

# News & Notes

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cold.

Inside the store you'll find even more to explore - find the Dairy Princess in, of all places, the Dairy section where she will be offering samples of Chobani yogurt and a chance to spin the Wheel O' Dairy. Up in produce are a lot of locally grown fruits and vegetables, and throughout the afternoon the farmers will be on hand to meet and greet and answer questions about their products. Throughout the store there will be other local food producers with samples for you to try, like honey, maple, cheese and even sweet corn chips. At the back of the store will be a cooking demonstration area, where you can watch the store's chefs make some of the favorites from the weekend specials: Something Puerto Rican, Cuban, or from the Soul Food menu? Is your mouth already watering?

One of the biggest hits of the day will be the first-ever Northside Baked Bean Championship, Judged by Ithaca Mayor Svante Myrick and a couple other local favorites. This year "baked beans" is rather loosely defined, and will include any predominantly bean dish. Do you have a recipe you have to bring to every family gathering, or that people just can't get enough of? Here's your time to shine. Pick up an application at the store or over at the Extension office at 615 Willow Avenue, or print a copy from the Extension website: [CCE.Tompkins.org](http://CCE.Tompkins.org). More activities and special events are being confirmed each week - keep up with what's happening when for the Fall Harvest Fest for Kids by checking the website regularly - and we'll see you there!

## Emerson Receives Innovative Science Teaching Award

Fourth-grade teacher Jenny Emerson

was honored with the Raymond C. Loehr Innovative Science Teaching Award at the Ithaca City School District (ICSD) Convocation for all staff members on September 3. Managed by the Ithaca Public Education Initiative (IPEI), the award was presented by Loehr's son Stephen Yale-Loehr and Ann Caren, IPEI board member and Awards Committee Chair.

Emerson, who teaches at Fall Creek Elementary School, was nominated for the award by Fall Creek Principal Mike Simons. "She regularly collaborates with her grade-level teaching partners to coordinate instruction so that all students learn high-quality science that not only teaches important content but also incorporates experiential learning and meaningful activities," he said. "Although she has been teaching for only four years, she has made a large impact on the education of our students, particularly in science."

Emerson and her fourth-grade colleagues received an IPEI grant for the "Kids at the Creek" project, based on the Cayuga Lake Floating Classroom's "Trout in the Classroom," to create an activity-based science experience for their students. Working beside teachers, parents, and community partners, students conducted field studies of the local creek, observing wildlife and habitats and tracking seasonal data. In addition, Emerson collaborated with music and art teachers to integrate poetry, art, and music into the trout project.

Emerson continually strives to have her students think deeply and comprehensively about the subject of science, said Simons. "She is a budding leader in science education in the Ithaca City School District."

Loehr's family initiated the teaching award at the time of his 70th birthday in honor of his career as a science educator. It has been presented to nine different teachers from Ithaca's elementary and secondary schools. A second award in this honor is presented each June to a student

who excels in environmental science.

IPEI is a community based not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization that develops supportive community and private sector relationships with the ICSD. Founded in 1996, IPEI is committed to connecting school and community through collaboration, engagement, gifts and grants. For more information, see [www.ipei.org](http://www.ipei.org) or contact 256-IPEI (4734) or [ipei@ipei.org](mailto:ipei@ipei.org).

## Bring your ears to the Ithaca Sound Maze!

The Ithaca Sound Maze returns for another season of fun under the open sky. "You will need to bring your own ears," says ISM co-founder Christianne McMillan, "for two reasons - 1) because you'll want to be listening while you are exploring the maze and 2) because the Ithaca Sound Maze doesn't have any ears of corn this year."

Instead of field corn, which is what they have planted in past years, McMillan and her neighbor George Sheldrake of Early Bird Farms have planted sorghum-sudan grass. "Sorghums are more drought resistant," says McMillan. "Last summer George planted the maze twice and because it was so dry in the first part of last summer it didn't grow either time; so we thought we'd try something different this year." Compared with corn, sorghum-sudan grass has less leaf area, more secondary roots and a waxier leaf surface, all of which help withstand

drought.

"Sorghum-sudan grass grows faster than corn," says McMillan. "It's tall and thick - a little more grassy-looking than corn. It has shocks of seeds at the top, instead of ears of corn. It's a good cover crop. Some of the stalks taste sweet. Cows like to eat it. This is an experiment, but so far it's great for the maze." The Ithaca Sound Maze contains six original instruments created by jazz musician Walter White using objects found around McMillan's Steep Hollow farm.

Ithaca artist David Mazzarella also contributed a stringed instrument called the 'Mazzarellamer.' "We have a 'Harrowphone' incorporating broken teeth from a harrow, which is a farm tool used to break up clods and remove weeds from a field," says McMillan, "and a '500 Gallon Drum Wall,' which is made out of containers ranging from 55 gallon lime juice barrels down to small olive buckets." All the instruments/sculptures are hidden inside the maze, and videos explaining each instrument are viewable on YouTube. "This is a small-scale maze," says McMillan. "It's challenging to find your way around, but you are going to get hopelessly lost. As you wander, you find instruments, and you play them. People have a lot of fun, experimenting with sounds and melodies. And since these are unique instruments there is no 'right' or 'wrong' way to play them."

The instruments are large enough

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**The IthaKid Film Festival**  
in the Willard Straight Theatre more info: 255-3522 or [cinema.cornell.edu](http://cinema.cornell.edu)

SAT Nov 2 2 pm	<b>Despicable Me 2</b> also playing Sun Nov 3rd 4:30pm (35 min) "The funniest kid's cartoon of the summer." (Morrie Nation) Recommended for ages 6+
SAT Nov 9 2 pm	<b>See the World Animated!</b> Hop aboard a celluloid magic carpet ride with animated shorts from around the world! Recommended for ages 4+
SAT Nov 16 2 pm	<b>Kiki's Delivery Service</b> Kiki, a 13-year-old witch-in-training, is brought to life in a mythical 1950s Europe by Hayao Miyazaki. In English. Recommended for ages 5+
SAT Dec 7 2 pm	<b>Safety Last</b> One of silent comedian Harold Lloyd's best films, full of thrills and daring stunts high above the big city. Recommended for ages 6+
SAT Dec 14 2 pm	<b>The Painting</b> A beautifully animated French film about a kingdom within a painting that is

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