

Fall  
2011-2012

# IHS Word

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*IHS Word is the Ithaca High School Newsletter, jointly funded by the PTSA and IHS.  
It serves all IHS parents, caregivers, and staff.*

## **Welcome from the PTSA President**

On behalf of the IHS Parent-Teacher-Student Association (PTSA) I would like to welcome new and returning Ithaca High School (IHS) families to the 2011-2012 academic year.

I hope with this and subsequent issues of the *Word*, the PTSA can provide another valuable communication resource for all families and all grade levels.

In this first issue of the school year, you will find important information and key dates for IHS programs and activities as well as specific news from some of our academic departments. The *Word* will be available in both electronic and paper formats and will be distributed four or five times during the school year. In addition to the *Word*, the PTSA will also publish and distribute a *Guide for Families* and its companion, the *Student/Staff Directory*.

We invite you to support and join the PTSA. We encourage not just parents and guardians, but students and faculty to join and actively participate in our programs.

More than ever this year, the PTSA needs your help. The financial climate in our state and many other states has given rise to large budget cuts in education spending. Our PTSA is part of the largest volunteer child advocacy association in the United States and it works to provide resource and learning opportunities for all students at IHS. Our goals include: fostering communication between families and the High School, supporting the faculty and staff, and promoting the success of all our children. We also provide a variety of volunteer opportunities such as organizing special programs, helping with Teacher Appreciation luncheons, reviewing grant proposals, and much more.

As part of our main goal to improve communication between IHS and families, the PTSA sponsors two email listserves; the announcement listserve and the discussion listserve. To join, send an email to [IHSPTSA-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:IHSPTSA-subscribe@yahoogroups.com) (announcement listserve) and [IHSPTSA-discuss-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:IHSPTSA-discuss-subscribe@yahoogroups.com) (discussion group).

The PTSA also posts upcoming events and links to resources on our website, which is sporting a new look this year. Visit the website at: <http://www.ihspsta.info/>. A weekly news summary (E-news) will be posted to the announcement listserve. A new element has been added to our website this year in the form of a monthly calendar of events. Do check it out.

## **PTSA President welcome, contd.**

During the school year, we organize a series of informational programs for families to learn more about how IHS works. The first of these programs, the Open House was recently held on Thursday, September 22. The next program on October 17 will feature a town hall-style meeting in which the IHS community gets to meet the new principal Mr. Jarett Powers and advanced placement (AP) and department chairs.

Other programs will focus on student services, an information night on the annual school budget and Alumni College Night to help prepare seniors for the college application process.. The next program on October 17 featured a town hall-style meeting in which the IHS community gets to meet the new principal Mr. Jarett Powers and advanced placement (AP) and department chairs. Other programs will focus on student services, an information night on the annual school budget and Alumni College Night to help prepare seniors for the college application process.

The PTSA continues to support the staff through provision of mini-grants to help boost academic resources. Monthly brunches and a teacher appreciation luncheon in the spring and teacher appreciation luncheon in the spring are also planned for for the staff. The PTSA provides achievement awards for upperclassmen and continues to look for new ways to support the school. Requests, ideas etc. can be directed to the PTSA President at [ihsptsa.pres@gmail.com](mailto:ihsptsa.pres@gmail.com)

The PTSA Executive Board has several new faces and some veteran officers. It includes Jarra Jagne as the President (a co-President will be added soon). We also have Tracy Vosburgh as VP-Communications, Alice Wu as VP-Programs, Julie Hughes as the Treasurer, Sandy Studin returning as Membership chair, Vicki Brew as Scribe and Nora Shang and Wendy Bakal as PTA Council Liaisons. In addition to the Executive Board we have 24 other dedicated parents serving as coordinators for the myriad activities and programs we have throughout the year.

All our PTSA activities require time, energy and commitment. We encourage families to sign up as PTSA members, to participate in activities and attend our meetings usually held on the third Monday of each month. Our children are our greatest and most important resource. Let us all join hands to make their journey through IHS a very successful and productive one and as a means of enriching and strengthening our unique Ithaca community. We look forward to a fruitful partnership with Mr. Powers and the dedicated IHS faculty and staff as we go through another academic year. The IHS PTSA Executive Board would like to wish you all a great school year and we look forward to seeing you at future programs and activities.

**Jarra Jagne**

IHS PTSA co-President / [ihsptsa.pres@gmail.com](mailto:ihsptsa.pres@gmail.com)

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## Professional learning communities expanded at IHS

Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) are not new to Ithaca High School. However, this year our growing level of commitment to them is reflected in the time built into teacher schedules for course teams to meet. Most departments meet every other day in collaborative groups.

### What are PLC's?

A PLC comprises educators involved in the teaching of the same course; a "course team." The team meets frequently to ensure not only that students are taught, but to ensure that students – and their educators – continue to learn. They ask three fundamental questions:

- What do we want each student to learn?
- How will we know when each student has learned it?
- How will we respond when a student experiences difficulty in learning?

