



The Vinalhaven Press Corps (Grades 4 & 5) proudly display their magazine *Island Week*, created during a journalism residency with PIE's own Abbie Trafford (back row, left). Also pictured are teachers Pat Paquet (back row, second from left), Robb Warren (back row, center) and PIE Executive Director, Alice Bissell (back row, right).

Vinalhaven School Enrichment!

This year the Vinalhaven School Enrichment Committee (VSEC) really outdid itself with creative and engaging ways to enrich students' learning across the curriculum, organizing more than ten in-school programs for different age groups, many of which were arts-based and interdisciplinary. Funded and coordinated by PIE, VSEC is our interface with the school, where the executive director and board members collaborate directly with teachers to provide quality curriculum-

based enrichment for the greatest number of students.

VSEC also supported teachers through professional development opportunities like Courage to Teach and Teachings in Mindful Education; and welcomed Colleen Conlan, Education Coordinator for Vinalhaven Land Trust (VLT) as a new member. This enabled PIE and VLT to collaborate on Counting Corvids, a weeklong residency with former VHS art teacher Erica Hansen, where high school

students learned about the complex relationship between crows and humans through art, literature, philosophy and natural science. With PIE's focus on arts and enrichment, and VLT's on nature and the environment, we look forward to working together to provide a wide range of enrichment programming.

VSEC welcomes parents and community members. Please join us to help enrich the educational life of our children. It's fun, and rewarding!



"Making journals was really fun. I got to create what was inside my head."



Pulling a Print—A student has just run her plate through the press and is about to see her print for the first time. Photo Heather White.



Nate Amadon (center), poet, worked with students to read, write and perform poetry, culminating in a Poetry Slam at The Harbor Gawker.

VINALHAVEN PRESS CORPS . . .

I was able to be creative and go beyond what I thought I could do.
— Ruby

We got to ask shop owners on Vinalhaven about their jobs and how people shopping on the mainland affects their businesses.
— Bella

What made me feel like an important person on the Vinalhaven Press Corps was [writing] the article about solving problems on the ferry.
— Joe

Executive Director's Note



VINALHAVEN PRESS CORPS

For several weeks Grades 4 & 5 became the Vinalhaven Press Corps. Working with journalist Abbie Trafford, they produced *Island Week*, a magazine about Vinalhaven featuring interviews, editorials, essays, sports, book reviews, and even puzzles. Students interviewed town leaders, business owners and school staff to craft in-depth articles. Left, a Press Corps team met with Kris Davidson, owner of Davidson Realty. A huge success, the students, working with their teachers, went on to develop more journalism projects. Copies of *Island Week* are on sale this summer through PIE!

I love PIE!

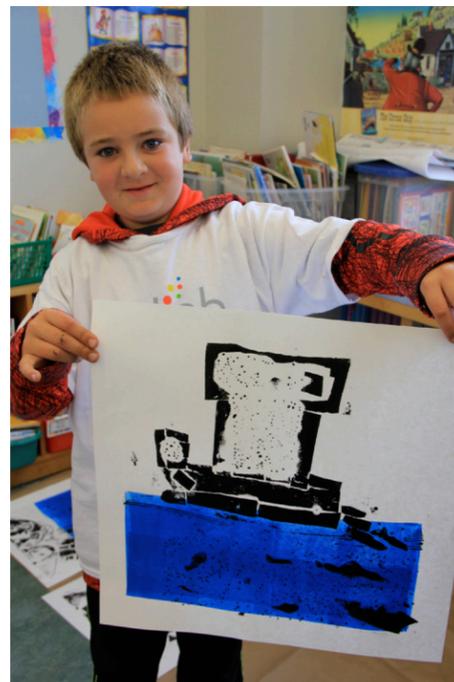
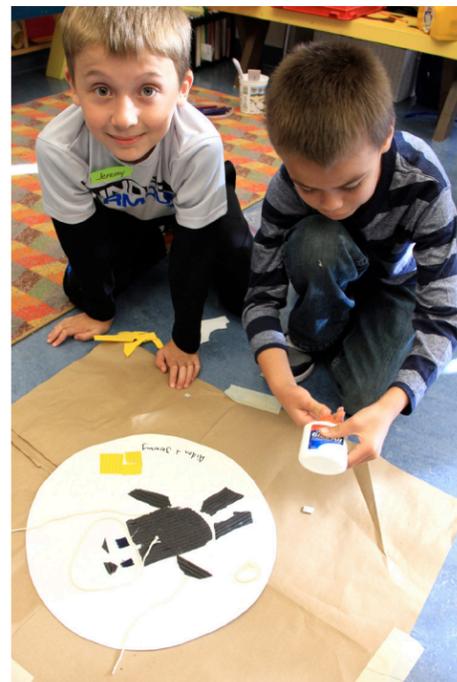
The best thing for me about being Executive Director of PIE is experiencing first-hand the vast range of things PIE does in and out of the classroom every day to support learning. It has been a privilege to see PIE evolve and grow in response to educational needs on Vinalhaven.

