

## *SPRUCE Mini Society~*

*A teaching strategy that brings real economic experiences into our classroom!*

Dear Families,

The purpose of this letter is to tell you about Mini-Society, the multidisciplinary program we will be implementing to our students to teach economics curriculum.

### **What is Mini-Society?**

In this innovative program students will establish their own society, manage their own money, and open their own businesses. This experience will help your child understand more about entrepreneurship, economics, government, and ethics in a fun and meaningful way. Key concepts students will learn about include: scarcity, goods, services, producers, consumers, profit, inflation, imports, exports, taxes, advertising, and marketing. In addition to subject-area learning, the children will experience several side benefits. They will work cooperatively and actively in problem solving—trying to find creative and workable solutions to the numerous problems that occur in any society.

### **What is your role as a parent?**

- Your active interest and involvement will enhance your child's learning. You will act as a business consultant for your child. He/she can come to you for advice, encouragement, marketing ideas, or problem solving. Your child may ask you to transport them to a particular store to purchase supplies, ask you to assist them in creating their products, or ask to use some of your supplies. You **MUST** be paid for anything you do on behalf of your child. **You do not work for free! You must receive a salary!** Your child may pay you with personal services, for example by helping to prepare dinner, or pay you with our classroom currency (remember, it won't be fake money to them). **Please do not do anything for your child without compensation.**
- You will monitor the spending of real cash to acquire some special raw materials for their future goods or services. They will be able to get most things from our classroom warehouse. Their product may require a raw material that we'll have little chance of getting donated from our families, so it may be necessary to go out and purchase it for them. **The total amount of real cash you and your child can spend is \$5.00. After that, they can't spend any more real cash.**

### **Businesses That May Evolve from Mini-Society**

Stationary/card shop, handmade crafts, jewelry, bookmarks, simple toys, etc. The possibilities !

**Please note, the following types of businesses are not permitted:** food based businesses; finger nail painting, hair braiding or face painting (The students may not touch each other as part of their business.)

### **Keep in mind, Mini-Society belongs to the kids!**

You and I don't have unlimited checking or savings accounts. The kids in Mini-Society won't either. Like all of us, they will learn how to make some challenging choices while gaining knowledge through economic lessons along the way. Don't make decisions for them.

### **Other important information...**

\*If you're interested in learning more about the program, I will post 10 minute video on Facebook, which has clips of students participating in the society, as well as answer questions.

*Thank you for your involvement. We are looking forward to the Mini-Society experience with your child!*

Sincerely,  
SPRUCE Staff

## *Mini-Society Warehouse Suggestions*

Look around your house! It is not necessary to buy anything for our warehouse. You may donate any supplies for our businesses from the list below. Our “warehouse” will be in one area. After spring break, we cannot accept any further donations. The students will have to be creative and stretch their imagination! Thank you for your contributions!

beads  
clay  
marbles  
rubber bands  
old greeting cards  
flower pots  
yarn, string, ribbon, thread  
jacks  
partially-used craft kits  
clothes pins  
construction paper  
tape  
glue  
contact paper  
wrapping paper  
wallpaper  
buttons  
scraps of fabric, leather  
tracing paper  
stickers  
water colors  
paper cups  
sports cards  
pictures  
old game pieces  
shoe laces  
craft sticks  
artificial flowers  
chalk  
balloons  
old magazines, maps  
empty plastic bottles  
straws

seeds  
glitter  
magic tricks  
socks  
birdseed  
colored pencils  
markers  
puzzles  
old jewelry  
pom poms  
wiggle eyes  
pipe cleaners  
foam sheets, shapes, etc.  
paper plates  
lunch bags  
lace  
Styrofoam balls  
bubble wrap  
shoe boxes  
egg cartons  
scrap booking scraps  
shaped scissors  
hole puncher  
duct tape  
masking tape  
baby food jars  
packing peanuts  
Velcro  
magnet strips  
colored sand  
coffee filters  
paperclips  
cotton balls