# Dear Family Member,

Welcome to our ninth unit of study, "Buyers and Sellers."

In this unit, your child will be introduced to elementary concepts in economics. For example, we'll be learning about the steps involved in producing everyday objects like a baseball bat or pizza box. We'll also read about kids who go into business, and get introduced to the notion of bartering. In addition, your child will meet two silly animals characters who go into business and end up eating away most of their profits. Our selections include procedural texts, informational social studies texts, and stories. "Buyers and Sellers" is an interesting unit about a subject close to our lives, and I hope it sparks some lively discussions at home.

Should you have any questions about our reading program or about your child's progress, please don't hesitate to contact me.

# Buyers and Sellers

In this unit, we will read about economics and think in depth about the question "How do the goods we make, buy, and sell connect us?" Here are some activities designed to continue the conversation about concepts in economics and to build on the skills your child is learning in school. Hopefully you'll even have some fun, too, as you work together!

Topic Connection

## Where'd That Come From?

Economics plays a huge part in our lives every single day, and there are many opportunities to continue the discussion with your child. In the grocery store, you can look at different goods and wonder aloud together at the route they traveled to get onto the shelves. Or your child can set up a lemonade stand, and together you can figure out how to price the drinks so she can make money.

Vocabulary Connection

## Word Stack!

With this unit, students are learning some challenging vocabulary words: **annual, careful, designs, pattern, pleased, protect, provide, purchased, shipped, soggy, sorted,** and **trimmed.**

To support your child's word knowledge, play this game: Make an index card for the vocabulary words, and a card with these parts of speech: noun, verb, adjective. Then, take each vocabulary word and put it into its correct category.

Comprehension Connection

## Cause and Effect

Several of the selections we'll be reading in class are examples of procedural text. For example, the selection "From Pine Tree to Pizza Box" explains the steps involved in turning a tree into a product. You can practice identifying steps in a process—an important reading skill—with your child by pointing out examples of procedural text in their daily lives, such as recipes and directions. Then challenge your child to put steps in order by explaining to you how to play her favorite game, make her favorite recipe, etc.

Phonics Connections

## Here's "Y" — and "Ly"

In our phonics instruction, students are learning about adding the suffixes "y" and "ly" to words, turning them into adjectives and adverbs. To help your child with this skill, try the following activity. Make index cards of the words below from the unit, and also of the suffixes. Take turns picking a word and adding the correct suffix. Then, write down the newly formed word and use it in a sentence.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **crunch** | **crisp** | **poor** | **glad** |
| **y** | **ly** | | |