

A FAMILY NEWSLETTER

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMY

Your child just completed the Community and Economy unit of JA BizTown’s curriculum. The goal with experiential-learning programs such as JA BizTown is to help students see how classroom learning relates to real-world events. You are encouraged to further strengthen these lessons by having a conversation with your child about the BizTalk prompts listed below.

Students learned how people are members of a community in which they live, work, trade, and share. They took a pledge to become citizens of JA BizTown, and that oath required an understanding of the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.

JA BizTown citizens tackled the “circular flow of economic activity” as they examined the movements of goods, services, resources (human, natural, and capital), and money between people and businesses. This concept will be revisited several times over the next few weeks. Further, when citizens visit JA BizTown, they will become an integral part of that cycle as they operate their businesses and become consumers who purchase products in the simulated community.

Through a series of classroom exercises, students recognized that resources are scarce and that people cannot have everything they want. Decisions must be made about what to produce, how to produce, and for whom to produce. Students also learned that governments play an important role in an economy by providing public goods and services, paid for by taxes. They explored how philanthropic activities and nonprofits increase the well-being of people through charitable giving. Students learned that when people share their “three W’s”—work, wealth, and wisdom—communities are greatly enhanced.

BizTalk!

Ask about citizens’ rights and responsibilities in a community. Offer some “home” examples.

BizTalk!

Ask your child about the products the class created using limited resources.