



Caroline Explores the Sciences

Caroline second graders are experiencing the sights, smells, sounds and feel of its beautiful Wilderness Trail. Students have been discovering the habitats in their own backyard, categorizing and recording their discoveries, and asking critical questions about the resources in the local habitats. Meanwhile, students have been relating their study of mapmaking to their creative interpretation of literature read aloud in class and creating a map of Dimwood Forest from Avi's *Poppy* in order to compare the habitat of the story to the observed habitats around Caroline.

The second-grade team at Caroline, with the valued assistance of an instructional coach, developed an interdisciplinary unit aligned with Common Core and Next Generation Science Standards that empowered students to see science all around them. The generosity of an IPEI grant ensured that all students had new boots for exploring the rolling stream. For the students, the end result is exceptional engagement in authentic and rigorous learning.



Did you know that it takes science, technology, engineering and math to build a racecar? Did you know making silly putty involves science?

Students and families at Caroline Elementary School learned this and much, much more at the Caroline STEM Night that recently took place at the school. In collaboration with many area groups that focus on science, technology, engineering and math, Caroline was transformed into a laboratory with events, experiments and activities taking place in classrooms throughout the building.

With support from the IthacaSTEM Advocates, groups such as the Sciencenter, Cornell Global Awareness, the Cornell Biomedical Engineering Society, Cornell EYES (Encouraging Young Engineering Scientists) and more were able to offer exciting learning opportunities to the community. Students were able to construct circuits, fly paper airplanes, perform test tube experiments for chemical diffusion as well as explore the world of nanoscience.

Student engagement was evident as they studied the Cornell FSAE racecar, a robot from the Code Red Robotics team, an underwater sub from CUAUV and learned about the distance between planets in the solar system using scooterboards.

