



The Torch

Flip a Few Pages in February



JOOI Reading Month is just a few weeks away. Has your JOOI Club started planning yet?

JOOI Reading Month is a great way to get your entire school involved in the JOOI of Reading and to show other students that reading



isn't just for school – it can be really fun as well!

Whether a JOOI Club is working with younger students who need some reading help or leading a reading competition between classrooms, JOOI Reading Month is a time to get excited about reading and it's a great time to show everyone at school just what JOOI is all about!

If you're looking for new ideas for what to do during JOOI Reading Month, you can find out more at www.jooi.org. Just go to the website, look under "JOOI Programs" and check out the JOOI of Reading section.

JOOI Clubs can also look to other Clubs for inspiration. The Independence City Primary Junior Optimist Club in Jamaica has made JOOI of Reading their main focus. During "Read Across Jamaica Day," schools all over Jamaica celebrate a day for island-wide reading. The JOOI Club decided this day would be the perfect time to sponsor a reading workshop. They also organized a Literacy Fair last year when they read with students at different reading levels each day, working under a theme of "Read to Be Enlightened."



Students in the Independence City Primary Junior Optimist Club decide to celebrate the JOOI of Reading by teaching their classmates how to be "enlightened" through great books and by participating in "Read Across Jamaica Day."

Great Projects Lead the Way

JOOI Clubs all over should be proud of the projects they ran last year! A few projects stood out as Club Project Award recipients.

In the Fundraising category, the **Orchid Junior Optimist Club of St. George's Girls (A1785)** in Jamaica took first place with their Water Fountain Project. The school's water fountains were more than 100 years old and had become unattractive and unhygienic. The JOOI Club decided to do something about it! They approached area businesses, which donated a bicycle and a cell phone for a raffle. Club Members then sold tickets for the raffle and the funds raised covered the cost to install a new fountain, new pipes and a painted mural above the water fountain.

Coming in second in the Fundraising category was the **Tecumseh Arrows Optimist Club (B1941)** of Ohio and their Turkey Dinner Basket. The Club collected donations during lunch periods for the two weeks leading up to Thanksgiving. The money was then used to buy turkeys, pies and milk for 25 families. The JOOI Club was able to purchase plenty of items that were then divided between the families as well as two local food pantries.

Continued on page 3

Make a Big Difference During the Big Game



For football fans, it's time for the Super Bowl. That means that for JOOI fans, it's time for Souper Bowl of Caring!

Souper Bowl of Caring is a national youth-led movement of giving and serving that transforms Super Bowl Weekend into a time

to think of our neighbors in need. In schools, participation takes place during the week leading up to and including Super Bowl Sunday (January 17 through February 7). JOOI Clubs can join in this movement and make a significant impact in their local communities.

Getting involved is easy! First, register your JOOI Club at www.souperbowl.org. Then, collect money or canned goods the week before and during Super Bowl Sunday to benefit a nonprofit in your community that serves those in need. Afterward, report the amount of your Club's collection to the Souper Bowl of Caring to make your effort part of the national total. Finally, donate 100% of your collection to the nonprofit of your choice!

When your Club registers at www.souperbowl.org, make sure the word "JOOI" is in your Club name somewhere so that Souper Bowl of Caring is aware that your Club is a JOOI Club. They will be able to track what JOOI Clubs were able to collect all together.

Register today at www.souperbowl.org!

A New Guide for a New Year



This year's JOOI Planning Guide has received a complete makeover! The Planning Guide has been entirely revamped so that Clubs can follow the guide month to month over the course of the school year. Each section is complete with a monthly calendar so that Clubs know just what is going on in the organization at any time of year!

As Clubs renew for the year, JOOI Renewal Kits are being sent out and include a CD that contains the planning guide. JOOI Clubs can also find the guide at www.jooi.org. Just go to the website and look for the link in the center of the screen.

Messages Just for You

Have you checked your JOOI e-mail box lately? JOOI's resolution for the new year is to send short messages out to all JOOI Clubs once every week or so. This will help keep everyone updated about what's going on with JOOI!

Club Advisers are encouraged to check the e-mail box often. In addition to the short messages, other important information (like this and other issues of *The Torch*) will be sent to the e-mail boxes.

To check your Club's e-mail, go to www.optimistmail.org and enter your User ID and password.