It's the answer to the third question that separates communities from traditional schools. Both as teams and as a school our goal is to identify students who need additional help as soon as they experience difficulty and to build the structures for them to receive assistance until they master the necessary concepts. Both as teams and as a school our goal is to identify students who need additional help as soon as they experience difficulty and to build the structures for them to receive assistance until they master the necessary concepts.

### Is this a departure from the past?

The process of collaboration prescribed by Professional Learning Communities has always been at the heart of best pedagogical practice. Educators together agree on learning objectives, plan and instruct, assess learning in the same way, share and analyze results, adjust instruction, re-teach and reassess where necessary, and begin the cycle again.

### Why here? And why now?

Schools and whole districts become PLCs to adopt a common framework, language and set of expectations around those best practices to be shared by its educators. In this way educators hold each other as well as their students accountable for learning. This in turn supports our goal at Ithaca High to improve learning for all students and to increase our graduation rates.

### What is the impact on your student?

Beyond coherence at the same grade level, the PLC process also promotes smooth transitions as students move from teacher to teacher and course level to level. The goal is for all educators to build their capacity to do whatever it takes to ensure that students succeed in learning. Becoming a Professional Learning Community is a process. We're taking a big step this year in how we collaborate. We will continue to assess the impact of our collaboration and to refine our practice to improve expectations around those best practices to be shared by its educators. In this way educators hold each other as well as their students accountable for learning. This in turn supports our goal at Ithaca High to improve learning for all students and to increase our graduation rates.

### **Local student selected to perform in the All-State Mixed Chorus**

Emily Behrmann-Fowler has been selected to perform in the New York State School Music Association Conference All-State Mixed Chorus.

Emily earned this honor by performing the aria "Una Donna a Quindici Anni" from Mozart's classic opera *Così fan tutte*. Emily's solo was rated at the highest level of difficulty and earned a perfect score of 100.

Emily will spend four days rehearsing and performing at the annual NYSSMA Winter Conference in Rochester along with the other finest high school singers in New York State.

*Way to go Emily!*

## IPEI presents Innovative Science Teaching Award for 2011 to Wayne Gottlieb

Ann Caren, IPEI's Awards Committee Chair presented the Raymond C. Loehr Innovative Science Teaching Award for 2011 to Wayne Gottlieb, a science teacher at DeWitt Middle School, at the Opening Day Convocation for ICSD employees on September 6 in Kulp Auditorium.

The Loehr Innovative Science Teaching Fund was established by the Loehr family to honor Raymond C. Loehr on his 70th birthday and to recognize his lifetime of commitment to education. Any science teacher in the ICSD is eligible for this annual cash award.

Gottlieb received the award for his innovative use of inquiry-based science and for encouraging independence in his students who are expected to help provide care and maintenance of the school's aquariums and a coral reef tank. Over the past school years, he received a series of grants to build a garden at DeWitt Middle School. Gottlieb's students studied soils, plant needs, anatomy and nutrition, then designed their own garden beds, chose and grew the plants from seed and harvested the produce,

which was used for lunches in the school cafeteria.

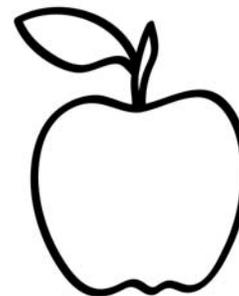
Colleagues recognize him as a resource for planning and inspiration, according to Caren. His 2009 sabbatic project focused on the study and promotion of inquiry-based science across the district and included a website that continues to serve as a source of information and guidance. Gottlieb has been involved with DeWitt's Green Team for many years, organizing initiatives around school-based recycling and composting.

Upon receiving the award, Gottlieb expressed his gratitude to IPEI. "This is a great honor for me to be selected this year. I appreciate the recognition. It's fitting that IPEI presents this award, as they have provided funds for so many of my projects. It would be difficult to carry out many of my plans without their support. My thanks to IPEI and all of their donors."

IPEI, the Ithaca Public Education Initiative is best-known for its grants for Ithaca City School District (ICSD) teachers and Kids Discover the Trail! (a collaboration with ICSD and Discovery Trail), manages numerous awards funds including seven

presented each June to students, a teacher, a student organization, and for district activities.

IPEI is a community-based, not-for-profit organization that develops supportive community and private sector relationships with the ICSD. IPEI's mission is to facilitate community connections and support for students and teachers of the ICSD through engagement, collaboration, gifts, and grants with the goal of enhancing the education of every student. For further information, visit [www.ipei.org](http://www.ipei.org), [ipei@ipei.org](mailto:ipei@ipei.org) or contact 256-4734.



