

Ventura Sunrise Optimist Club Newsletter

February 26, 2017

<http://www.venturasunriseoptimist.org>

ESSAY BREAKFAST

The winners were celebrated at the Sunrise and East Ventura Essay Contest Awards breakfast, held last Wednesday at Poinsettia Pavilion. Both first-place winners, as well as four of the six top essays overall, were written by students from El Camino High School at Ventura College. Sierra Futterman was the awarded the top honors by the Sunrise Club, while the East Club recognized Keegan Haupaya-Renbarger as its top essay recipient. Both are ECHS students.

Other Sunrise Optimists essay winners were Adrian Sylvester (second place, from Buena High) and Jacob Menasco (third place, from El Camino). The East club's other winners were Venisa Rodriguez (third place, St. Bonaventure) and David Flanders (third place, El Camino).

With five of the top finishers reading their essays, it was obvious that overall quality was very high and that the judges, Sean McKee, Karen Robertson and Sharon Demele, had a tough, tough job.



Left, Sunrise President Kim Becker and Sierra Futterman; right East winner Keegan Haupaya-Renbarger with East Club's Eric Burton. Bottom photo, five top essayists.



STUDENT OF THE MONTH

Natalie Schermer, a Loma Vista Elementary School fifth-grader, might just be one of the most fitting Ventura Sunrise Optimist Club Students of the Month, *ever!* Natalie's elder sister, 14-year-old Julia, has an ever-so-relevant nickname for her younger sibling — OptoNat — because her sister is so eternally optimistic.

Sunrise Club members came together recently at the Main Street Restaurant and Steakhouse, along with her parents, Dave and Charlotte, sister Julia, grandparents Joanne and Delfino Lopez-Rojas, Natalie's teacher Mary Elsenbaumer and district representative Paul Jablonowski to recognize Natalie.

"We have fabulous students at Loma Vista but one stood out, because of her consistently positive attitude as a leader," said Elsenbaumer. "She's there every day, engaged every day."

Natalie, who says she'll most likely attend Cabrillo Middle School, likes math, science, gardening, reading and playing basketball.



SEASIDE TOURNEY BASKETBALL SPONSORS NEEDED!

Marie Atmore reminds us that it's that time of the year again — Sunrise Optimist Club members need to be pounding the pavement, rounding up sponsors for the up-coming youth basketball tournament. Tri-Tip sandwiches notwithstanding, the vast majority of our annual budget comes from this one event.

The more money we raise for the tournament, the more money that comes back to us so our club can lend support our support to more worthy programs and individuals, in the way of donations, scholarships and the like. So ask your plumber, accountant, auto mechanic, restaurant owner, etc., if they might be interested in helping Ventura youth and their business all at the same time. Keep an eye out for emails from Marie with the form you will need or contact her.

The Optimist Creed

Promise Yourself

*To be so strong that nothing can disturb your
Peace of mind*

To talk health, happiness and prosperity to every person you meet

To make all your friends feel that there is something in them.

To look at the sunny side of everything and make your optimism come true.

To think only of the best, to work only for the best, and expect only the best.

To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own.

To forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future.

To wear a cheerful countenance at all times and give every living creature you meet a smile.

*To give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you have no time to criticize
others.*

*To be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear and too happy to permit
the presence of trouble*