You may have noticed there is no mention of Drama here. This is because PIE has slowly transitioned the responsibility for funding this program to the school. While PIE will continue to support the arts, this allows us to shift funding and focus towards expanding out-of-school learning opportunities.

You may have also noticed that PIE has a new logo! Huge thanks to Lorraine Ferguson Weinberg for volunteering her graphic design skills to help create this lively, friendly look. We believe it expresses our commitment to partnering with our school and community to enhance our kids' educations—as well as our belief that learning can and should be fun!

With pride in all that the students have accomplished this year, we look forward to an exciting year ahead!

— Alice Bissell



BEN FRANKLIN, LIVE! with CHRISTOPHER LOWELL

Vinalhaven School took a two-day trip into the past this spring with actor/educator Christopher Lowell, a preeminent interpreter of Benjamin Franklin. Chris brought this famous and multi-talented man of American history to life for Grades 3–12, delivering a powerful monologue at an all-school assembly. He was interviewed by Grades 4 & 5; discussed ocean currents with Grade 6 science students and early American economics with Grades 7 & 8, and the Declaration of Independence with high school history students.



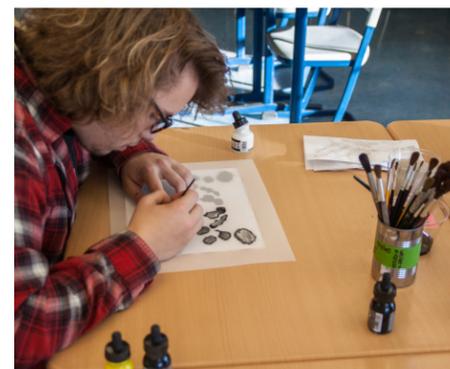
COUNTING CORVIDS

Students study crow behavior (above) and Liam works on a pen and ink design for (below) during the *Counting Corvids* project.



HS POETRY RESIDENCY with PORT VERITAS

Students spent a week reading, writing and performing poetry with four engaging poets from Port Veritas, culminating in a Poetry Slam at The Gawker.



CHRIS CLARKE: HS ETCHING RESIDENCY

Heather White's high school art students attended a workshop with Chris Clarke, local artist and printmaker, who guided them through the etching process and helped them produce their first etchings in his studio. What a great resource to have such a talented artist and teacher in the Vinalhaven community!

LEAPS of IMAGINATION

Over three weeks last fall, Grades 2 & 3 worked with four artists from LEAPS of IMAGINATION on a project that combined literature, journaling and collaborative printmaking. Students created collages, then used them to make collagraph prints. Their final artwork was exhibited at a gala celebration at the Windy Way Gallery, a first-ever event that was packed with excited students, proud parents and community members.



Alana Flanagan Vinalhaven Educational Outreach Fellow

PERSPECTIVES AFTER SCHOOL Learning is Fun!



Alana Flanagan: One of the first things I heard on arriving at Vinalhaven School was, "If there's one thing this whole community agrees on, it's how special their kids are."

Since September 2015, Alana has been working with PIE and Vinalhaven School on a multi-year project to facilitate family involvement in the school, and to research and develop models for extended learning opportunities for after school and out-of-school time, suitable to the particular needs of Vinalhaven.



With leader Alana, Aubri shows her weaving skill using a loom made of drinking straws.

When I first arrived, I listened and learned as much as I could from students, families, teachers and the many organizations doing valuable work on the island in an effort to propose the best strategies possible for Vinalhaven families. In my efforts I was inspired by the saying, "It takes a village to raise a child." In joining this vibrant and unique "village," I quickly learned that it's impossible not to join in the fun!