### Ithaca SEPTA (Special Education Parent Teacher)

Please contact Samantha Preston at [slp59@cornell.edu](mailto:slp59@cornell.edu) for more info and to be added to our email list. Meetings are typically held on the first Wednesday of the month at BJM. Our first meeting of the year will be held Wednesday, October 5th at 6:30pm at BJM in the library on the 2nd floor.

## **PTSA Join IHS PTSA! Get involved and join now!**

Complete the membership form in this newsletter and send it to the school office. Your membership supports the following activities at Ithaca High School:

- IHS / PTSA Guide for Families; IHS Student Directory;
- Newsletter to parents; Open House;
- Staff Appreciation "Monthly Munchies"; Staff Appreciation Luncheon;
- Student Scholarships; Mini-Grants for teachers; and,
- Parent programs.

As advocates for our children we need all our voices. Please join us to help make Ithaca High School the best it can be. In addition to supporting local activities, your membership also gives you the following benefits:

- Online parenting resources & other materials on issues related to children's education & well-being
- E-newsletters on parenting & legislative issues
- Special offers & discounts from corporate supporters of PTA (see [www.pta.org/benefits](http://www.pta.org/benefits) for details)
- Leadership training opportunities, in person & online
- Discounted rates for PTA conventions & on subscriptions to Our Children magazine, official magazine of PTA
- The Member-to-Member Network, connecting PTA members to members of Congress when help is needed on issues important to children, families, and schools

NOTE: Donations are always appreciated and are tax-deductible. For more information, please call or email Sandy Studin, IHS PTSA Membership Chair, [studins@twcny.rr.com](mailto:studins@twcny.rr.com) or 257-8909.

## **School Announcements**

### **TC3 College Fair Scheduled for October 18<sup>th</sup>.**

The TC-3 College Fair will be held on Tuesday October 18, 2011. Please sign up in the College and Career Office as soon as possible. Buses will leave the High School at 12:15 PM and return to the High School at 1:50 PM.

### **IHS Ski Club**

Attention to all parents of skiers and snowboarders. If your child is interested in enrolling with the IHS Ski Club this year, we will be traveling to Greek Peak each Thursday starting on January 5th until February 9th. We will be departing from the high school at 3:50 every Thursday.

If you're interested in this club, then hurry up to get the best deal for the 2011-2012 season and program passes.

**Please contact Todd Noyes at [tnoyes@icsd.k12.ny.us](mailto:tnoyes@icsd.k12.ny.us) for pass applications.**

## The Library

The Library is SO HAPPY to have our students back! Welcome to all. We are so ready to help you with homework, logistical questions, research, and fun reading. Same routines as previous years during the day apply: passes from study halls and lunch, and hang onto your schedules to show us that you are clear to come in. We can loan you an entire suite of things to help with projects: markers, colored paper, scissors, glue, crayons, tape, and you can buy poster board from us for 50 cents a sheet. Our motto: when in doubt, ASK--we can usually meet any need for schoolwork. We open at

8:30, and you don't need a pass or schedule for before-school time. We have color and black and white printers, so you can bring work from home on a flash (USB) drive and print here.

On the down side, we do not yet have after school hours--we close at 3:33. Administrators are looking for money to pay an afterschool person.

Another downer: book funds are down again this year, to less than \$5 per student! A big help from parents and public would be Barnes and Noble gift cards, which we could use for either electronic or paper books, and

new or gently used books of high school interest (especially current series and graphic novels). A donation to "Ithaca High School Library Daharsh Fund" is also golden for us: this fund is specifically for paper books, and believe me, the students are still reading them!

"The first condition of human goodness is something to love; the second, is something to reverence."

--George Eliot, Scenes of Clerical Life, 1857



## Math

We are excited about the start of another school year. The department extends its welcome to all new students and their families. I would like to welcome back all of the Math department teachers. The beginning of the year is a good time to review basic policies, and to answer some common questions.

**Does my child need a graphing calculator?** Most students will need these for their courses and they are now required on all state exams in mathematics. Students may purchase their own calculator (TI-83 or TI-84), or they may sign one out for the year from their math teacher. Teachers have sign out forms available. **Where can my child get help?** Most teachers are available

before or after school. We also have a "homework help room" staffed by math teachers during all lunch periods. A flyer with locations is posted in every room. Any student can drop by during their lunch period to get help with math in H112. We also have a list of private tutors; students can pick this up from the math office in H216. Finally, a student, or parent, can request a math lab, which is a scheduled period when students can receive help.

**Can/should my student take honors?** All students have access to the honors program. Any student who has good performance in their previous math classes and is motivated to do so should give honors a try. There is a list of criteria for remaining in an honors course, and all honors students must

fulfill these requirements.

**How often will my child have homework?** Almost every math class has homework on a daily basis. If you're hearing something different, please give us a call (274-2191).

