

MONTEBELLO/SIERRA WEST FINANCIAL LITERACY OUTCOME REPORT

BACKGROUND

The first youth financial literacy class was implemented at the Montebello Community Center for both Montebello and Sierra West 1st to 5th graders on October 6, 2008 through November 19, 2008. This was a five-week program with a half-hour class per day. Classes were offered on Monday's for 1st to 2nd graders from 3:15pm – 3:45pm and Wednesday's for 3rd to 5th graders from 4:00pm – 4:30pm.

Maria Moreno, Bienestar Program Coordinator, provided the classroom instruction using the Financial Fitness For Life curriculum which consists of high quality materials that assist students from kindergarten to grade 12 make better decisions for earning income, and spending, saving, borrowing, investing, and managing their money.

Each set of materials is based on national standards which show how the materials relate to national language arts and mathematics. The curriculum features the science of decision making, as a way to prioritize the staggering array of choices facing students when they make financial decisions. It also incorporates active learning and student reflection which optimizes true learning. As with physical fitness, one must "do" and then "reflect" upon what one did in order to incorporate that learning into one's lifestyle.

Role playing, discussing in groups, drawing pictures, and analyzing case problems are some of the many teaching methods that were used in the class.

Students also used the computers to access financial literacy online games. Websites visited were, practicalmoneyskills.com and us.mint.gov/KIDS.

Upon program completion, students will have the opportunity to open a savings account at the Wells Fargo Bank in Hillsboro.

OUTCOMES

Attendance:

In the 1st to 2nd grade group we had 6 students all from Montebello Apts.

In the 3rd to 5th grade group there were also 6 students – two from Sierra West.

By the end of the last class we averaged 9 students attending with 90% attendance throughout the program.

Results:

Students learned about the following five themes:

- 1) Earning Income
 - What is money?
 - Working for income.
- 2) Saving
 - Why and how we save.
- 3) Spending
 - What is a consumer?
 - Deciding when to spend and how to plan spending.
- 4) Credit
 - What is credit?
 - Borrowers and Lenders.

5) Money Management

- Making a budget.
- Managing our money.