Alana organized and facilitated parent groups, created an on-line school calendar to improve communication and planning, and helped the administration and school leadership team develop community engagement strategies. She worked with PIE and Vinalhaven Land Trust (VLT) to manage *Perspectives After School*, and

has been researching after school and extended learning programs in similar communities to create a model we can use going forward.

When schools make efforts to engage families, they see an increase in parent involvement, student safety, teacher capacity, curriculum alignment, school leadership, and overall school morale. PIE and Vinalhaven School are dedicated to creating the best educational environment for their students. This project has begun the critical steps to designing a comprehensive, year-round extended learning program for students, and create reliable systems of communication between families and Vinalhaven School.

This summer, Alana will report on her findings and suggestions for after school programming, and will facilitate summer programming—the next step in the mission to provide students with



A game of Human Knot during *Perspectives* had everyone all tangled up. They finally got free, while still holding hands. Quite a challenge!

year-round learning opportunities. She will also propose a Parent Involvement Plan and Volunteer Strategy to the Vinalhaven School Board, to be implemented in the 2016–17 school year, with the help of the School Leadership Team.

Bringing families, teachers and school administration together in support of students is rewarding, fun, and invaluable. Thank you to Partners in Island Education, Vinalhaven School, and the Island Institute, who sponsored this fellowship, for making this project possible!

Alana's tenure ends in August, and we will miss her very much. She has been a skilled and invaluable resource. However, the project will continue, with a new Fellow arriving in September. Stay tuned for more developments as PIE collaborates with Vinalhaven School to provide learning opportunities for our students!

Perspectives ended its third year of after school programming for Grades Pre K–5 with a field trip to the Fox Islands Wind Turbines. Thanks to FIEC director Chip Farrington, we learned how these huge, beautiful monsters provide electricity for Vinalhaven and North Haven. We also made our own mini-turbines (a.k.a. pinwheels!) and ate pinwheel cookies—a fabulous finale to a very successful year in *Perspectives*!

This year, *Perspectives* partnered with local island artists and residents to offer 28 different activities presented by over 40 skilled volunteers. Activities ranged from exploring our community with local experts and visiting with our Elders; creating art and making crafts; building with wood, Legos or recycled materials; hunting for mosses and lichens, animal tracks, salamanders or signs of spring; cooking from fairy tales or building fairy houses in the woods—through it all, the kids had fun, learned new skills, met new people, explored their island, made connections and gained new perspectives.

In this era of pressure on schools to standardize education and use tests to measure achievement, children are increasingly losing out on what makes learning fun. They spend less and less time doing and making, and more time sitting passively in front of a screen or at a desk. *Perspectives* counters these trends with activities that are hands-on and creative—and also happen to be educational in the best sense of that word. It's a chance for kids to get involved in a range of projects, explore interests, and discover affinities they might not even know they had.

Originally developed by Susan Raven with support from the ARC, this year *Perspectives* has come under the shared umbrella of PIE and VLT, who are committed to seeing the program thrive and grow—along with the children it serves—for a long time to come.



Alana and her crew on the steps of a Fox Islands Wind turbine. Kids were able to go inside to learn how the turbines are controlled by computers, and to see how very tall the ladder is that leads to the top!



Autumn, a 7th Grader, gets the group excited about Lego robots during Lego Building Day. She was a frequent volunteer with *Perspectives*.



A favorite spring activity was building fairy houses in the woods. Sadie's house is nestled at the base of a tree and decorated with shells.

Alana Flanagan: Vinalhaven students are incredibly creative. Perspectives After School lets them channel that energy into learning in ways they don't have access to in the classroom. It's been inspiring to watch them show up each week, so excited to learn something new!



In the dead of winter, Amy Lear got kids warmed up with a Zumba dance workout. The kids loved it.

Parent: Perspectives has been a game-changer for me and for my son. It's so inspiring to watch him explore new experiences and take on new challenges, growing almost perceptibly each week. His participation in Perspectives is quickly becoming an invaluable part of our lives.



Gabe and Natalie concoct pumpkin filling for tartlets after reading *Cinderella*.

Happy 10th Anniversary PIE's Scholarship Program

PIE awarded the first *Vinalhaven College Scholarship* in 2006. Ten years later, PIE has given out 34 scholarships, with five more to be awarded this year!

Begun in 2006, PIE's *Vinalhaven College Scholarship* is an award of \$2,000, renewable for each of a student's four years in college. So far, we have awarded 12 college scholarships, with two more coming in June. Sandy Lieber was instrumental in the creation of this fantastic program and remains active with PIE today. Thank you, Sandy!