I would also like to make note of a few changes during the 2011-2012 school year:

*The math computer lab will not be open this year. We will have a secretary every other day. Therefore, if you call and no one answers, make sure to leave a message. Your call will be returned as soon as possible. If this phone call is an emergency, then please call the main office.*

We wish all our students a great year!



## Social Studies

**Phil Jordan**, long-time teacher and department chair of the Social Studies department is now the Dean of Students at Ithaca High School. **Sara Shenk** has replaced him as department chair. She can be reached at 274-2188 or via email at [sshenk@icsd.k12.ny.us](mailto:sshenk@icsd.k12.ny.us).

### *New teachers:*

We are pleased to welcome two new teachers to our department this year: Geoff Hinman and John Hind.

**Geoff Hinman** is teaching AP US History and Global History 1 Humanities. While new to Ithaca High School, Geoff has been teaching for many years in different teaching environments. He and his wife moved to Ithaca

two years ago to be closer to family and enjoy all that Ithaca has to offer. For those two years, Geoff worked as a Social Studies teacher at New Roots Charter School. Before his move to Ithaca, Geoff lived in Rome, Italy where he taught AP European History, AP Comparative Government, and Ancient History at the American Overseas School of Rome. He is excited to be a part of the IHS team and looking forward to a great year. Geoff can be reached by email [geoff.himan@icsd.k12.ny.us](mailto:geoff.himan@icsd.k12.ny.us)

**John Hind** is teaching Global History I and II as well as Participation in Government and Economics. John joins us from South Carolina where he taught AP European History, World History and U.S. History and served as a workshop facilitator helping K-12 teachers incorporate literacy and media into their

curricula. John holds a B.A. in history and a M.A.T. in secondary social studies from the University of South Carolina. In addition, he has earned additional graduate hours in History and Education from Clemson University and Converse College. John can be reached [john.hind@icsd.k12.ny.us](mailto:john.hind@icsd.k12.ny.us).

### *Returning teachers:*

**Kim Lasher** did her student teaching at Ithaca High School a few years ago and has worked in our department in several capacities over the last two years. She has taught Global History II Humanities and US History at both the Regents and Honors level, and this year is teaching Global History I and II. Since last year, Kim has been the advisor for the model UN program and has a large and enthusiastic group signed up for this year. She can be reached [kim.lasher@icsd.k12.ny.us](mailto:kim.lasher@icsd.k12.ny.us)

## Visual Arts

The IHS art program integrates literacy skills and engages students in a broader application of students' visual skills through partnerships with outside communities, across disciplines and across grade levels.

We are applying for FABG grants and IPEI grants to fund activities of our expanded classroom by bringing in local artists and designing workshops, and by creating partnerships with the Peace Corp, The Memory Project, 5th graders in Caroline, and interdisciplinary projects with our IHS colleagues.

Students use the Visual Journal in every art course as an essential tool in their artistic process to record their ideas, questions, reflective writing, decisions and critiques; learning is the real work of art. Students also create a final portfolio of work that demonstrates their understanding of the course expectations, their process and their products.

Students reflected on the 10th anniversary of 9/11 in their first project, using research, writing and mixed media. Their symbolic collages express in visual and abstract language, what cannot be comprehended in words in "Media"tations on Tragedy & Legacy.

**Ludi Augustine** is a tenured teacher and has taught Global History I, US History and Participation in Government. She is returning this year to teach Participation in Government.

**Andrea Kiely**, another tenured teacher, began teaching in our department over 10 years ago. She has most recently been a teacher in, and the coordinator of the AVID program at the high school but is rejoining our department this year. She is teaching Global History I with her co-teacher Robbie Sanders and will continue to coordinate the AVID program.



### ***IHS Athletic Boosters needs volunteers for the Concession Stand***

The Ithaca High School Athletic Boosters needs volunteers at the IHS concession stand to help with set up, food preparation and cashiers.

Sales from the Concessions bring in about \$15,000 annually, and all proceeds support Ithaca athletes from the modified level to the varsity level. Please consider volunteering at one or more of the home events at the turf field or at the new concession stand indoors for winter sports. If you are interested in being a volunteer, please contact Bridget Cristelli at [bac89@cornell.edu](mailto:bac89@cornell.edu) or Steve Thayer at [SportsBoosterPrez@yahoo.com](mailto:SportsBoosterPrez@yahoo.com).

*Thanks and we look forward to seeing you at the next athletic event!*



### **Visual Arts, contd.**

We will also be incorporating more meaningful technology tools in our process. All the art teachers are attending training to use Smart Boards as part of teaching and learning in our studios. It will really take off when the Boards are installed, and we can use the touch sensitive screens for creative and engaging possibilities.

Art is smART at IHS. Outside the box thinking, developed best in arts classes, will contribute enormously to meeting tomorrow's challenges.

