"Peace cannot be kept by force; it can only be kept by understanding." - Albert Einstein

November Calendar

**Thursday, November 1st: Special Visitor Day (9:30 - 10:30 am)**
Special Visitor Day is your child’s opportunity to invite a special person, parent, or guest into his/her classroom. The visitor has an opportunity to learn by participating and observing how the child chooses a lesson, works with the materials, and puts the work away. This particular morning is filled with your child’s excitement over the arrival of the special visitor and the pride in teaching the lessons that they have learned so far this year to their guest.

**Saturday, November 3rd: Open House (9:00 - 11:00 am)**
Help us spread the word about the wonderful education Vineyard Montessori School provides. Current families are welcome to attend and learn about Elementary and Middle School Programs. *Middle School Night has merged with our Admissions Open House. Just ask for a tour of the Upper Elementary and Middle School Campus on Norton Ave!*!

**Monday, November 12th: School Closed**
Veteran’s Day

**Wednesday, November 14th: Business After Hours (5-7 pm)**
VMS is hosting the Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours networking event. Enjoy refreshments while networking with other business people in a relaxed atmosphere. Contact the Chamber of Commerce if you’re interested in attending.

**Saturday, November 17th: Family Yard Day (9:00 am - 12:00 pm)**
All families are encouraged to attend and participate in beautifying our school grounds.

**Tuesday, November 20th: Coffee & Conversations (8:45 - 9:30 am)**
Join Ms. Debbie and other parents in her office for coffee and conversations. Get to know the VMS community while discussing topics related to your child’s development and education.

**Wednesday, November 21 - Friday, November 23: School Closed**
Happy Thanksgiving!

Get Involved!

*Event Chair and volunteers needed to coordinate the VMS float in the Edgartown Christmas Parade!*
Looking Ahead

**Wednesday, December 5:** Big Night Out Meeting (7-8 pm)

**Tuesday, December 18th:** Coffee & Conversations (8:45 - 9:30 am)

**Thursday, December 20:** Winter Gathering (1:30 - 2:30 pm)

**December 21 - January 1:** School closed for December recess

**Thursday, January 10th:** Dine to Donate at Offshore Ale

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**Effortless Fundraising**

*Last year VMS earned over $400 from these "effortless" fundraisers! Easy, one-time sign ups help fund field trips, music classes and more! See Rhiannon if you need help signing up.*

**Amazon Smile** If you're looking for a simple, automatic way to support VMS, start your shopping at smile.amazon.com. Shop as you normally would at no extra cost to you, and Amazon will donate .5% of your eligible purchases to VMS!
- Sign into Smile.Amazon.com,
- Under "Your Account" select "Your Amazon Smile"
- In the "Find Your Charity" search bar, type Vineyard Montessori School
- Select VMS and Amazon will donate .5% of your eligible purchases to VMS!
- Don't forget to bookmark Smile.Amazon.com to always start from the Smile site (not the regular Amazon site!)

**Stop & Shop A+ Rewards** With a one-time sign-up, you can support VMS with every grocery purchase! The A+ Rewards program costs nothing and does not affect gas points.
- Visit stopandshop.com, click on SIGN IN, MANAGE MY ACCOUNT, SAVINGS & REWARDS, to create or log into your on-line account. You will need your 13-digit Stop & Shop Card number found on the back of the card
- If you have a Stop & Shop Card but do not know your 13-digit Stop & Shop Card number, call the Stop & Shop Card Hotline at 1-877-366-2668 and select Option #1. The representatives will be able to provide you your Stop & Shop Card number.

**Vineyard Propane** Bring us a copy of your propane receipt and VMS will earn $.02 per gallon. Invite friends, family and local businesses to submit their receipts as well - we could earn up to $2,000!

**Box Tops for Education** Clip, save and drop them off in the office anytime

**Island Club Card** Consider choosing VMS as your charity of choice.

**School Store** Buy VMS logo merchandise from Cafe Press or Land's End.

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Middle School
Such a lot happened this month! Matthew and I couldn’t believe it last week when we examined the calendar while planning some upcoming activities and we saw the weeks slipping by. Along with our fellow students in the Upper Elementary class, we have enjoyed the experiences of interviewing people from various professions about how they do what they do. Besides last month’s architect, builder, and marine biologist, this month we were happy to have a visit from Kate Atema, Arin’s mother, who told us about her work with the International Animal Relief Agency. We also had a wonderful morning at Morning Glory Farm, interviewing a farmer and getting some real hands-on work with the harvest!

