

## Supporting Middle School Micro-Economies, A Real Life Experience!

*co-authored by Lily Buren-Charkey, Middle School Entrepreneur, and Tamara Mount, Head of School*

Throughout the year the middle school takes on the daunting task of raising around ten thousand dollars for our odysseys! This year we are raising money for our River of Spirit Odyssey to Boston, a comparative world religion and science of water study, connecting with many different faith communities and cultures. In the middle school we are guided by the question, "What Does It Mean To Be Human?" Our trips help to answer this question as we experience things first hand, including the task of raising the money.

Raising ten thousand dollars by June seems like an overwhelming task, but with the student run micro-economies it becomes possible. Not only are we cooking and preparing food, we are managing businesses, practicing organizational skills, marketing our products and developing customer relations skills. These business are all about taking the initiative to get things done, which plays into the middle school's philosophy of independent learning. Micro-economies are small, usually eighth grade student run, businesses. Micro-economies already underway this year include:

- **Bagel Lunch**, in which we make bagels to order every Wednesday to serve to the whole school
- **Bake Sales at the Coop** once a month
- **Rockin'Ramen at BrattRock** last Saturday
- **Coffee Cart on Thursday mornings**, now by donation as part of welcoming parents to stay and see All School Gathering (next one on Oct. 12)

Others coming up that we invite you to support include:

- **Famous HMMS Soup**, bread, and more, at the **Putney Harvest Festival**, our biggest all community effort and most significant delicious money maker **(at The Putney School, Sunday, October 8)**
- **HMMS Soup Subscriptions** on sale now at the front desk. Homemade soup is made available by the quart on Fridays at pick up
- **Kids Night Out** where we have fun, games and crafts with students in the younger grades for an evening in the Arts Barn, Oct 27, Nov 17 and Dec 15, 2017 are scheduled

See below and stay tuned for more information about specific efforts. Also, consider attending **"Montessori Outcomes - Discussions with Alumni"** on October 12th to hear how this business experience translates for our graduates later in life!

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