

Plainfield teachers receive Hipp grant

By Christina Giannantonio|The Star-Ledger
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Woodland Elementary School teachers Joanne Barrett and Irene Mitta.
Plainfield Public Schools

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PLAINFIELD — Woodland Elementary School teachers Joanne Barrett and Irene Mitta have received an NJEA Frederick Hipp Foundation Excellence in Education Grant for the 2016-2017 school year, given to teachers to "expand their visions of excellence" in their classrooms.

Barret and Mitta received the award for a project they created for their fifth-grade students called "Art is Math, Math is Art: Exploring Textile Patterning and Designs of Central America," that will challenge them to use their art and math skills. The students will work with former students and adults from the district's Picasso Parents group in an after-school club to design art pieces using math skills such as patterning, measurement and geometry. "This is an exciting adventure for our district, and I can't wait to begin," said Barrett.

Other winners include Maria Leccese, Midland School 1 in Rochelle Park; Jennifer Patterson, Jessie F. George Elementary School, Washington; Anthony Klock, Kresson Elementary School, Voorhees; Mary Paolazzi, Nishuane School, Montclair; Karen DeFranco, Elizabeth Campbell and Jeff Hull, Chestnut Ridge Middle School, Sewell; and Leah Nittoso, Melvin H. Kreps Middle School, East Windsor; Rayna Culver, Luis Munoz Rivera Middle School, Trenton; Emily Zazanis, John P. Stevens High School, Edison; Josh Langenberger, Howell Middle School South, Howell; Marisa Castronova, Robert R. Lazar Middle School, Montville; Melissa Krupp, Southern Regional High School, Manahawkin; Kristine Mendyk, Durban Avenue Elementary School, Hopatcong; Lorie Jeskey, Montague School, Montague; Chuck Gehman, Middle Township High School, Cape May Court House; Jaime Chavkin, Stevenson School, Fairfield; and Deborah Pecora, Bartle Elementary School in Highland Park.

The grant recipients will be honored by the New Jersey Education Association's Hipp Foundation Nov. 11 at the NJEA Convention in Atlantic City.