

NR 101019

## Kraxberger students study economics

Sixth graders in Debbie Gorton's 6th period class are wrapped up their 6-week Introduction to Economics unit by producing and selling products in a classroom marketplace.

After learning a basic overview of economics, students applied their knowledge by creating a classroom marketplace. Students earned "G-Money" throughout the unit.

Students "bought" classroom art supplies and use of supplies with their G-Money and created things their fellow classmates might be interested in buying.

Some of their products included pencil toppers, stress balls, pencil pouches, locker magnet decorations, play dough figures, specially designed paper airplanes, rings, and bracelets.

Each student established a name for their business and set a price point for their product. Several other sixth grade classes were invited to come "shopping" with the classroom G-Money provided to them. By the time the Classroom Market Place closed, students had successfully sold out of all products.

"The students were thrilled with their sales," said Gorton. "It was a true testament to how supply and demand can be applied to real life events."

**PHOTO: Gladstone sixth graders Miles Cole [center] and Kai Deveny [right] sell the product they created to classmates, a culminating activity for their six-week study of economics.**

.....

## Kraxberger Gearheads honored

Shawn and Kelley Price received the Growing Great People Award from the Gladstone School District for years of work mentoring the Kraxberger Gearheads Robotics Club.

The robotics program goes beyond teaching students coding, soldering, electrical wiring, and fabrication. They also learn teamwork, presentation skills, and fundraising.

Besides running two competitive robotics teams that meet year-round, the volunteers also sponsor an after school electronics recycling club. The club gives students hands-on experience dismantling electronic equipment, and raises funds to support the robotics program. While many schools charge \$200 to \$2000 per student each year to participate in robotics, the Gladstone club costs families just \$25.

The club's fundraising program is so successful, that once robotics needs are met, the club gives their excess funds as grants to academic, arts, sports, clubs, and other programs in their school. In the past few years, they have made awards totaling over \$7,000.

Community service is expected of all robotics team members, so they are frequently seen helping at the Gladstone Community Festival, staffing Rotary fundraisers, and providing child care for school district meetings.

**PHOTO: Gladstone School Board Chair Jay Schmidt presents the Growing Great People award to robotics mentors Kelley and Shawn Price and Kraxberger student Gabi Cronin.**