



## NOV IPEI Announces Red and Gold Grants

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Around Town Written by Mary Grainger

2014



The Ithaca Public Education Initiative (IPEI) announced the first round of its quarterly Red and Gold Grants for the 2014–15 school year. Twenty-four grants totaling \$10,671 were awarded for projects and programs that will serve more than 3,500 ICSD students. The grants assist teachers, students, and community members with projects that strengthen and enrich the Ithaca City School District (ICSD) curriculum, have a positive impact on students, and actively engage students.

Red and Gold Grant recipients in this cycle include three first-time recipients highlighted below.

Janet Gordinier, Caroline Elementary School's secretary, will provide all classrooms with Wilderness Campus Outdoor Bags—containing field guides, water testing kits, nature journal books, and animal track identification guides. The materials will help students study and identify plants and animals as they explore Caroline's Wilderness Campus.

Vinnie Alcazaren, a Boynton Middle School Social Studies teacher, will ask his students where and how New Yorkers could survive a fantasy epidemic caused by zombies. Role-playing as teams for the Centers for Disease Control, the students will research the spread of pandemic diseases in historical outbreaks through graphs, charts and data tables, and analyze how best to predict and increase survival rates in various populations.

Cassidy Fisk, an Ithaca High School Social Studies teacher, will take students to Cornell's Johnson Museum of Art and Kroch Library to work with and analyze ancient artifacts and artwork from Europe's Medieval and Renaissance periods. This educational exploration will allow students to compare the two historical periods and learn how art and architecture reflect cultural values.



“The amazing variety and ‘bang for the buck’ are the best part of IPEI’s Red and Gold Grants,” said IPEI Board President Jennifer Engel. “They excite and ignite the imaginations and learning for Ithaca’s students and teachers!”

Newly awarded Red and Gold Grants are listed below. All 2014-15 grants can be found at [www.ipei.org](http://www.ipei.org) under Grants. The deadline for Red and Gold Grants round 2 is December 8.

### **Boynton Middle School**

Surviving the Zombie Apocalypse: A Study of Pandemics and Geography, Vinnie Alcazaren

Pourin’ Petri Dishes, Victoria Benson

Creative Science Projects, Dennis Carbone

Biathlon: Running and Archery, John McNally, Jeanette Palmer, Shane Taylor

### **Caroline Elementary School**

Wilderness Campus Outdoor Bags, Janet Gordinier

Fitness Program Equipment Grant, Samuel Trechter

The Pre-K Rock Box, Johanna B. Rice

Blurry vs. Clear: An Up-Close Look of Our World, Deanna Crossgrove

Using Play Pods to Support Positive Peer Interactions, Aileen Grainger

Farm to Table School Garden and Food Processing, Eric Woodward and Mary Grover

Miles, Movement and Mapping: Caroline Kids Create Their Own Movement Routes on the Wilderness Campus!, Amy Seldin-Murphy

### **Cayuga Heights Elementary School**

Differentiated Instruction Organization for CHES Kindergarten, Eileen Coller

### **DeWitt Middle School**

DeWitt Beautification Project, Callie Bryant

Combining Visual Resources for Geography Awareness, Andrea Volckmar

### **Fall Creek Elementary School**

Materials for Visual Thinking Strategies, Lisa Trent

Encouraging Independence through Game-Based Learning, Catherine Hart

Yoga Ball Seating for Second-Grade Children of Fall Creek Elementary, Diana Lamphier

### **Ithaca High School**

Ithaca's Youth Study the Biodiversity of Costa Rica, Leslie Zolnik

Audio Books to Enhance Literacy, William M. Asklar

Digital Photography Grows, Gina Cacioppo

Medieval and Renaissance Extravaganza, Cassidy Fisk

### **Lehman Alternative Community School**

Building a Garden Tool Shed, Debbie Cowell Mandl

### **Northeast Elementary School**

Adventure to Fitness: Learning and Movement during Indoor Recess and More, Elizabeth

Bolton

**South Hill Elementary School**

Optimizing Focus/Attention in the Classroom, Cynthia Buchanan, Marianne Stuart

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