

News & Notes

By Ithaca Parent & Teen

IPEI's Red and Gold Grants Bring Wellness, Art, Math and More to ICSD This Fall

The Ithaca Public Education Initiative (IPEI)'s first

round of Red and Gold Grants this year includes awards to Ithaca City School District (ICSD) teachers for exploring a range of programs connecting community and curricula—from yoga and engineering to local farming and languages.

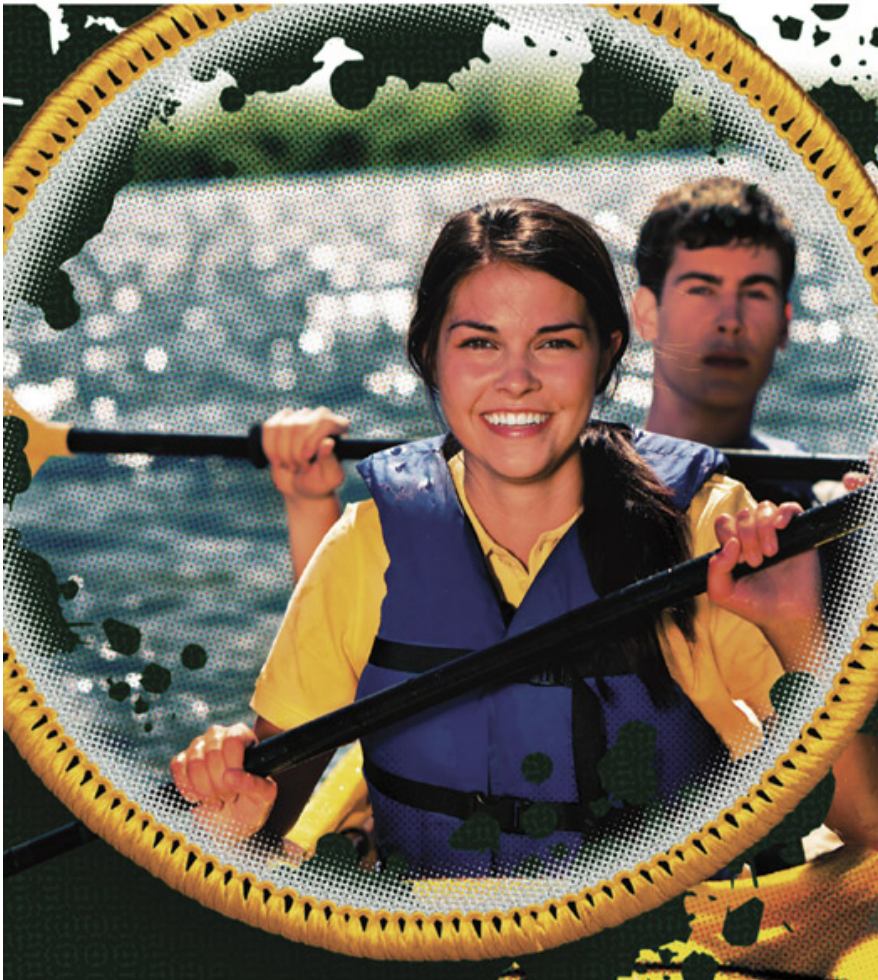
"We were very pleased to receive so many proposals showing innovative and engaging project-based learning," said Joyce Putnam, chair of IPEI's Red and Gold Grants Committee. "This first round of one-time grants included awards to 21 projects totaling \$9,555. These funds will assist with programs in five elementary schools, two middle schools and Ithaca High School."

Red and Gold Grants are one-time awards of up to \$500 for projects that enrich learning in the ICSD. The deadline for the second round is Dec. 7.

"Distributing grants to Ithaca's teachers is at the heart of IPEI's work on behalf of our community," said IPEI President Matt Braun. "These funds, which are generously donated by our wonderful supporters, are applied directly to enhancing the learning experiences for students throughout the district. We are proud that our Red and Gold grants help spark learning for students in the ICSD through this important investment in our teachers and their curricula."

Caroline Elementary School teacher Anna Chapman was awarded a Red and Gold Grant that helped her bring the outdoor education program Primitive Pursuits to Caroline's Extended Day program, which is offered to students in need of academic reinforcement. "As the lead teacher, I have worked to incorporate a variety of enrichment activities that give students hands-on experiences with science, cooking, art, and the outdoors," Chapman said. "Since we have such an amazing wilderness campus at our school, within the first week, I saw a huge impact on the kids. They were

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excited to stay after school! One fifth grader was 'caught' on camera showing his kindergarten buddy where to find a rabbit den on the trail."

"I have been awarded grants through IPEI in the past and know firsthand how much their support directly impacts the lives of students," Chapman added. "My hope is that the interdisciplinary nature of our approach during Extended Day instruction will be an unprecedented opportunity for this target population of Caroline students."

