

MUNCHKIN MARKETPLACE

Second-graders at Golden Terrace learn about consuming and producing goods and services



At her face-painting store, second-grader Alyssa McGourty, 7, paints a heart on kindergartner Leisha Adelson, 5, at Golden Terrace Primary School.

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Fridson Janvier is only 8, but he has a budding career as an artist.

His drawings, including one of a piece of paper eating a dog that was titled "My homework ate my dog," were selling like crazy as he sat in the Golden Terrace Primary School courtyard.

"It took me about eight hours to draw all of them," he said of his pictures. "If you have funny pictures, customers come more often."

Funny seemed to sell well. One teacher bought "I'm hiding from the cops," which is a picture of a donut hiding behind a wall from a police car, for the school's safety officer.

Selling was the name of the game in Golden Terrace's marketplace. The project ends the second grade's social studies unit on economics, where they learned about consuming and producing goods and services.

"It is the ultimate way to learn," said second-grade team leader Rebecca McCosh. "We ask the students to create a business and shop."

Students had to come up with ideas for the business. Once created, they had to purchase a business license, rent a booth and pay an advertising fee with money lent to them by their teachers. They also received some initial cash to make change at their booths.

Whatever is left over will be the students' profit, to spend in their classroom stores or at another marketplace event with the other half of the second-grade classrooms later this month.

Second-grade students earned money, which had photos of their teacher's dog or the phrase "the first bank of Mrs. Johnson" written on them, all year by exhibiting good behavior or receiving high scores on tests. The money they earned they could spend at their own class store or at the marketplace.

"Students could spend all of their money or they could learn how to save it to spend at the marketplace," said McCosh. "Students have to decide if they want to have lunch with the teacher for \$1,000 or if they wanted to buy a pencil for \$10."

Haley Ignace, 8, said she saved her money for the marketplace.

"It was hard," she said. "You just couldn't buy as much. But some things were expensive, like McDonalds for lunch was \$1,000."

All other students who came to shop at the marketplace were given \$10 to spend as they wish.

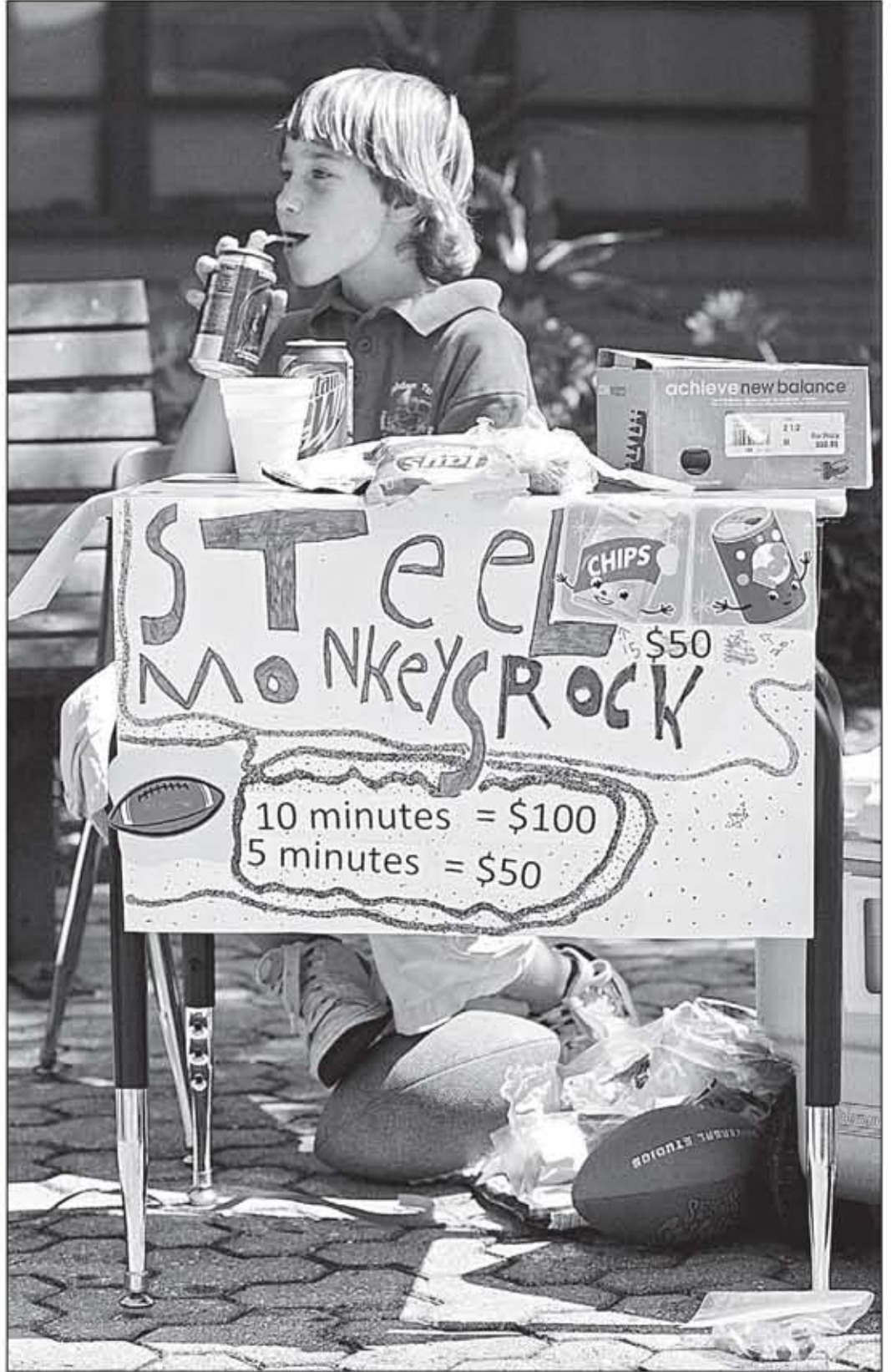
Game Stop owner Louna Timothee, 8, allowed her customers to stack cups or bowls. If they wanted to bypass winning a prize, she sold prizes for \$3.

"The best thing (about the marketplace) is getting money," she said. "The worst is that I have to stack all the cups."

McCosh said she was proud of the second-graders.

"They know they are role models. Where they might be some of the littlest kids in another school, they are the older kids here because our school goes to second grade," she said. Third through fifth grade students go to Golden Terrace Intermediate School.

"There is a lot going on, but they are able to work independently. They have had responsibility all year long and they handle it well."



Second-grader Dalton Groos, 8, mans his "Steel Monkeys Rock" store, where he sells chips, soda and the use of a football at a marketplace project for their social studies curriculum at Golden Terrace Primary School. David Albers/Staff (3)



Cheyenne Stevens, 8, shares the experience of her recent purchase of a used Nintendo Game Boy game with Cpl. George Allen, the school's Youth Relations Deputy. The students earned fake money for good behavior, then created businesses in the school courtyard, selling goods and services while learning the principles of supply and demand.