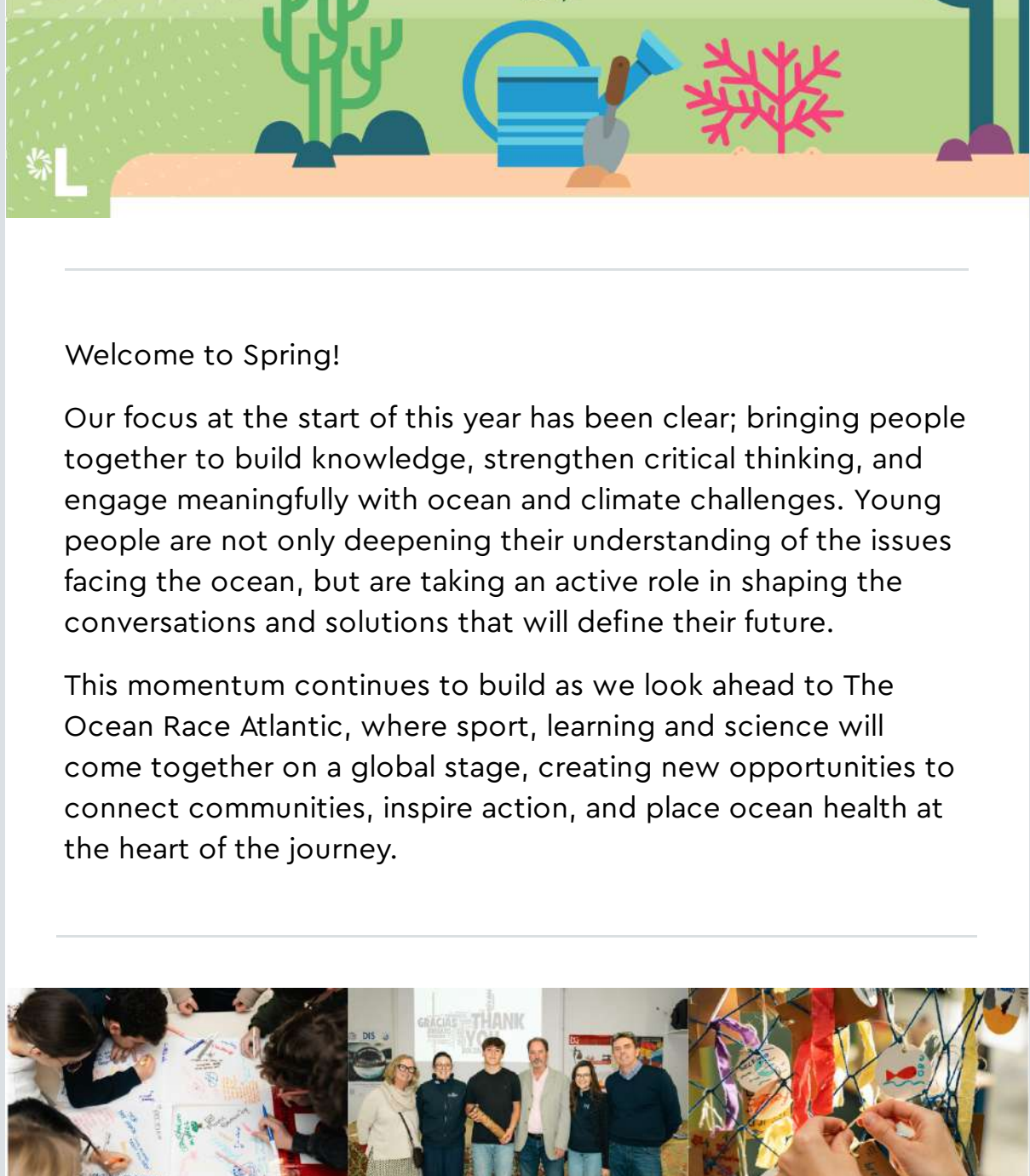


March 2026

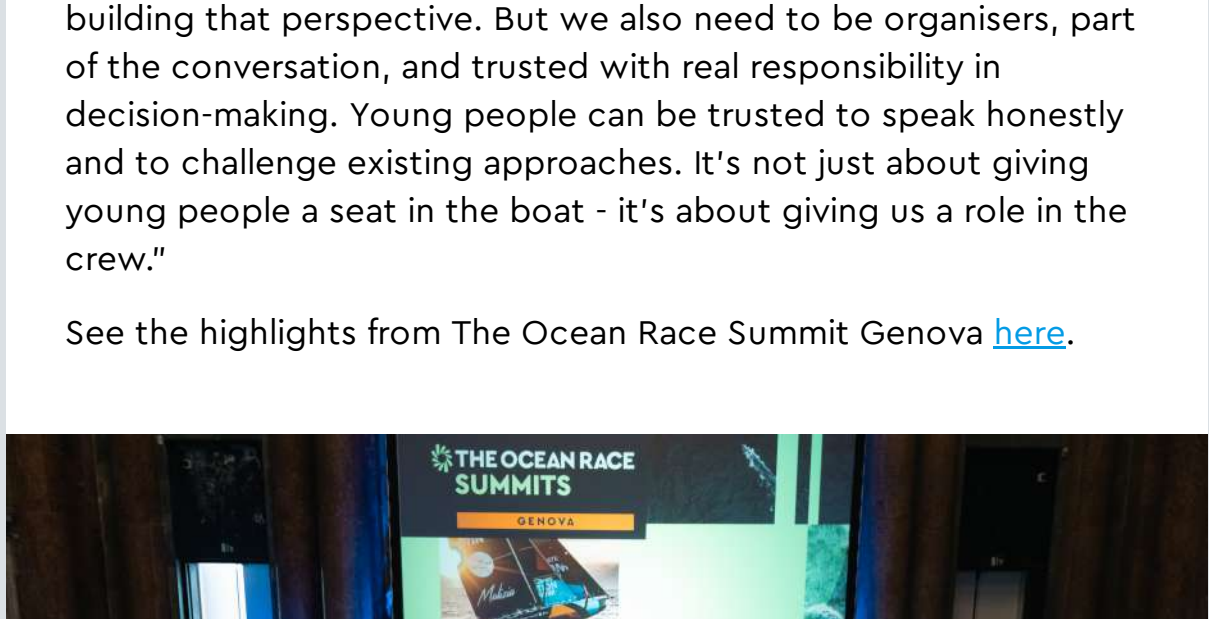
Empowering Ocean Stewards: From Classroom to Global Stage



Welcome to Spring!

Our focus at the start of this year has been clear; bringing people together to build knowledge, strengthen critical thinking, and engage meaningfully with ocean and climate challenges. Young people are not only deepening their understanding of the issues facing the ocean, but are taking an active role in shaping the conversations and solutions that will define their future.

This momentum continues to build as we look ahead to The Ocean Race Atlantic, where sport, learning and science will come together on a global stage, creating new opportunities to connect communities, inspire action, and place ocean health at the heart of the journey.



Generation Ocean Youth Symposium and Summit

In January, we hosted our first Generation Ocean Youth Symposium in Genova, Italy, bringing together students, educators and ocean advocates for a day of dialogue, ideas and action around ocean and climate.

