

2024

ANNUAL REPORT



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FROM CEF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



DEAR FRIENDS,

As we celebrate 25 years of The Island School, we reflect on our journey with immense pride and gratitude. This milestone is a testament to our achievements and a celebration of the vibrant community we've built together, as well as the collective efforts of our remarkable team, partners, and supporters, in advancing our mission.

Over the past quarter-century, we have empowered countless students through educational and research programs and initiatives that foster a deeper understanding of our natural world. Your support has been an essential part of our story. Together, we have made significant strides and look forward to inspiring future generations to cherish and protect our planet.

Looking ahead, we remain committed to our vision and creating a meaningful impact in the years to come. Thank you for being part of our journey. Here's to another 25 years!

With appreciation,

Taylor Hoffman S06
Executive Director





FROM HEAD OF SCHOOL



WELCOME

We are so proud to be sailing strong after 25 years. Not a day goes by without receiving a message from an alum or past colleague sharing how their Island School journey continues to bring strength and smiles to their life. Our mission, to launch young leaders with the confidence to effect positive change in the world, is more important now than ever before.

I am proud of **Megan Sweeting**, a 2011 Deep Creek Middle School (DCMS) graduate from Green Castle, who now has her Master of Business from Vanderbilt and works for Dartmouth College. I am proud of **Bradley Watson**, a Fall 2008 Semester graduate and a Master of Sustainable Development from St. Andrews; he is now working back on Eleuthera as the Conservation Programs Manager for Disney. I am proud of Spring 2013 Semester student **Megs Malpani** who graduated from Brown University and went on to work at Google; she led the charge for how Artificial Intelligence could be used to support a major conservation effort on Australia's Great Barrier Reef. Equally inspiring, our current Fall 2024 Semester students are embarking on their kayak expeditions, undeterred by the fringe of Hurricane Milton spinning across the Central Bahamas. Their resilience is a testament to the strength of our Circle.

Our graduates are impacting the world, and our model is becoming a beacon for change. DCMS serves as a laboratory school for the Bahamian Ministry of Education. *The Island School: A Coming of Age Story*, a new short documentary that follows the Semester student journey showcases the incredible challenges our young people face today while telling the story of the next generation. Our work across programs, from age three through PhD, continues to transcend the traditional boundaries of school.

We are full of gratitude for our extended Island School family. We would not be here without so many believing in our work. It is both exciting and challenging to be back at the helm. We are fortunate to have a strong next generation of leaders stepping forward every day. As we invest in our young leaders, we are reassured that The Island School can sail out over the blue horizon for another 25 years and beyond.

On behalf of our community, I thank you for your continued support.

Respectfully,

Chris Maxey

Q + A FOUNDERS



Q: WHAT WAS THE INSPIRATION BEHIND THE ISLAND SCHOOL?

Chris: We were teachers and dorm parents at Lawrenceville, and we started to bring students down here when we were on family vacations to share this place, this culture, the ocean, with our students. And those trips—learning to scuba dive, interacting with local kids, getting out and exploring—made it clear that there's so much opportunity.

After a couple of years, Pam said “you’re gonna have to build a dormitory because my house can’t be the dormitory anymore.”

Pam: And I was kidding, but he did it anyway.

And so, The Island School was born.

Chris: The first three buildings went up in October of 1998—the dining hall, the Beach House dorm, and what is now the med room.

Pam: I’m shocked by the growth of the trees every time I come to campus. It’s a weird thing, but at the beginning you would have never expected this.

Q: HOW DID YOU START BUILDING WHAT THE ISLAND SCHOOL EXPERIENCE WOULD LOOK LIKE?

Pam: In the summer of 1998, we had a curriculum planning conference, basically. We invited educators from all over, but mainly Lawrenceville...Outward Bound instructors, NOLS instructors, we had two students who had done other semester programs...and they helped us design what a day looks like and what our curriculum would be.

Q: WHAT HAS STAYED CONSISTENT SINCE THAT FIRST SEMESTER IN 1999?

Chris: The obstacle is the way has always been what we’re about...It’s hard to live in this environment, it’s hard to figure out how to work in teams... Everything here is different: the intellectual journey, the emotional journey, the physical journey... and you’re leaving your home to face these challenges.

Pam: Every semester, you can almost pinpoint to the day when students are going to be challenged and transform. It’s getting harder and harder to have other opportunities for challenge like that.

Chris: The ingredients of The Island School, almost by accident, are now being celebrated as a 'coming of age' journey. Where you leave the comfort of home and you're on this crazy journey and it's designed to be tough and it's designed as an opportunity for growth. You get knocked down and you get back up and that's what it's all about.

Q: SENSE OF PLACE HAS BEEN A HUGE THEME AT THE ISLAND SCHOOL—HOW HAS YOUR SENSE OF PLACE EVOLVED IN THE PAST 25 YEARS?

Chris: That key philosophy has carried for 25 years pretty easily. Honestly, it's grown deeper. When you first come here, you notice how beautiful the ocean is. And then, as you really live here and you start to form a relationship with the place, you get to know the people. And you realize that the people who live here are equally magical. They're super generous and it's a palace where everyone waves and everyone says hello. Your sense of place is rooted in that community.

Q: WHAT IS ONE THING THAT HAS SURPRISED YOU?

Chris: One of the stories I love to tell—it's really the core of our expanded vision—is The Island School has been driven by student work. When we first started, we had a really strong community outreach program and we would work with kids at the Deep Creek Primary School once a week. One of our board members asked us, 'These kids have an incredible experience with you in grade 5 or 6, but then what?' And from that conversation and that work, we decided we needed to start a middle school.

Without all these parts of our ecosystem, we're not as diverse; we're not as strong.

Q: THINGS ARE SO MUCH DIFFERENT TODAY THAN THEY WERE IN 1999...WHAT IS STILL TRUE FOR THESE STUDENTS?

Chris: That's really part of the opportunity: we really do unplug. But that's just one element. At home, you're constantly sent information about your friends and what's going on in the world and it creates this distracting energy that makes it hard to be mentally healthy—to be well. I think that the young people that apply here understand that this is a great opportunity. And that doesn't mean it's easy...

Q: WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR FAVORITE MILESTONES OR MOST PROFOUND MOMENTS?

Pam: Watching the four mile swim...the end of those 4 miles are the most heart-tugging moments. We have kids who come here not knowing how to swim and to watch them finish that—it's amazing.

Chris: What is hard is good. What is hard is what we celebrate. And that comes through in those final events. The first person in to touch the flagpole doesn't have a welcoming party, but the last person in is welcomed by conch horns and cowbells and a cheering crowd. Unlike in the rest of the world, the hero here is the last person.

Q: WHAT ARE SOME OF THE MOST COMMON QUESTIONS YOU GET?

Chris: Probably 5 years into this journey we came up with our central question, which drives our mission and our vision, which is 'how do you live well in a place?' The answer to that is somewhere around defining an intentional community and, I think the most valuable takeaway for everybody here is learning how to be more respectful, be more aware, learning about serving other people, and doing things that no one even sees—picking up trash, for example—that best-self growth opportunity and opportunity to be a community member is so valuable for so many people.

Q: WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNED OVER THE PAST 25 YEARS?

Chris: These students are ready to be challenged and ready to step up. Parents always come to us and say "Our kid has changed!" but their kid hasn't changed—they're just bringing their best self forward.

Pam: We talk about how transformative the experience is because it's what we hear so much... but they're really just becoming a better version of the person they came here as.

Chris: The kids have taught us that the real value of this place is not the solos, it's not scuba diving, it's not the research... it's not even the leadership; being Cacique... the real value is getting to know yourself. These kids struggle and through that struggle, they discover who they really are.

2023-2024 HIGHLIGHTS

42
STUDENTS
IN DCMS
REPRESENTED
9
SETTLEMENTS

\$841,209

RAISED ON 2024 GIVING DAY FROM **168 DONORS** -
OUR **LARGEST** GIVING DAY CAMPAIGN EVER!

