



WHAT'S INSIDE

- Find out how students in the South Bronx section of New York City are turning produce into profits. See pages 2 and 3 of the student magazine.
- Discover healthy habits that can save big bucks. Turn to page 4.
- Money expert Jean Chatzky explains how home mortgages work.



a note from *Jean*

Dear Teachers,

As the saying goes: Give a man a fish and you'll feed him for a day; teach a man to fish and you'll feed him for a lifetime. I was reminded of this in getting to know Stephen Ritz, the subject of this month's cover story. Ritz is tackling absenteeism, behavior issues, test scores, poverty, hunger, and—oh, yes—financial literacy with his Green Bronx Machine curriculum. Of course, the story is written with your students in mind. But if you have an interest in learning more—or incorporating some of these lessons into your classroom—you can find much of the curriculum at GreenBronxMachine.org.

Have a great week,
Jean



YOUR \$

FINANCIAL LITERACY FOR KIDS

VOL. 4, NO.2
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From the Editor: Thanks to the PwC Charitable Foundation, *TIME for Kids* is pleased to offer teachers, students, and their families a monthly financial-literacy magazine. —*Andrea Delbanco, Executive Editor, TIME for Kids*

Teaching the cover story

GROWING BRIGHTER FUTURES

SUMMARY

Green Bronx Machine, in New York City, teaches students how to grow their own produce and turn a profit.

begins the story on page 2. Then have students read the cover story and underline details supporting the idea that Green Bronx Machine participants are “turning produce into profits, and gaining money-smarts along the way.”

TEACHING TIPS Before Reading

Make Predictions

- Tell students they are going to read about a school program that teaches students how to grow their own produce and sell it to the community. Ask: How might students benefit from learning to garden? What skills might they learn by selling the produce? What are some smart ways students could use the profits?

Build Vocabulary

- Invite a student to read aloud the paragraphs in which power words appear. Ask: What other words could the writer have used? (*The writer could have replaced marketed with advertised or promoted, and netted with earned or made.*) Then have pairs of students create illustrations that demonstrate the meaning of each Power Word.

Build Comprehension

Identify Main Idea

- Read aloud the text in green that

Start a Discussion

Critical Thinking

- Ask: How do the second graders in the story reinvest some of their profits? Do you think this is a good business decision? Why or why not? How are students in the Green Bronx Machine program growing “their way to happier, healthier futures”?

Extend Learning

Sell It

- Have pairs of students reread the first paragraph of the section titled “Growing Dollars from Pennies.” Then have them brainstorm ways students might have “marketed their fruits and vegetables to the community.” Invite students to share their ideas with the class. Make a class list of marketing strategies. Then have students choose the most effective strategy from the list and write a paragraph explaining why.

FINANCIAL-LITERACY STANDARDS ADDRESSED

Grades K–12 I. Earning Income
II. Buying Goods and Services
V. Financial Investing

COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS ADDRESSED

Grade 5 RI.5.1, RI.5.2, RI.5.4, RI.5.8, W.5.1, SL.5.1
Grade 6 RI.6.1, RI.6.2, RI.6.4, RI.6.8, W.6.1, SL.6.1

Teaching the story **YOUR HEALTH, YOUR WEALTH**

Your Health, Your Wealth
Smoking cessation can mean big savings. Quitting now can save you up to \$4,000 per year by not smoking. Also, it can save you money on health care and insurance costs. Plus, it keeps your loved ones healthier. Quitting now can mean big savings for you and your family.

ASK JEAN
Jean Chokey is a money expert. How do I know if I'm ready to buy a house? It depends on whether you're ready to take on a big financial responsibility. You should also consider how much you can afford to pay for a house. It's important to talk to a professional for more information.

Grow Your Own Garden
Start to grow your own fresh vegetables in just a few weeks. Start with easy-to-grow plants like tomatoes, cucumbers, and leafy greens. They're easy to care for and will give you a lot of produce. You can also grow herbs like basil, which is great for cooking. Growing your own food can save you money and is good for your health.

