

## PL Optimist – June 11

*“Promise yourself – to wear a cheerful countenance at all times and give every living creature you meet a smile.”* This is the eighth of the ten stanzas in the Optimist Creed. Wearing a cheerful countenance is as important as putting on the right clothing for a meeting or an interview. The first thing a person notices about you is the expression on your face. Make it a positive first impression. Smile, it truly takes less effort than a frown; be cheerful, life will be more full.

PL Optimists were all smiling at our April 27<sup>th</sup> meeting when we had the pleasure of meeting the winners of the Essay contest. Congratulations to 1<sup>st</sup> place: Ben Dymit, 2<sup>nd</sup> place: Cynthia Ta, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place: Lauren Thormodsgard. These students wrote wonderful essays and we truly enjoyed hearing them read. Writing is a life-long skill and these kids excel! Special thanks to Lee Shimek, Graham Williams and Jeff Holmberg for their involvement in the Essay Contest.

Throughout the year the PL Optimists grant donation requests to various organizations. Some of the most recent grants were to the Optimist International Foundation, a local Eagle Scout applicant, summer swim and band scholarships, City of Prior Lake Youth, Prior Lake Safety Camp and Art Recognition. Please help us support youth in our area by taking chances for fun at Memories on Main, The Cove and Extra Innings in Prior Lake.

We make a difference and would love to have you join us. We meet twice a month, except July and August, at noon at Fong’s in Prior Lake. Meetings last approximately one hour starting with a meeting and program and followed by lunch. Upcoming programs include honoring our EXCEL students May 25 and Respect for the Law on June 8. We have many social events as well! For more information on our club, meeting topics and dates go to [www.priorlakeoptimistclub.com](http://www.priorlakeoptimistclub.com) or contact President, Mary Nagarajan at [marynagarajan@gmail.com](mailto:marynagarajan@gmail.com). To learn more about Optimist International go to <http://optimist.org>.

Two quotes to live by: “Most smiles are started by another smile.” ~Author Unknown and “A smile is something you can’t give away; it always comes back to you.” ~Author Unknown. Put on a cheerful countenance today!

*Shawn Richey – Public Relations PL Optimist Club*

## PL Optimist – June 15, ‘11

*“Promise yourself – To give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you have no time to criticize others.”* This is the ninth of ten stanzas in the Optimist’s Creed. What an appropriate quote for this time of year when we are celebrating the graduation of many of our youth! They have worked hard at improving themselves and succeeding by being able to take that walk and receive that diploma!

Optimist President, Mary Nagarajan, recently had the privilege of recognizing this year’s Optimist Scholarship recipients at Senior Award night. Over the past 30 years the Prior Lake Optimist Club has awarded more than \$600,000 in scholarships and grants to benefit students. We are proud to recognize the following Senior Scholarship Winners: Optimist Scholarships: Janessa Anderson, Kaitlyn Aragon, Taylor Francis, Dana Melink, Maxwell Nagarajan, Katherine Nelson, Brittany Pederson, Lauren Resh, Melissa Rieger and Alissa Viereck. The Jim Speiker Memorial Award recipient is Andrew Dang. The Junior Optimist recipient is Rebekah Schumacher. These students

epitomize the Optimist Creed in that they “think only of the best, work only for the best, and expect only the best”.

The EXCEL program, sponsored by the Optimist Club, pairs an Optimist member with a senior who strives to improve their grades with the hopes of furthering their education upon graduating from high school. We are proud to recognize the following EXCEL Scholarship winners: James Andreen, Ravi Butler, Austin Carlson, Shea Christenson, Emily Eischens, Kevin Kes, Jonathon Kop, Trena Larson, Michael Maxfield, Laura Regnier, William “Tyler” Weernik and Shavial Whitfield. These students’ achievements typify another line of the Optimist Creed; “to forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future”. Interested seniors of the class of 2012 should check with their Guidance counselor for more information on the EXCEL program for next year.

Every year the Optimist recognize an artist from the Art Show at Prior Lake High School. This year we are proud to recognize Catherine Cates. Her work titled “The Light”, “coming back to earthquake are in Japan”. Her piece will be presented to ISD 719 and can be seen hanging in the District Service Center. Congratulations!

The Optimists strive to make a difference and welcome new members to join this fun and caring group! We meet twice a month, except July and August, at noon at Fong’s in Prior Lake. Meetings last approximately one hour starting with a meeting and program and followed by lunch. Upcoming programs include honoring our Senior Scholarship Winners on June 22. We have many social events as well! For more information on our club, meeting topics and dates go to [www.priorlakeoptimistclub.com](http://www.priorlakeoptimistclub.com) or contact President, Mary Nagarajan at [marynagarajan@gmail.com](mailto:marynagarajan@gmail.com). To learn more about Optimist International go to <http://optimist.org>.

Why waste time criticizing others? Make the best use of your time and strive to improve yourself. “There is only one corner of the universe you can be certain of improving, and that’s your own self.” ~Aldous Huxley. Congratulations and best wishes for the future to the Class of 2011! You shine – make us proud!

*Shawn Richey – Public Relations PL Optimist Club*