

Students booking on 'Cool Beans'

■ Student-run bookstore in Troy teaches real-world lessons in business

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Troy Elementary fourth-graders are getting an early lesson in economics with the help of an in-school, student-run store.

The Cool Beans Bookstore actually is the second such operation the students have undertaken. Begun with a grant secured in October, the bookstore is in the same room as a school supplies store that students have run for the last five years.

"This year, I wanted to find another hands-on learning experience for my students which intertwined the (state testing) Standards and was also research-based," said teacher Amy Burzanko, who applied for the grant.

The grant supplied 100 books from various genres for reading levels in grades three through eight.

"At the end of the year, I'll use the money we made to buy another 100-bundle from them," Burzanko said.

In addition, the grant provided for a cash register, aprons, thank-you bags, book bins and tablecloths.

"Some of the students in the class decorated the bookshelf using the purple-and-gold tablecloths as curtains," said fourth-grader Julie Combs, speaking during a presentation to Berkshire School Board. "They also displayed the books and Troy Elementary gear for decorations and hung the posters the grant provided.

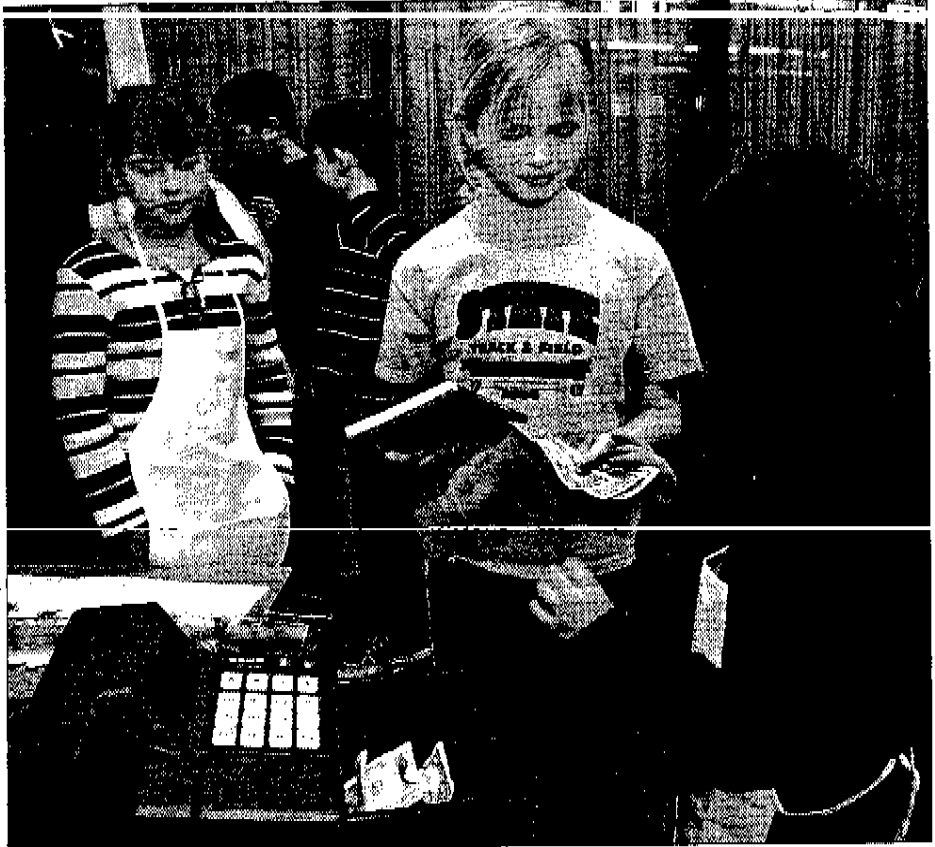
"The class decided on Cool Beans Bookstore for the name because Mrs. Burzanko's favorite saying is 'Cool beans.'"

The bookstore is open every Friday, and students in grades three through six can shop there during recess.

The books are sold for \$2 to \$3 apiece — a discount on the retail price — and, so far, the store has brought in more than \$70.

The students' involvement ranges from placing books in the proper reading levels to ringing up buyers' orders.

"The students working are in charge of helping students choose an appropriate book for their reading level, mentally



Ken Blaze/KBlaze@News-Herald.com

Julie Combs, 9, buys a book from Megan Thomas, 9, at the Cool Beans Bookstore at Troy Elementary School. Fourth-grade teacher Amy Burzanko used a grant to buy books and have students run the bookstore as part of their economics curriculum.

"The students working are in charge of helping students choose an appropriate book for their reading level, mentally counting and making change with money, and using the cash register to check their math."

Ronnie Simpson

Troy Elementary School fourth-grader

counting and making change with money, and using the cash register to check their math," said fourth-grader Ronnie Simpson during the school board presentation.

"The bookstore not only incorporates math, but it also includes economics. We are learning about supply and demand, profit and income, labor and creating jobs."

Students also can get involved by pur-

chasing gift certificates and prepaid cards to the store for their child and as gifts for other children, said fourth-grader Lindsey Burnett.

"Running the bookstore teaches me how to run a business," fourth-grader Keanu Martin said.

"I am becoming a better leader. Being a leader shows that I can do anything I put my mind to."