"...education is the key to the betterment of society"

- Maria Montessori

Calendar

**Monday, May 28th:** Memorial Day - School Closed

**Thursday, June 7th:** Last Banking Day

**Thursday, June 14th:** Last Day of School / Banking Rewards / Field Day

**Friday, June 15th:** End-of-Year Ceremony

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.

VMS Announces New Two-Year 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!
Middle School - Miss Ty

On Tuesday, the Middle School and the Upper Elementary students traveled to Milton, Massachusetts to see a daytime performance at the Thacher Montessori School. Thacher’s Adolescent Program’s play, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, was a colorful and entertaining production. We were excited to see other Montessori middle school students in full costume!

Matthew recognized several students from his experiences earlier this year at the Montessori Model UN. We were invited to eat lunch with the cast after the performance, and he and Silas Stanek (a sixth-grader who was on his MMUN team) quickly became reacquainted. The Thacher students were welcoming to all our students and made everyone feel comfortable. There was a beautiful playground and all the students got in some basketball, Frisbee, or Wiffle ball before we had to return for the ferry.

Last Friday, we had another trip to Thimble Farm and our garden plot. After spreading compost on the earth, the students planted kale, lettuce, and sunflowers that they had started in pots several weeks ago and that had spent time in the greenhouse. All looked healthy and happy after we watered them!

Elementary II Classroom - Miss Irene

The Upper Elementary students continued with the book-binding process of their whaling logs this week. Each student had a chance to use a sewing machine to stitch together their pages. Next, they glued them into a creased channel with tacky glue and finally added gold
embellishments. They are practicing their monologues for their presentations on June 4th at the Morgan Learning Center.

It was quite an experience traveling to Thatcher Montessori to watch *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. It gave our students some ideas on how to utilize different sets on the stage at the same time. Upon our return, the students discussed the performance and were able to critique what worked well and what did not. They brainstormed how they could make their two short plays run smoothly.

Current third graders Eleni and Jaden came to visit with us this Wednesday. They worked with some of the students on the checkerboard for multiplication, the racks and tubes for division, and the geography, "Who am I?" cards. They also had the opportunity to watch our play practices. It was a pleasure having them!

We had a chance to spruce up our outdoor environment with some purple pansies that were left over from the Jabberwocky landscapers. We also worked in the garden to weed out our radishes. This outdoor work has given our students a sense of accomplishment, a connection with other living things, and knowledge of how to care for these particular plants.

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**Elementary I Classroom**

- Miss Nora

Elementary I students started the week with a lesson on the relative size of planets. We ventured outside and laid out the sun and all of the planets in relation to each other and the sun.

With the weather breaking this week, we were able to get outside more often. We have been working on different types of poems, and boy did the writing outside inspire some wonderful creativity!
We were able to plant some baby kale with Mary-Sage. Our garden beds are just about full. Now, we have to pay attention to watering and harvesting. Our peas are doing well and starting to climb up the trellises.

In Spanish this week, we worked with the primary students to make some piñatas. We still have work to do to finish them up, but it is certainly worth it. The best part will be breaking them open.

Primary 2 Classroom
- Miss Chris and Miss Holly

Our class caterpillars have now transformed into chrysalides! We now have to wait three days to transfer them from the cup to the butterfly habitat. It will then take another week for the butterflies to emerge. The children can't wait to come into class and head right for the cup to check on their progress.

On a similar invertebrate note, Miss Ava brought in some wiggly worms for the children to observe and hold, then write their own stories about the worms. Most children were not concerned about holding the worms, but those few that were, quickly changed their minds after seeing their peers doing it. Now when the children find worms outside, they know to put them in the gardens so that the worms can be a useful tool to a healthy garden bed.

The weather was so beautiful on Monday that our class took a walk to the beach. The children took off their shoes and ran through the sand, discovering wonderful treasures. Some children found sea glass, shells, and shiny rocks, and some students even found crabs and crab parts. It was so lovely to spend some time admiring the beauty that surrounds us on our island.

When children come into contact with nature, they reveal their strength. 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

Primary 1 Classroom
- Miss Cristina and Miss Rebecca

I have been observing many creative works going on in the class these days. Many of the lessons that the children have been working on all year are now being used in different ways. The children are discovering that they can take what they have learned and add their own twist, making the level of difficulty more challenging. Many children are now giving lessons to other children, which gives the children a sense of pride and accomplishment. It is wonderful to see how the three-year age span works for all the children, either by becoming masters of the lessons or by seeking help from the older group. All children benefit from having a mixed-age group in a Montessori classroom.

We are so happy to be hosting five growing caterpillars. They arrived with all the food and moisture they will need to grow into painted lady butterflies. The children have been so excited about them, and all have shown great control about “looking only with their eyes”. Already, the caterpillars have begun to spin some webbing, which in their natural habitat helps to stick them to their host plants. We will watch them shed exoskeletons and grow up to 10 times their original size. We will keep you informed about their progress from caterpillars to chrysalides to butterflies!
Late Day
- Miss Weezie

We had a beautiful day to walk to art class on Monday. Pam and her assistant, Len, had made pre-cut shapes out of card stock. Each one had a spring theme. Students chose a caterpillar and butterfly, a bird's nest with eggs, or a tree with trunk and bare branches. Once again, the students used water colors with fine brushes to embellish the cut-outs or the surrounding paper. They could then choose small pieces of colored tissue paper to layer over the paint for a very special effect.

Our outdoor activities this week included soap bubbles with wands. This joyful activity is also used by many speech therapists to enhance articulation by the blowing motion of lips and tongue. Additionally, we painted our fence using wide paint brushes and buckets of water. The children love this activity as it gives them a sense of accomplishing "real work". The stretching and sweeping motion as they paint helps promote gross motor function. Enjoy the long holiday week-end with your family.
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