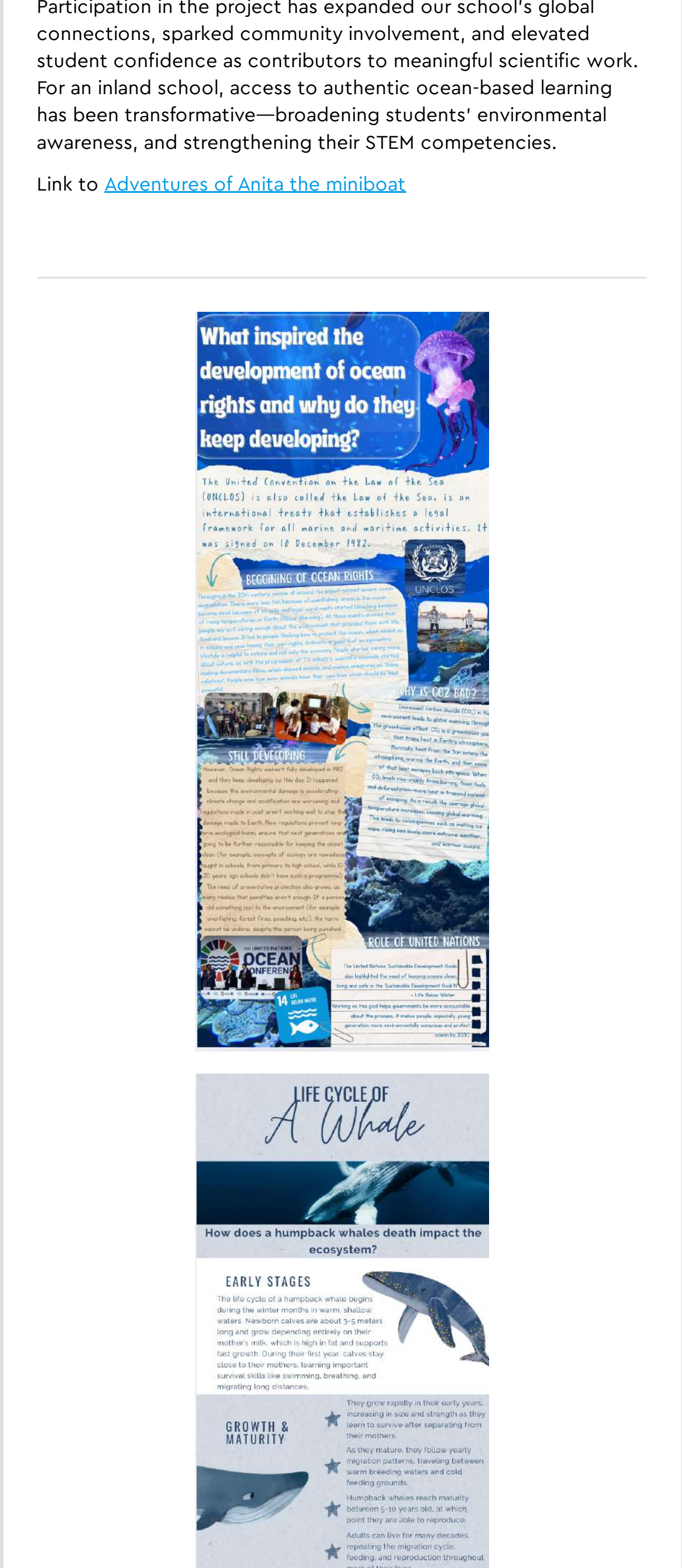
Held at [Deledda International School - IBO World School in Genoa](#) in collaboration with [Peter Milne](#) at [Target4Green Educational Consultancy and Training Ltd](#), the Symposium created space for young people to explore solutions, share perspectives and strengthen their connection to ocean health and action. Students were also encouraged to share their expressions around emotions on the ocean through our art engagement collaboration with [The Climate Babes](#).

The energy, insight and ambition in the room were clear; the next generation is ready to lead.

