Prevent Summer 'Brain Drain' with Fun Learning Tools

Financial Literacy Website Themint.org Provides Educational Games and Activities

MILWAUKEE, July 11, 2012 /PRNewswire/ -- While the summer months spell sun and fun for families, the extended break from school also diminishes math and reading skills for children. All kids lose some math skills in the summer and some lose ground in their reading abilities too, according to the National Summer Learning Association*. Engaging children with educational activities, that also teach important lessons about money, can help keep math and reading skills sharp. The interactive, financial literacy website, themint.org, is a good place to start.

(Logo: http://photos.prnewswire.com/prnh/20120207/CG48663LOGO)

Endorsed by the American Library Association as a **Great Web Site for Kids**, themint.org offers games, activities and useful information for kids, as well as meaningful content for parents. And teachers can find classroom tools and resources to begin planning lessons for the fall.

"Themint.org is a great way for kids to stay engaged in learning over the summer while having fun too," says Elizabeth Taylor, director specialty markets at Northwestern Mutual. "Parents can pick up tips for teaching their kids important lessons about money, budgets, saving and spending that will go a long way to fostering good money habits right now and in the future."

The site provides age-appropriate financial lessons for kids, tweens, parents, and teachers on topics ranging from the basics of earning and saving to spending and giving. Themint.org makes it easy for parents to access a series of articles on timely topics, including 'how to' advice and practical pointers for talking to their children about money. For teachers who might be looking to get a head start on lesson planning for the next school year, note that the site offers resources for the classroom, which are optimized for interactive use on classroom smart boards. Teachers can also download a variety of lesson plan materials.

Themint.org also conducts quarterly **online polls** of visitors to the site. The polls generate engaging conversation by posing thought-provoking questions for parents and kids to discuss. The site includes a full archive of past polls.

** The effects of summer vacation on achievement test scores: Review of Educational Research, 1996*

About the Northwestern Mutual Foundation

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Further information can be found at **http://www.northwesternmutual.com**.

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