain to learn more about their voyages, life at sea, whaling and view their whaling logs. The following day we boarded the Seastreak to New Bedford and visited the Whaling Museum to learn more about the most prosperous whaling city of the 1800's. We had a 90 minute tour of the museum and visited the Mariners Home and Seaman's Bethel.

Next week will be filled with field trips, our beach day and games day. It has been a great year of learning and sharing quality time with eachother. We are looking forward to a fun summer and seeing all of our friends again in the fall!
Elementary I Classroom
- Miss Nora

It is hard to believe we are at the end of the school year, and what an amazing year it has been! This week was no exception, with plenty of opportunities for learning and getting outdoors.

On Monday we watched the Upper Elementary students give an impressive theater presentation while in-character of whaling captains from the 1800's. It was the culmination of a seven month long project with the Martha's Vineyard Museum.

Tuesday's excitement was a visit to Thimble Farm, a part of Island Grown Initiative, where we checked on our plants in the greenhouse. We also learned about the extensive irrigation system that the farm uses. Their salad greens, herbs and tomatoes are grown hydroponically, with an aquaculture system raising rainbow trout adding nutrients to the system. Getting splashed by the jumping trout was a highlight of the visit!

Gardening continued on Wednesday with Mary-Sage visiting us and planting tomatoes and squash, and harvesting garlic. It was great to see that finally, in the second to last week of school, the peas are emerging! Later that afternoon during Spanish class, we finished our pinatas with the primary students. They look beautiful!

Our week wrapped up with an exciting afternoon watching the Sharks baseball game on Thursday, and a visit to the other campus on Friday to watch the Elementary II and Middle students perform their play. This week was filled with fun, as next week is sure to be as well!
As our butterflies have grown and developed, it was time to let them spread their wings and go out into the world. The children took the butterflies outside and I opened the habitat and allowed each butterfly to crawl onto my hand as I lifted them out of the enclosure. Some of the children also had the opportunity to hold a butterfly before they took flight. I am sure they will be hanging around our playground for a day or two before flying away in search of food. I feel that this is such an appropriate ending to our school year as all of your children have grown and developed and are ready to take on their world. I am so impressed in the way that each child has flourished from their Montessori experience this year and I am looking forward to seeing their continued progress next year. For those children that are moving onto other schools, I want to wish them the very best and hope they will come back for a visit.

The children were able to have an extra recess and ice cream thanks to the generous donation from Jennifer and Tim Klein. What a wonderful way to end the week!

I want to take this time to thank Miss Holly for all of her many years that she and I had the pleasure of working together. We have had the opportunity to share in the lives of hundreds of children, many of which came to love Miss Holly and her gentle and warm demeanor. I know that we all wish her well in her future endeavors and adventures and hope that she will remain involved in the VMS community. We love you Miss Holly!
Primary 1 Classroom
- Miss Cristina and Miss Rebecca

Throughout the year we have worked on so many Practical Life lessons, the children have learned to be careful and orderly in their work. They have learned to follow the whole lesson from beginning to end and to clean up and leave the exercise “ready for the next child”. This week I introduced the fun, exciting and complicated exercise of apple cutting. Trusting children with real tools is a huge hurdle for many of us, so we follow the child’s pace and provide child-sized tools.

The child washes his or her hands, chooses an apple from the supply shelf and then begins the task. Putting on an apron, scrubbing the apple, using the apple slicer and then chopping the slices into bite-sized pieces takes quite a long time. Then the children learn to be gracious by offering the prepared apples to others. We direct the children to ask, “Would you like an apple?” The other child either says, “Yes, please” or “No, thank you.” If the other child says, “Yes” and accepts the snack, he should say, “Thank you.” The child who has prepared the apples says, “You’re welcome.” Lots of words to remember!

And then, of course, there is the clean-up. This exercise involves taking all the implements to the sink and washing them, drying them and replacing them on the table. Rolling the apron, drying off the table, folding the towel… there are many skills learned and practiced in this one lesson! These skills include concentration, order, completion of task and independence.
Other new lessons was soap grating, where the child uses a mini grater to "shave" small bars of soap to create flakes that will be used for another new lesson. After presenting it to the whole class, one child chose the lesson and preceded to grate the entire bar of soap. The soap flakes are then transferred to a small jar which the children will use with the bubble making lesson.

This year has gone by incredibly fast for Rebecca and I. We will miss all the children over the summer and look forward to them returning in the fall.

Late Day

- Miss Weezie

This will be our final Newsletter for the V.M.S. School Year. It has been a joy and a privilege for me to lead the Late Day Program. I have observed amazing growth in all areas of child development among our participating students. Our daily outdoor play is key to this growth.

Our Art Class on Monday was cancelled due to rain, however we hope for one more class before our last day of school. Families will be receiving an email with details of the Sense of Wonder Art Show at Pam's Studio. Student work will be on display and available to finally take home.

The quality literature that we have enjoyed each day will be sure to enhance your child's imagination, listening skills and focus. Our local libraries are a wonderful resource for further exploration of books and activities to enrich your student's summer. Have safe and happy days on our beautiful island home. I hope to see you!  Weezie
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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