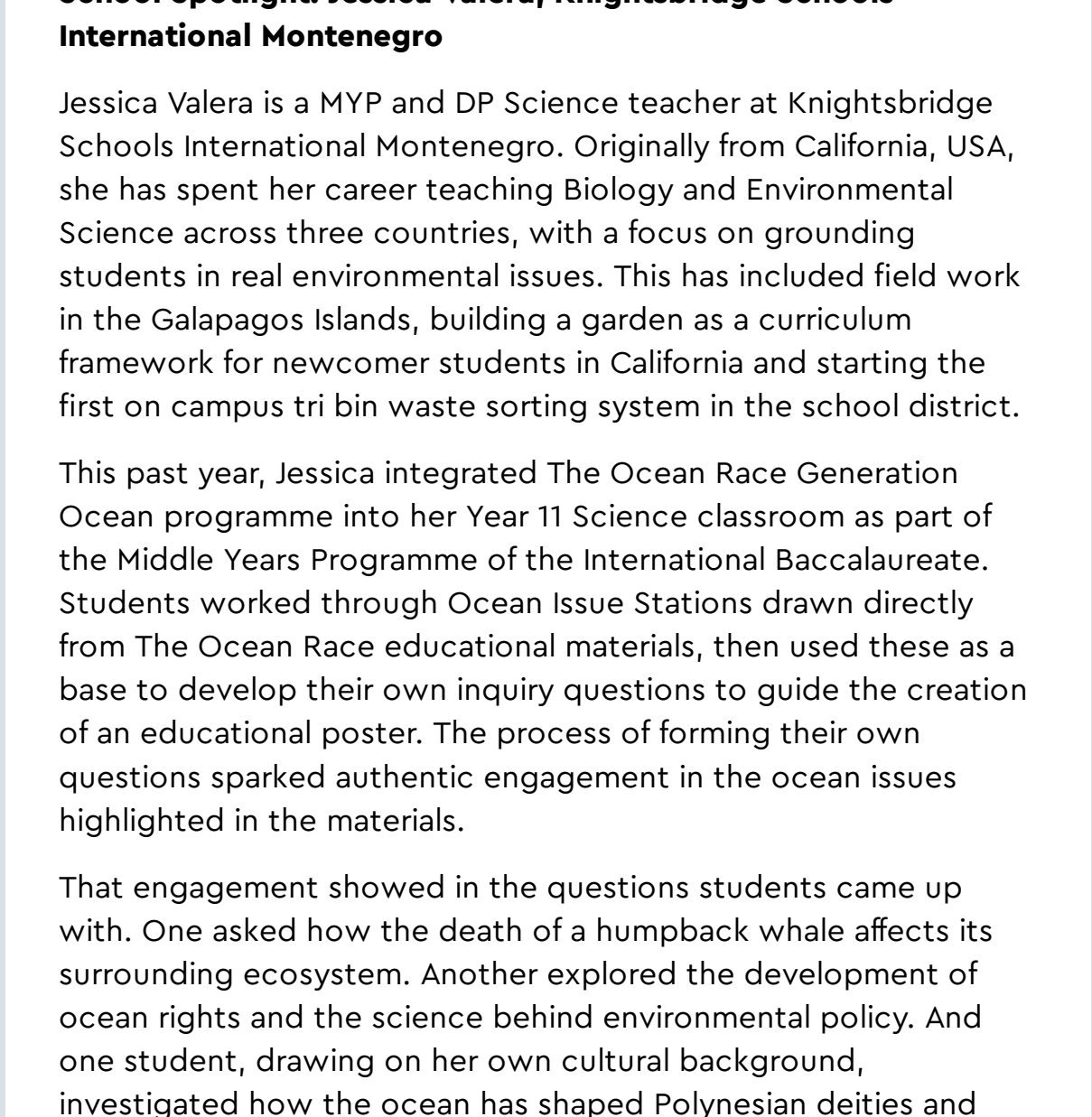
Check out our video recap on the day [here!](#)

The previous day, many of the students also took part in The Ocean Race Summit, with Ettore Trillo, Deledda High School Representative, saying: "As young people, we are still discovering our identity, our passions, and our role in society. We need the tools to develop our own perspective, and both physical and digital spaces where our voices can be heard. We must become critical thinkers - able to understand issues, their nuances, and the world around us. That comes through education, not only at school but through seminars and constructive opportunities that are accessible to everyone. In a global context marked by division and polarization, education can be the bridge that unites us around common challenges like sustainability. Being here together - youth and experts - to talk about the ocean is already part of building that perspective. But we also need to be organisers, part of the conversation, and trusted with real responsibility in decision-making. Young people can be trusted to speak honestly and to challenge existing approaches. It's not just about giving young people a seat in the boat - it's about giving us a role in the crew."

See the highlights from The Ocean Race Summit Genova [here](#).



