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CEF Awards Over \$20,000 in Grants to Teachers

Chatham, NJ (May 27, 2009) — For the twelfth consecutive year, the Chatham Education Foundation (CEF) has awarded over \$23,000 worth of grants to faculty in the Chatham School District to fund special projects within all the schools for the 2009-2010 school year and beyond.

“Through these grants we are able to acknowledge the creativity, innovation and remarkable array of programs our teachers and staff bring to the school community. These educational programs would not otherwise be funded through the traditional district budget,” notes Carlene Pruitt, president of CEF, who adds that a total of \$178,000 has been given to the Chatham schools in this school year alone through CEF. “CEF has provided funding for countless educational endeavors that add depth to the curriculum and broaden the scholastic experience for children.”

CEF awarded sixteen grants to applicants at a special ceremony held at the Board of Education meeting on May 26. Highlights of the grants awarded include:

Chatham High School

- **Environmental Art Project (teachers: Eric Hreha, Christopher Duvall, Kiera Acri, Margaret Holzer):** Using recycled materials, fine arts, earth science and environmental club students will design and create an environmentally-themed mosaic for installation in the school.
- **Racing into the Future of Design/Power from a Drop of Water (teacher: Jason Mariano):** CADD and technology/design students will implement two programs: the first will involve testing aerodynamic principles in race car designs created by hand and by computer; the second will involve the study of hydrogen power and the process of creating electricity from water and converting it into useable energy to power anything from houses to vehicles.

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Chatham Middle School

- ***Bonjour! From CMS to the World* (teacher: Trish DeMallie):** Through the purchase of webcams, world language students will video conference with other students around the world.
- **CMS Live! (teacher: Doree Kesselbrenner):** Students will use Smartboard technology to develop a school-wide news-style broadcast of the daily morning announcements.
- **Reading with Graphic Novels:** The language arts curriculum will incorporate creative use of graphic novels to encourage readers of all levels.

Lafayette School

- **Visuals and Literacy Connections (teachers: Marilyn Kelly, Katie Erezuma):** Write-on/wipe-off globes which can be manipulated to better visualize locations and map features, as well as student readers and additional reference materials, will support the fourth-grade social studies curriculum.
- **Open Mic (teacher: Rosemary Cooke):** Wireless microphones and an amplifier system will increase proficiency and enhance public speaking skills for fifth graders.

Washington Avenue School

- **Senteo in the Classroom (teachers: Jennifer Taylor, Michelle Monahan):** The purchase of a Senteo System, a remote-access learning response system, will allow teachers at Washington Avenue School to create tests and manage, track and evaluate immediate student results.
- **Pair Up for Better Reading (teachers: Joyce Luongo, Nancy Volker):** Purchase of the Paired Reading Series will bring two students together to read a book and improve fluency and cooperative learning, as well as reinforce classroom skills.
- **How Does Your Garden Grow? (teachers: Joel Kuhn, Anne Marie Demasi, Joyce Luongo, Andie Elwell, Jenn Shapiro):** The purchase of equipment to make the school's greenhouse a year-round facility will be used by all grades to enhance the science curriculum.

Milton Avenue School

- **Versa Tiles Promote Learning with Smiles (teachers: Judith Casey, Laura Cook, Leigh Paton, Susan Pimenta):** Students will be able to practice and self-correct math skills through the use of the Versa Tile math lab system.
- **Butterfly Garden (teachers: Laura Cook, Dawn Kurlak):** Purchase of materials and equipment to build and maintain a butterfly garden will enhance the second and third grade science curriculums.

- **Inspiring Authors (teacher: Donna Callanan):** The purchase of specific texts for classroom use will demonstrate for students examples of writing organization, structure and format utilized by published authors.

Southern Boulevard School

- **C.E.L.E.B.R.A.T.E. (Celebrate Exciting Learning – Experience Black History Research And Technology Education) (teachers: Michael D’Aloia, Laura Noonan, Mary Beth Kopacz, Emily DePascale, Adreinne Collett, Vincent Palladino, Diane Conti):** Students will create an original puppet show to learn about famous African Americans, celebrating diversity and participating in cross-curricular collaboration.
- **Brain Bowl (teachers: Jennifer Broyer, Alison McKenna):** Game Show Pro software and buzzers will bring the “game show” feel to the classroom as a way to engage, reinforce and review material in a subject areas.

“It is important to note that the generosity and dedication of the community to CEF, our schools and our children is what makes these grants possible, and we are very grateful for this support” adds Pruitt.

The Chatham Education Foundation is a non-profit organization whose mission is to enhance the excellence of public education in Chatham through private funding. CEF is governed by a Board of Trustees consisting of volunteers from all areas of the community and operates independently of the Board of Education and the PTOs. Since its inception in 1997, CEF has awarded nearly 250 grants totaling approximately \$475,000 to fund special projects throughout Chatham public schools, either as district-wide gifts or through grants awarded to teachers for use in their classrooms.

For more information about CEF, please visit the CEF website at www.chathamedfoundation.org or call (973) 701-8731.