

PL Optimist Club – Jan '11 article

“Promise Yourself - To make all your friends feel that there is something in them.” This is the third of ten stanzas in the Optimist Creed. What a wonderful New Year’s resolution for us all. Have you ever noticed how doing for others and bringing a smile to someone’s face makes you feel so good? The definition of optimism is the tendency to expect the best and see the best in all things. What a wonderful gift to give to our youth; to make them feel that there is something great in them and encourage them to live their lives optimistically.

We can help our youth feel that there is something in them in so many ways; supporting them in their schoolwork, sports, activities and just day to day life. The Prior Lake Optimist Club supports Boy Scouts, the 5th grade ELC trip, Senior Lock-in, Arts and Activities programs, youth sports, Junior Optimist, etc... The list is long and varied. Support is not just monetary. We encourage kids to expand their thinking and try new things. For example the Oratorical Contest coming up in February and mentioned in last month’s article. (For more information go to <http://www.priorlake-savage.k12.mn.us> under News.)

The PL Optimist and Optimist International also sponsor an Essay contest. This year’s topic is *“How My Education is the Key to a Successful Future”*. Applicants must be under 19 as of Dec. 31, 2010. Medals and monetary awards will be awarded to the top three students. Our winners will go on to further competitions to compete for a \$2,500 college scholarship. Applications must be received by February 28, 2011. More information will be available soon at <http://www.priorlake-savage.k12.mn.us>. Writing skills are very important to a successful education as well as success in the future. We encourage all students to participate.

Junior Optimist will be sponsoring a food drive at the PLHS vs. Burnsville HS basketball game on January 28th. All donations would be appreciated and come cheer on our team!

Prior Lake Optimist is open to all and we would love for you to join us! Time is precious and this organization does not demand a lot of yours. Come see what we are about. We meet two times 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 Eric Rodine, Athletic Director at PLHS on Jan. 12. The program Jan. 26 is Club Prior and Feb. 8 is the Prior Lake Savage Educational Foundation. Please join us. For more information on our club, meeting topics and dates go to www.priorlakeoptimistclub.com or contact President, Mary Nagarajan at marynagarajan@gmail.com. To learn more about Optimist International go to <http://optimist.org>.

Acronyms have become a part of everyday life and the Optimists are no exception: BOBIK = bring out the best in kids! Make this one of your New Year’s resolutions. Be positive and make someone feel there is something in them, make them smile and help them to bring out the best in themselves.

On behalf of the Prior Lake Optimist Club – we wish you a Happy and Healthy New Year!