Tiger Brisius / The Ocean Race



School Spotlight: Stacey Lynch, Dudley Middle School, USA

Can you let us know about your teaching experience and what you teach?

I am an 8th grade science teacher who was introduced to The Ocean Race curriculum during a 2022-2023 professional development training at Sail Newport in Rhode Island. That spring, Dena Kobel (7th grade Math) and I co-led an after-school program that served approximately 50 students from grades 5 & 6.

How do you integrate The Ocean Race Learning programme resources into your teaching and learning plan?

We integrated The Ocean Race Learning Programme resources as the instructional backbone of our after-school ocean initiative. Lessons and activities from the program that spring were used to frame student investigations into ocean science, climate, and sustainable engineering. Students apply these concepts directly to the design, building, and monitoring of our uncrewed, solar-powered, GPS-enabled sailboat, named Anita! The program's inquiry-based materials support hands-on learning stations, data analysis activities, and collaborative problem-solving sessions. We also use the global race context to help students connect Anita's journey to real-world ocean conditions, weather patterns, and environmental challenges, making the learning authentic and highly engaging.

How has using the programme impacted your learners and school?

The program has significantly deepened student engagement and ownership of learning. Over the past three years, students have moved beyond simply learning STEM content to actively applying it through leadership, collaboration, and real-world problem solving. Eighth graders mentor fifth graders, strengthening communication skills and building a sustainable, student-led learning culture. The impact has extended well beyond our middle school. Students have participated in guest reading events featuring our book about the boat's journey at our local public library and at our K-1 and 2-4 elementary schools. These visits have excited younger students about science and sparked early interest in the opportunities awaiting them in middle school STEM programs.

Participation in the project has expanded our school's global connections, sparked community involvement, and elevated student confidence as contributors to meaningful scientific work. For an inland school, access to authentic ocean-based learning has been transformative—broadening students' environmental awareness, and strengthening their STEM competencies.

Link to [Adventures of Anita the miniboat](#)

What inspired the development of ocean rights and why do they keep developing?

The United Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) is also called the Law of the Sea. It is an international treaty that establishes a legal framework for all marine and waterway activities. It was signed on 10 December 1982.

REGIMEN OF OCEAN RIGHTS

UNCLOS defines the rights and responsibilities of nations in their use of the world's oceans and sets guidelines for the protection, preservation, and sustainable use of these spaces.

STILL DEVELOPING

UNCLOS has been updated by the 1994 Agreement on the Law of the Sea, which deals with deep-sea mining, marine scientific research, and the protection of the marine environment.

ECOLE OF UNITED NATIONS

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LIFE CYCLE OF A WHALE

How does a humpback whale's death impact the ecosystem?

EARLY STAGES

The life cycle of a humpback whale begins during the winter months in warm, shallow waters. Newborn calves are about 3-5 meters long and grow, depending entirely on their mother's milk, which is high in fat and supports fast growth. During their first year, calves stay close to their mothers, learning important survival skills like swimming, breathing, and migrating long distances.

GROWTH & MATURITY

They grow rapidly in their early years, increasing in size and strength as they learn to survive after separating from their mothers.

As they mature, they follow yearly migration patterns, traveling between warm breeding waters and cold feeding grounds.

Humpback whales reach maturity between 5 to 10 years old, at which point they are able to reproduce.

Adults can live for many decades, repeating the migration cycle throughout most of their lives.