TEACHING TIPS

Use these tips to support close reading of the story "Your Health, Your Wealth."

Extend Learning Argue It

- Have students choose one healthy habit that they feel would benefit their family. Challenge them to write an essay persuading their family of the benefits of the habit. They should also make suggestions on the steps the family can take to accomplish the goal.

Design an Ad

- In groups, have students design an ad promoting one of the healthy habits. They should first decide on an audience for the ad: adults or young people. Tell them to choose words and images that might convince the audience to adopt the habit. Allow time for students to share their ad with the class. For each ad, ask: Who is the audience? Do you think this audience will be persuaded by the ad? Why or why not?

Before Reading Make Real-World Connections

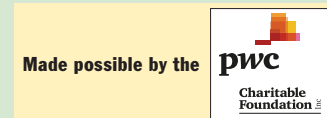
- Ask: What are some healthy choices that your family makes? Do these choices save money? Explain.

Build Comprehension Identify Cause-Effect

- Have students in pairs complete cause-effect charts that describe what could happen if families adopted each of the healthy habits—staying active, cooking at home, and not smoking—highlighted in the story. Remind them to describe the effects on family members' health as well as on their wallets.

FINANCIAL-LITERACY STANDARDS ADDRESSED
Grades K-12 II. Buying Goods and Services III. Saving

COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS ADDRESSED
Grade 5 RI.5.1, RI.5.3, RI.5.5, W.5.1, SL.5.1
Grade 6 RI.6.1, RI.6.3, RI.6.5, W.6.1, SL.6.1



School / Home CONNECTION



Share these tips with your students' families.

- Have students share with their parents the "Grow Your Own Garden" sidebar on page 4 of the student magazine. Tell them to research what produce will grow in their climate and start a family garden or just grow herbs on a window sill. Encourage students to discuss with their family how gardening might help them become healthier and possibly save money.
- Have students ask parents to explain how a mortgage works. They might work out a 20% down payment on a house for sale in their area. Then use a mortgage calculator to determine monthly payments based on a typical interest rate, like 4.5%. How much is the monthly payment on a 20-year mortgage? On a 30-year mortgage? What are the drawbacks and benefits of a shorter mortgage? Of a longer mortgage? Use the calculator at mortgagecalculator.org.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

councilforeconed.org/standards
Visit for free teaching resources and to download the K-12 national standards for financial literacy.

greenbronxmachine.org
Visit to learn more about Green Bronx Machine's mission and to explore free garden-based curriculum resources.

ANSWER KEY FOR WORKSHEETS

The Price of a Garden 1. eggplant 2. 18 bell peppers / \$15 3. 25 pounds 4. Answers will vary. 5. \$692 / \$104 / \$604

Ready, Set, Grow! 1. Answers will vary. 2. Students will circle two of the following: *seeds, starter plants, equipment.* / Answers will vary. 3. Students will underline *car wash* and *tag sale.* / Answers will vary. 4. Answers will vary.

Your name _____

Date _____

THE PRICE OF A GARDEN

The chart shows the amount of produce grown in a tower garden over a six month period and how much it might earn. Use the chart to answer the questions.

What's a Tower Garden Worth?

6 month analysis of yield and produce costs

Lowest Produce Price	6 Month Yield	Rounded Value
\$0.82 x 48 = \$39 arugula per ounce ounces from 1 plant		
\$0.99 x 5 = \$5 beans per pound pounds from 1 plant		
\$0.85 x 18 = \$15 per bell pepper peppers from 1 plant		
\$1.69 x 18 = \$30 cabbage per bunch bunches from 1 plant		
\$1.19 x 12 = \$14 celery per head heads from 1 plant		
\$2.29 x 26 = \$59 chard per bunch bunches from 1 plant		
\$3.00 x 25 = \$75 cherry tomatoes per pint pints from 1 plant		
\$0.79 x 40 = \$31 per cucumber cucumbers from 1 plant		
\$2.00 x 15 = \$30 per eggplant eggplants from 1 plant		
\$1.99 x 51.5 = \$102 herbs per ounce ounces from 2 plants		
\$1.49 x 36 = \$54 kale per bag bags from 2 plants		
\$2.99 x 90 = \$269 lettuce per bag bags from 5 plants		
\$0.95 x 24 = \$23 per squash squash from 1 plant		
\$1.99 x 25 = \$50 tomatoes per pound pounds from 1 plant		

