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## Ithaca Public Education Initiative awards 23 grants worth \$32.5K

### 23 projects chosen in Ithaca school district

*By D.W. Nutt*

The Ithaca Public Education Initiative has awarded its teacher grants for the 2013-14 school year, providing 23 grants, totaling \$32,500, for classroom projects in the Ithaca City School District.

Grants were based on proposals submitted by teachers, and each grant connects a project with a community partner.

“IPEI Teacher Grants support and engage our teachers, our kids and our community,” said Teacher Grants Review Committee Chairwoman Sandy True in a statement. “The teachers receive support to explore their creative ideas while involving community partners. The kids get a fun, engaging learning experience introducing them to some of the incredible resources of our community. This ultimately benefits us all.”

The projects, teachers and community partners:

- Cornell Leadership Experience: Aaron Buck, DeWitt Middle School, with Cornell Team & Leadership Center.
- Latin Music Tour: Dorothy Preston, Beverly J. Martin Elementary School, with musician Sally Ramierez and Ana Ortiz, of No More Tears.
- Kindergarten Makes Learning French Fun: Deb Jordan, Fall Creek Elementary School, with Silke Ullmann, of Ithaca Language School.
- Music Matters Wall Mural — Music Expressed Through Art and Language: Buddie Woodridge, DeWitt Middle School, with artist Mary Beth Ihnken.
- Soaring Stories: Exploring the Ecology of Plants & Butterflies through Storytelling\*: Paula Kilts, Northeast Elementary School, with Ithaca Children’s Garden and storyteller Regi Carpenter.
- Storydance\*: Arne van Leuken, Beverly J. Martin Elementary School, with teaching

artist Lisa Tsetse.

- Using Scientific Illustration to Learn about Trout, and Contribute to our Local Community: Jennifer Wilkie, South Hill Elementary School, with artist Camille Doucet and Bill Foster, of Finger Lakes Trout in the Classroom.
- Fall Creek King Street Ramblers: Karla Notarianni, Fall Creek Elementary School, with musician Dave Davies.
- Trout in the Classroom\*: Anna Chapman, Caroline Elementary School, with Bill Foster, of Cayuga Lake Floating Classroom Project, and Robert Ross, of the Cayuga Nature Center.
- Fall Creek First Grade Marathon: Abigail Bokaer, Fall Creek Elementary School, with Will Glennon, of the Ithaca Youth Bureau.
- The Nature of Art: Rebecca Ryba, Fall Creek Elementary School, with Jed Jordan, of Primitive Pursuits.
- “What’s Missing?” Connecting Young Children with the Environment: Kathleen Downes, Caroline Elementary School, with Carol Hockett, of Johnson Museum of Art, and artist Mary Beth Ihnken.
- Environmental Ambassadors — We Can Make a Difference!: Caren Arnold, Northeast Elementary School, with Seth Dennis, of Tompkins County Solid Waste.
- The Voice of the Haudenosaunee: Tara Ciotoli, Belle Sherman Elementary School, with Caleb Thomas and Margaret Bowers, of Haudenosaunee.
- The Voice of the Haudenosaunee: Nancy Thompson, Belle Sherman Elementary School, with indigenous artist Dan Hill, of Cayuga Share Farm.
- Using My Five Senses in the Garden: Kelly Craft, Northeast Elementary School, with Leigh MacDonald, of the Ithaca Children’s Garden, and Raylene Ludgate, of Cornell Plantations.
- Love Those Rhythms, Rhymes and Letters: Sharon Ciferri, Enfield Elementary School, with musician Judy Stock.
- Make Better Stuff — the Advantages of Rapid Prototyping: Sheila Kissiloff, Fall Creek Elementary School, with designer Xanthe Matychak.
- Nature in Our Neighborhood: Allison Andersen, Fall Creek Elementary School, with Tim Drake, of Primitive Pursuits.
- Leveraging Students’ Access to Literature: Monica Sherman and Chris Rugg, DeWitt Middle School, with Cal Walker, of The Village At Ithaca, and Buffalo Street Books.
- Six Mile Creek and Me: Jayne Port, Belle Sherman Elementary School, with GIS

specialist Karen Edelstein and Matt Kelly, of Buffalo Street Books.

- WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA?? Exploring genre and theme through literature and film: Allison Andersen, Fall Creek Elementary School, with Brett Bossard, of Cinemapolis.
- All of Us Singing: Stephen Anderson, South Hill Elementary School, with poet Sarah Wolff.

*\*Selected to be funded by the Charles E. Treman Jr. Teacher Grant Endowment of the Tompkins Charitable Gift Fund, in memory of the former president of Tompkins Trust Co. The not-for-profit IPEI will fund the other 20 grants through the annual Adult Spelling Bee and its 2013-14 Annual Fund "Engagement Matters."*

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