



# Twin City Area Optimist Club

P.O. Box 475

Festus, Missouri 63028

[www.twincityoptimist.org](http://www.twincityoptimist.org)

Follow us on Facebook

Affiliated with Optimist International

Serving Youth and Community since 1919

## November 2021 News Making a Difference

### INDUCTION OF NEW MEMBER



**President Gerty O'Leary, sponsor Debbie Schumaker,  
new member Cyndi Buchheit-Courtway**

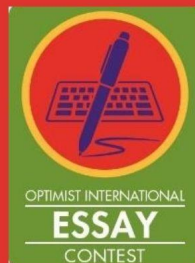


**President Gerty O'Leary inducts Cyndi into the TCA Optimist Club**

## CLUB PROJECTS

You may go to our website to download the instruction letter and essay application form if you have a student who is interested in competing. This is a great opportunity for students to earn cash awards from our club. In addition, local winner goes onto EMO District competition where he/she could earn a \$2500 college scholarship. Please click this link to view/print informational letter and application form: <https://twincityoptimist.org/>

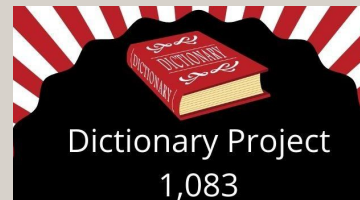
### Twin City Area Optimist Essay Contest



Essays must be postmarked  
by January 31, 2022



All dictionaries have been delivered to local schools. Below is page from Festus Elementary School Newsletter.



# Festus Elementary

## Third Graders Get New Dictionaries

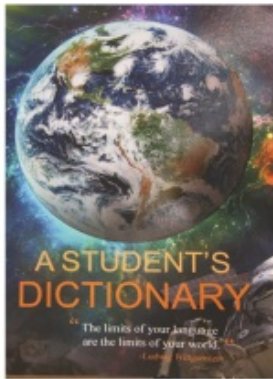
Every third grade student in the District has a brand new dictionary. On October 13, principal Dr. Darin Siefert and assistant principal Mrs. Saundra Benack went from classroom to classroom distributing the new books. The dictionaries are courtesy of the Twin City Area Optimist Club. Every year the club donates the dictionaries to every third grade student in the area. For many of the students it's one of their favorite days of the year. The students will be able to use their dictionaries right away. It could come in handy writing a thank you note to the Optimist Club.



Mrs. Benack gives Hunter Fox a dictionary as Izabella Miller waits her turn.



Abrhum Carter shows his excitement for receiving a dictionary



The 2021-2022 dictionary



Dr. Siefert gives Kobe Turner a dictionary as Mya Foy, Jocelyn Riggs and Cameron Brakhage look on

## Elementary Students Use Apples To Learn Lessons

To celebrate Johnny Applesseed's 247th birthday, students in the elementary school took part in different apple themed activities during the week of September 27th. Some students made applesauce, others built boats, some built towers and others tasted apples prepared three different ways (sauce, juice, butter). Students had to record their observations and from opinions based on their observations. Apple activity week is one week students look forward to all year.



Colton Hurst, Trevor Radford, and Novah Atkins make boats using apples in Mrs. Shining's class



Alivia Bowen samples apples in 3 forms: apple sauce, apple juice, & apple butter

## Kindergarten Students Visit the Festus Firehouse

After a year away, Festus Kindergarten students made their annual visit to the Festus firehouse in early October. The visit came just before Fire Prevention Week. Chief Kevin Cremer spoke to the students about this year's lesson "Learn the Sounds of Fire Safety." Chief Cremer talked with the students about the sounds to listen for during a fire. First and foremost is the sound of a smoke detector. They were taught "When you hear the beep, get on your feet." That means get out and get to your meeting place. He also taught them that if a door is hot, not to open it. Stay put and a firefighter will come find them. A firefighter also put on all of the fire fighting equipment so students wouldn't be scared if one was coming to their rescue. Students also got a look at all of the equipment stored on a fire truck.



Fire Chief Kevin Cremer talks with kindergarten students about this year's Fire Prevention Week lesson



A firefighter shows kindergarten students what a firefighter looks like when wearing all of their safety equipment.