## **Clubs and Activities**

### **IHS Choir**

IHS Choir to perform at the annual Ithaca College Choral Composition Festival on Saturday, November 12. The Choir will present the premiere performance of the piece Adonai Malach written by Mr. Steven Cohen of Larchmont, New York. The 7:00 evening performance will be the culmination of a day of musical learning and sharing as the six high school choirs selected to participate will each have the opportunity to work with their composers throughout the day. Each group will also attend a series of workshops and performances presented by various Ithaca College vocal groups. The evening will conclude with a combined performance of Paval Tschenokoff's Salvation Is Created sung by some 500 high school and college singers.

### **IHS Choir looking for male singers**

The IHS Choir is enjoying its largest turn out in decades as its membership now includes some 115 singers. As large as it is, we can always use more men. If you know any male students who like to sing, contact Art Loomis at [aloomis@icsd.k12.ny.us](mailto:aloomis@icsd.k12.ny.us) or call 274 - 2176.

### **Parent volunteers needed for IHS Choir**

The Choir needs volunteers who can sew! We have about 95 women in Choir and we need more black, formal concert dresses for our performances. Anyone interested in finding out more details should contact Teresa Sendek at [steresa5@yahoo.com](mailto:steresa5@yahoo.com) or call 592-6271.

### **Code Red Robotics**

Code Red Robotics is off to a great start for the upcoming school year. The team has been busy all summer working with the community and spreading the word about Code Red Robotics.

Since May, Code Red has volunteered more than 350 hours and conducted demonstrations to the community for over 439 hours. Our team members have been active throughout the summer, dedicating much of their time to volunteering at Loaves and Fishes Community Kitchen as well as the Ithaca Children's Garden. Not only that, but we've held countless demonstrations around town, including: Goodrich, BorgWarner, Cornell University, the Sciencenter, Boynton and DeWitt Middle School, and many more.

This year, our team members will be mentoring younger students through Lego Teams at BJM Elementary, DeWitt Middle School, and Trumansburg. Code Red also participated in the NY State Fair this summer, where we were able to share our experiences through the FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) program with the public.

## Code Red Robotics, contd.

A team member notes, "What motivates the Code Red member? Some participate because they view Code Red as a rewarding learning experience. The practical, hands-on experience gleaned during build season can be much more rewarding later on than material learned in school. Others return to robotics for the team environment, and it's competitive nature. It's surely impossible to ascertain one specific reason for why everybody comes to robotics. However, nobody can deny one of the main attractions of Code Red -- the exceptional people."

The FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) competition is a challenging global contest. The goal of FIRST is to spread science, math and technology awareness. 1500 teams from ten countries compete at the high school level in regional and national events. The program creates an exciting and highly educational environment where the students work collaboratively with professional engineering mentors in the spirit of "Gracious Professionalism."

Every year, the students design and build a complex, computer-controlled machine to complete a new challenge. Funding comes from the generous donations of local and regional sponsors, including Ithaca High School and Ithaca City School District, as well as Autodesk, BAE Systems, Borg Warner, CBORD, Kionix and Goodrich ISR. Code Red also benefits from a partnership with IPEI, the Ithaca Public Education Initiative.

## Yearbook

The *Annual's* staff is currently working on the senior section of the 2011- 2012 yearbook. Seniors who wish to have their portrait included in *The Annual* can use their Lifetouch ID photo or a different picture. If Lifetouch took your portrait in September, it will automatically be submitted to *The Annual*. If you choose to have your portrait taken by another studio (or at home), it is your responsibility to submit your photo by mail, or by leaving it in the "Senior Photos" box in the Main Office. Please follow the guidelines below so that your portrait can be included in the yearbook. If we do not receive a different photo by the 10/28 deadline, your ID photo will be used. We reserve the right to reject photos deemed inappropriate or of poor photographic quality.

Lifetouch ID photos are used for all portraits of underclassmen. Underclassmen cannot submit a different photo for inclusion in the yearbook.

Information regarding Senior Ads will be mailed home in October, and is also available on the *Annual* web page (see below).

The pre-order price of this year's *Annual* is \$57, with additional fees for name-stamping and accessories. Herff-Jones allows you to order a yearbook by mail, by phone, or online.

Information about ordering a yearbook will be mailed home in October, and is also available on the *Annual* web page (see below). If there are extra yearbooks, they will be sold in June for \$68. Online information can be found at:

<http://www.icsd.k12.ny.us/legacy/highschool/english/yearbook.htm> or through the

drop-down menu on the IHS web page. Please feel free to contact us at [\(607\) 274-2301](tel:6072742301) or [jamodeo@icsd.k12.ny.us](mailto:jamodeo@icsd.k12.ny.us) if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely, Jean Amodeo, Yearbook Advisor

### Senior Photo Specifications

- All pictures must be submitted by October 28th, 2011.
- All pictures must be submitted as a digital image on a CD.
- All picture files must be saved as the student's last name and first initial - i.e. "smithj.jpg".
- All pictures must be saved in .jpg format.
- All pictures must be submitted at a 300dpi or greater resolution.
- Head Size of Portrait: 1 1/8 inches from top of head to bottom of chin, centered in photo.
- Photos should be submitted to: Ithaca High School Attn: Yearbook 1401 N. Cayuga St. Ithaca, NY 14850

## Clubs and Activities

This year the Bee is scheduled for Sunday, November 13th at 2:00 p.m. at Ithaca High School's recently renovated Bliss Gym. Participating in the Ithaca Public Education Initiative (IPEI) 13th Annual Adult Spelling Bee is a great way to improve your spelling and vocabulary skills and have fun at the same time!

