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*Optimist Junior Golf honors
a balance of academics
and athletics*

*Get in on the lucky duck fun
at Convention!*

HOTLINE

Optimist International's Leadership Publication

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WHAT WOULD YOU MISS?

If you haven't already decided to attend the 2008 International Convention July 2-5 in Grapevine, Texas, here are just a few highlights that might help make your decision a little easier:

Devon Harris as Keynote Speaker – Devon Harris is a former Olympic athlete who competed as part of the legendary Jamaican bobsled team at the 1988 winter games. Now hear him as he talks about the attitude you must have in order to beat the odds and accomplish your dreams.

Time to Learn a Thing or Two – Let's not forget the educational opportunities available at Convention! Back-to-School Workshops are offered on every imaginable Optimist topic. If you need more information, the Back-to-School Workshops are just the resource!

World's Funniest Magician – Mac King was recently voted by his peers as the world's top comedy magician. Now see his humor and his magic come together at this year's Evening of Entertainment.

House of Optimism – Get new fundraising ideas and Club project initiatives, go shopping for Optimist gear and make some new contacts, all in one place! Make sure to stop by the House of Optimism throughout your days at the Convention.

See the Sights – Outside of the Convention, there are tours available for Optimists to explore Grapevine and far beyond into Dallas and Fort Worth. Take time out of your busy Convention schedule and get to know Texas!

Helping Day by Day

Your Optimist Club has 30 days to make a difference. Optimist International has offered up 30 ways to do just that. Check out a day-by-day list of ideas for Childhood Cancer Awareness Month this June! See page 3.

Plant a Tree for Optimist Earth Day

The Optimist organization is going green for Optimist Earth Day on June 7! This joint effort will correspond with World Environmental Awareness Week to show that Optimists are concerned with improving their communities and the world for future generations.

Optimist Earth Day is a single unified day to promote environmental awareness and the mission and values of Optimism. Each Optimist Club is asked to participate in an environmental project such as planting a tree. Clubs are encouraged to maintain the tree as long as possible by providing the necessary care and maintenance.

Clubs could also clean up a park or stretch of road. Members may wish to develop a program for children to teach them about the environment and how to protect the earth. Other suggestions include taking recyclables to a local drop-off point or pledging to take mass transit or walk for a day. Every effort counts and will make a difference.

Press releases are available on the Optimist website and should be sent to the local newspaper and radio and television stations before or after the event. Include information in the local newspaper's "Community Calendar" or "Upcoming Events" section.

Every Optimist Club is encouraged to participate to make this event a success! Please send information and photos of your Club's Earth Day project to Optimist International, Attn: Programs Department, 4494 Lindell Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63108, or via e-mail at programs@optimist.org. Pictures will be displayed at the 2008 International Convention.

Competition is Steep Entering Summer Championships

The Optimist International Junior Golf Championships return to PGA National Resort and Spa this summer for two weeks of top competition from some of the leading junior golfers.

The younger age groups (ages 10 to 15) will compete July 25 through 28 with three rounds of play. For the older age divisions (ages 16 to 18), the players will take over PGA National July 30 through August 3 with three rounds of competition before a cut for the final day of play. As always, the tournament will take place in the family-oriented atmosphere for which the Optimist Junior Golf Program has become known.

To keep up with your favorite junior golfers during the tournament, go to the Junior Golf section of www.optimist.org and click on the tournament name.

Optimist Junior Golf Announces Members of All-Scholastic Team

Optimist Junior Golf recently announced the junior golfers who will make up the 2008 Hugh Cranford All-Scholastic Team. The team recognizes junior golfers who excel not just on the golf course but also in the classroom. After reviewing the qualifications of 39 impressive applicants, the Optimist Junior Golf Committee selected four students for the team.

Optimist Junior Golf bestowed the All-Scholastic Team honor on four exceptional student athletes – Adam Carpenter of Little Rock, Arkansas; Katherine Jean of Rantoul, Illinois; Patrick Rodgers of Avon, Indiana; and Mark Wehner of Cincinnati, Ohio.

As members of the 2008 Hugh Cranford All-Scholastic Team, the four junior golfers will receive an automatic exemption into the 2008 Optimist International Junior Golf Championships July 29 through August 3 at PGA National Resort and Spa in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida. Their registration fee for the tournament will be waived, and they will also be recognized for the honor at the tournament's opening ceremonies on July 30.

"The selection committee faced a most difficult task when considering so many strong applications," said Optimist Junior Golf Committee Member Steve Feinstein. "Both academics and golf take discipline, and these young golfers have shown they have what it takes to succeed across the board."

Applicants were required to be 16 to 18 years old and past participants of the Optimist International Junior Golf Championships, Optimist International Tournament of Champions or Optimist District qualifiers. Applications came in from junior golfers in the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico. Those making the team exemplified an impressive balance between golf and academics.