20

PROVIDED RESEARCH INTERNSHIPS TO
20 EARLY CAREER SCIENTISTS, OVER HALF
OF WHICH RECEIVED SCHOLARSHIPS



WORKED WITH LOCAL FISHERS TO
IMPROVE STONE CRAB HARVEST
METHODS IN THE BAHAMAS,
TRAINING 25 FISHERS AND
15 GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS DURING
5 WORKSHOPS ACROSS
4 BAHAMIAN ISLANDS

STUDENTS FROM

33

**VISITING SCHOOLS
AND UNIVERSITIES**

PARTICIPATED IN RESEARCH AND
CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES WITH
OUR SCIENTISTS, INCLUDING
3 BAHAMIAN SCHOOLS



SEMESTER AND SUMMER
TERM STUDENTS
CAME FROM

8
COUNTRIES
AND
27
U.S. STATES

SERVED

83
STUDENTS

IN OUR LOCAL
PROGRAMS



17 STUDENTS
CERTIFIED AS REEF
RESCUE DIVERS

AQUAPONICS PRODUCED OVER

400KG OF LETTUCE

AND NEARLY

60KG OF TILAPIA

EDUCATORS
CONFERENCE
WELCOMED

18
EDUCATORS
FROM
TWO
COUNTRIES

24 STUDENTS

ENROLLED IN ELEMENTARY LEARNING CENTER:
17 BAHAMIAN STUDENTS AND 7 INTERNATIONAL
STUDENTS REPRESENTING ARGENTINA, CANADA, THE
NETHERLANDS, UNITED STATES, AND NEW ZEALAND



11 DCMS
STUDENTS EARNED
SCHOLARSHIPS
TO U.S. SUMMER
CAMP PROGRAMS IN
SUMMER OF 2024



5 STUDENTS GRADUATED FROM THE ELC,
4 OF WHOM NOW ATTEND DCMS

FEEDING OUR COMMUNITY

OUR CAMPUS FARM PRODUCED EGGS, ARUGULA,
PORK, BEETS, SOUR ORANGE, SCALLIONS, CARROTS,
TOMATOES, SWISS CHARD, PAPAYA, AND PUMPKIN

Lee Taylor F99 Named 2024 Founders Alumni Award Recipient



We are thrilled to announce Lee Taylor F99 as the 2024 Founders Alumni Award recipient for The Island School. Lee joined us as a Semester student during The Island School's second Semester in the fall of 1999. He has since started his own business, [REsurety](#), a mission-driven organization dedicated to accelerating the world's transition to a zero-carbon future. REsurety provides software and services to support both the financial and sustainability goals of clean energy buyers, sellers, and investors. As The Island School celebrates 25 years of education, research, and innovation in 2024, we are delighted to recognize Lee, one of our earliest alumni, for his impact and leadership following his Semester journey.

A UNIQUE ISLAND SCHOOL EXPERIENCE

Lee took a leap of faith to attend The Island School in the Fall of 1999 after his freshman year wrestling coach at Lawrenceville, a young Chris Maxey, convinced him to spend a semester in The Bahamas. Just a week into the Semester, Hurricane Floyd was headed directly toward Eleuthera, necessitating an evacuation to Florida for about a week. Everyone remained safe, and campus was still standing when the Semester returned, but there was no running water for 2 or 3 weeks. Lee reflects, "Returning to this place where you're carrying buckets of water for your toilets, it was a pretty formative moment for that group—rallying together, I think, created a relationship amongst students and the students and staff. We were all doing something new and it was hard and exciting, but it all still worked..."

Hurricane Floyd and the entire semester provided the opportunity to experience some discomfort and failure that made the journey and the wins a lot more valuable."

A RENEWED PERSPECTIVE

Their semester resumed as normal as possible and by the end, Lee left changed. He felt

both a responsibility and ability to do something about the problems of the world. He took this feeling with him through undergrad and graduate school, leading him to pursue a career in clean energy. While he could have gone the traditional route and worked for another company, he saw a shifting market for renewables and recognized an opportunity to build his own business. From his Island School days, he knew that taking risks would inevitably bring growth, even if he failed, so he took the risk and REsurety was formed.

LEADERSHIP EFFECTING CHANGE: BUILDING SOLUTIONS FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

As with any experiment or research, Lee started out with a thesis when launching REsurety. "Renewable energy benefits from a significant economic advantage in that the fuel is free - but that advantage comes at the cost of intermittency risk: your fuel is a function of the weather and climate and so can be volatile and unpredictable. Managing that volatility and unpredictability requires information and tools that didn't exist - and were needed for the industry to scale," he reflected. Today, REsurety is leading the charge of the world's transition to a zero-carbon future. Their software offers data-driven insights at various stages of the project lifecycle from initial exploration to portfolio management. This allows them to leverage their domain expertise and deliver solutions tailored to the unique needs of their customers. Additionally, REsurety is at an exciting stage in its growth. In 2021, they raised [\\$16 million in capital from Hannon Armstrong](#) and they were named one of Boston's "[Best Places to Work](#)" in 2022 and 2024.

As Lee continues to grow his business, he has held true to his Island School ethos and continues to be a leader effecting change. "Part of the reason I stay a supporter of The Island School," Lee remarked, "is that I think we need more people who feel like the world's problems are their problems and they have the ability to do something about it." While The Island School campus looks much different than it did in the Fall of 1999 the core of our programs remains the same: developing leaders who inspire and drive positive change.

As Lee continues to inspire all those around him, please join us in congratulating Lee as our 2024 Founders Alumni Award recipient.





The Island School not only gives room for discomfort and failure, but encourages it. And that for many people is sort of unique at that point in their life. They haven't been offered the opportunity or encouragement to fail and that's not really how life works, right? That was sort of empowering, if you go through that at 14 or 15."

LEE TAYLOR F99



ALUMNI

survey stats

3,200+

Number of alumni
in the past 25 years
(Semester, Summer
Term & DCMS)