(From L to R): Fritz Muellersman, Ariella Laws, Sammy Boyer, Chance Miller, Matthew Friel compete against other students to see how can build the tallest tower using apples & toothpicks

Special thank you to Janet Mace for all her hard work as project chairperson for the annual art contest. Janet always brings her A game to this project. She follows our creed, "To think only the best, to work only for the best, and to expect only the best."

Of course this is a BIG project to

## Twin City Area Optimist Club



Annual Art Contest

November 14, 2021

2:00pm - 4:00pm

Elks Lodge 1721

4 Elks Acres, Festus, MO

undertake; it could not have been completed without the assistance of our Optimist volunteers.



Mistress of Ceremonies Mary Kay Scott announces art contest winners. First Place winners Sophia Leiner, Macie Tomlinson, Savannah Brown, and Bryce Shepard. Not pictured First Place winner Ella Shy and Best of Show winner Katie Devers.

To view additional art contest photos visit our public Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/twincityoptimistclub/>

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## Twin City Area Optimist Club Art Contest 2021

The Twin City Area Optimist Club Art Contest took place on Sunday, November 14, 2021 at Elks Lodge 1721 in Festus. The annual event had

299 entries with 199 student artists exhibiting artwork. The students and their art were represented by the following schools in Jefferson County: Festus High School, De Soto High School, De Soto Junior High School, Herculaneum High School, Senn-Thomas Middle School, Hillsboro Junior High School, Crystal City High School and Jefferson R-VII. Two entries were submitted by homeschooled students. Entries were showcased in art categories, photography and three-dimensional art.

Best of Show winner was Katie Deevers, Jefferson R-VII, with her entry "Grateful." First place winners in three art categories were: Art – Ages 12-13 Macie Tomlinson, De Soto Junior High School, with her entry "American Blood", Art – Ages 14-15 Sophia Leiner, Crystal City High School, with her entry "Fire and Ice" and Art-Ages 16-19 Bryce Shepard, Jefferson R-VII, with his entry "Mushroom Forest." Taking first place in photography was Savannah Brown of Jefferson R-VII, with her photo "Coming Down the Line." Three-dimensional art first place winner was Ella Shy, Festus High School, with her entry "Recycled Material Dog Sculpture."

The Twin City Area Optimist Club strives to "bring out the best in kids" with events such as the art contest that encourages Jefferson County youth to grow in confidence and self-esteem.

Janet Mace  
Art Contest Chairperson

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## Art Show Memories

The first art show was held upstairs at Eagle Bank. I can no longer remember the Jefferson County Organization that sponsored it. They asked the Optimist Club to furnish the refreshments. Sue Short was the chairperson for that refreshment project. They only sponsored the art show for one year.

I joined Optimist one year after it was organized. When I joined Optimist, I declared, "I'll work on any committee, but I won't be a committee chairperson!" I was the chairperson for our first art show the following year and the next six or seven years. It was 1993 or maybe a year or two before. My brain gets exhausted thinking about those ancient times! Our first few art shows were held at Gannon's Banquet Room before we moved to Frederick's.

In the beginning, we normally had 50 to 80 guests. One year we had a huge crowd show up, over 330 parents, family, friends and young artists. At that time we were still competing with Martha Stewart and baking chewy delicious homemade cookies. I very quickly sent someone to National to purchase lots of grocery bags of cheap cookies. To my amazement, the kids did not touch our scrumptious cookies baked with Optimist love. Every child ate lots of cheap store-bought vanilla, chocolate, and peanut butter sandwich cookies. Of course, the parents ate our homemade delectable cookies. After observing our young artist cookie

preferences, we never requested home-baked cookies again. God love those little artists! They liberated us from baking cookies. Sorry, Martha!

