



**ISLESBORO SCHOOL DEPT
159 Alumni Drive P.O. Box 118
Islesboro, ME 04848**

Yvonne Thomas
Island Institute
386 Main St.
P.O. Box 648
Rockland, ME 04841

Dear Yvonne:

At our most recent school board meeting, conducted on Tuesday, August 9, ICS Principal Heather Knight noted in her update to the board how helpful the Island Institute had been over the years to schools like ours. As the board reviewed two pieces of correspondence from the Institute, one addressing the upcoming annual conference and the other addressing your expanded mentoring program, it was clear that Ms. Knight's comments were abundantly true. Indeed, the Institute appears to be increasing its range of services and programs, a fact that will no doubt help the islands and island schools continue to address the unique challenges we face.

The board asked that I draft a letter to be signed by both myself and our school board chair, Laura Houle, expressing the deep gratitude we all feel for the supportive role played by the Island Institute. With each passing year, the challenges faced by the Maine coastal islands and their essential educational programs grow more daunting and complex. We feel that we have a true partner and ally in confronting these evermore complex issues. Please know that we stand ready to provide whatever support we can to ensure that the Island Institute has a solid future.

On behalf of the Islesboro Central School, its school board, faculty, students, and parents, I hope you will accept our heartfelt thanks for all you do. You might not hear it every day, but the islands of the coast of Maine are better for your presence.

All the best,

Patrick R. Phillips
Superintendent of Schools

Laura Houle
Chair, Islesboro Central School Committee