



## Hopatcong Borough Schools Press Release

Learning Today. Leading Tomorrow.

# Hopatcong Primary Grade Students and their Families Engage in an “Engineering Problem Based Task”

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, November 11, 2016

Cynthia Randina, Hopatcong Superintendent of Schools, Announces



*Hopatcong Primary Grade Students and their Families Engage in an “Engineering Problem Based Task”*

Hopatcong students from Hudson Maxim and Tulsa Trail Schools participated in an Innovative Blended Early Learning Opportunity during the Blended Learning InnovateNJ Grant Kick-Off Event on Nov. 1, 2016. Students and their families applied critical thinking skills by competing in an “engineering” task of creating the tallest perch for *Harry* the bird.

The Hudson Maxim Gym was the location for the Kick-Off event where the innovative, exciting and inspirational project took place. The keynote speaker was Jack O’Leary, an engineer who discussed engineering skills of critical thinking and problem solving.

Such problem solving tasks are part of the Hopatcong School District’s \$75,000 grant award for Year 2 of the project "Interdisciplinary Interactive Writing using Legos and iPads." This project is designed to build literacy skills, with a particular emphasis on writing, using LEGOs and iPads as engaging motivational tools in early childhood classrooms. The engineering component, building with Legos, accompanied with apps builds upon students' learning styles and promotes self-regulation, persistence and problem solving skills.