Judy Lowe  
TCA Optimist

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## DONATE YOUR BROKEN AND UNWANTED JEWELRY

Bag your jewelry for recycling  
into beautiful jewelry  
to support victims  
of sex trafficking

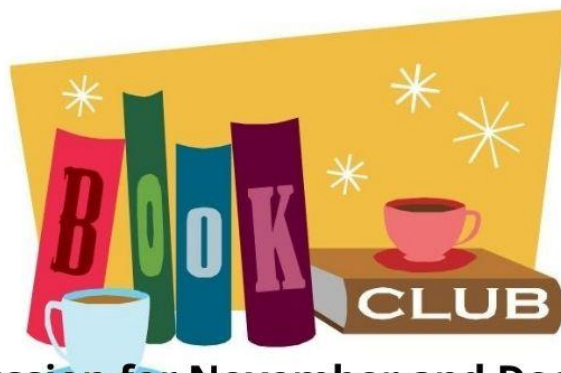
Elizabeth Check will be collecting  
jewelry through Dec. 2



Donate your broken and unwanted jewelry to help a great cause. The organization, Monarch, was created to support the victims of sex trafficking in their recovery. The broken jewelry is recycled into Beautiful new jewelry! The funds support these young people in their struggle to recover. Elizabeth Check will collect any donations of used jewelry until December 2, 2021. For information about Monarch go to: <https://monarchjewelry.org/>

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**BOOK CLUB**



## Discussion for November and December Books

*The House We Grew Up In* by Lisa Jewell, November

*Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine* by Gail Honeycutt, December.

Due to Christmas holiday the book club will meet at **11:30 a.m** prior to noon meeting at Taytro's on **December 16th.** to discuss both books.

All are welcome! Please email Mary Kay Scott with future book selections.

## JOI CLUB



**A special thank you to the BB 5K Walk Sponsors.**

# Congratulations to all essay winners.



Kendal Johnson



Robert Eastwood



Rosalie Tedford



JOI member Kristen Hopkins



Robert Geiler mother. He was taking ACT test



Kenzie Yates



Peyton Willis



Emily Dahmm



JOI Adult Advisor Debbie Schumaker with past Adult Advisor Katie Huck





# TCA Optimist Members Volunteer

**Back Row:** Missouri State Representative Cyndi Buchheit-Courtway, Ellen Bridgewater, Karen Huskey, JOI member Hannah Christopher, and JOI Advisor Debbie Schumaker

**Front Row:** Cheyenne Pratt and Debbie Merseal (grandmother to one of JOI Club members)



## JOI Club Participants

**Back Row:** Ayden Eldridge, Hannah Christopher, Maddie Blair, Brooklyn Johnson, Marcus Felton, Kristen Hopkins

**Front Row:** Addisen Eldridge, Olivia Blair, Audrey Staley, and Kaitlyn Blair.

## BB 5K walk report

The JOI club held its 3<sup>rd</sup> annual BB5K walk for suicide awareness on October 23, 2021 at Larry Crites Memorial Park. The event was successful; we had about 50 walkers from all over the metropolitan area (St. Louis, MO to Smithton IL). JOI club members were in attendance to ensure everything ran smoothly. They assisted in putting out directional signs, registration, setting up for the event, and even had time to walk!

We were able to award eight scholarships to essay winners. The theme for the event was "What would you do if you knew someone did not want to live any longer".

*Debbie Schumaker*  
JOI Adult Advisor

## JOI Halloween Party



Eleven JOI club members enjoyed a pumpkin, an art, and a costume contest, judged by Optimist members. They also enjoyed a modified scavenger hunt and played kick ball. The members enjoyed individually wrapped treats and received goody bags filled with lots of Halloween treats. The event was fun and club will continue to hold Halloween parties.

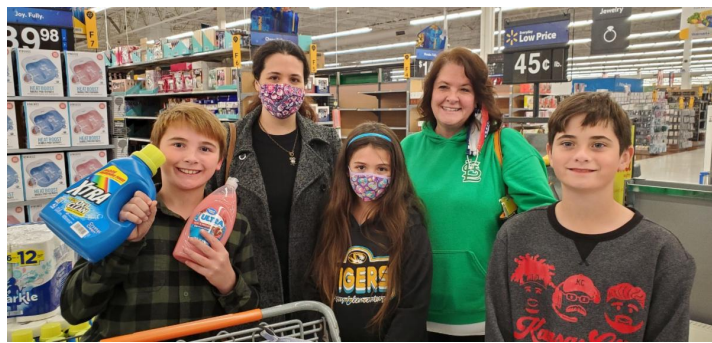
Debbie Schumaker  
JOI Adult Advisor

## JOI Shops for Crisis Nursery



The club shopped at Walmart in Festus to purchase items for the St. Louis Crisis Nursery-Jefferson County for families in need this Christmas.

