

**CU In School—A Partnership for Financial Education between Marshall Community Credit Union and area grade schools.**



# CU In School News

## Children and Holiday Budgets

It's easy for holiday spending to get out of control when you have children. You may be surprised to learn that research shows that what children really want for the holidays is a relaxed and loving time with family, an evenly paced holiday season, reliable family traditions and of course, a few gifts. However, research also suggests that children have much more reasonable expectations on the number and the amount of money spent on gifts.

With this in mind, before anyone goes holiday shopping on gifts for children, they need to set realistic expectations for their family. Parents need to take the first step with their

holiday spending play by talking with family members about what gifts they can expect. For example, a parent might say to a child, "this year you will receive two gifts—one that will be in this price range and one that will be in this price range." Then, the children will ideally provide some ideas on what gifts they would like to receive that fit into that price range.

This is also a great lesson for children in how much things really cost to help them better understand money. If a child asks for a gift that is beyond the boundaries of the spending plan, try explaining why it is beyond your budget by saying things like:

- I would like to give you that gift, but right now we don't have enough money for how much that item costs, so can you help me with some other ideas for another gift that costs less?
- Is this gift something that you might want later? Could we plan that I save some money and you save some of your holiday money so we can buy it later?

By talking realistically with your children, they too can understand what the holiday season is truly about.

## Financially Made!

There's still time to turn in your application to become a Financially Made participant! Being Financially Made means you can save for something you really want. We'll help you reach your goals with free matching deposits of up to \$150.00!

To apply to be Financially

Made, you must be a member (or be eligible to become a member) or Marshall Community Credit Union and must be 13-17 years of age. You must complete the Financially Made Application Packet and submit a 250-word essay along with your application. Both the

Application Packet and essay guidelines are available on our website ([marshallcommunitycu.com](http://marshallcommunitycu.com)), along with the Financially Made Program Guidelines and Official Rules.

All materials must be received by MCCU by Monday, December 14th.

### Dates to Remember at Marshall Academy

- 11/26 Happy Thanksgiving!
- 11/30 Marshall Holiday Parade—7:00pm
- 12/08 Training for new staff volunteers (9:30am)
- 12/22 No CU In School
- 12/25 Merry Christmas!

### Did You Know?



Marshall Academy students have saved over **\$225** so far this year.



Marshall Community Credit Union

[marshallcommunitycu.com](http://marshallcommunitycu.com)