Billy Dillon, the project manager of South Mountain Company’s building project at Camp Jabberwocky, has continued to explain to us the countless jobs and talents needed to bring a huge job like this one to a successful conclusion. We get a weekly glimpse into the progress on the buildings, and are amazed at how quickly the site changes from week to week.

Academically, the Middle School has a full and engaging program. In Science we are finishing the study of the animal kingdom with the human body. History found us researching the Louisiana Purchase, the journey of Lewis and Clark, and now an in-depth examination into the Industrial Revolution. In Literature we finished reading *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, and have now begun *Lyddie*, by Katherine Paterson. This is a novel set in the 1840’s about the Lowell Textile Mills that personalizes our study of industrialization with a local connection.

And each week that we have school on Friday afternoon, Matthew and his 6th grade helpers are serving pizza to the rest of the school. We pick up the pizza at Wolf’s Den at about 11:30, drive over to the main campus, pass out the fruit and the juice boxes, and then give each child a (still warm!) slice of pizza. The older students really enjoy interacting with the younger ones, and once again we’d like to thank the larger student body for its support.
The Upper Elementary studies of the Medieval Period are progressing splendidly and there is so much interesting information that we have learned through Timeline videos, project research and fundamental needs research. Students presented projects to parents for our visiting day which we
renamed Presentation Day, giving the students a larger audience to practice performing in front of.

We started a book called *Apple and the Arrow* for our literature circle. This historical fiction book is about a boy named Walter who is the son of William Tell. The setting is in northern Europe during the Medieval Period (1290). We also started art lessons with Nora on Friday afternoons. Kids are currently working on a project that resembles the look of stained glass but is made from colored paper. Keeping with our cultural curriculum, stained glass is an art form that developed during the medieval period.

This has been an exciting fall with plenty of opportunities for students to get out and move around. When one of the students asked me if his mom could come in and talk to the class about what she does, it opened up a discussion on which professions the students may want to pursue as young adults. We brainstormed a list of several careers or jobs that were appealing to each of the students. Next, I developed a set of interview questions and made a template which the students bring to different locations and use as a guide to help them gather information. Questions are about the educations and experience requirements for professions, challenges faced, advancement opportunities, rewards etc. So far, students have interviewed a diner owner, architect, builder/contractor, marine biologist, animal rescuer, and a farmer.

The farmer interviewed this past week is named Isa and she works at Morning Glory Farm. Students found out that you don’t necessarily need to go to college to be a farmer, although an education in agriculture would be beneficial. You can learn all that you need to know from another farmer, books and the internet. You do however need to be a very hard worker. They were taught how to husk popcorn and shell beans, and toured the greenhouses, herb garden and farm stand. When we were finished Isa brought out some zucchini bread and apples for all of us to try.

Arin’s mom, Kate Atema visited our classroom and she talked about what it’s like to work for IFAW, International Fund for Animal Welfare. Students interviewed her about her job as well. Kate has rescued many animals and part of her job is to educate people in communities around the world about how to care for animals and give them a happy and fulfilling life. She was accompanied by their rescue dog Ivy who came from Canada. Kate also showed the kids a couple of videos about her organization and passed out souvenirs from work. In the near future Kate will be working in Africa to help with the elephants there!

Our garden is nearly prepared for winter up at Thimble Farm. Our lettuce is growing under the cold frames and we mixed a lot of compost with our heavily clay laden soil. Now it’s time to plant our cover crop. This week Tim gave us a tour of the greenhouse explaining the difference between aquaponics and hydroponics. They both use water with no soil but aquaponics has fish excrement which comes from large tanks of trout and is run through hoses watering the plants. He gave us a brief lesson on wet and dry seeds and next week we will learn how to harvest and dry seeds from this years plants so they are ready to plant in the spring. It will be here before we know it!
Elementary I Classroom  
- Miss Nora

October was a busy month! The students started the month with The Clock of Eras which is the face of a clock that displays the age of the eras of Earth by hours and minutes. The Cenozoic Era which we are in now is the equivalent of one minute. The students all enjoy the Timeline of Life especially the eras of large reptiles. We have been studying different types of...
dinosaurs' similarities and differences between periods. We then moved into time keeping. We learned the face of the clock, minute and hour hands as well as hours, half hours and five minute increments. Next came money. Learning the denomination of coins and bills has helped with math and weekly banking.

We have continued our botany study of seeds with Tim from Island Grown Schools. To harvest wet seeds and we soaked them in water so they become surrounded by bacteria to breakdown the shell. Then the seeds open and we dry them out. The dry seeds were easy. We hung the plants to dry and let the seeds fall into containers to save for the spring. We planted oats, peas, bell peppers, and cucamelon seeds in our beds. We covered them and put them to rest. Since October is harvest month and delicious fresh apples are in abundance we made applesauce. We prepared them, boiled them, flavored them to taste with cinnamon and enjoyed it for snack!