Maureen Gilroy, a third-grade teacher at Enfield Elementary, received a grant to bring the local Beauty and the Beast Storytellers to her school this year. "As soon as I heard about their residency program, I knew I had to find a way to raise money so that they could do the program with our third graders," she said. "I thought of IPEI right away because they are so interested in giving opportunities to open our students' worlds to enriching experiences."

IPEI is a not-for-profit organization that connects the Ithaca City School District and the community through collaboration, engagement, gifts and grants. For more information, see www.ipei.org or contact 256-IPEI (4734) or ipei@ipei.org.

Red and Gold Grant Recipients, Round 1 2015-16

Art then Yoga

Marie C. Vitucci and Stiller Zusman with Melissa Enns/Beverly J. Martin

Boynton 7th Grade Cornell Visit

Patricia Schaup/Boynton

Caroline Wildlife Monitoring and Data Collection Project.

Debra Ward/Caroline

All About Me Case Study

Daphne Shululu/Caroline

Extended Day Enrichment with Primitive Pursuits

Anna Chapman/Caroline

Third Grade Service Learning, Adopt-the-Garden Case Study

Rebecca Schillenback with Mike Cecere and Mary Grover/Caroline

Innovative Physical Education Teaching Curriculum Alignment and Improvement Initiative

Samuel Trechter/Caroline and Belle Sherman

Flaming Fries Service Learning Project: Physical Activity During Challenging Weather

Emma Loiacono, Owen Loiacono, Miles Ackerman, Owen Rhudy, Liala Cryer, Owen Beigel, Liam Hansen

with Amy Seldin Murphy, Lauren Loiacono, and Dr. Brown/Caroline and DeWitt

Ithaca is Gorges

Sarah Locke-Mountin/Cayuga Heights

Tweens on the Town, Lindseth Climbing Wall

Eric Pritz/DeWitt

Global Village - Art in the Park Installation

Gerry Monaghan with Penny Boynton/DeWitt

Learning Economics and Empathy with a School Store

Joanna Brautigam/Enfield

Beauty and the Beast Residency

Maureen Gilroy/Enfield

Fall Creek Cayuga Lake Floating Classroom Partnership

Sarah Cummings with Susan Phillips/Fall Creek

Encouraging Independent Math Centers Through Game Based Activities: First Grade Math Games and Manipulatives Library

Caty Hart/Fall Creek

Enabling All Students to Inquire, Code and Create

Alexandra Spencer/Fall Creek

J'ai faim! La cuisine française

Janet Abowd/Ithaca High

Print as Language

Kari Krakow/Ithaca High

Ithaca High School's Fashion Show: Featuring High School Designers

Sandra Stromswold with Gina Cacioppo/Ithaca High

AP Psychology Field Trips to Cornell and Enrichment Activities

Sara Shenk/Ithaca High

IPEI Publishes Annual Report and Launches Annual Appeal

The Ithaca Public Education Initiative (IPEI) has published its Annual Report of 2014-15 activities, and launched its 2015-16 appeal for support. "Spark Student Learning" is IPEI's theme for this school year highlighting how the community can help to enhance the education of every student in the Ithaca City School District (ICSD) through partnerships with teachers, schools and community members.

"We greatly appreciate the community's continuing support of IPEI's mission to connect school and community. We believe that our schools and our community are strengthened by bringing valuable community resources into the classroom to stretch students' imagina-

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tions and increase engagement and critical thinking,” expressed Executive Director Christine Sanchirico.

IPEI Board President Matt Braun added, “With your help, IPEI sparks learning for students in the ICSD by inspiring educators to work together and create authentic, relevant and rigorous learning experiences within and across the curriculum.”

During the 2014-15 school year, IPEI allocated over 80 grants totaling \$93,000 to teachers and others directly involved with the district through its four grant programs.” All grant application deadlines and forms are accessible at www.ipei.org. IPEI’s budget also includes funds for Kids Discover the Trail! Ithaca; for use by its affiliates and their grants and programs (Fine Arts Booster Group and IthacaSTEM Advocates); and for other IPEI managed awards and grants.

The Annual Report is available in print and online at www.ipei.org. Three grants are featured in the publication as well as IPEI’s programs and affiliates. The full list of grants is accessible on the website in the Grants

sections or can be requested from the IPEI office.

IPEI grant programs positively impact student engagement, according to data collected from teachers and community partners who received grants. They were asked during 2012-13, 2013-14, and 2014-15 to observe and report their students’ engagement levels before and after grant-funded activities. According to data they collected, student engagement—as measured by body language, verbal participation, physical participation, independence and excitement—increased significantly after participating in a classroom project funded by IPEI.

“IPEI’s future is bright,” Past President Jennifer Engel said. “Its strength is all the people involved and everyone we connect with as we connect school and community.”

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