DEATH

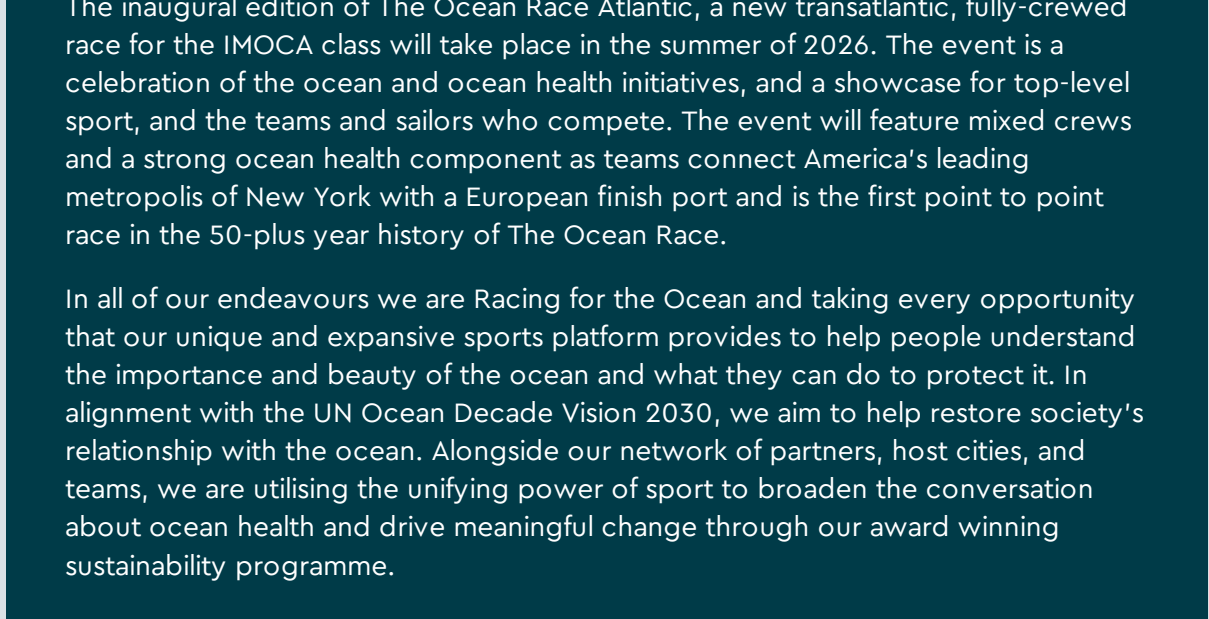
When a humpback whale dies, its body often sinks to the ocean floor, creating what is called a whale fall. These falls become a large source of nutrients for deep-sea organisms. Over time, the whale's body continues to impact the ecosystem, helping areas of the ocean where food is scarce and providing nutrients to the marine environment.

School Spotlight: Jessica Valera, Knightsbridge Schools International Montenegro

Jessica Valera is a MYP and DP Science teacher at Knightsbridge Schools International Montenegro. Originally from California, USA, she has spent her career teaching Biology and Environmental Science across three countries, with a focus on grounding students in real environmental issues. This has included field work in the Galapagos Islands, building a garden as a curriculum framework for newcomer students in California and starting the first on campus tri bin waste sorting system in the school district.

This past year, Jessica integrated The Ocean Race Generation Ocean programme into her Year 11 Science classroom as part of the Middle Years Programme of the International Baccalaureate. Students worked through Ocean Issue Stations drawn directly from The Ocean Race educational materials, then used these as a base to develop their own inquiry questions to guide the creation of an educational poster. The process of forming their own questions sparked authentic engagement in the ocean issues highlighted in the materials.

That engagement showed in the questions students came up with. One asked how the death of a humpback whale affects its surrounding ecosystem. Another explored the development of ocean rights and the science behind environmental policy. And one student, drawing on her own cultural background, investigated how the ocean has shaped Polynesian deities and spiritual traditions. Students made meaning in a personal context through their inquiry and exploration.



School Spotlight: Mark Ebury, Deledda International School Genoa

At Deledda International School, MYP2 English Language students continue to use The Ocean Race Learning programme resources to design and digitally publish engaging booklets and leaflets that incorporate English phrasal verbs throughout, while exploring the ocean. This project demonstrates how literacy can be a powerful tool for advocacy, empowering young people to communicate complex sustainability issues with clarity, creativity, and impact.

Check out more student work [here](#) and [here!](#)

Be inspired by the creativity and impact of these classroom stories! The Ocean Race learning programme offers flexible, engaging resources that connect real-world ocean challenges with meaningful learning across subjects and age groups. Whether you're exploring sustainability, science, or global citizenship, our resources are designed to support and inspire both teachers and students.

