



ptions in Education

The best time to plant a tree is 20 years ago. The next best time is now.

- Chinese proverb

Volume III

www.mvoptionsineducation.org

Edition: December 2018

In partnership with the Martha's Vineyard Public Charter School

ANNUAL DRIVE

When school opened this fall at the Charter School there were three obvious and welcoming changes: Pete Steedmen (the new MVPCS Director), double front doors and air conditioning. Changes are good for us, renovations are necessary and quality air is imperative. There have been significant additional improvements, both seen and unseen, that have made it a healthier, safer and more comfortable environment for the students and staff. But there is more work ahead and your support of the Charter School and OIE is critical to ensuring that we can continue to maintain and improve the building, the playground, indeed, the whole campus.

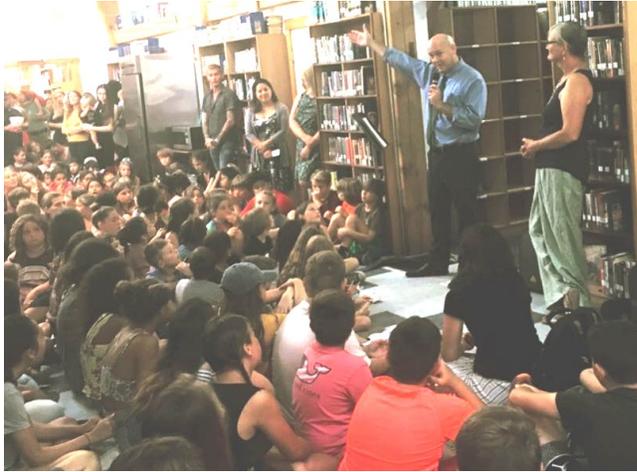


We are excited to welcome Pete Steedman. He has embraced the community of the Charter School and Options In Education, Inc., fostering team work and igniting enthusiasm on all levels: teachers, students, parents, and board members. Together we will garner further support with our island community.

Your financial support is essential for enabling the Charter School to continue offering its outstanding programming. The funding received from the State of Massachusetts does not fully fund the total needed to educate each student. Additionally, the Charter School receives no state or local funding for facilities. Please give generously to the Annual Fund and be a part of ensuring the Charter School remains the exceptional educational opportunity and community that it is currently.

Thank you, and from all of us, we wish you a very peaceful and joyful holiday season,

Charlotte Costa
OIE President



Main Street: Morning Meeting



Mathea Morais: Staff and Parent

The Charter School has many great traditions but, to me, it is graduation that signifies all the things that are the most special and unique about the school. So it was no surprise to me that my own daughter's graduation from the Charter School was one of the most moving moments of my life

I arrived at the graduation in my role as a teacher, ready to lead my group of 5th and 6th graders to the stage to present our class gifts, but it became pretty clear, pretty quickly, that while this was my current role, it was certainly not my only role that day.

Not only was my first child on that stage, but next to her sat many of the first students I ever taught at the Charter School – back when they were in the 8th grade and I had just started as a long term sub in 2011. They were also the same group of kids who were my first high school students – we rose together out of middle school into high school – and so there were students who I'd watched grow through a whole host of struggles to be where they were that afternoon – happy, proud almost adults on the very cusp of taking their first real independent steps. And then there was my eight-year-old daughter with a microphone in her hand singing Stevie Wonder's, "Don't You Worry 'Bout a Thing" to her older sister.

As I wept in front of all my new students and my old students and their parents, aunts and uncles and grandfriends, I became aware of the community around me in a new way. A community in which I have many roles – not just a mother and a teacher, but a proud mother and a proud teacher. And no matter what role or roles I have on a particular day or in a particular moment, I am, like everyone else in the Charter School community, always learning and always loved.

From the MVPCS Director: Pete Steedman

I want to thank everyone for the warm welcome that I have received since arriving at the Charter School. Although I have only been here for a few months, I am beginning to understand what an incredible educational opportunity is afforded our students who attend the Charter School. From starting our day as a community in Morning Meeting to taking our students through the numerous field trips on-island and beyond, our teachers are intentional about helping our kids understand how they are connected to their peers and the natural world. I wanted to share with you just a few highlights from the first few months of school:

- Working with Jamie O’Gorman’s Island Grown Gleaning and under the watchful eyes of Casey, Scott, Mathea, Sam, and Meaghan, our 5-6 students picked over 440 pounds of squash.
- We celebrated the International Day of Peace as our students in Grades 3-4 worked collaboratively to decorate the side of our building with an enormous peace sign. Jonah encouraged his Middle School students to think deeply about the outcomes developed in the U.N. Convention on the Rights of Children. We finished the day with a whole school soccer game.
- Sarah, Jane and Hope traveled to Fairlee, Vermont for a workshop on *Success Counseling*. This protocol encourages adults in the building to help students understand all of the choices they have at their disposal during times of conflict.
- In October, we celebrated the *National Day on Writing* on Thursday. All students worked in mixed-aged groupings to engage in activities that focused on the significance of the written word.
- Brit Wells and her students in the Gay-Straight Alliance, in conjunction with Jason Wheeler from the Department of Education’s Safe Schools for LGBTQ Students Program, conducted a workshop at the Charter School on creating a less binary classroom.
- Our Rowing Team, under the leadership of Wendy Gray, placed 3rd overall at the annual Wakefield Rescue Row in Burlington, Vermont.
- WCAI highlighted the extraordinary work of Jonah and Jane and their development of a course especially focused on climate change. <http://www.capeandislands.org/post/many-schools-climate-change-playing-catch#stream/0>
- The grade 9-10 U.S. History class traveled the African-American Heritage Trail to learn about the rich history of African-Americans on Martha’s Vineyard.

