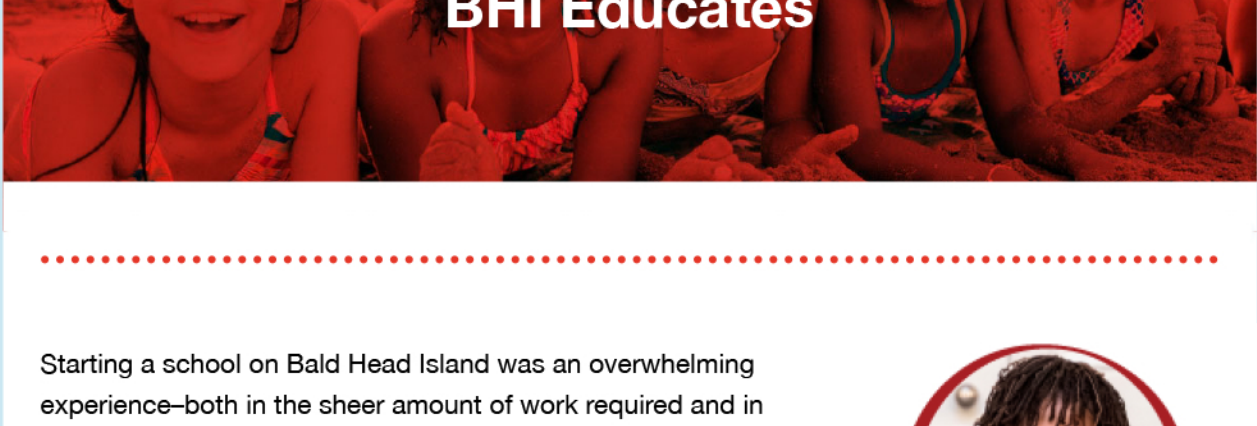


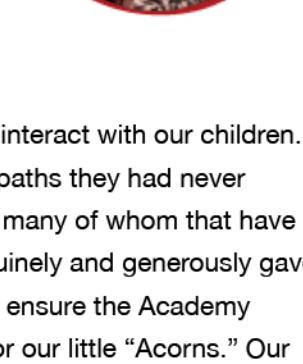


In A Nut Shell



This Is How an Amazing Community Called BHI Educates

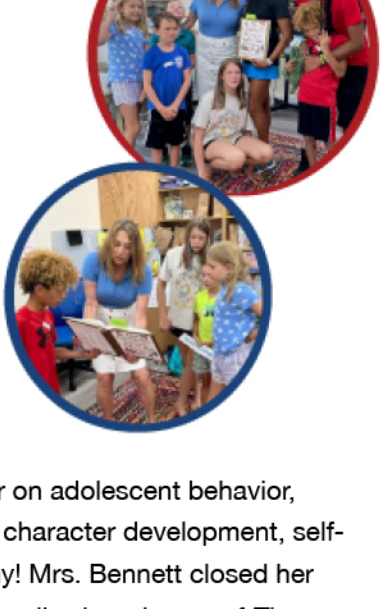
Starting a school on Bald Head Island was an overwhelming experience—both in the sheer amount of work required and in the generosity of spirit of our community. While Kit, I, the BHI Academy™ Board of Directors, and the Village of BHI created the structure, managed the logistics, and did the legwork, it was this community that had a desire for a school for so many years that truly made this dream come true: It's real, it's here, it's working.



Last week, I was blown away by the number of residents who chose to interact with our children. Our scholars were individuals they did not know, little strangers whose paths they had never crossed. I sat in absolute amazement as our BHI community members, many of whom that have had three, maybe even four, fulfilling careers in their busy lifetimes, genuinely and generously gave their time and exceptional knowledge, and donated their own money to ensure the Academy Summer Enrichment Program experience would be a memorable one for our little "Acorns." Our scholars are being treated to an experience of the highest caliber. Following is just a peek at the Academy's unique type of experiential teaching: applied learning delivered by our BHI friends and neighbors—and all of it is priceless.

R-E-S-P-E-C-T: Teaching Respect for You and Me

BHI resident, Elayne Bennett, is an expert on how to grow young minds the right way: by inculcating wholesome values and respect for self and each other ... which perfectly dovetails with the Academy's mission of embedding respect. She is the Co-founder and President of Best Friends Foundation program for adolescent girls, established in 1987, and the Best Men program for boys, launched in 2000. She brought her expertise and gift for connecting with children of all ages to BHI Academy's Summer Enrichment Program, where she shared some key anti-bullying principles with our scholars, as well as tips on positive ways of speaking, communicating effectively with respect, and how to manage anger and hurt feelings.



Mrs. Bennett is a nationally-respected, award-winning thought leader on adolescent behavior, providing solutions to improve peer interaction and promote positive character development, self-control, and achievement. Again, another perfect fit with the Academy! Mrs. Bennett closed her special visit by treating the scholars to an inspiring reading of a personally signed copy of *The Children's Treasury of Virtues*, edited by her husband Bill Bennett, nationally known politician and author of the popular *Book of Virtues*. The next time you see Elayne and Bill Bennett, be sure to thank them for their enormous contributions to extraordinary education nationwide and the well-being of BHI community children.

Making Math Amazing

Did you know Barbara McCarthy, a very well-respected member of our community, is a math guru? She's also one of our volunteer math teachers, bringing her expertise (she's qualified to teach collegiate level math!) to the Academy at all grade levels, K-8. She has an amazing way of infusing creativity into math that really connects kids to this important real-world subject. Her work on our geocaching project is bringing math, geography, and BHI to life. We are updating the geocaching experience on the island with the help of The Village of BHI, so be sure to check out our Geocaching Map and discover several cool surprises across the island. When you see Barbara, be sure to give her a big thumbs-up and thank her for her phenomenal contributions to our island school.