23

Alumni faculty and
staff in 2024

1,198

Number of alumni
donors

33

Number of countries
where alumni live

46

Number of US states
where alumni live

500+

Number of sending
schools alumni
have come from

22

Number of alumni in
our first class S99

52

Number of students in
our current Fall 2024
class

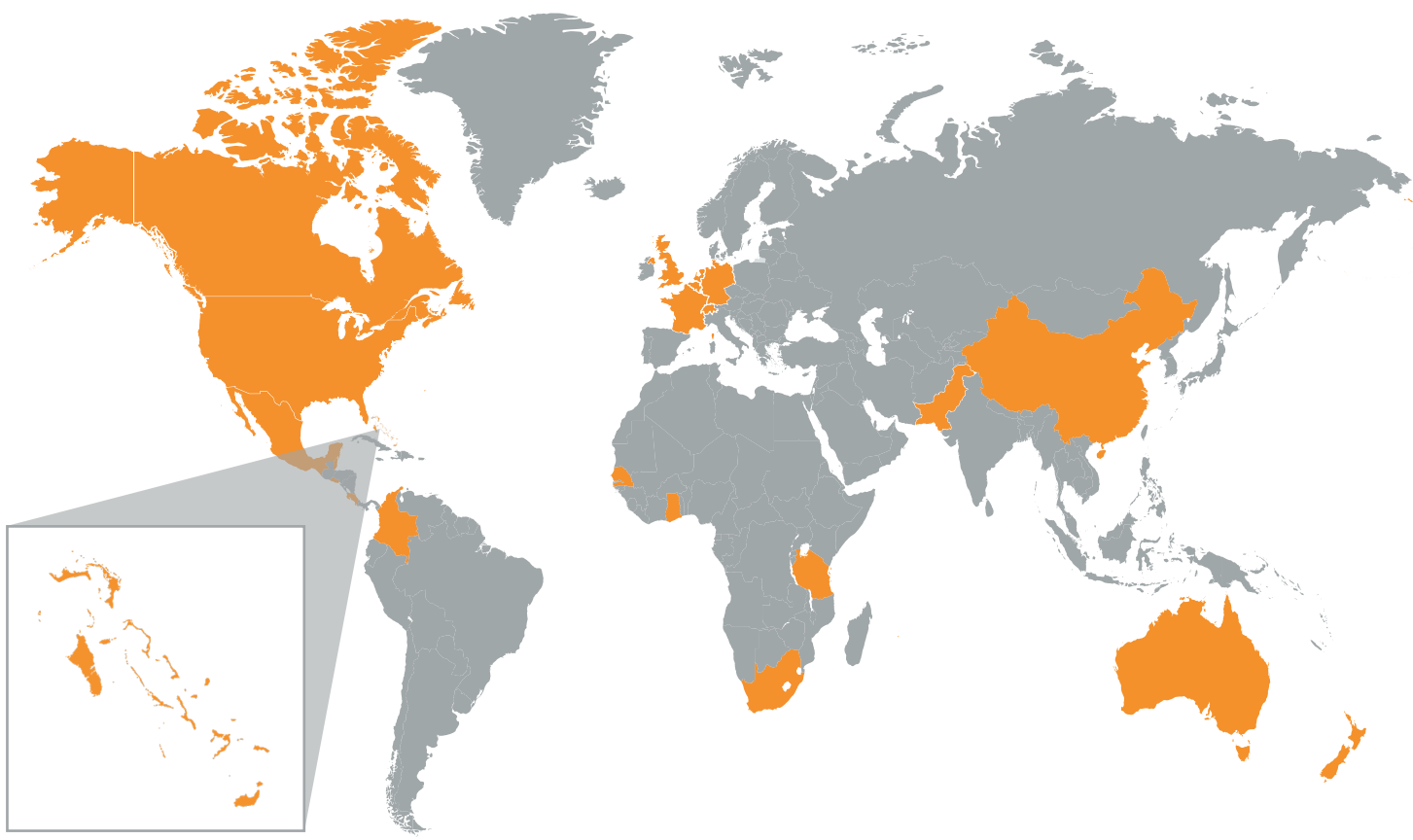
76

Number of DCMS
graduates who have
attended boarding
school

alumni faculty & staff in 2024

6 YEAR-ROUND EMPLOYEES	6 SPRING SEMESTER	9 SUMMER TERM	3 FALL SEMESTER
Lauren Gould F12 Andrew Treat S17 Leighton Graham S18 Nikke Rolle DCMS03 Taylor Hoffman S06 Alex Cates DCMS08	Brian Baker F14 Elsa Davis F13 Gus Wellin F08 Annika Goldman S16 Roxy Silva ST16 Sophie Colantuono S17	Lilli Ward F19 Matt Chui ST16 Emma Carter ST21 Andrew Huffman F18 Emma Rohrer S19 Sophie Belkins S21 Dara Balter ST19 Ellie Thorson ST19 Alyssa Ruiz ST21	Lulu Wright S19 Sydni Dretler ST21 Dylan Satar ST17

where alumni live around the world



ALUMNI FAMILY STORIES

THE HIGGS FAMILY LEGACY AT THE ELEMENTARY LEARNING CENTER

We would like to celebrate and recognize the remarkable contributions of the Higgs family, Nick, Emma, Faith, Jonah, Eden, and Asher, to The Island School community. Since joining us in September 2018, the Higgs have made a lasting impact on our school.

Nick and Emma's daughter, Faith, began her learning journey in 2018 at the Elementary Learning Center (ELC). A proud graduate of the ELC Class of 2024, Faith is currently thriving as a seventh grader at Deep Creek Middle School (DCMS).

Jonah joined the ELC at the age of three, and is on track to graduate in June 2026. When asked what his favorite thing about the ELC is, Jonah shared, "It's not like most schools and I love hanging out with my friends."

Eden joined the ELC during the fall of 2023 and with excitement shared, "My favorite part of school is playing and drawing." As the newest member of the Higgs family in the ELC, she has already left an impression on their family legacy.

Their youngest, Asher, participates in ELC playgroups, allowing him to engage with peers and explore his creativity at a young age.

Nick and Emma are also valuable members of the community. Nick has been the Director of the Cape Eleuthera Institute since 2019 and Emma is an important member of the Deep Creek Lab School faculty team, teaching music, drama, and art to the students at the ELC, DCMS, and even Deep Creek Primary School in past years.

One of the most memorable moments for Nick at The Island School was during Faith's ELC graduation ceremony when he had the pleasure of sharing this monumental moment for his daughter, as Emma performed a celebratory song with the young graduates. The experience was particularly special as it showcased the creativity and talent of his wife and also highlighted the joy and wonder of the ELC community.



CELEBRATING TRINITY THOMPSON'S JOURNEY FROM ELC TO DCMS

Trinity Thompson's journey from the Elementary Learning Center (ELC) to Deep Creek Middle School (DCMS) is one of remarkable growth, positive energy, and unwavering dedication. A resident of Wemyss Bight, Trinity has consistently demonstrated a commitment to academic excellence, leadership, and community values throughout her time at DCMS, culminating in her graduation in June 2024.

Trinity is the first student to start her educational journey at ELC and then move on to graduate from DCMS. Her mother, Patricia Thompson, has been an Island School employee for five and a half years.

As she continued her journey through DCMS in Grade 7, Trinity embraced the school's experiential approach to learning, immersing herself fully in class activities and enriching the experiences of those around her. Her bright, uplifting spirit was not just confined to the classroom, but extended to every aspect of her school life, making her a role model for peers and a valued member of the DCMS community.

Academically, Trinity was a standout. Her journey of excellence began in Grade 7 when she earned awards in Physical Education, Science, and Skills. In Grade 8, she received accolades in Art and Religious Studies, further demonstrating her wide-ranging talents. By Grade 9, Trinity's hard work and dedication culminated in her being named to the Principal's Honour Roll, maintaining a Grade Average Point (GAP) of 3.65 or higher. She also earned subject awards in Science, Art, and Scuba—showcasing her interest in both academics and hands-on experiences.

Outside of her studies, Trinity was an exceptional athlete and a co-captain of the DCMS Junior Girls volleyball team in 2023, leading her teammates with both skill and encouragement as they won the South Eleuthera Junior Girls volleyball tournament.

Trinity's success at DCMS has paved the way for her next chapter at Trinity College School, a prestigious boarding school in Toronto, Canada. Her acceptance into this school is a reflection of her participation in DCMS's boarding school preparation program, which equips students with the tools needed to thrive in new and challenging environments. Trinity's trajectory is a shining example of the opportunities available to students who make the most of the support and programs at DCMS.

Trinity's journey is one of determination, positivity, and endless potential. As she embarks on her next adventure, the DCMS community celebrates her achievements and looks forward to watching her continued success.



My desire would be to share my knowledge with others if only to make a small difference. If every one of us made just a small difference we would in turn make a remarkable impact.”

TRINITY THOMPSON



Trinity enjoyed every moment of her time at the ELC, whether it was through making great everlasting friendships or learning through various experiences, she absolutely loved it.

She went through DCMS like a champion. Her love of learning continued! From the day she entered DCMS she told me, 'Mom, I'm going to boarding school.' Trinity worked hard. She is and was a true ambassador for The Island School.”

PATRICIA THOMPSON, TRINITY'S MOTHER



Alumni Summit

This past April, Island School alumni and friends gathered virtually to share and participate in our inaugural Alumni Summit in celebration of our 25th anniversary. Speakers represented classes from Fall 1999 to Spring 2023, with alumni, former faculty and staff, and current and former parents of Island School Students in attendance. The evening covered topics from sustainable business to young alumni effecting change. Speaker highlights included:

Catherine Argyrople S14: Catherine shared her journey directing and releasing her first feature film, *Growing Pains*. Inspired by her childhood, the film premiered at the Boston International Film Festival in the Spring of 2024.

Ila Dohrmann S23, Xander Farrington S23, and Laya Vemmata Gopi ST23: Ila, Xander, and Laya joined us to share about how they are making an impact as young alumni. Last fall, Ila and Xander led the 50 for 50 Challenge, raising funds for our programs in South Eleuthera, in honor of The Bahamas' 50th anniversary of independence. Laya shared about how she has taken her experience back to her home country of India and is leading efforts such as Earth Guardians Bangalore.