The *Ogden/Chaffey Scholarship* was established in 2010, with a generous donation from Ms. Mary Jean Ogden. These scholarships are awarded to the highest scoring senior applicants attending a 1–2-year or vocational program. If there are no applicants who fit the criteria, the scholarship may go to a student attending a 4-year school. This year we are able to award 3 of these scholarships to graduating seniors.

In 2012, PIE introduced *Travel & Education Scholarships* for high school students, with two application deadlines each year. Scholarship awards are up to \$2,500. To date, PIE has awarded 11 of these scholarships.

The newest addition to PIE's "scholarship family" is a partnership with The Experiment in International

More PIE Programs



PIE scholarship recipients at our annual gathering, July 2015.

Living (EIL), which "provides summer abroad programs for high school students who want to connect deeply and engage meaningfully with the richness and complexities of another country. Participants explore the host country through hands-on experiences in local communities and through the lens of a specific theme." A Vinalhaven high school student who applies and is accepted into this program is eligible for an EIL scholarship of \$2,500, and a matching \$2,500 from PIE. This is a very exciting opportunity—watch for more details as we move into next year.

We are extremely proud of how much PIE's Scholarship Program has grown and how many students we have helped so far, and we look forward to watching it grow even more. Thank you to all who have contributed to this wonderful program!

PIE programs are much MORE than *Perspectives After School*. We've extended our after school programming to older students and into the summer!

Lego Robotics

PIE provided funding to upgrade the school's Lego Robotics equipment and additional software licenses to allow more students to participate in middle school Lego Robotics Club. Their team, Lucky Lobsters, reached the final round in their first Lego Robotics competition at Jay High School last November, and they are eager to go again next year! The 5th Graders, when introduced to Lego Robotics through *Perspectives*, got so excited that science teacher Emily Cohn has organized a robotics program for students this summer, *RoboticSCamp*.

PIE SCamps!

SCamps = School Camps: this summer PIE is partnering with Vinalhaven School on two exciting programs:

- **PIE ArtSCamp*** (ages 4–8 and 9–12) with teaching artist Sarah Boyden
- **PIE RoboticSCamp*** (ages 11–14) with VHS science teacher Emily Cohn

* See **Calendar of PIE Events Summer 2016** (on next page) for schedule & signup information for both camps.

Calendar of PIE Events Summer 2016

For more information, visit us at:
 • Facebook
 • PartnersInIslandEducation.org
 • PartnersInIslandEducation@gmail.com

PIE Booths: Pies & More Mon, July 4, 10am–2pm Town Parking Lot

Support PIE by buying delicious, home-made pies of every description. Come early—they sell out quickly! This year we aim to top our record of 100 PIE pies sold! **Stop by, say Hi, and buy for PIE!** Also at the PIE Booths, we have new merchandise (with our new look) for sale. Support arts and education on Vinalhaven with a PIE decal, notecards, a quarry towel, or T-shirt. Or buy raffle tickets for firewood!

PIE Raffle: Cord of Firewood Mon, July 4, Drawing at 2pm Town Parking Lot

Buy a big bunch of raffle tickets (only \$2 each, or 3 for \$5) to win one cord of seasoned spruce logs donated by Steve Rosen. Keep your hearth blazing and your heart basking in the knowledge that each dollar raised supports the work PIE does for Vinalhaven. Tickets are on sale at the Flea Market, Tidewater, or the PIE booths on July 4th.

PIE Mirror Auction: Functional Art Sun, July 31, 7pm The Harbor Gawker

PIE's summer fundraiser is an auction of mirrors decorated or repurposed by Vinalhaven's creative community: old, new, hand, wall, big, small . . . we have them all! Join the fun at The Harbor Gawker, bid often, and take home some unique and functional art.

PIE Community Contra Dance Sat, Aug 6, 7pm Greg Nelson's barn, Calderwood's Neck

Come dance the night away with **Sassafras Stomp** and caller **Kalani Palm** at this fun and family-friendly event. Whether you're a complete newbie, an experienced dancer, or just want to enjoy the music, you'll have a great time. Refreshments served. Tickets available at the door. \$10/adult; \$5/child under 12; \$25/family of 4.