Coaching an "I can!" Attitude

The Academy works in association with the BHI Club, rightfully paying to utilize its facilities for tennis, golf, swimming, and fitness (we hope to add croquet in the fall!). The amazing Coach Jeff Archer teaches our Summer Enrichment Program children how to play tennis and pickleball, but we have seen that it is so much more than just a job to him. Coach Jeff is absolutely passionate about wanting our kids to fall in love with these sports. He wants them not just to learn the game (I think he is looking for the next world-ranked tennis champion!), but more importantly, to be healthy individuals. It's more than simply learning the rules of a forward stroke or backhand. It's about learning values, order, and leadership. He and Fabio Alicea, who leads our summer fitness Boot Camps, speak to these children (many of whom they had never met) with only positive and encouraging words. We all know the power of words to either empower or harm. We can see how the coaches' uplifting words feel to our children in their newfound confidence and self-esteem. It's an "I can" attitude that is invaluable. Thanks to Coach Jeff and Fabio, the Academy is a place of teamwork, encouragement, motivation, and a willingness to lift up others by building physically strong leaders. Next time you see these gentlemen, remind them that they are winners in your eyes!



If This Old House Could Talk...

The McCarthy family lives in one of the oldest homes on Bald Head Island: the old BHI Coast Guard Station, a life-saving service established in 1882 to rescue sailors and passengers during the numerous shipwrecks off the island. At his own expense and time, Mac McCarthy scheduled a field trip for the Academy's little Acorns to come and learn how this home—a beloved piece of BHI history—was moved one hundred meters to prevent erosion to its current location on Sea Lavender Court in the late 1960s. Civil engineers used cedar blocks to move the former stables of the old station—the only building left after a devastating fire—and converted the structure into a private home. Mac, a clinical cardiac perfusionist and lover of history, displayed artifacts and memorabilia and told intriguing stories. He answered the thousands of questions of children completely mesmerized by the incredible history of this old house. He even provided popsicles during the hot summer heat—weather that wouldn't stop our kids: They were focused the entire time and wanted more. This knowledge transfer was invaluable—it was BHI history. So, when you run into Mac, be sure to show some appreciation for how he and the entire McCarthy family have sowed a love of history and exceptional education into the next generation—straight from their hearts.



Discovering Our World Through Literature

Author and resident, Robin Prak, captivated the kids with a reading of her delightful book *Ellie on the Island*, the funny and heartwarming story of the adventures of Robin's Rat Terrier Ellie. Robin had all the children giggling as she read how Ellie spent her first summer on Bald Head Island exploring many new things—especially the pup's amazement when she encountered a loggerhead sea turtle; it was so massive compared to her tiny frame. Robin's amazing photos comparing Ellie to the turtle prompted an eye-opening discussion of the word "perspective," which all the children completely understood. She was then peppered with questions about being an author, getting published, and writing as a day-to-day job, as well as about the book.



"Ms. Prak, why is the sky yellow?"
"Why did you put that there?"
"Why is Ellie so small on this page?"

There were so many questions from our curious young scholars, she almost couldn't finish the book. Overwhelmed (in a good way!) with the student's enthusiasm and excitement about the story she brought to life through her words, she simply laughed and asked them to hold all questions till the end. When you catch Robin out and about, be sure to tell her she's our bestseller!

Plotting a Course to Mathematical Excellence

To show that math is truly everywhere—in the classroom and learning, even on the high seas—we designed a special math learning experience for our scholars with the aid of our math maven Barbara McCarthy and Captain Hatch Perry, co-owner with Rob Dickson of the vessel Sea Suite, just one of many luxury vessels in their company Sea Coast Charters. While our scholars toured a fabulous luxury yacht, they took a deep dive into concepts including navigating profit and loss, calculating how much it would cost to fill the tank with gas, reckoning the time (and amount of money) it would take to get to Wilmington, figuring out how to control fuel emissions, using maps and charts to plot a course, and much more—all strategically handled by Captain Hatch and our teachers. Throughout the entire two hours, the children never realized they were learning applied math—they thought they were just having a cool time talking to Captain Hatch on a beautiful boat. The captain loved meeting our budding Acorns and fielding all the questions. If you're around the harbor, give Rob and Captain Hatch a salute and thank them for leveling up the next generation.



Sowing a Love of Learning into Our Kids ...It's a Bald Head Island Thing to Do

What you've just read is what I call knowledge transfer. It's important to Bald Head Island and to its Academy. While some of this applied learning came from amazing individuals who know their people who are the best of the best in their chosen careers, I must also recognize our exceptional Academy educators who have dedicated their lives to educating our BHI scholars and the children of our summer vacationers: Traditional year teachers Sarah Tennant and Andrew Hano; Volunteers Barbara McCarthy (elementary and high school math teacher), Tom and Sally Johnson (ESL, English as a second language specialists), and summer interns Grace Reibel, Jayden Miller, and Alivia Woolery. It's a holistic and magical adventure when a whole community comes along on an educational ride for the next generation!



Want to participate? Contact us; we'd love to have you as one of our volunteer educators or to host your child in our fun and fulfilling Summer Tales Workshop week-long day camps or full afternoon Island Tales Workshops. Visit the website or call to learn more: 910.294.6644.



—Sheree Vaickus, BHIA COSMO (Curriculum Operations Solutions and Marketing Officer)

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