



THE BLOCK ISLAND SCHOOL SAILING PROGRAM

In September, the Block Island Club (BIC) began its After-School Sailing Program in an effort to give local students the opportunity to sail with a long-term goal of establishing a Block Island School Sailing Team. This is not the first time that an after-school sailing program has taken place on the island. BIMI and the BIC have run youth classes in the past which led to a huge interest in local sailing. Most recently, since 2017, the BIC has run a Sunday sailing class with kids sailing in Colgate 26 keelboats along with an instructor.

The focus of the current program is to get students into smaller, more competitive boats so they can develop their skills and a passion for the sport.

With the assistance of the Block Island School's Athletic Director and BIC board member, Rob Closter, a group of 13 children took part in sailing classes three times a week. The enthusiastic elementary school students, grades 2-5, were a broad mix of beginners and experienced sailors.

Within a few weeks, all of the new sailors were skippering their own boats and comfortably taking part in drills and games with the rest of the class. The students learned the basics of steering, sail control, tacking and gybing. Despite the lack of experience, the willingness of the students to get involved has led to an incredible development in ability in such a short amount of time. Due to variable wind conditions in the fall, some classes took place on land where students learned knot tying and sail theory along with practicing their techniques in a stationary boat. The plan is to continue the elementary school program in the spring, along with middle and high school students who will be sailing larger, 420 dinghies.

BI School competitors in Wednesday Night-Sailing this year included:

Ben Casey

Keira and Keegan Closter

Hannah Land

Noah Nelson

Hudson Reeves

Jamieson Transue

Chloe and Cally Weber



OUR MISSION: To protect and enhance the environmental quality of the Great Salt Pond, including its shorelines and wetlands, and to promote appropriate and productive uses of the Pond's resources by residents, visitors and local businesses.

FUNDING: Individual contributions, membership dues, special events, program grants. IRS 501(c)3 non-profit.

Contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Please consider becoming a member of The Committee for the Great Salt Pond. For information and details, visit our website at cgspblockisland.org.