

# Chalk Talk

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**PLEASE SHARE CHALK TALK WITH YOUR COLLEAGUES!!!**

## Letter from the Editor

Dear Readers,

Like death and taxes, another thing that is a certainty in life is that it is difficult to save money. It seems almost ridiculous now, but 'piggy-banks' were originally designed in a way that the only way to retrieve the money that had been deposited into them was to break them; or for the impatient or the repentant, a fine working tool such as a knife or letter opener could be utilized.



I recall marveling at the two-foot-tall ceramic sculpture of a seated Jack Russell terrier that guarded the front hallway of the home of one of my school chums, which I came to understand was, in fact, a savings bank. Between the dog's shoulder blades there was a slot into which my friend's mother dropped all of her spare change, day after day, **for years**. What commitment! What patience! When it was finally completely full, it received a couple of good, clean whacks with a hammer. The coins and the occasional 1, 2 and even 5 dollar bill spilled out onto the floor — it was at this point too heavy to lift onto a table — and the counting began. Almost 200 dollars — a lot of money at that time — had been saved.

Saving money is one thing, knowing what you can do with it is an entirely different matter. For kids today, faced with the likelihood of carrying huge debt loads by the time they complete their post-secondary education, understanding money is more important than ever. Managing money is a skill that can be learned at a very young age. This week's issue of **Chalk Talk** features classroom resources which can help students from ages 10 to 18 to plan for the future they want.

CoEd Communications is dedicated to supporting the important work of teachers by providing resources on a range of topics for the classroom. Check out [www.4edu.ca](http://www.4edu.ca) to order free, quality teachers' resources.

[As always, we welcome your feedback.](#)

*Mary Kovack*

Mary Kovack

## Dreaming Outside the Box

It's never too soon to introduce young people to the important role money will play throughout their lives and to teach them how to manage money effectively as they begin to plan for their futures.

**The RBC Royal Bank® Financial Lifeskills Junior Program — Save, Share, Spend —** is a financial literacy classroom resource, specifically for educators of grades 4 to 6, that offers a simplified approach to money that is ideal for younger students.



**Save, Share, Spend** integrates money management into the grades 4-6 curriculum. The package contains curriculum-based lesson plans, a teacher's guide, a poster and a class set of 35 cardboard patterns that students fold to construct three-dimensional money management boxes.

**Unit Overview** — Students explore four main financial challenges:

- Creating a visual representation of their financial dreams,
- Goal setting to achieve financial challenges,
- Collecting money for a charity, and
- Creating a piggy bank that symbolizes their new-found knowledge.

The activities have been designed to include hands-on learning challenges, involving individual, partner and group work. If you wish to order this kit, go to [www.4edu.ca/tors/RBC3](http://www.4edu.ca/tors/RBC3).

[To learn more about other free RBC Royal Bank® Financial Lifeskills classroom programs for intermediate and senior students, see **Website of the Week** feature below.]

# Website of the week

## RBC Royal Bank® Financial Lifeskills Education Program

The RBC Royal Bank® Financial Lifeskills Education Program is designed to cultivate in students an interest in financial and career planning. It is offered in English and French and includes distinct resources for junior (grades 4-6), intermediate (grades 7-9) and senior (grades 10-12) students.

### RBC Royal Bank® Financial Lifeskills Intermediate Program — a step in the right direction — Grades 7 to 9

The Intermediate Program is tailored to help students take that first important step in developing the skills they will need to set and achieve their financial goals. This free resource focuses on problem solving, using real-life situations and easy-to-implement worksheets. Each kit is comprised of 35 posters for students and a 45-page teacher's guide. To order your free RBC Royal Bank® Financial Lifeskills **Intermediate** Program teachers' kit, [click here](#) or go to [www.4edu.ca/tors/rbc2](http://www.4edu.ca/tors/rbc2).



### The RBC Royal Bank® Financial Lifeskills Seminars — Grades 10-12

This free seminar kit is designed to help educators provide senior students with some clear direction on the path to financial literacy. RBC Royal Bank® Financial Lifeskills Seminars lead students to acquire and apply key decision-making skills in the sphere of economics and life decisions. Students set sample career goals and create a plan and budget for reaching them. The program includes worksheets, scripts, and a poster.



Seminar One — **The Rest of Your Life**, setting goals and working to achieve them

Seminar Two — **Financing Your Education**, what it costs and how to pay it

To order, click here: [www.4edu.ca/tors/RBC](http://www.4edu.ca/tors/RBC).