Megs Malpani S13: Megs shared her intriguing work on using machine learning and AI to identify outbreaks of

crown-of-thorns starfish in the Great Barrier Reef. She shared how technology and AI can be used for the benefit of our environment.

Annika Goldman S16 and Leighton Graham S18: Annika and Leighton joined us as current Island School employees, reflecting on their journey starting as students. They shared unique perspectives as Semester faculty and CEI staff respectively.

Bradley Watson F08: Bradley joined as both a BESS alum and current Eleuthera resident. He shared about his current work in sustainability and the environment on Disney's new cruise port in South Eleuthera, Lookout Cay.

Devin Gilmartin F14: Devin explained how his small business, The Canvas, was inspired by his Island School Semester. He talked about joining the fashion industry and his sustainable development goals, and how he has developed his business to align with the lessons he learned as a student at The Island School.

The Alumni Summit was an incredible opportunity for our global community to come together and reflect on shared experiences, as well as celebrate the ways in which our alumni have expanded upon the lessons learned at The Island School beyond their time on campus.

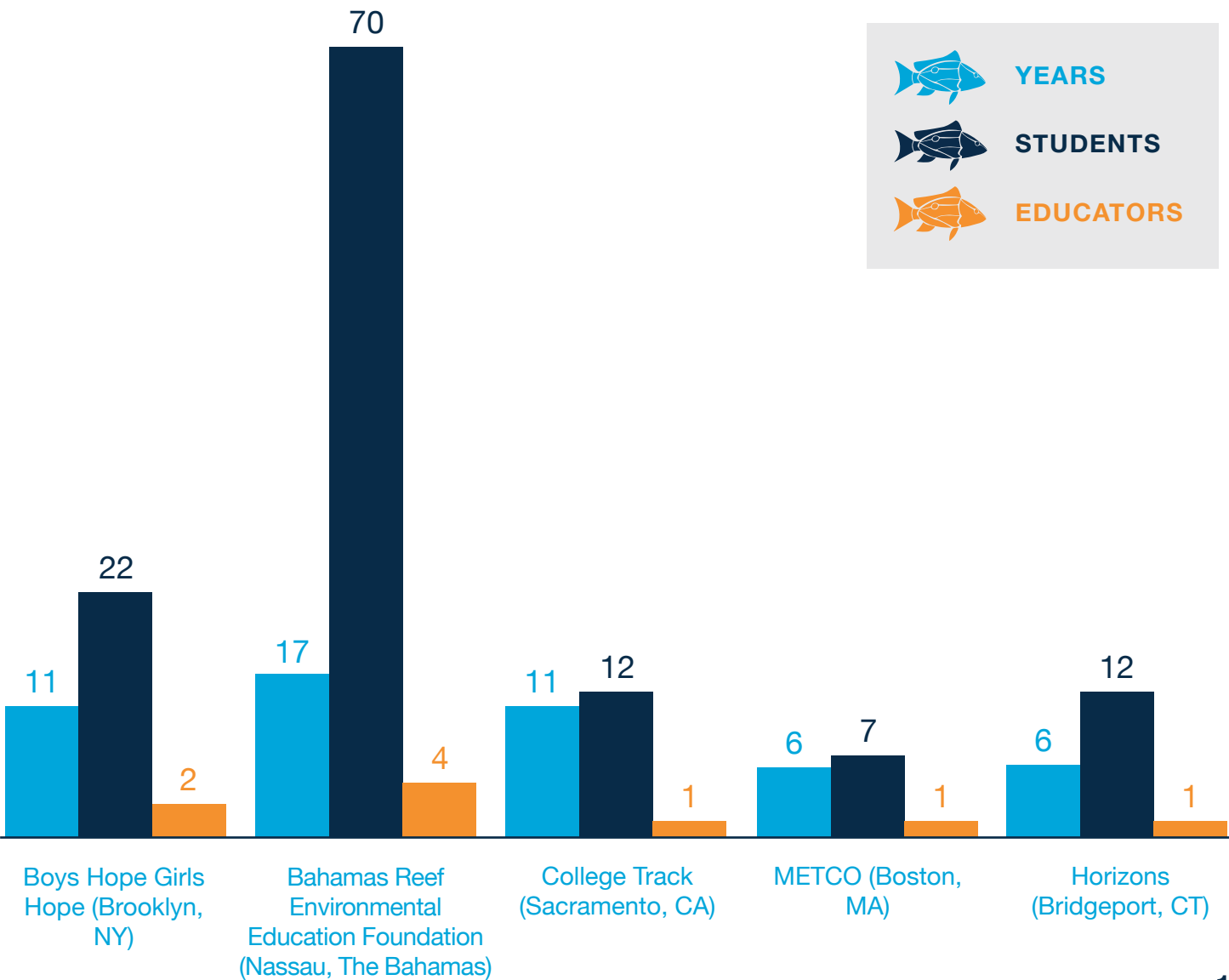
PARTNERSHIP MILESTONES

Our partnerships formed across the entire organization have contributed to the diverse groups of individuals learning and growing with our programs and across our campus. The bridge created with our partners has allowed us to provide access to programs at The Island School, creating opportunities for students and educators from around the world to engage in impactful and immersive experiences locally in Cape Eleuthera and beyond.

As we celebrate our history of 25 years, we also celebrate the milestones we have reached with our partners.

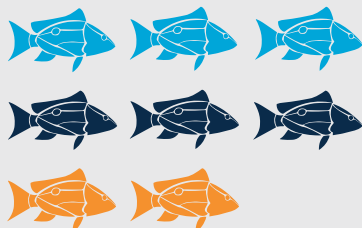
SEMESTER & SUMMER TERM PARTNERSHIPS

These numbers acknowledge the total number of years we have been in partnership and the number of Semester or Summer Term students and Educators Conference participants we have hosted on our campus with the following organizations:



PATROL BASE ABBATE AND THE VETERAN SCHOLARSHIP

In 2022, The Island School partnered with Patrol Base Abbate, a veteran service member-centric organization providing ways for the service community to reconnect around shared interests and rediscover purpose. Together, we established the Veteran Scholarship to support a service family student during the Summer Term. The partnership was born out of a mutual connection; Island School Founder Chris Maxey is a retired United States Navy SEAL Officer which continues to play a key role in many elements of the learning journeys that take place on our campus; a journey of self where individuals lean into challenge, which begets growth.



YEARS: 3

STUDENTS: 3

EDUCATORS: 2

Contributing partners:

Patrol Base Abbate, Third Option Found, Navy Seal Found

VETERAN SCHOLARSHIP ALUMNI FAMILY SPOTLIGHT

During Summer Term 2024, we welcomed Hailey Hernandez to campus from Kauai, Hawaii, as our third Veteran Scholar. Hailey's father, Sal, also joined us on campus during the Family Weekend celebrations. Sal grew up in Southern California and after serving in the Iraq War, he settled down in Hawaii where he and his wife, Sheralyn raised four kids.

After reflecting, Sal shared, "The Island School experience is a setting where barriers are removed. Personal walls are taken down, and jointly, the students form a community of natural caring, collaboration, tolerance, and a "Can Do" attitude. At The Island School, being challenged socially, physically, emotionally, has allowed [Hailey] to learn more about herself and what she is capable of.



She now has a better understanding of her self-worth and autonomy."



The Island School experience is a setting where barriers are removed. Personal walls are taken down, and jointly, the students form a community of natural caring, collaboration, tolerance, and a "Can Do" attitude."

SAL HERNANDEZ PST24

apply for the PB Abbate Scholarship that made it possible for her to have access to such a life transformative experience. Although I did not have the benefit of a transition/decompression period when I returned from fighting in the war 21 years ago, I am at ease knowing that now my children are able to benefit from generous veteran programs such as PB Abbate."

Following Summer Term 2024, Sal also pursued his own experience alike; the Patrol Base Abbate Fly Fishing Return to Base Program in Thompson Falls, Montana. "It was so serendipitous that The Island School and PB Abbate partnered because I have been following both on social media for several years. Hailey is proud to have represented as the Veteran Scholar," said Sal.

