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## **Freehold Township Education Foundation announces grant winners**

Freehold, NJ - The Freehold Township Education Foundation (FTEF) recently announced the recipients of the 2015 William J Setaro Building Blocks for Innovation (BBI) Grants Program. A total of 4 teacher written grants were funded, divided among 3 schools in the Freehold Township School District between Joseph J. Catena Elementary School, Laura Donovan Elementary School, and Marshall W. Errickson Elementary School.

"We received 12 outstanding applications from schools throughout the District," said FTEF Vice Chair, Denise Bartone. "Each of the applications submitted was innovative and very well done. Congratulations to the winners!"

The single largest grant funded was for Colleen La Salle and Kim Mulligan's grant **"iPads for Art"**. The Joseph Catena School teachers were awarded just under \$5,000 to fund their project. "Gone are the days of students watching a video, or playing a quick multiplication game using a device; iPads are quickly emerging as one of the most powerful and engaging tools in education today. The students of the "new" 21st century no longer just consume information from devices, they are capable of engaging in learning at a whole new level," as was written in the grant. The grant money will go towards building a 'mobile learning lab' which will include 10 iPad Airs and a charging cart along with various apps to help incorporate at least one digital art project across all grade levels.

The other recipients of the grant were:

- **"Smart Robots for Curious Minds"**– Monica Hittinger and Jane Kablaoui, Laura Donovan Elementary School.
- **"MaKey MaKey : Bridging Science and Music for 21st Century Learners"** – Julia Henderson and Kristen Kearney, Marshall W. Errickson School
- **"Enhancing Donovan Strong through Traverse Rock Climbing"** – Ted Olsen and Tami Campfield, Laura Donovan Elementary School



"It is our organization's mission to fund initiatives that foster excellence in Freehold Township schools, and I believe we were successful in that regard in the funding of these grants," said FTEF Chairman, John Zalepka. "Between wrapping up a wildly successful ConnectUs! campaign and launching our district's next funding priority STEAM212 (Makerspaces for next generation learning), we felt it important to continue the grants program as a sign of our commitment to our teachers, as we are determined to continue the trend of being a national forerunner in the use of technology in education."

"This year we were honored to have Dr. William Setaro himself join the committee and be a part of the selection process," said BBI Grants Committee Chair, Karen Preston. "I would also like to thank to the entire selection committee for their time and effort. It was not easy to choose from such well written and thoughtful projects. I am also extremely thankful to Dr. Pamela Haimer, Assistant Superintendent, and Janet Creech, prior Assistant Superintendent for their valuable assistance in the selection process."

The winners found out that they had been awarded their grants in grandiose fashion, as they were surprised at their respective schools with "big" checks and balloons. The FTEF then presented a \$10,000 check to fund all 4 grants at the June 26, 2015 Board of Education meeting (see picture).

The Freehold Township Education Foundation is a community-based, all-volunteer, nonprofit foundation created to fund innovative programs for Freehold Township district schools. For more information about the foundation, or to donate, visit [www.fitefnj.org](http://www.fitefnj.org) or visit our Facebook page.