

# Grants fund Ithaca school enrichment programs

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The [Ithaca Public Education Initiative \(http://ipei.org/\)](http://ipei.org/) recently announced two sets of grants.

The group awarded its first-ever Connecting Classrooms grants — five grants totaling \$34,950.

The programs that received Connecting Classroom grants are:

- “What’s our Role? Building Community and Understanding our Local Environment: South Hill and Beverly J. Martin Elementary Schools’ Ecosystem Investigation,” which will be led by South Hill’s Jennifer Wilkie and BJM’s Christine Barley who are collaborating with six other teachers and two community partners.

- “Citizen Scientists Action Project (C-SAP)” with Brian Goodman of Enfield Elementary School as lead teacher for with 10 teachers from four buildings and the Floating Classroom.

- “The Neandertal in the Mirror,” initiated by Boynton Middle School’s Paula Berman and three colleagues.

- “Connecting All Students through Sustainable Agriculture” led by Ithaca High School’s Carlan Gray and three other Ithaca High educators.

- “Caroline Wilderness Campus Curriculum Initiative,” proposed by Principal Mary Grover who will involve all Caroline Elementary School teachers.

Additionally, IEPI has awarded \$4,331 in its third quarterly round of Red and Gold Grants for the 2014-15 school year.

The 10 new grants — of up to \$500 each — will assist teachers, administrators, students and community members with projects across the Ithaca City School District, according to a news release.

Red and Gold Grants in this cycle include projects that use sculpture, illustration, writing and drawing to build on classroom learning.

Here are two examples of grants given in this cycle:

- Local scientific illustrator Louisa Sandvik will teach seventh-grade students at Boynton Middle School how to make scientific illustrations of nutrient-rich foods they are studying in their science class. Their illustrations will then be made into hallway murals in the school. In an art class, Sandvik will show the students how to use what they learned in making scientific illustrations to create line drawings and ceramic tiles. Their tiles will be installed in the community mosaic wall mural project on First St. in Ithaca, adjacent to the Sciencenter, according to the news release.

- Patrick O’Neill, a coach for the Public Achievement program in Cornell’s Public Service Center, will conduct the “Human Body Book Project” with Chris Bell’s first-grade class at Fall Creek Elementary School, the release stated.

Cornell students in the program have been teaching the children about human body systems since the start of the school year. The elementary students will write and illustrate what they’ve learned about the human body that will be published in a professional-looking book, to be distributed to each student in the class and the school library.

- Other grants given this cycle are: Caroline Elementary School — “Introduction to Sculpture Tools and Imaginary Worlds,” Kathleen Downes and Ann Reichlin; Fall Creek Elementary School — “Fall Creek First Grade Core Knowledge Enhancement,” Susie Gutenberger and Catherine Hart; Ithaca High School — Model UN participation in UNAR Conference in Rochester, Bella Culotta and Jeffrey Miller; equipment for food science course, Andrew Lesser; “Fun and Games in the IHS Library,” Armin Heurich, and “Improvisation and Process in Sculpture,” Jackie Richardson and Ann Reichlin; South Hill Elementary School — “Building and Construction Enhances Learning in Kindergarten Classroom,” Lita Remsen.

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