Our partnerships stretch beyond the student journey as a catalyst for interpersonal growth and healing, sometimes unexpectedly, impacting family members too. Sal said, "I am grateful that [Hailey] was given the opportunity to

2024 HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE CAPE ELEUTHERA INSTITUTE



Updated and improved our solar and wind energy systems on campus, leading to a **40% increase** in renewable electricity production



Last year we reared over **100 baby lobsters** in our aquaculture nursery and **released our first juveniles back into the wild**



Tagged **over 550 stone crabs** and **more than 300 lobsters** to evaluate sustainability of local fisheries



Identified a **new species** in the Exuma Sound, a deep-sea isopod called *Booralana nickorum*



Research Responds To Fisher Questions About The Stone Crab Fishery To Ensure Sustainability



In the past few decades, the Bahamian stone crab fishery has grown into an emerging commercial fishery. With exports of stone crab claws valued at over an estimated \$3 million, it is now one of the most valuable export fisheries behind spiny lobster.

The stone crab fishery is unique: it is one of the very few “claw only” fisheries in the world which only harvests one or both front claws of the crab. The living crab is then returned to the sea after the claws are removed. The two front claws, or “biters,” of stone crabs are huge—together, the claws make up as much as 60 percent of their total body weight. These oversized limbs are also very strong, as they have evolved to

crush the hard shells of their prey which includes oysters, clams, and other hard-shelled organisms.

Although crabs have the incredible ability to regrow any limbs they lose, the loss of their claws will, at best, change their behavior and ability to eat, and, at worst, can kill the crab shortly after harvest. Because of the growing importance of this fishery in The Bahamas, researchers at the Cape Eleuthera Institute (CEI) have been working to better understand the effects of this fishery—both on the crabs themselves and the habitats it operates in. This work ensures that stone crabs will continue to be an abundant resource in The Bahamas for future generations.

The environmental impacts of the stone crab fishery

Like other crustacean fisheries, stone crabs are caught in traps that sit on the seafloor. Until recently, these crab traps and other static fishing gear were considered to have little to no impact on the plants and animals on the seafloor (called benthic communities). However, new research shows that some kinds of this static fishing gear can cause serious damage.

The environmental impacts of stone crab traps in particular have not yet been studied. This is concerning since these traps have a solid cement bottom, which makes them heavier than traps used in most other crustacean fisheries and increases the potential for crushing animals or depriving the marine plants of sunlight and oxygen. As fishing for stone crabs becomes more common, it's important to understand the impacts of fishing before any negative impacts become widespread.

During meetings between CEI and the Perry Institute for Marine Science (PIMS), local stone crab fishers have discussed moving traps frequently to avoid harming the seafloor and expressed concern for the effects that their traps could be having on benthic communities. Current research at CEI aims to address these concerns by studying the plant and animal life under these traps.

By surveying the seafloor after a trap has been removed to identify and record any plants or animals and taking a sediment sample to search for invertebrates like worms, clams, snails, and brittle stars, our researchers can get an idea of what is present under stone crab traps. These observations and samples are then compared to areas of the seafloor that have not been disturbed by traps.

Though this research is still in progress, it will shed light on whether stone crab traps are



The stone crab fishery is unique: it is one of the very few “claw only” fisheries in the world which only harvests one or both front claws of the crab. The living crab is then returned to the sea after the claws are removed."

harmful to benthic organisms and whether moving traps frequently, as some fishers already do, can reduce or eliminate the negative effects.

As the fishery continues to expand, such knowledge will help inform best practices to ensure the fishery is sustainable, not only for stone crabs, but for all other organisms with which they share their ecosystems.



2023-2024 LAB SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS



11

Grade 9 students at DCMS were scuba certified

7 DCMS 2024 graduates were awarded scholarships to U.S. and Canadian boarding schools totaling
\$432,642

11

DCMS students **earned scholarships** to US summer camp programs

13

young adults participated in the **Young Leadership Program**

8 apprentices worked in departments across the Island School campus in our **Summer Apprentice Program**

DCMS students presented at **Fall and Spring Research Symposiums**, ELC students were active participants in attendance

25 Semester students and 24 ELC students partnered as **weekly reading buddies**



16

Grade 8

13

Grade 7

12

ELC

students participated in sailing lessons at the Eleuthera Sailing Academy

6

students went on to represent Eleuthera at various sailing regattas

DCMS passed their **7th Eco School audit** - retaining their Eco School status established since 2010
(audit occurs every two years)

42

DCMS families hosted Semester students in their home community during Settlement Day - sharing cultural recipes and giving personal tours around their neighborhoods



4

ELC students matriculated and joined DCMS (highlighting the pre-k - G9 learning journey)



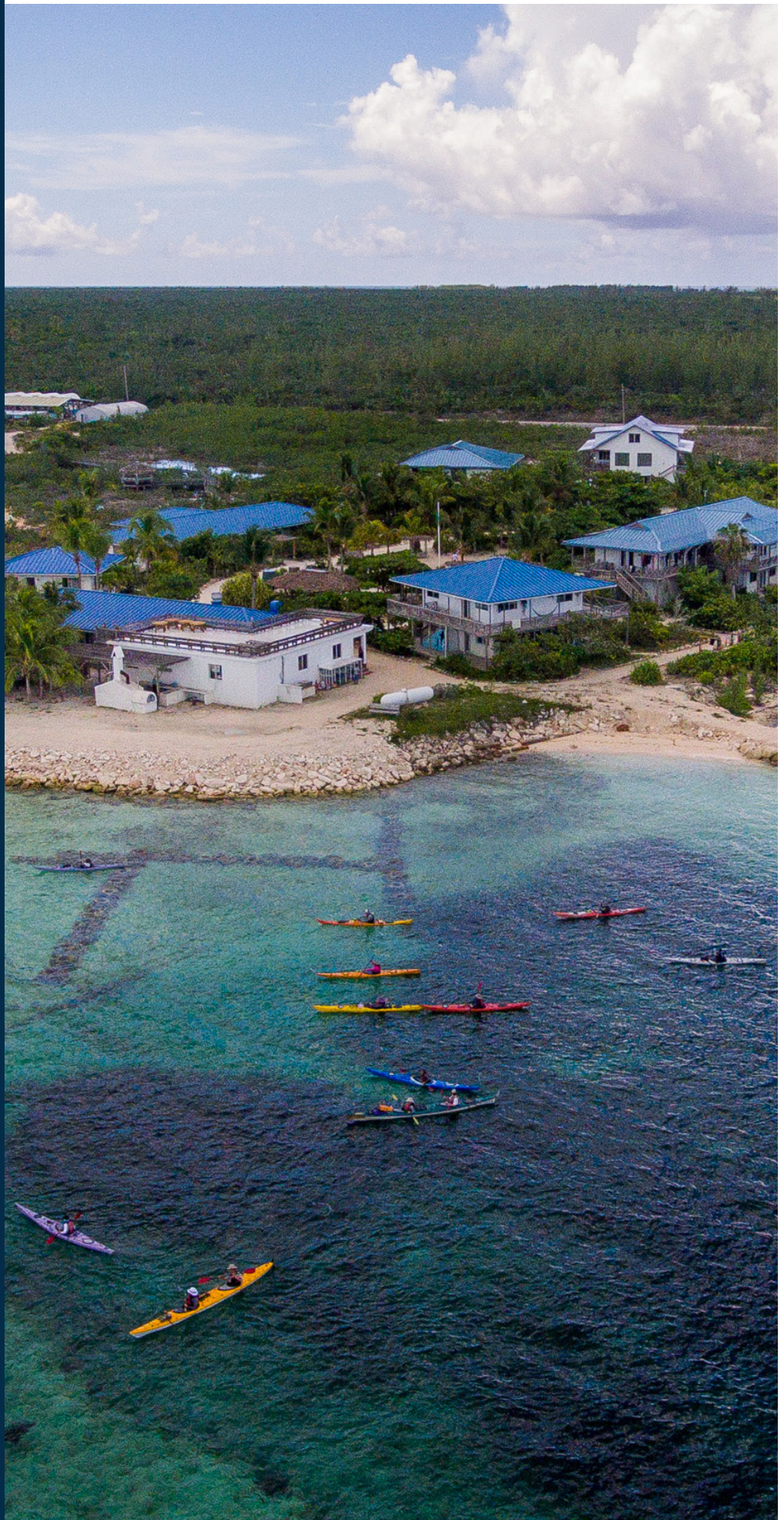
The Girl Rising program welcomed **16** girls from 11-16 for a 10 day camp to develop storytelling skills



42 DCMS and **24 ELC** students collaborated to prepare for and compete in Junior Junkanoo supported by Island School staff to design and paste costumes, and arrange music and choreography - placing **1st in the Open Category**

239

students participated in our local programs, including Swim Club, the Open Learning Center, and after school programming





EXPANSION OF LOCAL PROGRAMS

Deep Creek Lab School Update

The Deep Creek Lab School, consisting of the Elementary Learning Center, Deep Creek Primary School, and Deep Creek Middle School, serves as a center for educational innovation and research in The Bahamas, as well as for professional development and training. Serving over 120 students annually across three programs, students in the Deep Creek Lab School are fully a part of the larger Island School community and purposefully engage in collaborative work and learning with students, faculty, scientists, farmers, and innovators throughout The Island School organization.

