Dear Parent / Guardian:

This semester our class is participating in The Stock Market Game™, an educational simulation of "real world" stock market trading sponsored by Econ Illinois. The SMG Program is supported by curriculum and is designed to enhance student’s math, social studies, language arts, and technology skills. Because the students manage their stock portfolio in teams, they are also improving their decision-making and cooperative learning abilities.

The SMG Program facilitates student learning about securities markets and their role in the American economic system. It broadens knowledge of terms heard daily - Wall Street, stock exchange, Dow Jones Industrial Average, etc. The program also increases awareness of current events and how those events affect our economy.

How can you help?

- Encourage your child to share what he or she is learning in the classroom.
- Provide your child access to TV news programs, newspapers, and other current event publications.
- Initiate discussions on current events and ask how the team's stocks are doing or what stocks are being considered, and why.
- If you aren't familiar with a company’s financial report, ask your child for a lesson on how to read and interpret the information.
- Ask your child to show you some helpful web sites for stock information and research.

We encourage you to visit the main SMG Web page to learn more about this educational program: [http://stockmarketgame.org](http://stockmarketgame.org). Click on the Explore drop down and then select Parents from the menu. There you'll find answers to some of the most frequently asked questions of parents about The Stock Market Game™ program.

If your daily paper begins to disappear before you’ve had the chance to read it, don't be upset! You'll find that it is being put to good use!