

About forty tenth graders, among them Adele, Felix, Marlene, Paul, Sophia and Tom on board the Thor Heyerdahl.

A Life Lesson with a Sea View

AID PROJECT "Classroom under Sails" on the Sailing Ship Thor Heyerdahl set sail on October 17th, 2021

BY ANDREA UHRIG

KIEL, GERMANY – When a gust of wind blows the physics school assignment into the sea and the teacher dives into the sea to rescue it, then the class is on the Thor Heyerdahl.



Brendalee's house in Marigot, Dominica

SCHOOL & EDUCATION

During the "classroom under sails" school year, however, the students are not only on the water. Lectures are given at the foot of a volcano, which the tenth graders climb with their tent and provisions.

Paul, Sophia and Tom will cross the Atlantic twice and cook once a week for the team of 50 people. They will keep watch in shifts around the clock and navigate, service engines, get to know foreign cultures, work on farms and of course - like their classmates at home - learn physics, math, English, German, bio and Spanish.

But the youngsters also get to know people on the trip for whom school utensils, a roof over their heads and running water are not a matter of course.

In Dominica, an island in the Lesser Antilles in the Caribbean, the students are part of a very special event:

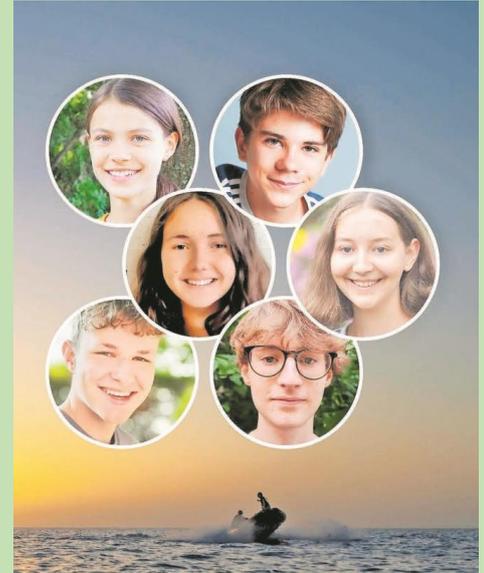
They support the reconstruction of a wooden house destroyed by Hurricane Maria in 2017, the home of Brendalee Samuel and her six children.

The single parent has lived there for four years under depressing circumstances.

The plastic tarpaulin on the house roof is perforated by strong sunlight and heavy rainfall, there are no windows, water constantly penetrates the interior. There is no money for repairs.

Felix from Rednitzhembach is already looking forward to his commitment: "I love tinkering and working, I often screw on my bike. We always have something to do. Whether roofing or paving, I'll take part."

Sophia from Schwabach also lends a hand: "To be able to ride here is a real privilege."



The destination is the island of Dominica in the Caribbean. There the crew helps to rebuild a house.



Hurricane Maria damaged Brendalee's house



Brendalee's house in Marigot, Dominica



Brendalee's house in Marigot, Dominica