"Our aim is not merely to make the child understand, and still less to force him to memorize, but to so touch his imagination as to enthuse him to his innermost core."

- Maria Montessori

Calendar

Monday, May 28th: Memorial Day - School Closed
Thursday, June 14th: Last Day of School / Field Day 10:30-1:00
Friday, June 15th: End of Year Ceremony 10:00 AM

VMS Announces New Scholarship for Middle School Students

VMS is pleased to announce the 2018 Rising Star 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 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.

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.

Contributions of any size are significant and bring us closer to our goal of 100% family participation.

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

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Middle School- Miss Ty

**Lexington and Concord**

On Thursday, I took Matthew and Connor Graves, a sixth-grade student, on a field trip from the Vineyard to Lexington and Concord, Massachusetts. This was a result of our American history curriculum this semester in which Matthew studied the beginnings of our nation rooted in the British colonies. We studied the events in Boston leading to the battles in Lexington and Concord in April of 1775, and Matthew discovered those conflicts were just the precursor to the actual “War of Independence”.

Among other things, we visited the Minute Man Visitor Center and viewed a multimedia theatre program that gave an excellent introduction to the historic events of April 19, 1775. We also visited the famous North Bridge in Concord. Spanning the Concord River, the bridge is a replica of the original “battle bridge” that was taken down in 1788. There is an awe-inspiring statue of a Minuteman, rendered by Daniel Chester French. The inscription reads: “By the rude bridge that arched the flood, their flag to April’s breeze unfurled here once the embattled farmers stood, and fired the shot heard round the world.”

I was so proud of the students who were engaged, respectful, and enthusiastic throughout the trip! We also had some great laughs as we navigated the traffic and the unfamiliar roads!

I also want to thank everyone at VMS – the office staff, the board, and the parents, for making last week’s Teacher Appreciation Week so special for me. I was almost overwhelmed by the sweet thoughts and feelings. Flowers, herb gardens, gift cards, wonderful things to eat…… oh my! Thank you.
Elementary II Classroom  
- Miss Irene

This Thursday while Miss Ty went off island for the adolescent program trip to Lexington, our class headed up island. Our first stop was Polly Hill Arboretum to look at spring blossoms. Workers were preparing for their spring opening event to take place on Memorial Day. It sprinkled a little while we were there and there were only a few plants and trees in bloom. This did not stop the students from enjoying many of the species from around the world.

After that, we drove to Aquinnah Cliffs where excavation work was being done in front of the shops. We walked up for a short viewing of the cliffs, ocean, and lighthouse and then continued on. We had lunch in a small pavilion at the Gay Head Moraine trail. With the sound of the birds and brook, we dined and hiked alone in the beautiful wooded area. Finally, we headed back with a restroom break at West Tisbury Town Office and some rainy playground time.

This week in the classroom, we started studying the volume of solids in geometry and the sensory system of the human body, we had play practice, marbleized whaling journals, and students began their three-week ancient America’s projects.
Elementary I Classroom

- Miss Nora

This week, the Elementary I students started up island in Aquinnah. We had fantastic weather and looked at and gathered rocks and minerals to identify when we are back in class. To go along with our geological studies, we had a volcano explode and reviewed all of the interior parts with the cross section of the volcano.

This week, we have been studying different styles of poetry. Everyone is really enjoying all of the different types. So far, we have worked on acrostic, alphabet alliteration, cinquain, and color poems. We still have quite a few to go.

We put up our trellises and planted some lettuce with Mary-Sage. The rain is helping to keep the garden moist; now, we need some warmth and photosynthesis to get our sprouts growing!

At the library, we read a book about a meteor that dropped onto a car in a town outside New York City in the late 1990s. We brought back books on the Earth, solar systems and constellations. Next week, we move into the solar system.
Primary 2 Classroom
- Miss Chris and Miss Holly

They're here! Our caterpillars have arrived and are growing each day. They have already doubled in size and should be moving to the top of their container to begin the transformation into chrysalises. Once they turn, it will take another week to ten days for the butterflies to emerge. The children are checking on them daily and are monitoring their progress. We talked about the different parts of these butterflies and worked on creating some life-cycle booklets. I know we all are very excited to witness the transformation. Stay tuned!

Another child reached a benchmark this week. Michael was able to complete his number roll to 1000 but chose to keep going! Usually once a child reaches 1000, he/she is able to take it home to unroll it to see just how long it is. Most children are so excited to share it with their parents that they take it home the day they finish it. Some children, however, do choose to keep going to see just how big they can make it. It is incredible to see the pride these children exude when they get this far in their lessons. Many public kindergarten programs have children working on numbers 1-100, but in a Montessori classroom, children are allowed to follow their interests and challenge
themselves, driven by an inner love of learning.

Holly and I want to thank everyone who shared a special note or card or sent in flowers or gifts to us in honor of Teacher Appreciation Week. In reality, gifts and cards are wonderful, but getting to interact with your children on a daily basis gives us much love, surprises, and happiness that cards and flowers can't replace. As always, thank you for sharing your most incredible gift with us, the gift of your child.

Primary 1 Classroom
- Miss Cristina and Miss Rebecca

It has been wonderful speaking with all of my students’ families at parent-teacher conferences. These conferences give us all an opportunity to increase communication between school and home. Hopefully, parents came away a bit more informed about their child’s progress and development. I was happy to gain more insight into each one’s personality, character, and way of meeting the world. Thank you, all!

We began the study of flowers this week. We use a flower puzzle that the children can take apart and learn each part’s name: corolla (the petals), stamen (the male parts, with the pollen), pistil (the female part), and calyx (the part that attaches the flower to the stem).

As a group, we also dissected a flower so that the children could see the real parts. Some of the children then chose to make their own “Parts of the Flower” booklet to identify and isolate the parts by color. This is a very popular lesson, and very timely, with all the spring flowers popping out!
Late Day
- Miss Weezie

On Monday afternoon, we began our spring semester of art class with Pam Benjamin. This is a unique opportunity for our students to experience working with artists using various media in a bright and beautiful studio. We walk from our school with partners and three adults, paying close attention to safety rules.

Our first class focused on the use of water colors in two new ways: resist and repel. Students started with a sheet of white paper and a piece of paraffin. They made a design with the wax before adding water colors, which "resisted" the paint. The second phase started with water colors, and then the students sprinkled salt or rice to "repel" the color. Younger students concentrated on lots of color while older, more experienced students focused on more subtle techniques. Our students’ work will be on display at Pam’s Art Show towards the end of our school year.
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

Vineyard Montessori School
286 Main St, Vineyard Haven, MA 02568
vineyardmontessori.com
(508) 693-4090

An independent school serving PreK through Grade 8.
Fostering a lifetime love of learning, one child at a time.

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