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## In A Nut Shell

### Community Spotlight: Local Artist Shares Her Passion for “Playing in Paint” with BHI Academy™ Scholars

You could feel the energy: equal parts wide-open excitement and complete, focused concentration. It was all because of community resident and Smith Island Art League member, painter Meredith Bourne. On Friday, September 15, she taught BHI Academy’s little Acorns how to tap into their inner Vincent van Goghs. For Bourne, it was the perfect combination of coming home and paying it forward.



As a child, she loved what she called “playing in paint.” After a satisfying thirty-four year career in financial institution marketing and client relations, she returned to her childhood passion and is now creating expressive and evocative canvases in oil, watercolor, and pastels. She shared her lifelong love of painting with Academy students, deploying age-appropriate teaching techniques for all grade levels. Just like Bourne as a little girl, the scholars loved the experience.

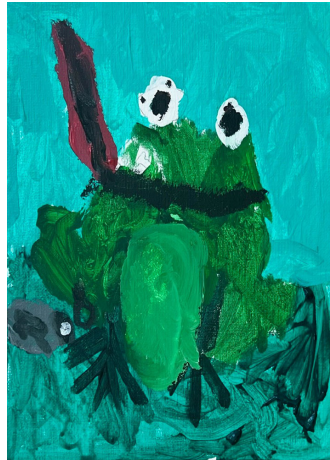


The younger students learned the concepts of blending, proportion, and symmetry in their paintings of frogs—all as unique and wonderful as the children themselves. The upper class scholars created their own amazing masterpieces, riffs on the famous van Gogh painting, *The Starry Night*, perfectly capturing the vibrant colors and magical movement.

One of the A's in our unique STEA+M curriculum is Art. It is a crucial (and yes, joyous) facet of our whole child education approach, which is intentionally designed to inspire the best qualities in our students: academic excellence, creativity, health, leadership, and stewardship. It takes this village to nurture the confidence, self-expression, and creativity we saw during the eye-opening (and imagination-sparking!) art lesson.



The next time you see Meredith, remind her that she's our Best in Show, and thank her for her fun and inspiring knowledge transfer into the next generation of art enthusiasts!



Do you connect with how BHI Academy is prioritizing whole child education excellence, including in the arts? Make a gift today.

All donations to the Bald Head Island Academy Foundation, our 501(c)(3) nonprofit, are tax-deductible. We also welcome gifts of land, homes, stocks, investment shares, and legacy gifts (named trusts). Give at <https://bhiacademy.org/bhi-academy-foundation/>.



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Bald Head Island Academy  
PO Box 3499  
Bald Head Island, NC 28461