

Youngstown City Schools

# News Release

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## **For Immediate Release**

### **KIRKMERE HAND-CRAFTED BRACELETS MAKE GREAT HOLIDAY GIFTS**

*December, 12, 2011:* Kirkmere Elementary special needs students are selling beautiful, hand-crafted bracelets just in time for your holiday shopping. Teachers and visitors are welcome to stop in on Thursday, December 15, from 9:30 to noon to shop.

These attractive crafts are more than bracelets. Each represents a hands-on activity that will prepare third to fifth grade students for upcoming state tests and, perhaps, to become future entrepreneurs.

Teachers, Mary Werblan and Kim Rose, were inspired by a donation of hundreds of beautiful beads received last summer. The teachers decided to turn the opportunity into a lesson on capitalism which would include academic standards in every subject.

Using a "Twenty First Century" student-as-workers setting, students learned collaboration, critical thinking, written and oral communication, and the values of the work ethic. Complex mathematical patterns were required to design and construct these unique bracelets, and they wrote extended-answer solutions that mirror state testing. Students learned basic economic factors of supply and demand, manufacturing, and profit and loss—hopefully, profit.

To date, the classes have earned more than \$200. These 3-5<sup>th</sup> grade students hope to take a field trip to the Akron Zoo to learn about animals, their habitats and survival needs. They are also considering a trip to an Amish Farm Garden Center built on learning standards for horticulture and cultural groups, as well as an opportunity for "city-kids" to see the country. Of course, journaling along the way is a must.

For more information, contact Kirkmere teachers Mary Werblan or Kim Rose at 744-7725. Kirkmere is located at 2851 Kirk Road, Youngstown, Ohio 44511.