After you have logged in, you can turn on the forwarding feature. It's easy! Just go to "Account Options" in the upper right corner of the screen and select "Forwarding" from the drop-down menu. On the next screen, enter the personal e-mail address where you would like the messages sent and click "Save."

For help logging on or turning on the forwarding feature, send an e-mail to webmaster@optimist.org.

JOOI Puts on a Good Show



Members of the En-JOOI-ing Performance! Club help classmates by putting on plays about all kinds of topics. Most recently they put on a show about skateboard safety that followed a story similar to A Christmas Carol.

Continued from page 1

The **Elberta JOOI Club (C0196)** in Alabama took top honors in the Community Service category with their Help for the Children of Tanzania project. The Elberta JOOI Club collected medical and school supplies for children in Tanzania in Africa. Optimist Dick Erwin and teacher Teresa Arnould contacted pharmacies and school supply companies and explained their goals for the project. With leadership and direction, the students wrote letters and called to ask for donations from a variety of companies. A representative from Tanzania Medical Missions was available to talk to the students about the poor living conditions and lack of medical treatment available in Tanzania. When the students were done collecting the supplies, everything was boxed up, sent to medical missionaries and delivered to Tanzania.

JOOI of New Prospect (A1652) in Michigan came in second in the Community Service category with Feeding and Housing the Homeless. Each year the local church houses and feeds the homeless for a week and provides them with clothing. This year, the JOOI Members worked hard throughout the week to keep everyone as comfortable as possible. Each day they prepared bag lunches to be served the following day. They helped serve dinner and then spent the evening playing games with them, including cards, Monopoly, checkers and dominoes. At 9 each night, the JOOI Club Members served everyone snacks to end a pleasant evening.

In the Joint Project with Sponsoring Club category, **Independence City Primary Junior Optimist Club (A1703)** in Jamaica led the way with their Soupa-Bowl Sunday project. Leading up to Super Bowl Sunday, they collected clothing and food. On the day of the event, the JOOI Members met up with the local Optimist Club and headed to the Jerusalem Home of Safety. The children at this home face many physical and mental challenges and greatly appreciated all of the donated items.

Coming in second place in the Joint Project category with their JOOI of Reading project was the **Half Way Tree Primary Junior Optimist Club (A1780)**, also in Jamaica. This JOOI Club embarked on a continuous reading project. They celebrated Annual Teachers Day last May by going to the New Dawn Basic School to read to the children. JOOI Members and Optimist Members spent two hours with the young students, reading, acting and working on word puzzles. Later, JOOI and Optimist Members worked with slow readers in grade 1 of Half Way Tree Primary School. Their goal was to motivate the young readers to work on their reading and related skills.

Congratulations to all of these JOOI Clubs for their hard work this past year!



The Elberta JOOI Club had perfect attendance on the day the young JOOI Members went out to collect medical supplies from area businesses. They collected a bunch of supplies, boxed them up and sent them to Tanzania missionaries for delivery!

Excellence Through Service

Many JOOI Members dedicate themselves not just to their JOOI Club but to the greater community around them. Caitlyn Miller, this past year's recipient of the Member of Excellence Award, is certainly no exception.

In 2008-2009, Caitlyn served as the President of the UHS Octagon Club of Underwood, Iowa. Her community service involvement includes helping to organize a canned food drive, making blankets for youth at Children's Square, helping younger kids at a local street hockey outreach and traveling to Mexico for a mission project. Her community involvement hasn't affected her success in school, either, as she excels academically and has been on the honor roll each semester throughout high school. She also is involved with concert band and choir and has two academic letters.

In the words of her school principal, Caitlyn "has the ability, energy, enthusiasm and, most importantly, an open mind and the right attitude to do well and go far in any endeavor she sets her mind to."

Congratulations to Caitlyn for receiving this honor, which includes a \$2,000 college scholarship. JOOI will continue to benefit from her service experience as she continues her dedication to the organization this year as a member of the JOOI Board of Directors.

Adviser Lives Out Spirit of Selflessness

JOOI is about service to others, and for Mike Spalding, Adviser of the JOOI Club of Altamonte Springs, Florida, that means 20 years of dedicated service to the JOOI Members around him. Mike's self-sacrifice for and belief in his JOOI Club and those they serve make him the perfect choice for the 2008-2009 Adviser of Excellence Award.

