

PL Optimist Club – Dec. '10 article

“Promise Yourself – To talk health, happiness and prosperity to every person you meet.” This is the second of ten stanzas in the Optimist Creed. A perfect reflection of the time of year; a statement and attitude we all try to live by during the holiday season. The goal of Optimist International and the Prior Lake Optimist Club is to convey and develop this attitude in today’s youth not just during the holidays but all year through.

November was a busy month. November 10 several area youths were recognized for outstanding contributions to their community at the Youth Appreciation Luncheon. Optimist Clubs worldwide recognize local youth for their efforts in the arts, athletics, academics and community service work.

In the spirit of the season, the Santa Line will be operating December 4 to give kids access to their favorite bearded gentleman who listens to their wishes and dreams. Our December 8th meeting will be a holiday celebration with our fellow Optimists. (There is a little elf in us all!) December 11th is the deadline for the Toys for Tots drive sponsored by the Junior Optimist Club. Toys can be dropped off December 11th at the storefront next to Fong’s.

The Junior Optimist Club is a student led club at Prior Lake High School which meets weekly. The Club began 6 years ago with 9 members. This year there are over 60 members. This marks the 5th year for Toys for Tots and the Jr. Optimist have collected over 5,000 toys. For more information please contact Amy Raetz at 952-447-1137.

There are many presentations, contests and events planned for the New Year. Stayed tuned for updates here monthly or see below for how to obtain more information. One important contest is the Oratorical Contest which is currently under way.

The Oratorical Contest is designed for students to gain experience in public speaking. 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. The topic this year is: *“If I Were Leader of the Free World, the First Issue I Would Address Would be...”*. For more information go to <http://www.priorlake-savage.k12.mn.us> under News. We encourage students to enter as public speaking experience is invaluable in every walk of life.

The PL Optimist welcomes new members of all ages and interests. Please attend a meeting to see what we are all about. We meet two times a month at noon for a presentation and lunch at Fong’s in Prior Lake. For more information on our club, meeting topics and dates go to www.priorlakeoptimistclub.com or contact President, Mary Nagarajan at marynagarajan@gmail.com. For more information on Optimist International go to <http://optimist.org>.

On behalf of the PL Optimist let me wish you a happy, healthy, holiday season. Optimists – Friends of Youth!