PIE ArtSCamp Tues–Thurs, Aug 2–4 and Aug 9–11 Ages 4–7: 10am–12pm. Ages 8–12: 1–4pm Vinalhaven School

Teaching artist Sarah Boyden is famous for making art fun! Each week will involve different themes and projects, so kids can attend both weeks. Cost is \$25/week for Ages 4–7; \$35/week for Ages 8–12. Materials and snacks provided. For more information or to sign up, email PieSCamp2016@gmail.com, or visit the PIE table at the Flea Market.

PIE RoboticSCamp Mon–Thur, Aug 1–4, 1–3pm Rising Grades 6–8 Vinalhaven School

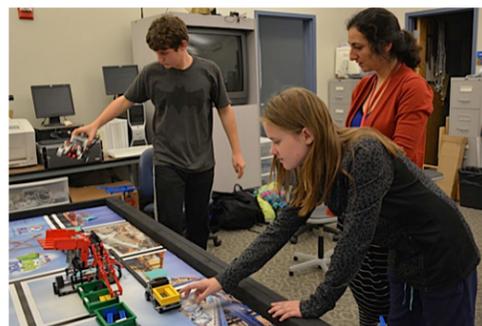
Middle school science teacher Emily Cohn is excited to offer this Lego Robotics workshop to students with any level of experience. Learn the basics, or build on your skills for next year's competition! Cost is \$25 for 4 days; class limited to 10 students. Snacks provided. For more information email PieSCamp2016@gmail.com, or visit the PIE table at the Flea Market.



Emily demonstrates how robots work to kids at *Perspectives*.



Lego robotics takes teamwork, patience and computer skills.



Testing newly-programmed robots during Lego Robotics Club.

PIE Needs Your Help

Send us a donation! Most of our funding comes from our community of year-round and seasonal residents. Every dollar counts. We can't do it without you!

Volunteer! PIE seeks new members for its four committees, as well as people to share their knowledge, skills and ideas for after school programs . . . a great way to make a positive difference in your child's education. This past year we had over 60 volunteers!



I want to help PIE provide educational & cultural opportunities for the Vinalhaven community! I/We would like to make a tax-deductible donation to PIE as follows:
 General Fund Scholarship Fund Vinalhaven School Enrichment

Enclosed is a check made out to PARTNERS in ISLAND EDUCATION for:
 \$25 \$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 \$1000 Other \$ _____

Name(s) _____
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PARTNERS in ISLAND EDUCATION Box 664, Vinalhaven ME 04863 www.PartnersInIslandEducation.org

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OUR MISSION

Partners in Island Education is committed to providing educational and cultural opportunities for the community of Vinalhaven through in-school enrichment programming, after school and summer activities, and scholarships to support student aspirations.

OUR VISION

We envision Vinalhaven as a thriving community that values and supports arts and education for its children.

We envision our children reaching their full potential and making a positive contribution to their community.

OUR VALUES

We believe that our school is the heart—and our children are the future—of Vinalhaven.

We adapt our mission, goals and objectives to serve the changing educational needs of our community.

We partner with other island organizations sharing common objectives to help us all do a better job of serving our community.

We seek to support the school curriculum through experiential, place-based and arts-based learning opportunities.

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PARTNERS in ISLAND EDUCATION
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Why PIE?

I support PIE because it is committed to providing educational and cultural opportunities for our children to support their aspirations.

PIE is important because it works as a partner to extend what the school is capable of.

I support PIE because I believe in PIE's mission (to enrich and enhance the island community) and want to be part of it.

PIE is important because it provides programs, scholarships, and services the school is unable to provide.

I support PIE because I believe that school experience shapes the social, emotional and intellectual development of each person.

PIE is important because it provides essential support for teachers and students.

I support PIE because I care about kids, learning, schools and Vinalhaven.

PIE is important because it creates a community of people who care.

PIE is important because it takes more than a school staff to make a strong school . . . a strong school equals a strong community.

I support PIE because I believe in the value of arts in education and supporting schools in any way I can.

PIE gives me a say in how my children grow up. I feel extremely fortunate to live in a community where my actions have a direct impact on what opportunities are available for the enrichment of my kids.

I support PIE because I believe in caring for the community, and PIE offers a summer person a window into the life of the island.

PIE is important because it provides opportunities for growth, exploration and discovery.

PIE is important because its programs often reach students who don't respond to traditional classroom learning.

PIE is important because it supplements, safeguards and enriches education on Vinalhaven.