6 Month Yield = \$796
vs. initial investment of \$692

THIS STUDY WAS CONDUCTED IN ATLANTA, GEORGIA WHEN NIGHTTIME TEMPERATURES WERE CONSISTENTLY ABOVE 55°F. ANALYSIS PROVIDED BY ATL URBAN FARM, BASED ON NON-ORGANIC PRODUCE PRICES IN JUNE 2014. LEARN MORE AT WWW.TOWERGARDEN.COM

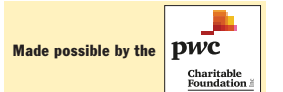
TRY IT! Discuss the chart with an adult family member. How might this chart be useful to a school that wants to start a tower garden? Can the school count on the same results? Why or why not?

Common Core State Standards: RI.5.1, 5.NBT.B.7; RI.6.1, 6.NS.B.3

- According to the chart, which vegetable can you sell for \$2 each? _____
- How many bell peppers can grow from one plant in six months? _____
How much will the bell peppers from one plant sell for altogether? _____
- How many pounds of regular tomatoes can grow from one plant? _____
- If you had the choice between growing cherry tomatoes or regular tomatoes, which would you choose? Why? _____
- How much does it cost to start a tower garden? (This is the "initial investment.") _____

Let's say you sell all the produce in the chart. How much profit would you earn in the first year? (six-month yield - initial investment = profit) _____

It will cost \$192 to keep the garden going in the second year. If you sell all the produce in the chart, how much profit will you earn? _____



Your name

Date



READY, SET, GROW!

Read the steps to start a school garden. Then answer the questions.

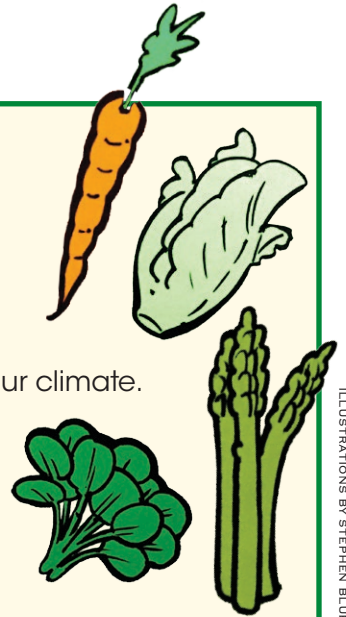
Make the case. Brainstorm a list of benefits that the school garden will provide to students, teachers, and the community. Then schedule time to share ideas with your teacher. Ask your teacher for help starting the garden.

Select a site. The site you choose should be near a water source and get good sunlight. Test the soil quality to make sure plants can grow there. Make sure students and teachers can access the site easily.

Pick the plants. Do research to find the fruits and veggies that will grow in your climate.

Build a budget. Make a list of seeds, starter plants, and equipment you will need. Add up the costs.

Raise funds. Work with your teacher and classmates to plan a fundraiser. You might do a car wash or hold a tag sale. Visit a gardening supply store and ask the manager to donate materials.



ILLUSTRATIONS BY STEPHEN BLUE

1. Read the first step, "Make the Case." Why should you brainstorm the benefits of starting a garden before talking to your teacher? _____

2. What are some items that you should include in the budget? Circle two.
Why do you need a budget? _____

3. What fundraisers are suggested in the chart? Underline them. What other fundraisers might a school hold? Write two ideas. _____

4. How might you convince a store manager to donate materials or money for the school garden? Write one reason the store should help the school. _____

TRY IT! Are you up to the challenge? Begin with step 1 in the chart. Write a paragraph making the case for a school garden on the back of this page.

Common Core State Standards: RI.5.1; RI.6.1

