

Dear Parents,

It's Mini-Society time! The purpose of this letter is to introduce you to this wonderful program and to tell you a little bit about your role as parents.



What is the purpose of the program?

- Mini-Society is a fun way for our students to learn about economics in a meaningful way. Throughout the program, your child will help create a mini-society right in our classroom and be an active part of it with real responsibilities. They will learn how to be productive members of society, design a product, create and advertise it, and understand how our market economy works.
- Mini-Society meets many of the economic standards the State of Georgia requires for third grade students to meet. Some of the key concepts covered are effective communication, money, free markets, abundance and scarcity, goods and services, producers and consumers, profit, taxes, banking, goods and services, bartering, record keeping, data analysis, and marketing.



What is your job as a parent?

- You will act as a business consultant for your child. He/she can come to you for advice, encouragement, marketing ideas, and assistance with problem solving. **You don't work for free, however!** You must be paid for any service you do on behalf of your child, including driving him/her to the store if supplies need to be purchased. They will pay you with classroom currency. Remember, this money takes on real meaning for them! They will have to make some real economic decisions in their Mini-Society. **Don't make the decisions for them!** Many lessons can be learned from economic disaster!
- I will let you know when you may begin charging your child for services. This will happen as soon as they have begun to earn a salary within our society.
- You will monitor the spending of real cash to acquire some special raw materials for the students' future goods or services. They will be able to get most raw materials from our classroom warehouse. Their product may require a raw material that we have little chance of getting donated so it may be necessary to go purchase it for them. The total amount of real cash you and your child can spend is \$10.00. More information will be sent home regarding purchasing raw materials as we get closer to production. **Do not purchase any materials now.** After the \$10.00 minimum has been spent, they can't spend any more real cash. They will have to make some tough economic decisions when this time comes and we will guide them through that.



Remember, Mini-Society belongs to the students!

- You and I don't have unlimited checking or savings accounts. The students in Mini-Society won't either. Like all of us, they will learn how to make some challenging choices while getting some terrific economic lessons along the way. Hopefully, they will be able to apply these lessons to their lives outside of school and be more knowledgeable about economics than you and me!

Mini-Society Warehouse

- One of the first steps in beginning the Mini-Society program is to set up a warehouse. The warehouse contains the raw materials that will be sold during market days. So, I am asking for donations to our resource warehouse.
- Scour your attics and closets! Check the basement! Look in your junk drawers! If you can contribute any of the items, listed on the attached page to our warehouse, we would be grateful! Of course items not listed, but that are interesting and would get the creative juices flowing would be graciously accepted!
- You may begin sending in warehouse donations as you find them!
- Also, be thinking if you could donate some time to help out in our warehouse. We will need helpers to fill orders and deliver them to classrooms.



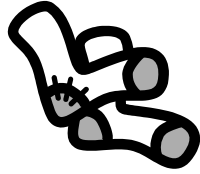
Thank you and keep checking for updates being sent home regarding Mini-Society.

Third Grade Teachers

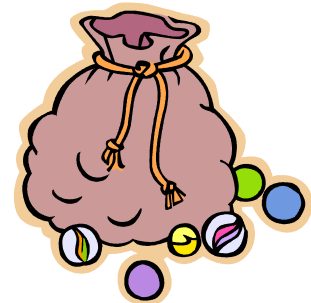
Donation Suggestions for the Resource Warehouse

- Please place small items into baggies so they are easier to store.

Pine Cones
Balloons
Egg Cartons
Packing Peanuts
Rice
Empty Boxes and Cans
Google Eyes
Junk Jewelry
Comic Books
Jacks
Clothes Pins
Water Colors
Old Christmas Ornaments
Leather Scraps
Felt
Glitter Glue
Pipe Cleaners
Cardstock
Magnets
Origami Paper
Puzzle Pieces
Pretty Wrapping Paper Scraps
Rubber Bands
Glitter
Paper Clips
Shoe Laces
Artificial Flowers
Plastic Lanyard/Lacing
Old Newspapers
Embroidery Thread
Cotton Balls



Plastic Eggs
Sequins
Old Nylons
Bubble Wrap
Unpopped popcorn
Pom Poms
Magnetic Tape
Socks
Clay
Old CDs
Buttons
Stickers
Fronts of Greeting Cards
Sports Cards
Partially Used Craft Kits
Yarn
Foam Paper
Maps
Paper Towel Rolls
Tin Foil
Ribbon
Old Game Pieces
Beads
Paper Cups
Marbles
Craft Sticks
Chalk



Mini-Society Auction



Why have an auction?

- Helps start money circulating
- Helps determine future pricing
- Helps determine what kids want to buy
- Fun way to think of future goods and services for classroom businesses

When?

Rules:

- We will be having an auction in our classroom. Please bring an item to school that you would like to auction off to your classmates.
- You can bring one item from home that you are willing and are allowed to auction off in class. You will not get your item back if it is sold.
- You must bring the item and permission slip to school by:

- Items brought to school without a permission slip will not be auctioned off. ***You must have your parent's approval to auction the item.***

I know and approve of what my child is bringing for the auction. I understand that the item will not be returned if it is sold during the auction.

Child's Name _____

Parent's Signature _____