### RBC Royal Bank® Financial Lifeskills Scholarships

Now in their 6th year, the scholarships are the culminating point of the RBC Royal Bank® Financial Lifeskills Education Program. Watch **Chalk Talk** in coming weeks for further information on the 2008 scholarship program and on how grade 12 students who have been accepted into post-secondary education can apply. Ten scholarships — each valued at \$2,008 — to be awarded. To read more about the program and last year's scholarship recipients, go to [www.rbcroyalbank.com/lifeskills](http://www.rbcroyalbank.com/lifeskills). **Deadline May 11, 2008.**

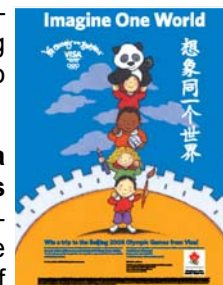
*The future belongs to those who prepare for it today.*



## REMINDER: Visa 'Olympics of the Imagination' Art Challenge — Deadline April 4!

Visa invites students between the ages of 10-14 to participate in the **Visa Olympics of the Imagination Art Competition** for the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games which take place in August. Students are asked to create an original drawing based on the theme of this year's Olympic Games—**One World, One Dream**. To help students to become inspired, samples of winning artwork from the Visa 'Olympics of the Imagination' art competitions from the Torino 2006 and Athens 2004 Games can be viewed online at [www.visa.ca/voi/gallery](http://www.visa.ca/voi/gallery).

Four lucky Grand Prize winners from Canada will be flown to Beijing, China (along with a parent or legal guardian) to visit the 2008 Olympic Games as guests of Visa. The winning designs will be reproduced into fabric and flown at various venues at the 2008 Olympic Games. To help inspire your students, teachers are invited to view samples of winning artwork from the 2006 Torino Visa 'Olympics of the Imagination' children's art competition.



Packages containing a contest poster and challenge details were delivered to schools the week

of Feb. 4, 2008. Entry forms and full contest rules can be found at [www.visa.ca/voi](http://www.visa.ca/voi). Entries to be received no later than April 4, 2008.



## Education News & Related Articles

[New tax-free accounts offer long-term gain](#) – James Daw, Business Columnist, *TheStar.com*, February 26, 2008

“Canadians adults will soon get to stretch their money a little further with a new tax-free savings account proposed by Federal Finance Minister James Flaherty. The new account will not have a purpose designated by law, and not all of the rules that come with registered savings accounts for retirement, education and, starting this year, the disabled. So you could have a single account to save for a car, home, emergency or wedding account or to pace spending from an inheritance, lottery win or fixed-income pension plan. Savers will not enjoy a refund of tax on income they deposit to their tax-free accounts, and they will be limited to saving \$5,000 a year, with periodic adjustments to keep pace with rising prices and incomes. But the savers will never pay taxes on their investment income, or see federal government pensions or tax credits clawed back when they make withdrawals. This will allow savings to grow faster and go further in world of low interest rates.”

[H&R Block using Facebook \(and tattoos\) to school students on taxes](#) — Carey Toane, *Media In Canada*, February 29, 2008

“Do students find taxes fun? Seems like a no brainer - the operative word being "no." But Calgary-based H&R Block Canada is trying to change income tax's bad rap with a Facebook application aimed at college, university and high school students. ... The first on-site tool is the Calculatron, which students can use to enter their income, province, tuition and tax-withheld to work out estimated return amounts.”

[School reading clinics phased out; Educational assistants, aquatic staff among \\$10 million in cuts debated by board](#) -- Kristin Rushowy, Education Reporter, *TheStar.com*, March 06, 2008

“Toronto trustees voted to end a cherished program that provides intensive help to 250 struggling readers each year. The vote late last night means that reading clinics, available in 32 schools, mostly in the old City of Toronto, will phased out in the next school year. The two-year program provides students in grades 2 to 6 with daily one-hour reading sessions and had been hailed as a "miracle worker" by trustee Irene Atkinson. However, the move will save the board \$1.5 million. Board staff estimate that in the next school year some 86 students will continue in the program with about half of the current teaching staff, or about 10 teachers.”

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We are the Company for Education Communications. We specialize in developing, producing and evaluating school resources and award programs. Working in conjunction with Departments/Ministries of Education, school district/boards, associations, teachers and subject specialists across the country; we provide free, curriculum-based educational resources to Canadian classrooms.

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