Mike has truly put his JOOI Members first, passing up opportunities for himself so that others may benefit. He continues to be an inspiration to his JOOI Club and to the entire organization! Congratulations go out to Mike for being honored with this award.

Effort Pays Off

The following hard workers recently built a JOOI Club.

JOOI Members Kemar Jennings, Kimberly Chambers, Rochelle Johnson and Talitha Wilke and Optimist Fay Mallitt – St. George's College

4 Anything's Possible: JOOI Member Receives Top Honor for Can-do Attitude

The Ruby Blair Award is presented each year to one JOOI Member who shows true dedication and leadership within their JOOI Club. The 2008-2009 recipient was Piere-Luc Fillion of Club Octogone Laterrière in Quebec.

Piere-Luc is a true optimist who never sees a glass as anything less than half full. He does not believe in saying "no" to a new project idea, and he rises to any challenge and completes it with no questions asked.

Along with the honor of receiving this award, Piere-Luc receives a \$2,000 scholarship. Congratulations to Piere-Luc for being an inspiration to the JOOI Members around him!



2008-2009 Award Winners

The following Clubs are Distinguished Honor Club and Honor Club award winners for the 2008-2009 JOOI year. Congratulations to all of these Clubs for their hard work!

Distinguished Honor Club

District	Club Number	Club Name	Club President
10	A1798	RAOK Junior Optimist Club	Lindsay Swenson
10	B1845	Norfolk Panther Octagon Club	Scott Sampson
10	A1614	Norfolk Panther Junior Optimist Club	Paige Robinson
40	B1726	UHS Octagon Club of Underwood	Caitlyn Miller
78	B1969	Octagon Club of Alpha Academy	Mekelia Camille Green
78	B2063	Progressive Youth Octagon Club	Krystal Webster
78	A1743	Kids for the Future Junior Optimist Club	Cordane Richardson

Honor Club

District	Club Number	Club Name
5	B1759	Greensburg Community H.S. Octagon Club
16	B1890	Madison H.S. Octagon Club
20	B2095	Lowell High Octagon Club
49	B1422	Club Octogone région de Cornwall
50	B1117	Club Octogone Slinky-Doo, Hochelaga, Montréal
54	B5011	Club Octogone St-Ambroise, Saguenay
54	B1052	Club Octogone Val-Mauricie, Shawinigan
54	B5053	Club Octogone Laterrière
78	A1703	Independence City Primary Junior Optimist Club
78	B1881	Octagon Club of Calabar
78	A1467	St. Theresa Prep School Junior Optimist Club
78	A1780	Half Way Primary Junior Optimist Club
78	A1785	Orchid Junior Optimist Club of St. George's Girls
78	B2020	Octagon Club of Merl Grove High School

Outstanding Governors Get the Job Done

Congratulations go out to Catherine Girard and Robirt Kong, who were named the recipients of the 2008-2009 Outstanding JOOI Governor Scholarships.

Catherine, a JOOI Member in the Quebec East-North Shore District (District 54), is the recipient of the New Club Building Scholarship for her District's accomplishments with New Club Building. Robirt has been named the winner of the Club Services Award Scholarship for Club services work within the Pacific Central District (District 20).

In addition to the recognition, they each receive a \$1,000 scholarship. Congratulations on a great year!

IT'S TIME: KIDS HELPING KIDS ONLINE



Optimist International rolled out its Internet Safety program in December 2008, and now JOOI Clubs can get involved, too.

The Internet Safety program was established to provide Clubs with resources to educate young people and their parents about potential dangers on the internet and offer information about safe practices while online.

JOOI Clubs that participate will receive a certificate and lapel pin. They just need to present the Adult Internet Safety Education Program to either school faculty members or their sponsoring adult Optimist Club or present the Faux Paw program to a youth group.*

Please contact Optimist International at programs@optimist.org or (800) 500-8130 to obtain an informational kit.

*JOOI Clubs must submit the verification form to Optimist International after the presentation.



Internet Safety

JOOI Heads to Denver This Summer!

The details are starting to fall into place for the 2010 JOOI Convention in Denver, Colorado. The first thing to know is that Denver is the place to be for JOOI Members July 5-7! A lot of fun details are on this page. For even more information, check out the JOOI Convention link at www.jooi.org.