The Deep Creek Lab School has been an evolving concept to develop best practices in place-based and experiential learning with the vision of sharing deep learning experiences with students from South Eleuthera while building the capacity of local teachers to spread these practices across The Bahamas. The process began in partnership with the University of the Bahamas Teaching Practicum program within the Faculty of Education as well as the Ministry of Education who committed through a Memorandum of Understanding to fund the Deep Creek Lab School in partnership with Cape Eleuthera Island School.

These operations were challenged by COVID-19 through 2022, during which Cape Eleuthera Island School continued support of Deep Creek Primary School and the wider community through Community Engagement

programs. After-school programs in numeracy and literacy support, sports, daily snacks, and Saturday Swim club were all offered to students across South Eleuthera. Additionally, educators and students from Deep Creek Primary School have attended our Research Symposium and staff have attended our annual Educators Conference.

In this past year, the Cape Eleuthera Island School has been dedicated to rekindling partnerships with Deep Creek Primary School as well as the University of the Bahamas:

- Hosted University of The Bahamas Education Department faculty for a two-day visit focused on experiential learning in teacher training and best practices in education
- Hosted a two-day workshop on place-based, experiential learning practices for 25 students and their professors from the University of The Bahamas
- Coordinated professional development opportunities for Lab School teachers focusing on literacy, interdisciplinary unit design, and place-based learning
- Provided weekly instructional coaching for teachers to design interdisciplinary, experiential learning, and holistic assessments
- Provided Wilderness Advanced First Aid and First Responder courses and ongoing wellness and risk preparedness workshops to ensure the safe delivery of experiential, hands-on learning to Cape Eleuthera Island School staff



In the spring of 2024, we welcomed two student teachers from the University of The Bahamas to complete their teaching practicum at Deep Creek Middle School, who have now joined the team full-time as educators:



Breea Colebrook

New Providence, The Bahamas
Social Studies

"Reflecting on my time at DCMS, transitioning from a teaching practice student to a full-time teacher has been both rewarding and challenging. Over the past two months, I have immersed myself in the unique experiential, place-based learning programs that DCMS offers. These programs, rooted in our island's environment and culture, have provided me with invaluable hands-on teaching experiences. Whether guiding students through lessons that explore our natural surroundings or integrating local knowledge into the curriculum, I've seen firsthand how this approach cultivates curiosity and a deeper connection to the subject matter.

However, adjusting to the myriad responsibilities of a teacher at a small island school has not been without its challenges. Balancing lesson planning, student needs, extracurricular activities, and administrative tasks has tested my organizational skills and endurance. Despite these hurdles, I've found that gratitude and appreciation for the opportunity to grow have been my greatest tools. This experience has pushed me beyond my comfort zone, helping me develop resilience and a deeper understanding of the many roles a teacher must play.

From my perspective, this journey has been a meaningful step in my growth as an educator. The demands of teaching in such a close-knit environment have taught me to be adaptable and patient, while the rewards have been seeing the students thrive in a learning environment that goes beyond traditional methods. I am thankful for the opportunity to be a part of DCMS and to contribute to such a dynamic and impactful educational experience."



Ashlee Major

Long Island, The Bahamas
English

"The Teaching Practice journey, despite being a challenge in itself, was made easily navigable due to the mounds of support received from the staff at DCMS. A notable highlight from my experience would be DCMS's inclusion of experiential activities in the curriculum that allows students to be an active part in their learning process and be intentional about their studies. For example, the inclusion of water based activities allow both students and teachers to explore the ocean and marine life that live in it, making the lesson both educational and relevant while student based research allows students to steer their learning process, simultaneously retaining students' attention.

A challenge faced while at DCMS would be the leap into multiple advisory/ extracurricular roles and learning to juggle each role while maintaining a healthy work-life balance. Being a club advisor, student advisor and after school activity advisor is a long way from what was experienced in Teaching Practice but is preparing me to understand the full role of a teacher and the additional responsibilities they carry outside of lessons."

While the program is designed to provide student teachers with practical experience in experiential learning, DCMS has benefited from a fresh perspective on important elements of teaching and learning, such as working with a wide array of student learning levels within the classroom and attending to students' social-emotional learning. The program will continue to actively recruit and train student teachers to teach during the fall and complete their fellowship in the spring, with the goal of providing highly motivated and experienced teachers for the Ministry of Education and to fill available roles at the Deep Creek Lab School.