Adam Carpenter is a junior at Arkansas Baptist High School in Little Rock, Arkansas, who has a 4.0 grade point average. Carpenter excelled on the ACT and balances strong academics with his participation in a number of leadership and community service organizations as well as golf. He has
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Mark Wehner
Patrick Rodgers



Katherine Jean
Adam Carpenter



30 Days and Ways to Participate in Childhood Cancer Awareness Month June 2008

1 Write encouragement cards for children undergoing cancer treatment	2 Have a city or state/province official sign proclamation designating June as CCC month	3 Request the CCC PowerPoint from Optimist International and show it at a Club meeting to educate Members	4 Place a new CCC bank in a local business	5 Give gift certificates or small gifts to local service providers	6 Sponsor a Bermuda shorts or jeans day and have everyone pay \$1.00 to wear	7 Work with a JOOI Club and hold a carwash or bake sale for CCC
8 Volunteer to do chores for a family affected by childhood cancer	9 Call Optimist International and request free CCC brochures to share with community members	10 Purchase a copy of <i>The New Normal</i> and donate it to a local hospital	11 Contact a local agency such as the Ronald McDonald House and coordinate a CCC activity	12 Sponsor a camper at a summer camp for children with cancer	13 Host a public forum to educate community about CCC	14 Take family dealing with childhood cancer to the zoo
15 Hold a Penny War with another Optimist Club or community group	16 Ask local hospital or treatment center for their "wish list" and provide one item	17 Give gas certificates to families affected by childhood cancer	18 Collect CCC bank proceeds and send 50% to Optimist International Foundation	19 Purchase <i>Reflections</i> journals and donate to local pediatric oncology center	20 Play board games with children with cancer	21 Sponsor a CCC fundraiser and invite the media; send half of the proceeds to Optimist International
22 Volunteer at a summer camp for children with cancer	23 Take the siblings of a childhood cancer patient to a movie	24 Send an article and pictures about Club CCC activities to local newspaper	25 Offer to make dinner for a family affected by childhood cancer	26 Choose one Club CCC activity and create a CPA entry for District competition	27 Donate puzzles and toys to the childhood cancer ward at a local hospital	28 Host an ice cream social and invite families affected by childhood cancer
29 Visit with childhood cancer patients at a local hospital	30 Send article and pictures about Club CCC activities to Optimist International				 <p>O · P · T · I · M · I · S · T Childhood Cancer Campaign I · N · T · E · R · N · A · T · I · O · N · A · L</p>	

Reflections for Childhood Cancer Patients: Providing a Creative Outlet

"Journals are powerful tools. Taking time to write down your feelings may seem like a small, simple event – but it can be truly inspiring."

– Michelle Branch, singer/songwriter

Everyone needs a way to express themselves during difficult periods of their lives. The Childhood Cancer Campaign decided to answer this need with the *Reflections* journal. For the past several years, *Reflections* has been providing children battling cancer with an outlet for describing their experiences during treatments.

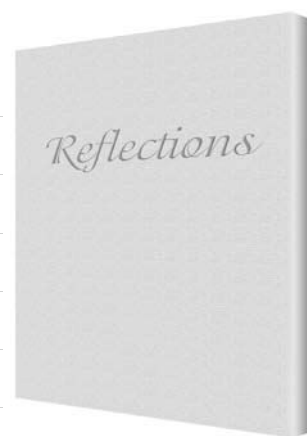
The CCC developed a journal that older children can use for writing, younger children can use for coloring and children of all ages can use as a sketchbook. The pages feature thoughtful and encouraging quotes, with plenty of blank space for the young cancer patient to write or draw.

Throughout the journal are inspiring messages from well-known singers, actors, athletes and other celebrities who have a positive association with children's causes. These entries include pictures and biographies of the celebrities. Some familiar names include native Canadian Kevin Hearn, a cancer survivor and keyboardist for popular rock group Barenaked Ladies; singer Michelle Branch; actor Jackie Chan; athletes Jackie Joyner Kersee, Cal Ripken and Kurt Warner; and former U.S. President Bill Clinton, also a cancer survivor.

Journals can be ordered by calling Shumsky at (800) 414-8946 or by visiting their website, www.optimiststuff.com and clicking on "Childhood Cancer Campaign." English and French-Canadian versions are available through the Corall Group.

Clubs can order journals to give to childhood cancer patients they normally visit. Numerous copies can be purchased and distributed to a local children's hospital or oncology center. The journal makes a great gift at a small cost to the Club.

If you would like more information about the journal, please contact the Programs Department at (800)500-8130, ext. 261 or 235, or via e-mail at ccc@optimist.org.



Quack for the CCC at the International Convention

If it looks like a duck and swims like a duck, does that make it a winner? That's the question that will be on the minds of Optimists during the CCC duck race at the 2008 International Convention.