In two hours, every one of the twenty-four teams of spellers (three adults each) have the chance to collaboratively spell words that are used in Spelling Bees for school-age children. The winning teams of the four rounds of competition advance to the finals and the chance to have their team name inscribed on the Fuzzy Bee Trophy.

The Chemung Canal Trust Company, the 2011 event sponsor, is covering all Bee expenses so that all team sponsorships directly support the IPEI Teacher Grants Programs. Last year 27 teachers received grants totaling \$35,000 for innovative classroom projects.

If you can't be a speller on November 13th, then consider being a team sponsor. The fee for being a Team Sponsor is \$375.00 and can be paid wholly by a business or single donor or can be divided by the three Spelling Bee team members. If funds are not available, IPEI can try to match a team of spellers with a business or single donor that is interested in supporting IPEI's efforts to enhance the education of every Ithaca district student.

The Cayuga Radio Group is the Spelling Bee's media sponsor and broadcasts the event live on WNY 1470 AM, one of its seven radio stations.

For more information on the Bee, please visit IPEI at [www.ipei.org](http://www.ipei.org). If you would like to enter a team, please email [ipei@ipei.org](mailto:ipei@ipei.org) or call Judy Stewart at 256-4734

## IPEI Dates and Deadlines

### **The IPEI Adult Spelling Bee**

Sunday, November 13, 2:00 p.m. I.H.S. Bliss Gymnasium Organize a team ~ Find a sponsor ~ Join the audience ~ Have fun! Contact Judy Stewart, [jcs6@cornell.edu](mailto:jcs6@cornell.edu), 256-4734

The Bee raises funds for the IPEI Teacher Grants Programs

Up to \$1500 awarded to each project selected. Projects must bring community resources into the classroom  
As much as \$30,000 total grant funds will be awarded for innovative ideas

Competitive review process

Application forms are online [www.ipei.org](http://www.ipei.org); submit by email!

**Contact Sandy True: [sandytrue@webtv.net](mailto:sandytrue@webtv.net), 257-4864**

## **Teacher Grants Applications Due Nov. 1**

### Red and Gold Grants

One-time grants (up to \$500) four review cycles:

October 24, December 6, March 5, May 7

For projects that strengthen and enrich the schools

[www.ipei.org](http://www.ipei.org) 256-IPEI (4734)

### Fine Arts Booster Group Mini-Grants

Fall cycle deadline is October 30

Funds items such as collaborations, visiting artists, sound equipment, and other items to support district arts activities. [www.fabgithaca.org](http://www.fabgithaca.org)

A unique collaboration of IPEI, ICSD, and the Discovery Trail

Connects each elementary grade with a Discovery Trail organization

Curriculum-based field trips, books for each student, and classroom activities

Pairs your classroom with another in a different building

Contact KDT! Teacher Liaison Randi Beckmann, [rb229@cornell.edu](mailto:rb229@cornell.edu), 273 1383

*Mark your calendars for planning meeting on Wednesday, January 18*

## **IPEI Presented Seven Awards in June**

IPEI, the Ithaca Public Education Initiative, may be best known for its grants for Ithaca City School District (ICSD) teachers and for the Kids Discover the Trail! collaboration with the ICSD and Discovery Trail. Yet, IPEI also manages numerous Awards funds including for seven presented this June at the end of the school year. According to the Awards funds' criteria, two were presented to graduating students; one each to an underclass student, a student organization, and a new teacher; and two for district activities.

**The Noreen Moore Memorial Award** was awarded for the first time at the Ithaca High School Senior Awards Convocation on June 9 to Aishiaa Welch. Yvonne Everhart and her daughter Angela, the daughter and granddaughter of Noreen Moore made the presentation in memory of Noreen Moore, who was an active member of the ICSD staff and community. Everhart expressed that her mother "fought throughout her life for families in need. To remember her contributions, this scholarship is presented to an Ithaca High student who has the potential and desire to make the world an amazing place."

This year's **Carol Jean Buckley Scholarship for Students in the Arts recipient** is Elias Spector-Zabusky. Robin Booth and Susannah Berryman made the announcement. The scholarship in memory of this member of the Ithaca High Class of 1983 provides scholarship assistance for talented students pursuing advanced study in the arts.

