The Stock Market Game™
Week In Review

February 20, 2015

Written By: Elizabeth Reidel, SIFMA Foundation for Investor Education

Dear Stock Market Game Teachers and Participants:

Welcome to the first edition of the SIFMA Foundation’s SMG Week in Review for the Spring 2015 semester. For those of you new to the program, this weekly e-newsletter will tie current events to the SMG program and highlight appropriate SMG curriculum materials. I will also discuss basic economic principles helpful to you and your students during participation in the program. Be on the lookout for the newsletter in your inbox each Friday over the next few weeks.

While much of the East Coast is experiencing the deep freeze, the stock market is heating up with the Dow on target to hit an all-time closing high on news that Greece and its creditors may have a debt deal. A Greece deal reportedly is close at hand, according to Bloomberg, after continued discussion among eurozone finance ministers and the Greek government. Leaders have been in negotiation for a potential new debt package since last week. Earlier this week, Greece requested a six-month extension to its current loan but Germany rejected it prolonging the program by only four months. "All things considered, we believe that a ‘Grexit’ would not lead to a degree of direct contagion that would drive other sovereigns out of the euro, not least because the eurozone rescue architecture is more robust than during the last Grexit scare in 2012," said Standard & Poor's credit analyst Moritz Kraemer.

As your students engage in the program, they will quickly come to realize the importance of current events and the impact on the economy (and their SMG portfolio). While many SMG teams are just getting started with their investments, a great way for your students to stay abreast of market news is to view the “News Feed” section of their portfolio. Portfolios are provided with a Reuters feed which provides up-to-date stock market and mutual fund news allowing students to view the major economic events impacting the markets.

Now is also the perfect time to get your students prepped for the Spring semester InvestWrite National writing competition. InvestWrite is a great culminating experience for the Stock Market Game and an excellent writing assessment. It’s is the perfect complement to The Stock Market Game program! The competition takes what you are already teaching in your Stock Market Game program and applies it to a creative writing assessment, further challenging your students' critical thinking skills.

To make it fun, there are prizes that provide the chance for you, your students, and your school to receive wonderful awards and great recognition in this competition. Click here to view the awards and recognition: http://www.investwrite.info/awards.aspx. Our commitment is to make InvestWrite an easy classroom experience for you. Everything you need to implement in your classroom can be found on the website at www.investwrite.org.

Teachers tell us they like to see the work that other students have submitted so we provide winning essays for all grade levels. Those can be found in the "What's News at InvestWrite?" section of the InvestWrite website. In that same section of the website you will find a complete guide to the Common Core State Standards for each grade level. You can view even more by going to "InvestWrite News and Announcements" highlighted in orange on this page: http://www.investwrite.org/news_lander.aspx.

To see a history of Week In Review documents: http://www.econed-il.org/icee/smg_wir.shtml