There's still time to purchase a ticket for a rubber duck for \$10 US/CN. Everyone can participate, even those who will not be attending the Convention. Members must fill out an order form and submit it to Optimist International with a check, money order or their credit card information. Checks should be made payable to "OIF-CCC." There is no limit to the number of ducks each person can buy, but an order form must be completed for each duck purchased.

The presale is for a limited time only and all order forms must be submitted to Optimist International by June 16. After that date, ducks can be purchased in the House of Optimism at Convention during the normal hours of operation.

The first three ducks across the finish line will win the title of "Lucky Duck" for their ticket holders. The first-place duck wins its owner the grand prize of \$100 US. The second-place finisher receives \$50 US and the third duck across the line gets \$25 US. If the owner is not present at the race, the check will be mailed after Convention.

All proceeds from the race will go to the Optimist International Research Fund in Pediatric Hematology and Oncology and the Canadian Childhood Cancer Campaign. If you would like to purchase your duck or ducks today, contact your District CCC Chair or Optimist International to obtain an order form.

DON'T FORGET THE E-POSTCARD

All U.S. Optimist Clubs whose gross receipts are normally \$25,000 or less are required to electronically submit Form 990-N, also known as the e-Postcard.

The Pension Protection Act of 2006 added this filing requirement to ensure that the IRS and potential donors have current information about your organization.

Due Date of the e-Postcard

The first e-Postcards are due in 2008 for tax years ending on or after December 31, 2007. The e-Postcard is due every year by the 15th day of the 5th month after the close of your tax year. All Optimist Clubs will be required to file by February 15, 2009, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008.

Information You Will Need To File the e-Postcard

The e-Postcard is easy to complete. All you need is the following information about your organization. Please visit <http://www.irs.gov/charities/> if you need more information about the items below.

- Employer identification number (EIN), also known as a Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN)
- Tax year
- Legal name and mailing address
- Any other names the organization uses
- Name and address of a principal officer
- Website address if the organization has one
- Confirmation that the organization's annual gross receipts are normally \$25,000 or less
- If applicable, a statement that the organization has terminated or is terminating (going out of business)

Who Must File

All Optimist Clubs with gross receipts that are normally \$25,000 or less must file the e-Postcard.

Late Filing or Failure to File the e-Postcard

If you do not file your e-Postcard on time, the IRS will send you a reminder notice but you will not be assessed a penalty for late filing the e-Postcard. However, an organization that fails to file required e-Postcards (or information returns – Forms 990 or 990-EZ) for three consecutive years will automatically lose its tax-exempt status. The revocation of the organization's tax-exempt status will not take place until the filing due date of the third year.

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helped his high school's golf team *Continued on page 6* to three state championships in a row and was named to the National High School Golf Coaches Association's All American Golf Team in 2007. Carpenter also finished first in the Arkansas District qualifier in 2007.

Katherine Jean is a junior at The High School of Saint Thomas More in Champaign, Illinois. Jean has a 4.1 cumulative grade point average and received a high score on the ACT. Jean is at the top of her class with a challenging course load and is involved in a variety of outside interests, from sports and volunteer opportunities to her school's Spanish Club and pep club. She has been her high school golf team's captain for two years and the team's MVP for three years. Jean also competed in the 2007 Illinois District qualifier in Springfield, Illinois.

Patrick Rodgers is finishing up his freshman year at Avon High School in Avon, Indiana, and with a 4.35 grade point average, Rodgers is ranked first in his class of 603 students. In addition to playing on his school's varsity golf team, Rodgers plays basketball and dedicates time as a volunteer in a variety of areas, from a soup kitchen and a library to the 2008 Indy Hoop Shoot. Rodgers competed in the boys 14-15 division of the 2007 Optimist International Junior Golf Championships.

Mark Wehner is completing his senior year at Oak Hills High School in Cincinnati, Ohio. He performed well on the ACT, with particularly high scores in the areas of mathematics and science. Wehner, who is ranked first in his class of 719 students, was named a Commended Student in the National Merit Scholarship Program and has been honored for his academic accomplishments in various competitions from the University of Cincinnati Mathematics Bowl to the Ralph E. Oesper Science Olympiad Test. In addition to playing varsity golf for his high school for the past three years, Wehner participated in the 2007 Ohio District qualifier.

The All-Scholastic Team is named for Hugh Cranford, who served as Executive Director of Optimist International from 1967 to 1986. He was instrumental in starting the Optimist Junior Golf program and in 1978 led the efforts to co-sponsor the Optimist Junior World Golf Championships in San Diego, the forerunner to today's Optimist International Junior Golf Championships. In recent years, Cranford has served as chairman and member of the International Junior Golf Committee. He is now committee member emeritus.



Hugh Cranford

Montreal Office Relocates Nearby

The Canadian Service Centre has a new home! The Montreal office moved in the beginning of May to a location just down the street from the previous locale.

Telephone and fax numbers remain the same. The new address is:

5205 Metropolitan Blvd East, Suite 200
Montréal QC H1R 1Z7