Our members shopped for paper products, toys, personal hygiene products, detergent, and dish soap. Members were



divided into six groups, each having a budget of \$100.00. Everyone had fun, and it was rewarding to see our older members mentoring the younger ones. We loaded up two cars full of products to give to the Crisis Nursery-Jefferson to be dispersed for the Holidays. It was a fun time for all attendees.

18 members participated in this project included 10 new members. In addition, many parents participated along with TCA members Sherry Armstrong, Phyllis Neff, Katie Huck, and JOI Advisor Debbie Schumaker.

Debbie Schumaker  
JOI Adult Advisor

*Debbie Schumaker*  
JOI Adult Advisor

*Carol Schanz*  
JOI Chair



## CHILDHOOD CANCER



**Hailey Walker with her mother Brandi Pryor, stepfather James Winslow, and siblings Savanna and Alex Winslow**

On October 26, 2021 White Castle in Arnold held the third community night with our club. We receive 15% of sales for a set three hour period. We will receive \$307 from September and \$194 from October fundraisers.

Our club has been following Hailey Walker in her cancer journey for the last few years, providing support with gifts, gas cards, etc.

Hailey and her family attended the fundraiser to celebrate her 12th birthday. She took this opportunity to draw three raffle basket winners. Unfortunately none of our members won.

We are pleased to report Hailey received a check for \$6765 from raffle sales. Arnold White Castle will hold another community night for our club on November 23, 2021.

Carroll Metzger



Hailey along with her mother Brandi picks the lucky raffle winners.



White castle staff Joyce and Jim Jackson with manager Carolyn Dempsey were on hand to celebrate Hailey's birthday.

## FUNDRAISERS



### STORE GIFT CARD RAFFLE

Drawing Thur.

NOV. 11, 2021

One entry for every  
\$10 donation  
(Please include name  
and phone number)



Thanks to members who donated gift cards and/or purchased raffle tickets.

**Earned \$2000**

**Barb Schmidt's daughter Amanda Ward won the gift cards.**

Thanks to Carroll Metzger for all her efforts in coordinating the Craver Community Nights Fundraisers. Fundraiser results as follows: July \$255.71, September \$307, and October \$194.00. Our club appreciates White Castle's support.

Please note: **“meet up with members on the 23rd to share a slider at 5:30, seating available inside”.**

# CRAVER COMMUNITY NIGHT

Support: Twin City Area Optimist Club  
Castle Address: 1905 Richardson Rd., Arnold  
Date: 11/23/2021 Time: 5:00 pm-8:00 pm

**WHITE CASTLE WILL  
DONATE 15% OF YOUR PURCHASE TO:**



**Twin City Area  
Optimist Club**



**DRAWING THURSDAY  
DECEMBER 9, 2021**



Raffle for a "Made in the Shade"  
Multi-color 61"x76" Quilt

**One** entry for every \$10 donation

NAME:

PHONE NUMBER:

Donations can be made thru  
Venmo @**TC-Optimist2122**  
or mail check to:

**TWIN CITY AREA OPTIMIST CLUB  
PO BOX 475, FESTUS, MO 63028**



# FUNDRAISER



Oberle meat/cheese gift boxes for the holidays

EACH BOX CONTAINS

1lb OBERLE SAUSAGE AND

½ LB GARLIC CHEESE STICK

\$17.50/box

pay with check to TCA Optimist Club

or for your convenience you may Venmo Cindy:

@Cindy-Cherry-14



**Project Chair: Cindy Cherry**

**Order deadline December 9th**

**pick up Sat. December 11th, 9 am-12 noon**

**OBERLE SAUSAGE CHRISTMAS GIFT BOXES**

EACH BOX CONTAINS 1lb OBERLE AND ½ LB GARLIC CHEESE STICKS

**NAME            PH #            #BOX @ \$17.50 AMT PD**

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**MEETINGS**



Special thanks to all our dessert divas who have brought sweet treats for members to enjoy during the first meeting of each month.

