

Neighbors: Grant provides nature education to Belle Sherman students

Peggy Dolan's kindergarten class at Belle Sherman Elementary School was among 20 recipients during the second round of the 2011-2012 Red and Gold Grant awarded by the Ithaca Public Education Initiative (IPEI).

Red and Gold Grants consist of one-time awards to teachers, administrators, students and community members to assist with programs that strengthen and enrich schools. Red and Gold Grants are awarded during three separate rounds annually. The maximum awarded grant amount is \$500.

Dolan's class utilized their Red and Gold Grant by engaging in a three-month educational project entitled "Seeing Trees in Winter."

The original education program explored nature through art, literature, movement and math lessons tied to the school's common core curriculum. The project included exercises in mixed-media art led by retired art teacher and artist Yvonne Piburn, yoga and movement exercises taught by a parent and yoga teacher, as well as poetry and math components taught by Dolan.

Many of the students explored mixing colors and painting for the first time during Piburn's art lessons.

In addition to art work, students wrote poetry related to trees and measured the circumference of tree stumps as part of the math component.

The project culminated in an exhibition of student artwork attended by families March 22 at Belle Sherman.

J.R. Clairborne, whose daughter Indira is a student in Dolan's class, said the project inspired his daughter to write more.

"She's writing about pine needles and trees losing their leaves," he said, according to IPEI. "Anything that expands horizons like that we're thankful for."

For more information about Red and Gold Grants and other IPEI programs, visit www.ipei.org or call 256-4734.

Have a good news item on your

Advertisement

ORIGINAL HP INKS. GET MORE.



LEARN MORE AT **HP.COM**



Print Powered By  **FormatDynamics™**

**Tompkins County neighbors? Send it to
Neighbors at ijnews@gannett.com.**

Advertisement

ORIGINAL HP INKS. GET MORE.



LEARN MORE AT **HP.COM**



Print Powered By  **FormatDynamics™**