

Celia Clinton 5th Graders Run JA's BizTown for a Day

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At 10am the Monday after Thanksgiving, Celia Clinton Elementary fifth-graders could be found sitting in a town meeting listening intently to their student-mayor. This is how Junior Achievement's BizTown kicked off its day for our adopt-a-school kids.

From that point on, the students were in charge ... from running a bank to a radio station to a grocery store and more.

BizTown, a small-city within the headquarters of Junior Achievement offices in Tulsa, provided the facilities and resources needed for kids to run business simulations for a day.

The JA program is designed to help students connect the dots between what they learn in school in advance of the visit to BizTown and the real world.

And, boy, did it work. Each company had a CEO, a CFO and staffers with specific jobs. Each time a sale was made, a salesman entered the transaction into an electronic point-of-sale computer and handed over the check or cash to the CFO who took it to the bank after logging the sale in the books and writing a deposit slip.

Meanwhile, the others were busy operating the businesses including running health checks, selling fast food and running a public affairs television program.

Principal **Tanya Davis** made the arrangements for the students to participate which was partially funded by Rotary donations. In addition, Rotarians were there to help guide the students along with Celia Clinton Elementary teachers and parents.

Rotarian volunteers (shown above) included: **Richard Gibbs, Gordon Greer, Scott Rowe** and **Louann Buhlinger** (not pictured). Each of these Rotarians were also Rotary/Junior Achievement volunteer teachers this year.

The business day ended at 2pm and most of the businesses were successful at paying off their bank loans ... all within the span of five hours. Wouldn't it



be nice if we could do that as well? But, more importantly, each student was introduced to the real world of business and excelled while having fun.

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