JOIN THE CIRCLE OF SUPPORT

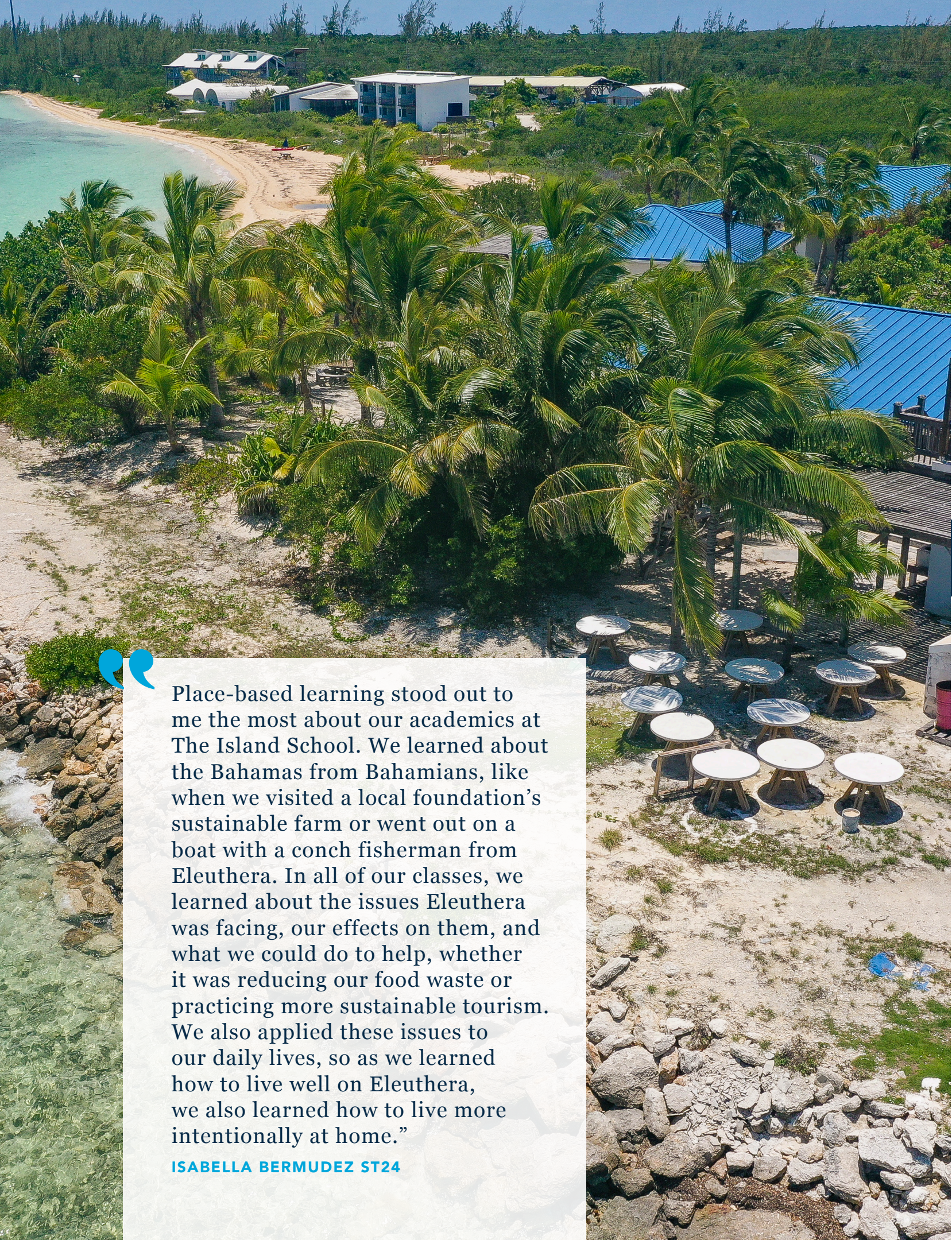


Build a Brighter Future for All

As we approach the end of 2024, this is a great time to review your charitable giving – and there are many ways to make a gift beyond a cash or stock donation.

Many employers sponsor matching gift programs and will match charitable contributions made by their employees. If your company is eligible, request and fill out a form and send or email it to us with your contribution. Other donors contribute through a Donor Advised Fund, and you can schedule a gift from your DAF directly on Cape Eleuthera Foundation's [website](#).

You can also consider estate gifts, such as naming Cape Eleuthera Foundation as a beneficiary of your life insurance policy, or [as a bequest in your estate plan](#). Please reach out to us at donations@islandschool.org with any questions, and thank you so much for your ongoing support!



Place-based learning stood out to me the most about our academics at The Island School. We learned about the Bahamas from Bahamians, like when we visited a local foundation's sustainable farm or went out on a boat with a conch fisherman from Eleuthera. In all of our classes, we learned about the issues Eleuthera was facing, our effects on them, and what we could do to help, whether it was reducing our food waste or practicing more sustainable tourism. We also applied these issues to our daily lives, so as we learned how to live well on Eleuthera, we also learned how to live more intentionally at home."

ISABELLA BERMUDEZ ST24



Financials

FISCAL YEAR 2024

Cape Eleuthera Foundation, Inc. | **Statement of Activities**

For the year ended June 30th:

	2024*	2023
Revenue, Gains, and Other Support:		
Contributions	\$3,229,652	\$2,383,103
Investment Income	\$4,302	\$6,539
Other Income	\$219,504	\$127,753
Realized & Unrealized Gains (Losses)	\$1,890,076	\$686,752
Total Revenue and Other Support	\$5,343,534	\$3,204,147
Expenses:		
Program Services	\$2,150,086	\$2,224,529
Supporting Services	\$1,218,659	\$1,070,671
Fundraising	\$55,941	\$82,087
Total Expenses	\$3,424,685	\$3,377,287
Change in Net Assets	\$1,918,848	(\$173,140)
Net Assets, beginning of fiscal year	\$13,213,420	\$13,386,560
Net Assets, end of fiscal year	\$15,132,268	\$13,213,420

*unaudited

STAFF HIGHLIGHTS



DAN BLESSING
3 YEARS OF SERVICE

Dan and his family moved to Eleuthera in August 2022 where started as the Director of Risk Management. More recently, he has stepped into the role of Chief Operating Officer where he supports our finance, human resources, and facilities teams while continuing to oversee risk management. Dan was and is an educator at heart, so even in an operations role his guiding question is always "how will this impact the student experience?" Dan came to The Island School after 16 years with Outward Bound. He is most at-home leading, learning, and living in small, mission-driven communities.



TIFFANY MCKINNEY
23 YEARS OF SERVICE



My favorite memory of The Island School is back in the early days... We took the kids to the airport and saw their crying faces as they left this place. Those are my favorite memories of this place and the togetherness of the staff."



NATALIA HURTADO
5 YEARS OF SERVICE

Natalia has been with CEI since 2019 to help rehabilitate threatened coral populations by using sexual and asexual propagation to grow and research different coral species. With the support of the the Bahamas Coral Innovation Hub team, based at CEI, Natalia has achieve several milestones:

- Improves land and ocean-based coral nurseries with more than 1800 coral fragments from 5 different Bahamian islands
- Developed yearly coral spawning predictions, rearing millions of sexually propagated corals from 5 different coral species
- Provided 237 dive certifications as professional development, from Open Water to Assistant instructor, including 115 Reef Rescue divers who helped maintain coral nurseries



MERLENE "MOOCH" MUNNINGS
3 YEARS OF SERVICE

Mooch tried to say her goodbyes to The Island School family back in 2018 when she entered retirement but she couldn't stay away for long! We welcomed her back in 2021 to our beloved kitchen crew where she previously spent 19 years.



ADAM BERNSTEIN
5 YEARS OF SERVICE

Being a part of The Island School community these past five years has been one of the greatest honors of my life. To learn and grow with students, colleagues, and friends is more than I could have ever asked for. I look forward to many more memories on Eleuthera and will always be eternally grateful for my experience here.”



BRETT ZITER
1 YEAR OF SERVICE

Brett joined The Island School in January 2024 as a renewable energy specialist. He brings a background in solar PV, small wind, and distributed power generation. Brett is a believer in community-centric approaches to living, and works to ensure all of our water and energy systems can support our campus.



ALUMNI STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

TAYLOR HOFFMAN S06

If you have been connected to The Island School over the last 12 years, you have likely met Taylor Hoffman S06 somewhere along the way. Taylor returned to The Island School as a research fellow in 2012, transitioning to our Admissions Team in 2013. In June 2022, Taylor became the Executive Director of the Cape Eleuthera Foundation. We're grateful for Taylor's dedication and passion for ensuring that the future of The Island School is healthy and strong for the next 25 years and beyond.

ALEX CATES DCMS08

Alex Cates DCMS08 has been working behind the scenes for the Cape Eleuthera Foundation since 2016, currently serving as the Director of Finance and Development Operations. After graduating from DCMS in 2008, Alex attended boarding school and university in the States. Alex keeps things running at CEF and ensures our finances are in perfect order.

NIKKI ROLLE DCMS03

Nikki Rolle DCMS03, was part of our first graduating DCMS class and the first DCMS student to attend boarding school in the States. Not only was Nikki a pioneer in forming the DCMS boarding school program, but she has been a dedicated Island School staff member since xxxx. In her official capacity, Nikki serves as our Housing Manager, but you will also find her supporting all areas of campus, including our current DCMS students.

LAUREN GOULD F12

Lauren Gould F12 first joined us as a Semester student. Following her semester, she knew she wanted to return one day as a teacher. That finally came true in 2017 when Lauren returned to campus as Summer Term faculty. Over the years, Lauren has taught many classes, but most invaluable have been her leadership and support of our Semester and Summer Term students. She currently serves as the Semester Assistant Director and Dean of Students.

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The Island School laid the foundation for my path as a scientist and an educator. It taught me the importance of learning beyond the traditional classroom and connecting with nature.”

SKYLAR MCALPIN S03



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We are deeply grateful to our donors and their commitment to the Cape Eleuthera Foundation and our mission in support of The Island School. Their generosity allows us to continue our dedication to positively effect change.

These are donations made between July 1, 2023 and June 30, 2024. Every attempt was made to ensure the accuracy of these listings; in the event of an error or omission, please contact us at donations@islandschool.org.

