

Vinalhaven School Newsletter

Feb. 23- March 31



Dear Families,

As we Close out February and head into March, there is a great deal happening at Vinalhaven School. It continues to be a busy and productive time, and it is always encouraging to see our students actively engaged in academics, the arts, athletics, and community-based learning opportunities.

On February 26 at 6:30 PM, our 9th and 10th grade students will be sharing a literary reading of their original work at the Vinalhaven Public Library. This is a wonderful opportunity for students to showcase their creativity and connect with the broader community.

Our students are also benefiting from strong hands-on learning opportunities. Ms. Brooker's Chemistry class will be visiting Bigelow Laboratory on March 2 and 3 for marine science learning that connects directly to their classroom studies.

March is also an important time for our seniors. Senior Basketball Night will take place in Richmond on March 4, and Senior PechaKucha Night will be held on March 10 at 5:00 PM in the auditorium. We look forward to celebrating the Class of 2026 and their accomplishments.

One of the highlights of the month will be our school musical, *The Little Mermaid*. This production is being presented in partnership with Partners in Island Education (PIE), whose ongoing support and coordination make opportunities like this possible for our students. Our students and staff, along with PIE and director Velna Zuzick, have been putting in a tremendous amount of time and effort, and we are looking forward to three performances: Friday, March 13 and Saturday, March 14 at 7:00 PM and Sunday, March 15 at 3:00 PM. We hope to see many community members there to support our students. A special thank you to PIE for sponsoring this program and to our shop program, who have been hard at work building and designing the sets for the production.

We are also excited to welcome Island Readers and Writers back to the school on March 18. They will be working with our PK–5 students and sharing the books *Secrets of the Sea* and/or *Manatee Summer*. Their visits are always a meaningful and engaging experience for our younger learners.

Later in the month, our high school students will be participating in our annual Legacy Trips. On March 23, our 11th and 12th graders will travel to Washington, D.C., and on March 24, our 9th and 10th graders will travel to Boston. Both groups will return on March 27. These trips are generously sponsored by the Widow's Island Fund and provide valuable real-world learning experiences outside the classroom.

High School Spring Sports will officially begin on March 31. We encourage students to get involved and take advantage of the opportunities athletics provide for teamwork, fitness, and school spirit.

Music programming continues to be in full swing across all grade levels. Kindergarten students are beginning their first experiences with note reading and music literacy. Grades 1–2 have started concert preparation, including work on “Riptide.” Students in grades 3–5 are practicing regularly to build their skills in a rock and pop band format. Middle school students are building a repertoire of songs in preparation for the Spring Concert, and high school students have begun focused vocal work including harmonization and choir. Our Spring Showcase is tentatively scheduled for April 2.

In our classrooms, students continue to work on a variety of engaging academic activities. Elementary students are building typing skills, participating in guided technology lessons, and beginning new individual research projects. Grades 4–5 are also working on an Egg Drop engineering project that encourages problem-solving and creativity. Middle and high school students are continuing keyboarding, Code-academy, and guided Google lessons, while middle school students are also engaged in bridge design and tidal studies. We will also be starting Common Sense Media lessons with grades 6–8 to support responsible digital citizenship.

Our shop classes remain busy with individual projects, building work, and set construction for *The Little Mermaid*, as well as early planning for additional stage props for upcoming spring performances.

In Physical Education and Health, K–5 students have been focusing on space awareness, body control, teamwork, and positive personal and social relationships. Grades 6–8 have been working on personal and social responsibility along with a floor hockey unit. Grades 9–12 continue their work in personal fitness and nutrition and will soon transition into a racquet sports unit.

Library learning has continued to grow this year. After focusing on picture books earlier in the year and completing a Jan Brett author and illustrator study, students are now exploring nonfiction topics and strengthening foundational library skills such as alphabetical order, fact and opinion, parts of a story, and cause and effect. Pre-K students have also begun attending library, which has been a great addition to their routine.

In French classes, students across all grade levels continue to make steady progress. Younger students are building vocabulary around greetings, numbers, colors, clothing, and parts of the house. Middle school students are learning pronouns, sports vocabulary, and how to describe themselves using adjectives. High school students are working with expressions using *avoir*, the passé composé, and future-focused writing projects in upper-level courses. Students in grades 4–12 have also begun participating in Maine Musicale, bringing music and culture into the language classroom. Kinder-music continues to be a joyful and engaging part of our weekly programming, and it is always great to see our youngest learners developing confidence and creativity through music.

Thank you, as always, to our families, staff, and community members for your continued support of Vinalhaven School. We look forward to a busy and exciting March and hope to see you at our upcoming events.

Jon Millett
Principal, Vinalhaven School

Important Dates and Events

- February 26** – 9th and 10th Grade Literary Reading at Vinalhaven Public Library (6:30 PM)
- March 2–3** – Chemistry Class Trip to Bigelow Laboratory
- March 4** – Senior Basketball Night in Richmond
- March 10** – Senior PechaKucha Night (5:00 PM, Auditorium)
- March 13** – *The Little Mermaid* Performance (7:00 PM)
- March 14** – *The Little Mermaid* Performance (7:00 PM)
- March 15** – *The Little Mermaid* Performance (3:00 PM)
- March 18** – Island Readers and Writers Visit (PK–5)
- March 23** – 11th & 12th Grade Washington, D.C. Legacy Trip Departure
- March 24** – 9th & 10th Grade Boston Legacy Trip Departure
- March 27** – Legacy Trips Return (Washington, D.C. & Boston)
- March 31** – High School Spring Sports Begin