Mary John, president of the Ithaca High Class of 2011, introduced the two IPEI Senior Class Gift awardees. The seniors voted for Christopher Carver, Social Studies teacher, to receive this year's New Teacher Award. Two plaques, listing all the recipients of the Senior Class Awards since 2004, have now been mounted in the Ithaca High library next the circulation desk.

John also announced that the **Student Organization Award** winner is Pennies for Peace. In the past year Pennies for Peace raised over \$6,000, which will sponsor a school built by the nonprofit organization, Help the Afghan Children (HTAC). HTAC "is dedicated to improving lives of children in Afghanistan through quality education and helping them become educated, healthy productive citizens. The IHS Pennies for Peace club has helped students to get involved with philanthropy on a global scale, and counteract the vast tension and misunderstanding that often unjustly targets Islamic cultures."

Sabrina Lopez received the **Raymond C. Loehr Environmental Science Scholarship Award**. A ninth grader last year, she received her award on June 7 at the Awards Ceremony for Underclassmen from Stephen Yale-Loehr. The Raymond C. Loehr Innovative Science Teaching Award will be announced in the fall.

### **Arts booster mini-grant deadline: October 30, 2011**

**The Phyllis B. Brodhead Library Media Technology Fund** grants funds to the ICSD Teacher Librarians who were mentored by the late Brodhead when she was the Boynton Librarians. Electronic readers this year will be purchased for use next school year. E-readers are desired by the Teacher Librarians since text can be manipulated (magnifying for ease on eyes, clickable words with definitions, speaking text). These features are especially helpful for challenged readers. Department Chair Nan Bell wrote in the proposal. "I love to think of Phyllis downloading her favorite books and ticking through them on her little reader! She would know how to encourage students to adopt the technology as well."

Books are purchased for 5<sup>th</sup> grade students with funds from the Ian Alberta Memorial Fund. This grant supports books that complement Kids Discover the Trail! experiences during their field trip to the Cayuga Nature Center. A plaque with a picture of Ian, Ithaca High Class of 2001, has now been hung at the Cayuga Nature Center.

IPEI is a community-based, not-for-profit organization that develops supportive community and private sector relationships with the ICSD. IPEI's mission is to facilitate community connections and support for students and teachers of the ICSD through engagement, collaboration, gifts, and grants with the goal of enhancing the education of every student. For further information, visit [www.ipei.org](http://www.ipei.org), [ipei@ipei.org](mailto:ipei@ipei.org), 256-4734.

### **Join the Fine Arts Booster Listserv**

Stay informed about arts news throughout the district and community. Join the Fine Arts Booster Group (FABG) listserv by emailing [FineArtsBoosters-subscribe@yahoo.com](mailto:FineArtsBoosters-subscribe@yahoo.com). No access to email? Just call booster president at 277-4631 to get more information.

### **Arts Booster mini-grant deadline: October 30, 2011**

The Ithaca Community Fine Arts Booster Group (FABG), an affiliate of IPEI, has teacher mini-grants available for dance, drama, music and arts support or projects. The 2011-2012

Fall deadline is October 30, 2011. Ithaca City School District teachers and principals are eligible to apply and applications are available online at [www.fabgithaca.org/receive](http://www.fabgithaca.org/receive) or by calling 277-4631 or emailing [president@fabgithaca.org](mailto:president@fabgithaca.org).

Past mini-grants have included Kindergarten through Grade 12 support for visiting artists, a student art exhibit, theater supplies, a mural and a pre-school dance residency. Since 2001, the Fine Arts Boosters have awarded over \$85,000 in grants to district-wide activities. Funds for the teacher mini-grants are raised through ads placed in the middle and high school music concert and drama performance booklets.

An affiliate of IPEI (Ithaca Public Education Initiative), the Fine Arts Booster Group (FABG) works in partnership with the Ithaca City School District to advocate, support and celebrate all the arts for all the kids.

The Fine Arts Boosters support district programs and staff, and advocate for increased student access, participation and equity in the arts programs. Formed in 2001, the boosters believe the arts – music, dance and visual, literary and theater arts – are a central part of every child's public school education.

Ongoing FABG initiatives include printing of all the performance booklets for concerts and drama productions in the middle and high schools; fundraising; Play It Again, Ithaca, the collection of used musical instruments and monies to purchase new instruments for use in the schools; and various advocacy efforts in support of arts in the schools.

FABG is open to all K-12 staff, parents, students and community members. Join the group in working on – access issues, mini-grants to teachers, instrument recycling, and district-level coordination. Join the listserv to hear about our meetings and other arts announcements. Subscribe by emailing [FineArtsBoosters-subscribe@yahoo.com](mailto:FineArtsBoosters-subscribe@yahoo.com). For more information about advertising in the performance booklets, contact [fabg.advertising@gmail.com](mailto:fabg.advertising@gmail.com). To explore more about the boosters, visit [www.fabgithaca.org](http://www.fabgithaca.org). Also at email [ads@fabgithaca.org](mailto:ads@fabgithaca.org) or [fabg.advertising@gmail.com](mailto:fabg.advertising@gmail.com).

