

# Exciting elementary economics

C AND G NEWSPAPERS

*Students to showcase entrepreneur skills at local school*

By Thomas Franz 

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MACOMB TOWNSHIP — Shawnee Elementary third-grade teacher Julie Galasso was watching the ABC show “Shark Tank” with her family when she thought of a new program for her students.

On Friday, May 27, she and 43 students from Shawnee will be hosting their own version of “Shark Tank” as the school holds its first Market Day event.

“This is something that kids can step it up a notch a little bit, and take and apply what they’ve been learning in class about economics and put it into action,” Galasso said.

As part of the elementary curriculum at Shawnee, students in third through fifth grades learn economics concepts like supply and demand. This spring, Galasso and fourth-grade teacher Kim Gardner began an entrepreneurial club to take those lessons beyond the classroom.

Galasso and Gardner accepted 43 students out of 68 applicants for the club, which became centered around preparing for Market Day.

“The thing I like best about the program is that it gives students who maybe don’t get involved in school a totally new opportunity,” Gardner said. “We’re giving the students a chance to explore what those economics terms mean.”

On Market Day, the students of the entrepreneurial club will sell a wide variety of homemade products to the rest of the Shawnee students who are in third through fifth grades.

Students will be selling their products for between \$1 and \$12. They were also required to create a poster board for advertisement purposes.

“We talked about supply and demand, which is hard because you don’t know how many people are going to like or not like your product,” Galasso said. “We’ve talked about how you have to mark up your product. You have to figure out your cost, then what would be a reasonable markup price that people would still buy it, yet you would make enough money to justify the work and time that went into it.”

The products include home goods, jewelry, school supplies, sporting goods, gumball machines and pet supplies.

“They struggled a little with what and how many to make, but once they pieced it all together, they really did a great job,” Gardner said. “I think they really don’t know what to expect as far as sales go, but they’ve really enjoyed making their posters for advertisement purposes, and they’ve made some amazing items. Some of them have taken it to the next level.”

Gardner and Galasso said their club and Market Day event plans have been met with rave reviews from teachers and principals around the district, and they hope to bring the program back next year.



**ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

*Staff Writer Thomas Franz covers Macomb Township, Chippewa Valley Schools and the Macomb County Board of Commissioners for the Macomb Township Chronicle. He also covers sports primarily for the Shelby-Utica News. He has worked for C & G Newspapers since 2013 and attended Michigan State University.*

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