This month we did a unit on lighthouses with the Martha’s Vineyard Museum. We visited the Edgartown and East Chop lighthouses. We learned cardinal directions: North, South, East and West; as well as the three parts of the lighthouse: tower, light and lenses. There are different types of lenses that have developed over time. Modern day lighthouses can cast light up to twenty miles away as opposed to two miles in early times. We also learned there are different light patterns for different lighthouses to keep mariners on the right track in bad weather.

Primary 2 Classroom
- Miss Chris and Miss Carrie

October has been a fun and exciting month. There has been so much going on in these past few weeks, both in and out of the classroom. Many children attended Truckin’ MV and Movie Night where they had an opportunity to interact
with children from our class and Miss Cristina's class. Parents had the opportunity to meet other families at the Parent Social earlier this month and discovered what their children have been working on during parent-teacher conferences. Some of our older students were able to join Miss Nora’s lower elementary class to participate in a program given by the Martha’s Vineyard Museum on lighthouses, while other children went on a nature walk to discover and collect signs of Autumn and created collages with their discoveries.

During our gardening sessions, Miss Ava has been working with the children on harvesting what was left in the garden, planting more peas and sketching items the children found in the garden and writing stories about them. She has done tastings with dried and fresh cranberries and played a seed sorting game.

Many children have been excited to use the push-pinning lesson. This lesson helps to develop the pincer grip used in writing and to strengthen the hand for better fine motor control. Some children are using this lesson to create maps by poking out each piece of a puzzle map. Other children are practicing their letter sounds by poking the outline of different letters while some children are learning the names of geometric shapes by poking out each metal inset.

The children have been introduced to the apple cutting lesson which is an very involved lesson where a child puts on an apron, chooses an apple from the basket, washes the apple, slices the apple and places the pieces into a bowl. At that point the child is able to eat the apple themselves or offer pieces to the other children. By offering a piece of apple, the child is learning social graces by asking, "would you like a slice?", and the other child responds with a "yes, please" or a "no, thank you". After all the pieces have been passed out, the child then washes and dries the work and sets it up for the next person. This is one of the children’s favorite activities these days!
Primary 1 Classroom
- Miss Cristina and Miss Rebecca

What a busy month in the classroom! Students have been learning through experimentation and the senses in both indoor and outdoor environments. We constructed with Play-dough, created with art supplies, and learned skills through a large array of educational materials.

A favorite lesson the children have learned this month is the geometry solids. The students love this activity. They put all of the shapes on a tray and cover them with a cloth, then I tell them what shape they have to get from under the cloth without peeking. They feel under the cloth for the shape and choose the one I asked for. They get so excited when they find them without looking!

Also in our classroom, the very young children are manipulating beads and buttons as they learn the '1 to 10 work'. Older children are adding and counting beads and buttons with different prepared materials.

Rock scrubbing is another popular new lesson. This complex exercise involves putting on an apron, carrying a very heavy rock to a basin, getting water in a large pitcher, pouring the water in the basin and scrubbing the rock with soap. Then comes rinsing it, drying it, putting it away, dumping the basin of water into a bucket, emptying the bucket into the sink, and finally, folding the towel and re-rolling the apron! So many steps to aid in the child’s concentration!

This month we joined Vineyard Haven Library for story time. Students loved it and participated in a craft project. We will be joining story time once a month. We are very lucky to have a library within walking distance of our classroom.

Finally, thank you to everyone who volunteered and attended Truckin’ MV. It
was a very fun and successful event and we couldn't have done it without you!

Late Day
- Miss Weezie

Our afternoon and late day students benefit from an abundance of experiences with children from both Primary classes and some Elementary students. This combined age grouping is a way for families to discover commonalities in our diverse school community.

We have been focusing on the changing season in literature, songs and activities. Favorite songs include: "Come Little Leaves", "Grey Squirrel" and "Pumpkin, Pumpkin". We recently read "My Leaf Book", "As an Oak Tree Grows", "Autumn Orange" and "Apples and Pumpkins". Students engage in seasonal outdoor...
play as well, for example, raking leaves, collecting acorns, sticks and other fall treasures.

As the colder weather approaches, please see that children are appropriately dressed as we are outside every day barring rain. This is a nice time of year to get outdoors and enjoy some fun fall activities with your child. Remember: "Development comes from within. Nature does not hurry but advances slowly."

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**Recommended Reading**

"At Home with Montessori" by Patricia Oriti (available in the VMS office!)

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