




MAY MONTHLY HAPPENINGS

Springing forward, students are counting the days until summer break while teachers and principals (and SIF, too!) are simultaneously making plans for the next school year. High on SIF's to-do list is preparing for four 8th grade graduation ceremonies taking place this month! As these students become SIF Alumni, they will be tracking their portfolio progress on line, exercising the option of trading stocks, and joyfully anticipating high school graduation when the stocks transfer to their names. Some additional happenings:

- **NEW LEADERSHIP!!!** Jason Cohen takes the helm as SIF's new Executive Director, bringing more than 16 years of marketing and creative leadership experience. Most recently, Jason was the E-Communications Director at The Associated, a Baltimore-based non-profit. Previously, Jason had served as Director of Marketing for Renegade Productions, and Business Development Specialist for Ajilon Consulting. Watch for his imprint as SIF 'springs forward'.
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- The **Maryland Department of Education** and the State legislature just established new criterion for teaching financial literacy to all undergraduate students beginning 2011. The good news is SIF students already have an advantage as many of these business fundamentals are already in their curriculum!
 - SIF's impact and effectiveness received special recognition when asked to be part of a supplemental mathematics curriculum funded by a federal government's stimulus program. Initially it was suggested that SIF offer its program to **50** additional classes. Tempting? Yes. Realistic? No. But the honor was appreciated.
 - At Carroll County's **East Middle School**, the assistant principal recognized SIF's important influence on its 7th grade classes. He proudly told of students in the school generally showing increased attendance, but SIF classes, he exclaimed, appreciably exceeded the other student rate. As these SIF classes have predominantly special education students, it is quite impressive watching them discuss stock diversity, the Peter Lynch's investment theory, and anticipated investments after recording their improved grades. This is a true testament to SIF's ability to improve attendance across the student spectrum.
 - The principal at **Fallstaff Middle School**, in pursuit of ways to improve SIF students' attendance, wants to get parents involved in discussions about SIF before the year's end. This special PTA session will introduce SIF's financial education, the importance of school attendance and ways to use the Internet in the learning process. Thanks to Dr. Hibbert for this wonderful suggestion and we look forward to the event!

What SIF means to students: *Stocks in the Future* = better attendance + financial knowledge + real vs. theoretical investment choices + discovery of school's relevancy + enhanced business vocabulary + short and long-term rewards + discovering investment options. Check our website: www.stocksinthefuture.org!