Sign up to The Ocean Race's free-to-use resources, available in 16 languages, [here](#), and start your own journey from learning to action.

The Ocean Race Learning at INTED26 and EU Mission Ocean and Waters Forum

In March, The Ocean Race Learning Programme was featured in poster presentations at both the INTED2026 Conference in Valencia and at the The 4th Annual EU Mission Ocean and Waters Forum in Brussels. These platforms provided an opportunity to showcase how ocean literacy, sustainability, and climate action can be meaningfully embedded within educational experiences for young people.

At INTED2026, the programme was presented to an international audience of educators, researchers, and policymakers, highlighting The Ocean Race's unique role in connecting sport, science, and education.

In parallel, participation in EU Missions-related contexts positioned The Ocean Race Learning Programme within wider European efforts to restore ocean and water health. By aligning with mission-driven priorities, the programme demonstrated how education can support the goals of the EU Mission "Restore our Ocean and Waters," empowering young people to become active stewards of marine environments. These engagements also created opportunities for collaboration and knowledge exchange across sectors, strengthening the programme's contribution to collective impact at a European level.

The Ocean Race Atlantic sets sail for the very first time on September 1, charting an exciting new route from New York City, USA to Lorient, France and placing ocean health at the heart of the journey. This inaugural edition will bring communities together on both sides of the Atlantic, with pop-up ocean literacy events and inclusive try-sailing experiences inviting people of all backgrounds to connect with the sport while learning about the urgent need to protect and restore the ocean. In Lorient, the Ocean Live Park will come alive as an immersive hub where sailing sport, science and learning meet. Visitors can explore interactive information panels, dive into a hands-on science corner, and take part in creative art workshops, all designed to deepen understanding of ocean health. On stage, inspiring talks and conversations will connect audiences with sailing teams and experts, celebrate the winning team, and witness the trophy moment. A dedicated Ocean Day will further spotlight ocean awareness, offering family-friendly activities and inspiring conversations that encourage collective action for a healthier future at sea.

If you can, spend some time by the ocean. There's no better reminder of why this work matters. #OceanLife

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Contacts

For more on The Ocean Race, visit our website: www.theoceanrace.com

For more information on our Learning Programmes, visit learning.theoceanrace.com

For assistance, contact the learning team at learning@theoceanrace.com

About The Ocean Race

Since 1973, The Ocean Race has been Racing for the Ocean, and providing the ultimate test of a team and a human adventure like no other. For over 50 years, it has kept an almost mythical hold over some of the world's greatest sailors and been the proving ground for the legends of our sport.

The 14th edition of The Ocean Race started from Alicante, Spain on January 15th 2023, and finished in Genova, the Grand Finale, in Italy on July 1, 2023 after visiting nine iconic cities around the globe. Led by skipper Charlie Enright, the American 11th Hour Racing Team won the race, which was contested for the first time in the flying, foiling, record-setting IMOCA yachts.

In 2025, the racing programme was "Connecting Europe" in the second edition of The Ocean Race Europe, from Kiel, Germany to Boka Bay, Montenegro. Skipper Paul Meilhat led his Biotherm team to a convincing victory in the six-week, five-leg race.

The inaugural edition of The Ocean Race Atlantic, a new transatlantic, fully-crewed race for the IMOCA class will take place in the summer of 2026. The event is a celebration of the ocean and ocean health initiatives, and a showcase for top-level sport, and the teams and sailors who compete. The event will feature mixed crews and a strong ocean health component as teams connect America's leading metropolises of New York with a European finish port and is the first point to point race in the 50-plus year history of The Ocean Race.

In all of our endeavours we are Racing for the Ocean and taking every opportunity that our unique and expansive sports platform provides to help people understand the importance and beauty of the ocean and what they can do to protect it. In alignment with the UN Ocean Decade Vision 2030, we aim to help restore society's relationship with the ocean. Alongside our network of partners, host cities, and teams, we are utilising the unifying power of sport to broaden the conversation about ocean health and drive meaningful change through our award-winning sustainability programme.

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