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 Roger Kendrick PST23
 Donovan Kendrick ST23
 James and Amanda Kennedy PST13
 Jack Kenney S19
 Emelie Kenney PF08
 Eliza Ketchum PF22
 Brian Kiley F08
 Jane Kinney S05
 Lisa and Robert Kirsch PS24
 William H Kister F09
 Mary Kleinert
 Catherine M. Klem F03
 Melanie R. Koch F08
 Emilie and Sam Kosoff PF19
 Jack Kosoff F19
 Michael Kratz F05
 Hanna Kruckman F05
 Nina M. Kumar S01
 Jay L'Archevesque PF15
 Debra A. Laasko PS02
 Bella Lane ST23

Geoff Laporte F03
 Susan Lazerow
 Lauren Leahy PS24
 David Leary
 Toni Pryor Leavitt F05
 Morgan LeConey IS Pioneers
 Greg Ledingham S12
 Courtney Lemmon S03
 Austen Levihn-Coon F03
 Susanna Levin PS22
 Daniel N. Li
 Joshua Lichtman S99
 Molly Lloyd F06
 Margaret Lo PST23
 Emery Long F04
 Julie Lord ST13
 Leita Lord S03
 J William (Bill) Louda
 Jensen Lowe S04
 Abby Lowell S00
 Ted Lubitz F99
 Dave Lundeen PS12, PS16, PF17
 Rebecca Madsen PF22
 Stephanie Pitts Mahaney F04
 Sara Makaretz F07
 The Maley Family F23
 Payton Maley
 Quinn Maley F23
 Simon Mann-Gow F08
 Jennie R M Marchant F07
 Katharine Maroni F11
 Jenny (Martin) Allan S01
 Susan Marx S00
 Alden Mauck PF04
 Zindzi McCormick F02
 Edward A. McDermott PS02
 Trip McDermott S04
 Brendan McDonnell F11
 Peter McDonough PS08
 Tom McDonough S08
 Carter McDowell PF99
 Michelle McFarlin and
 Matthew Slocomb PST21, PST23
 Sarah McGinley-Smith PS19, PF21,
 PS24
 Mica McGinley-Smith F21
 Sage McGinley-Smith S19
 Quin McGowan F19
 Logan McIntosh S03
 Lilly McKenna S02
 Riley McKibben ST23
 Cordelia McKusick F05
 Laura McLaughlin F04
 Andrea McNamara PS24
 Henry McNamara F06
 Peter McNamara F03
 John Mecklenburg and
 Julia Violich PST23
 Chris Megrue F06
 Lindsay Millert Melzig F03
 Neile Messer
 Sophie Meyer S16
 Lilly Miller F07
 Grace and Benson Miller PF99

Michael Mirabito
 Becca K. Moll F21
 Robyn Monger
 Kathryn Montaperto S06
 Kelsey Moody S06
 Brookes Moody S03
 Sheena C Moore F99
 Sarah H. Morris S03
 Jean and Deane Morris
 Catharyn Morris F07
 Victoria Morrow S02
 Richard and Alice Morse PF09
 Charlie Mottur F19
 Caroline Muggia S13
 Cam Mullen F08
 Carolina Munoz PS24
 Glendaly Munoz Chukwuma S00
 Tyler Murphy F17
 Stuart Naeny F04
 Selin Nalbantoglu ST19
 Curt Nichols F07
 Maggie Nichols F09
 Lois and Larry Nipon PF04
 Katherine Cissel Nix F03
 Wesley A. Norton S06
 Lillian Nystrom F15
 Maddie Nystrom S15
 Hazel Nystrom S21
 Tori O'Connor F11
 Tom O'Hara
 John O'Leary PF04
 Mary O'Leary F04
 Ceci O'Marah S16
 Emma O'Neill S09
 Caleb Oberst Pioneer Class
 Nick Ognibene F06
 Lizzie Orders ST23
 Andy Orr
 Avrie Oudeman ST23
 Leslie Panella F08
 Kira Papineau S03
 Douglas Parizeau S06
 Sam Parizeau S14
 Kristin Paterakis F04
 Nancy R Pearce
 Jennifer Pearl PST23, PST24
 Campbell Peck F12
 Campbell Peck F12 and Finley Peck F21
 Bob and Susan Peck PST16
 Margaret M. Pendleton F08
 Rachael Perkins PS09
 Alex Perkins S09
 Scott Perritt PF11
 Gary and Mary Pforzheimer PS13
 Nicholas Pibl ST14
 Molly Pickall F99
 Duriko Pinder F05
 Jeannine M Pitarresi PS19
 Megan Platt
 Kristin Pope PF24
 Kim Kucera Poulin
 Whitney Powel Holmes S09
 Meeta Prakash F07
 Maya Pritti F24

Lyle Prockop F15
 Alex Proelss F01
 Kara Quirke F05
 Sarah Rabasco
 Martha and Gregg Raber PS09
 Lily Rager PF23
 Fabiana Ramirez
 Olivia M. Rask S15
 Maya Reeves S23
 Bella Reeves S23
 Beth Rendeiro and Steven DePaul F07
 Walter Reynolds IS Pioneers
 Jacob Rice S03
 Timothy Robb S04
 William Roberts
 Sara Rodell F02
 Ellie Rogers S00
 Kate Romanov F05
 Hannelore Romero ST22
 Susan Rose
 Kirsten and Daniel Rosenbaum PST19,
 PST21, PST24
 Elizabeth Rosenberg S00
 Jenn Ross S08
 Allegra Rumbough F10
 Lydia Russell-Roy S03
 Sage Ruttenberg S23
 Stuartand Caitlin Salyer PST21, PST23
 Kate Zultner Saul S01
 Kathryn P Schaefer F03
 Nina Fink S05
 Hilary Schuville S04
 Hank Scott ST22
 Walter Scott S21
 David Seamans F05
 Gui Sequeira
 Carly Shea F13
 Aimee Sher PST22
 Evelyn Sherwin
 Louise Shiverick F10
 Anne Sholley F05
 Derek Shooster S06
 Julia Harwood Sieczkowski F04
 Mark Siegel
 Michael Siladi S08
 Charlie Silver F21
 Lily Smith F23
 Henry Smyth PS22
 Hannah Sokol F04
 Janice Sorabella GPST22
 Robert Spalding PF07
 Brittiny Trout F03
 Christian Splechter
 Thatcher Spring F99
 Dinny Starr and Alan D. Gordon PF13
 Emmie Stavillo
 Tom Sterling S03
 Bruce Stern PS04
 Tracy Stickney
 Will Strathmann F07
 Mary Sugiyama F03
 Alden Sulger PST14
 Kristen R. Sullivan F00
 Barrett Summerlin F99

Patrick Swearingen PF12
 Caroline B. Swiatocha F05
 Matthew Switzer F19
 Sarah Tarika F08
 Filomena A. Iorio-Tasoluk PST22
 Anupama Tate
 Chal and Kathryn Taylor PST17
 Toni Egger and Robert Taylor PF99
 Chal and Kathryn Taylor PST17
 Kathryn Taylor
 Beth Harrison and Kiko Thébaud
 PF15, PS19
 Maggie Thomas F04
 Julie Thomsen F07
 Hope Tierney ST14
 Will Trachsel
 Luke Tubergen S06
 Lorraine Turnbull S23
 Ches Upham S03
 Peter Van Alstine PF15
 Cole Vanacore S13
 Alannah Vellacott F08
 Todd Vitaz PF15, PF22
 Azalea Vitaz F22
 Taylor Vorhees S03
 Lizzie Votruba F05
 James Jr. Walton PS14
 Daniel Walz
 Ally Waters F04
 Abby Watson S00
 Tom Watson
 Benjamin Watters
 John and Bridget Weaver PF06
 Thomas Weaver F06
 Stacey Weinstein PF14
 Alexis Welch F12
 Carley Welke F05
 Sarah Weller S07
 Emily Wessner PST22
 Christiana Whitcomb S09 and
 Cooper Fitzgerald
 Benjamin Who
 Christine A. Wing PST21
 Evan B. Wood S11
 Sandra Wright PST10
 Natalie and Rod Wright PS17
 Travis Yates F03
 Emily Yeager ST15
 Heather Zachau PF13, PS15, PF17
 Charles Zachau F13
 Valerie Zhao F08

**Indicates deceased*





“The Island School has taught me to live well in a place. It has taught me about sustainability, deep connections, and how to make the most out of everything. I carry it with me everyday in my home life now.”

QUINN MALEY F23