2010 Denver Tentative Agenda

Day 1 – Monday, July 5 (casual dress or “Denver” dress all day)

10 a.m.-4 p.m.	JOOI Registration
3-3:30 p.m.	Adviser/Chaperone Meeting
4-6 p.m.	Bowling Party (two blocks away at Lucky Strike Lanes)
6:15-7 p.m.	Welcome Session
7-8 p.m.	JOOI Dinner
8-10 p.m.	JOOI Opening Session
10-11 p.m.	Talent Show Screening

Day 2 – Tuesday, July 6 (casual dress or “Snowy Beach” dress all day)

8:30-9 a.m.	Adviser/Chaperone Meeting
9-10:15 a.m.	JOOI Workshops
10:30-11:45 a.m.	JOOI Workshops
Noon-1 p.m.	JOOI Lunch
1-3 p.m.	Service Project
3-4 p.m.	Mystery Forum
4-6 p.m.	Pool Party & Dinner
6-6:45 p.m.	Meet and Greet the Candidates (mingling)
7-9 p.m.	JOOI Business Session (voting)
9-11 p.m.	Talent Show/Group Dance

Day 3 – Wednesday, July 7 (casual dress or “Pajama” dress all day until the President’s Banquet)

9-10:15 a.m.	JOOI Workshops
10:30-11:45 a.m.	JOOI Workshops
Noon-12:45 p.m.	JOOI Lunch
12:45-1:30 p.m.	Candidate Speeches (same room as lunch)
1:30-2:30 p.m.	JOOI Meet the Candidates Forum
2:45-3:30 p.m.	Elections
3:30-6 p.m.	Free Time
6-7:30 p.m.	President’s Banquet
7:30-9 p.m.	JOOI Closing Business Session
9-9:30 p.m.	New Officer Meeting
9-9:30 p.m.	Adviser/Chaperone Meeting
9-11 p.m.	President’s Dance
11 p.m.-Midnight	Goodbyes (same room as dance)
Midnight	Curfew

*Some Clubs choose to come in a day or two early to tour the city.

*Breakfast is on your own for all days of the JOOI Convention. There are several breakfast options at the Sheraton Denver Downtown in addition to dozens of restaurants, coffee shops and cafés within blocks of the hotel.

Fill Those Backpacks!

After seeing the smiles on so many kids’ faces after last summer’s Convention service project, JOOI once again has a chance to help young students get the school year off right with plenty of backpacks and supplies.

During the 2010 Convention in Denver, JOOI Members will be assembling backpacks full of school supplies in addition to special school-site recreational kits for a program called Summer Scholars. Summer Scholars’ mission is to narrow the educational achievement gap. To accomplish this, Summer Scholars partners with Denver Public Elementary Schools to operate three programs for students and families, including a summer literacy and recreation program, Scholars After School and a family literacy program.

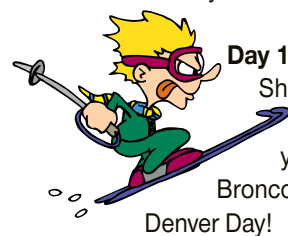
The cost of a backpack and school supplies for one child is \$25. The cost of a school-site recreational kit is \$250. The JOOI Board has set a goal of being able to provide 150 complete backpacks and at least 20 site kits.

All Clubs that support the Convention service project will have their name published in a future issue of *The Torch*!

Please make checks payable to Optimist International and in the memo section please write JOOI Service Project. Please send all donations by June 1, 2010, to Optimist International, Attn: JOOI Department, 4494 Lindell Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63108. For information call (800) 500-8130 or e-mail youthclubs@optimist.org.

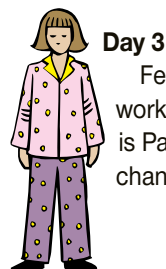
DRESS TO IMPRESS

A great way to have fun and get to know everyone at Convention is to get into the spirit by dressing in a different theme each day. Start planning now for what to pack!



Day 2

Is it snowing outside or is it a perfect day for the beach? On Tuesday, July 6, it’s anyone’s guess as JOOI Members dress for Snowy Beach Day!



Day 3

Feel free to roll out of bed and into the first JOOI workshop of the day, because Wednesday, July 7, is Pajama Day! (JOOI Members will be expected to change for the President’s Banquet in the evening)