

## Ithaca Northeast school uses grant to teach about composting

Written by Staff report  
4:32 PM, Jun 9, 2014 |

ithacajournal.com

Second-grader students at Northeast Elementary School are taking on a new role as environmental ambassadors and working to [educate](#)

their peers about the benefits of composting and recycling.

“We all produce waste — about four pounds a day — and we get to choose what we do with it,” according to teacher Caren Arnold, who has spent the last six months teaching her [students](#)

how they can make a difference by advocating for the environment.

Arnold used a grant from the Ithaca Public Education Initiative to purchase books for her students and take all three second-grade classes on field [trips](#)

to Tompkins County Solid Waste facility and Cayuga Compost’s facility in Trumansburg.

While visiting Ithaca’s Tompkins County Solid Waste [facility](#)

, students were able to observe firsthand as trash and recyclable materials were sorted on a conveyor belt.

At Cayuga Compost, co-owner Mary Proctor showed students material that had been collected from the Ithaca City [School](#)

District, including foreign objects such as glass, plastic, metal, styrofoam and milk cartons that had not been properly sorted.

Arnold’s students are now working on ways to show their peers how to improve recycling and composting efforts at their school. They’ve created large graphs to demonstrate how the four pounds of waste produced daily by the average person increases up to 120 pounds each month. The students are also creating an instructional video.