Below is a recipe for a Pumpkin Goey Butter Cake baked by new member Kathy Todd. Please note: Kathy

substituted a spice cake mix for the crust.

11/5/21, 1:30 PM Pumpkin Gooney Butter Cake (Paula Deen) Recipe - Food.com

INGREDIENTS		DIRECTIONS
<b>CAKE</b>		Preheat oven to 350.
1	(18 1/4 ounce) package yellow cake mix	To make the cake: Combine all of the ingredients and mix well.
1	<b>egg</b>	Pat batter into a lightly greased 13x9-inch baking pan with hands into an even layer.
8	tablespoons <b>butter</b> , melted	Prepare filling.
<b>FILLING</b>		To make the filling: In a large bowl, beat the cream cheese and pumpkin until smooth.
1	(8 ounce) package <b>cream cheese</b> , softened	Add the eggs, vanilla, and butter, and beat together.
1	(15 ounce) can <b>pumpkin</b>	Next, add the powdered sugar, cinnamon, nutmeg, and mix well.
3	<b>eggs</b>	Spread pumpkin mixture over cake batter and bake for 40 to 50 minutes.
1	teaspoon <b>vanilla</b>	Make sure not to over bake as the center should be a little gooey.
8	tablespoons <b>butter</b> , melted	Serve with fresh whipped cream or cinnamon-flavored ice cream.
1	(16 ounce) box <b>powdered sugar</b>	
1	teaspoon <b>cinnamon</b>	
1	teaspoon <b>nutmeg</b>	

## DIME-A-DAY 2020-2021

Thank you to the following members who contributed to the Dime-a-Day 2020-2021 program:

Sherry Armstrong  
Nell Austin  
Janice Boyd  
Sue Boyer  
Ellen Bridgewater  
Elizabeth Check

Mary Hatfield  
Debbie Hogenmiller  
Katie Huck  
Karen Huskey  
Mickie Huskey  
Dorothea Kehm

Phyllis Neff  
Jan Norrick  
Gerty O'Leary  
Pat Parsons  
Nickolyn Russell  
Carol Schanz



Cindy Cherry  
Shirley Coile  
Pat Doenges  
Laura Elbl  
Marsha Greenstreet  
Caryl Harness

Ellie King  
Judy Kreitler  
Judy Kuhlman  
Mary McDowell  
Carroll Metzger  
Patty Meyer  
Jean Naeger

Barb Schmidt  
Peggy Scott  
Leisa Spiker  
Pat Sweet  
Kelly Winkelman  
Terri Wolk

## OBITUARY



Angela Ball joined our club in October 2019 with an ever present smile. You could see her walking about town and was a frequent contributor to our drive thru donation drives.

Her sponsor Mary McDowell remembers Angie: " I thought it was inspiring how she would walk the local roads by herself in any type of weather. I once picked her up when it was over 100 degrees and gave her a ride home. She told me she would walk until she would get tired and then call her husband to pick her up. She lost her husband, Charlie Ball, and her consistent ride several years ago. In her battle with cancer, she always thought of others by raising funds for cancer research by using her gift of being a good cook."

You may recall, the wonderful dinners she catered several times for our special evening meetings.

Our lives were touched by her optimistic spirit and positive attitude.

Click link to view Angie's obituary:

[Angela Marie Ball Obituary - Visitation & Funeral Information \(vinyardfuneralhomes.com\)](http://vinyardfuneralhomes.com)



Members meet at Taytro's every Thursday at Noon - 1 p.m. The last Thursday of the month is an evening meeting. Time and place TBD.

Our Club will continue looking at the sunny side of everything and being committed to bringing out the best in our area youth.

Keep current with club activities,  
like us on Facebook, and  
visit our website.



[Visit our website](#)