



Bee a Part of the BUZZ! Join IPEI's 19th Annual Adult Spelling Bee

Greetings from IPEI!

We invite you to join an exciting school-community partnership event that occurs only once a year—IPEI's Adult Spelling Bee! This year's Bee is scheduled for **Sunday, March 5, 2017**, at the Ithaca High School Wellness Center Gym.

In addition to being good fun and intellectually stimulating, the Bee is IPEI's signature fundraising event. Thanks to our event sponsors, all proceeds from the event go directly toward funding IPEI grants for teachers.

In the 2015-16 school year, funds raised by the 18th Adult Spelling Bee helped support enhanced educational opportunities for students in classrooms throughout the Ithaca City School District. For example:

Through a Teacher Grant, harps were purchased for the Belle Sherman Mariachi Ensemble, contributing to the multicultural musical enrichment for Belle Sherman students. The grant also provided funding for instruction from community partner and professional harpist, Lisa Craig Fenwick. Now the opportunity to learn to play the harp is offered to fourth and fifth-graders at Belle Sherman allowing them to truly explore the harp-playing experience.

With Red & Gold Grant funding, second-grade teachers at Northeast Elementary were able to purchase and study the book, "Amplify! Digital Teaching and Learning in the K-6 Classroom". With the introduction of iPads and Chromebooks to the classrooms, the lessons found in Amplify! have been critical in demonstrating how to reap the most benefits from digital technology and foster a more creative and collaborative classroom environment.

An IPEI grant-funded initiative introduced last spring at DeWitt and Boynton Middle Schools, and Ithaca High School is changing the way students approach energy-decision making. This curriculum will reach over 1,000 students as it continues into the 2016-17 school year. Geographical information system mapping is used to help students make educated decisions about energy-related challenges. Through the interactive digital mapping program, students can analyze energy-related issues and apply critical thinking skills to reach solutions.

While the Spelling Bee continues to have great community support, we hope to increase participation from those of you who make up our school communities—teachers, principals, parents, and PTAs. Every year, teachers tell us how IPEI grants have enhanced their efforts to give Ithaca students the very best educational experiences possible.

Last year's participants from Ithaca school communities included: The Ithaca Teachers Association, ICSD administrators, ICSD librarians, teachers and PTAs from Belle Sherman Elementary, Caroline Elementary, DeWitt Middle School, Ithaca High School, Lehman Alternative Community School, as well as the ICSD Board of Education, the Fine Arts Booster Group, Code Red Robotics, IthacaSTEM, and Ithaca Council of PTAs. We had a total of 32 spelling teams last year and encourage participation from all our school communities!

Whether you're a teacher, principal, PTA leader, or parent, we hope you will be a part of this year's Spelling Bee—as a team member, sponsor, or attendee! We need your support.

Registration for the event can be completed securely online at IPEI Spelling Bee. Entry forms can also be found online by visiting our web site—www.ipei.org/spelling-bee/. Please contact Jennifer Biloski at jbiloski@twcny.rr.com if questions.

IPEI's 19th Annual Adult Spelling Bee
Sunday, March 5, at 2:00 p.m. in Ithaca High School's Wellness Center Gym

This popular community event is run as an official spelling bee with rules, a pronouncer, an MC, timekeeper and 8 judges. There is a written word format with 32 spelling teams of three team members each. Team entry fee is \$400 minimum.