"Money!" exclaimed my almost two-year-old granddaughter as she pulled a credit card from my wallet. Her shout made me laugh, albeit nervously. I was proud at her recognition, but also startled by the revelation that mere “credit cards” are probably what most children now view as “money.”

[I have since added coins to her monetary experience, plus the word “credit card” to her vocabulary!]

With parents using debit and credit cards for most purchases, children have few experiences with actual cash money. Indeed, our recent “Wells of Love” community project was a great exercise in that it allowed young children to hold and count coins.

Without this exposure to coins, many elementary children struggle with differentiating between a nickel, dime or quarter, much less a half-dollar. Even the penny and dollar bills are becoming unrecognizable for many children, simply because mom and dad don’t pull them from their wallets very often, if at all!

Few children now receive an allowance. Mom or Dad adds whatever the child requests, within reason, into the shopping cart. It seems that the exercise of having a piggy bank, and counting the money over and over to determine if there is enough for a purchase, is disappearing—and with it an opportunity for vital skill learning.
Helping Children Learn About Money (continued from page 1)

Ron Leiber, in his book *The Opposite of Spoiled*, has some advice on raising children who are grounded, generous and smart about money.

He states that children should have an allowance, beginning around first grade that is given on a weekly basis. Leiber recommends not tying the allowance to chores. Children need to do chores for the same reason we do — because the chores need to be done, and not with the expectation of compensation. Up to a dollar a week is suitable as an allowance for a child under ten, paid in differing combinations each week.

As early as five, children can begin to understand the family budget by using a dollar’s worth of pennies. Based on the percentage calculations of the budget, the pennies’ are divided into piles such as house, car, gas, food, utilities, clothes, entertainment and whatever expense categories you might have. It is important to include a category of giving—some people call this charity or service to others.

Leiber has advice on tracking and storing the money. With each of the dollars a child gets for allowance there are three spending categories and three corresponding storage containers.

The first is Spend, which is for the occasional impulse purchases, and can be spent anyway a child likes. The second is Give, which is for helping others. Leiber says waiting until the container is full before giving the money away will give a real sense of accomplishment. [Note: Every year I hear of at least one child who proudly brings a donation from his/her allowance for the Wells of Love project.]

The last container is Save. This is for the things a child might want, but doesn’t have enough money to buy with just a dollar. We might call it wish money. This promotes the learning of patience—a primary virtue of receiving an allowance.

Taking time to help young children learn about where money goes and how to save it for dreams, wishes and service to others lays a foundational tool for lifelong learning. It gives children an opportunity to make mistakes and grow through experiences while the stakes are pretty low.

As Leiber says, “We parents are in the adult-making business after all, and we should do everything possible not to squander the opportunity to build grown-up humans with 15-20 years experience of handling money.”

It is only through practice that children can learn the value of delayed gratification, and learn how to spend money wisely.
Congratulations to children moving up this coming fall

Join us as at the pavilion on the last day of school (June 4) at 11:00 a.m. to recognize and celebrate these students. You are invited to stay and picnic with your child (BYO).

Toddler to Primary
Joseph Barfield
Rainey Busse
Thaddeus Graham
Paloma Noriego
Aster Cornett-Olsson
Oliver Rodriguez
Reid Rosenweig
Asher Smith

Primary to Lower Elementary
Leonardo Duarte
Julia Fisher
Anna Nagy
Rachel Nagy
Alicia Ospina
Lucas Rodriguez
Brendan Robinson
Joshua Ruiz
Andrew Simonson
Harper Sertich
Remez Widen
Gabriel Zuschlag

Lower Elementary to Upper Elementary
Agusto Benavides
Savannah Carlson
Ava Carr
Sean Forga
Matilda Lee
Angus McGoon
Emiliano Villegas
Ilian Villegas

Annual ‘Bike Rodeo’ to be held on May 6

Officer Trainor of SAPD will talk to primary and elementary children about bike safety. Then, on May 6, students are invited to bring their bike (or trike) to school to participate in a Bike Rodeo.

Officer Trainor will ensure student bikes are safe, and then students may participate in a series of challenges. Parent, Suzanne Montiel, is organizing the event and needs lots of parent help. Call her at 383 8994 or email her at suzanne.montiel@gmail.com

Teacher Appreciation Week is May 5-9

Teachers play a key role in student success and sometimes a simple “thanks” is all a teacher needs to feel valued. Take the time to celebrate your students’ teachers during this week.

Music Performance on Thursday, May 28

Primary and Elementary students will present musical performances on Thursday, May 28 at 6:30 p.m. in the St. Paul Parish Hall.

The primary students' performance is based on the book, Listen to the Rain, by Bill Martin Jr. and John Archambault. Students will use instruments that evoke the beauty and mystery found in the sounds of rain!

The elementary students’ performance is based on the book, ALL of YOU was SINGING, by Richard Lewis. This enchanting book retells the Aztec myth about ‘how music came to the Earth’ using musical instruments, song and drama.

Bring your favorite snack or desert to share after the performance.
SPEMS Summer Program runs July 7-31

Our staff of Montessori-trained teachers teaches this four-week program, which emphasizes science, cultural studies, language, art, practical life, gross-motor activities and music.

Scholarships and after-school care is available. Applications are due by June 1!

Remember, we welcome children who do not currently attend the school, so don’t forget to tell your friends!

Two students receive rewards

Congratulations go to two of our elementary students who placed in local art and poetry competitions.

Lucas Bordelon (age 7) submitted his poem for entry in the San Antonio Public Library Young Pegasus Poetry Anthology. Over eighteen hundred poems were submitted and Lucas’ poem was one of forty-nine entries selected for this year’s anthology.

All the elementary students submitted artwork for the San Antonio Symphony’s Young People Concert “Billy the Kid” and Paint to Music Program. Three of the students received awards for their work and Giorgia Mari (age 10) placed first. Her art will be projected above the orchestra during the music selection at the next performance the students attend on May 7.

Spin Class ‘SPINRAISER’

benefitting
St. Paul’s Episcopal School

Friday, May 15 @ 6:30 p.m.
at JoyRide Cycling Studio, 1915 Broadway in The Pearl

Sign up online at www.joyridetexas.com starting May 10th to secure a spot. A suggested donation of $25 for the class is appreciated. Stay for refreshments after the workout!

Puppet show to visit campus on May 20

The Eulenspiegel Puppet Theater will visit our school on Wed., May 20, for a performance of ‘The Monkey and the Crocodile.’

This hand-puppet show was created and is performed by Justin Cornett-Olsson, one of our parents.

It features a tricky monkey and a good-natured crocodile and his greedy wife.

The show is adapted from the tale of the Panchatantra, one of the earliest collections of fables written in India more than 2,500 years ago.