The foundation for this practice is in our pillars of *Cooperation, Democracy, Freedom, Responsibility, Respect, and Trust*. On a daily basis, these pillars are on display in our classrooms, on the playground and on Main Street. As Project Based Learning is the core of our educational mission, we are excited to announce that Project Period begins on December 10th and culminates with a final exhibition on the 20th. The Charter School is thriving and we hope that you will contribute to our Annual Appeal so that we may continue to provide an extraordinary education for our students.

Sincerely,

Pete Steedman

From the MVPCS Board of Trustees:

Marc Favreau, President

This has been a momentous year for the Charter School, with our first-ever leadership transition and with planning underway for major upgrades to the school's physical plant.

"Hitting the ground running" doesn't quite do justice to the first months of Pete Steedman's tenure at MVPCS. Pete brings an enormous level of energy and good cheer to the daily life of the school and is already exploring new ways to build on our longstanding mission. We are so grateful to have him with us. While the Board and OIE have worked closely with Pete over these past months to ensure a smooth entry, we especially want to acknowledge the faculty, staff, parents, and students who have made Pete feel welcome and have worked with him to get the school year off to such a great start.

In our monthly board meetings, we are doing our best to be forward-looking about the school's needs in 2019, 2020, and well beyond. This includes intentional planning towards a major fundraising effort, in close coordination with OIE, for a major, multi-use addition to the school building. As a public, community-based school, this effort will have to include all hands, and we will look forward to sharing ways that you can help in the months ahead. In the meantime, we invite you to consider any contacts or funding sources that could be helpful to us. More on this in the near future!

As always, please know that our board meetings, held on the second Wednesday of each month at the school, are open to the public. You are always welcome.

Best regards for the holiday season,

Marc Favreau, Board President, MVPCS



Charter School Tours

When: 9:00 am on Wednesdays in November, December and January.

Please contact the front office to schedule a Wednesday tour.

508-693-9900



The Open House for 2019 Enrollment is scheduled for January 16th at 5:30 p.m.

It will also include our annual Student Showcase evening where all students will have work displayed

Options In Education, Inc.

Also known as OIE!

Options in Education took flight in 1994 when a group of Islanders banded together to support the launch of the Martha's Vineyard Public Charter School. OIE worked tirelessly to identify a suitable site for MVPCS and secure the funds needed to purchase land and build the school. It has been leasing the property to MVPCS ever since, expanding the facility as the school's popularity soared. OIE continues to act as the school's landlord and raises money to maintain and improve the property. It does so without *any* government assistance. In 1994, each charter community in the state of Massachusetts had to cover the costs of its facility. OIE is honored to play that role and grateful for the community's solid support.

Additions and renovations to the MVPCS facility have been the mainstay of OIE's mission. We have also supported and sponsored community events. Our strategic plan calls for additional maintenance responsibilities and future additions that reflect the programmatic needs of the school.

Our Team

Options In Education, Inc. Board of Directors

Charlotte Morris Costa, *President*
Jonathan Chatinover, *Vice President*
Jennifer Crawford, *Treasurer*
Nelia Decker, *Clerk*
Billy Dillon
Claudia Ewing
Makenzie Brookes

Ex Officio Members:

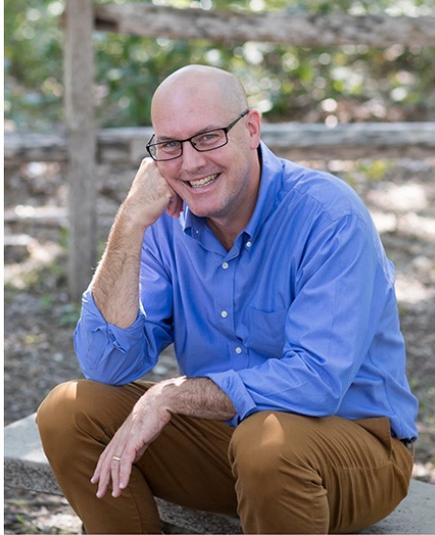
Peter Steedman, *Director, The Charter School*
Marc Favreau, *President, MVPCS Board of Trustees*
Steve Nierenberg, *MVPCS Board Liaison*

Advisory Board:

Betsy McIsaac, *OIE Founding Member*
Sam Feldman, *OIE Founding Member*
Lynn Van Auken, *Former OIE President*
Beth O'Connor, *Former OIE President*
Paul Karasik, *Former OIE President*
Jean Lythcott, *Founding Teacher*
Alyssa Mayrand, *Alumni Liaison*
Roberta Kirn, *MVPCS Founder*
Laurie Binney, *MVPCS Liaison*
Dina ElBoghdady, *Community at Large*

**Unlike other public schools who do
receive facility funding,
the MV Public Charter School must
continue to raise money
to maintain and improve our facility.**





**Welcome to Pete Steedman,
Director of the
Martha's Vineyard Public Charter School.**



As we conclude 2018 and welcome in 2019
**please consider us in
your Vineyard charitable giving.**
100% of your donation will support actual renovation
and construction costs at The Charter School.
We are committed to maintaining and providing a
healthy, safe, and structurally sound facility.

THANK YOU

Options In Education, Inc
PO Box 869
West Tisbury MA 02575
www.mvoptionsineducation.org

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE



In partnership with the
Martha's Vineyard Public
Charter School