### Library Looking for Teen Advisory Group Members

Local teens with an interest in books, community involvement and meeting new people are invited to join and name a newly forming Teen Advisory Group for the Tompkins County Public Library.

Students in grades six through 12 are eligible to join the group, which is designed to give teens an opportunity to share their opinions and suggestions about the collection and services offered for the Library's teen patrons.

The Advisory Group will meet on the first Thursday of each month from 4:30 to 5:30 PM in TCPL's Thaler/Howell Programming Room. Group members will work with Youth Services Librarian Shana Lynott to identify items to purchase, develop teen programs, fundraise and promote the Library's Teen Services offerings.

Interested teens and new members are always welcome, but registration is appreciated. For more information or to sign-up, visit or call the Youth Services Department at 607-272-4557 ext 274 or 275.

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## Equity and Inclusion Leadership Council (EILC)

The Equity and Inclusion Leadership Council (EILC) was formed to engage the community in supporting the District and the Board of Education "equity plan," along with the goal of closing the academic achievement gap, by Inspiring Equity Through Excellence. EILC members include parents, city and county administrators, teachers, directors of community programs, and representatives from the business and faith communities, and from urban and rural communities

At our first meeting of the new school year, Dr. Claudette James was introduced as a new administrator in the ICSD Human Resource Department, whose expertise will help achieve the ICSD recruitment and retention goals. Susan Eschbach and Marcia Fort were thanked for presenting an excellent overview of EILC at the September 6 Convocation Event for the ICSD staff.

Cecilia Turcios of the Cornell University Chapter of the Society of Hispanic Engineers presented plans for a Noche De Ciencias (Night of Sciences) at Cornell, to increase public awareness of fields within Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. They envisioned having a Family Science Night in spring 2012. People or groups interested in helping should contact Cecilia at [cgt28@cornell.edu](mailto:cgt28@cornell.edu).

Much of our meeting focused on the EILC Priorities for 2011-2012. The group agreed on the following priorities for this school year:

1. Giving continued support of the Districts efforts to decrease the achievement gap
2. Orienting new EILC members and new BoE members to the work of the EILC.
3. Developing and implementing a communication strategy with the broader community.
4. Working with the BoE to reform the budget process.
5. Helping to implement data driven decision-making, including working on a new format for the Equity Report Card
6. Recruiting and retaining a diverse and culturally competent staff.
7. Supporting Dr. Brown's "strategic visioning process."
8. Continuing our advocacy for a district wide, comprehensive approach to inclusion.

For more information see our website at: <https://sites.google.com/site/ithacaeilc/> [ithacaeilc@gmail.com](mailto:ithacaeilc@gmail.com)

## The Learning Web

The Learning Web offers Career Exploration Services for all high school youth in Tompkins County. We arrange exploration tours giving youth the opportunity to discover careers, make connections and ask questions of professionals in the field. Through our tailored volunteer apprenticeships youth will gain valuable hands-on experience perfect to put on their college application or résumé. You can get involved stopping by The Learning Web table during lunch on Tuesdays and Thursdays and scheduling an intake interview. You can also reach us by phone 275-0122 or e-mail at [info@learning-web.org](mailto:info@learning-web.org).

## Dates and Deadlines

- October 17 – Meet Principal Powers, AP and Department Chairs
- October 18 – TC3 College Fair
- October 24 – Red and Blue Grant Applications Due
- October 30 – Fine Arts Booster Mini-Grants Due
- November 1 – Teacher Grant Applications Due
- November 12 – IHS Chorus Performs at IC
- November 13 – IPEI Spelling Bee

### Visit us on the web:

Ithaca High School: <http://www.icsd.k12.ny.us/highschool>

PTSA: [http://ihsptsa.clarityconnect.com/IHS\\_PTSA/Welcome.html](http://ihsptsa.clarityconnect.com/IHS_PTSA/Welcome.html)

Get important IHS and PTSA news by email: sign up for the listserv!

Send an email to: [IHSPTSA-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:IHSPTSA-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

To join the discussion listserv, email [IHSPTSA-discuss-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:IHSPTSA-discuss-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

The WORD is now available electronically through the IHS PTSA website:

[http://ihsptsa.clarityconnect.com/IHS\\_PTSA/Welcome.html](http://ihsptsa.clarityconnect.com/IHS_PTSA/Welcome.html)

and through the PTSA listserv: email [IHSPTSA-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:IHSPTSA-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

Join the PTSA listserv now to get up-to-date announcements and information, as well as electronic copies of the WORD.







