



The Ratchet



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Meets Mondays - 6:00 P.M. - Alton Sports Tap Restaurant

www.altongodfreyrotary.org

A Monthly Newsletter

Issue #137 February 2009

Students of the Month

Whitney White of Alton High School and Sarah Beth Johnes of Marquette Catholic High School were honored by the Alton/Godfrey Rotary Club as Students of the Month for February at the Club's regular meeting at the Alton Sports Tap Restaurant on February 9th.

Students selected for this honor are recognized and presented with an award at a Rotary Club meeting and will be eligible to compete for a \$3000 scholarship which will be presented to one of the eighteen students honored as a "Student of the Month" during the school year. This is the 12th year of the program and since the program started 211 students have been honored from the three area high schools.

Whitney White is the granddaughter of Lydia Gray of Alton. She has consistently earned a place on the school's high honor roll and is a member of the National Honor Society. She is a recipient of the Martin Luther King Scholarship, a Perfect Attendance Award, and the Star Award from the Family Career and Community Leaders of America. White is presently serving as Editor of the Redbird Word and was selected to Who's Who Among American High School Students.

Whitney has been extremely active in school activities including the Talent Search, Minority Excellence, and Social Justice programs. She is a member of the French Club, Power of Peers, and the Associate Student Council. She serves as a Good Friend Mentor and is a member of the Worldwide Youth in Science and Engineering program.

Beside her busy school schedule Whitney finds time to devote to a variety of community service functions serving as a volunteer at the Salvation Army the AltonYWCA, the Arms of Love and at local nursing homes. She is a volunteer tutor at the Hayner Library and the Oakwood Church and is available to help no matter what the Cause.

continued on page 4

Rotary Programs



- Mar 2 Main Street UMC**
24th Annual Chili Chowdown, Serving 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., 4:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.
- Mar 9 Alton Sports Tap**
Board of Directors meeting, 5:00 p.m. Regular Meeting 6:00 p.m. Students of the Month for March will be honored.
- Mar 12-14 Westin Yorktown, Lombard**
Land of Lincoln President Elect Training Seminar
- Mar 16 Rolling Hills Golf Course**
Steak Fry at the Rolling Hills Golf Course Club House 6:00 p.m.
- Mar 23 Alton Sports Tap**
Regular Meeting 6:00 p.m. Our speaker will be Ray Botterbush. Ray serves as a weather spotter for the Madison County Severe Weather Group. Find out how local authorities are able to monitor severe weather conditions. This program will be just in time for another round of typical spring weather, that hopefully won't make an appearance that evening. (Bring your beanie with the weather vane on top.)

Student Essays

In this month's issue of *The Ratchet*, we are again focusing on original compositions by our students of the month.

The Breast Cancer Awareness Club

by Sarah Beth Johnes



The Breast Cancer Awareness Club (BCA) was created by the young women in my Spanish IV class. There are fourteen of us in my class and we are all female. One day we were sitting in class listening to one of our classmates talk about her dad and how his cancer had returned and that she knew that we were there for her and would help her through this difficult time. We then started brainstorming about a club that we could start where we could help raise money and educate people on the disease known as cancer.

Since there are so many types of cancer we knew that we had to narrow it down to one. Because there are only females in my class we decided that breast cancer

continued on page 3

Taking Charge

by Whitney White

Someone who takes charge
 Even when no one is looking
 A follower searching for the best
 Indirectly impacting the world
 around them
 Standing up for what is right
 Even when standing alone
 Striving to change
 Facing challenges with an open
 mind
 Thinking outside of the box
 Producing results
 Honest, faithful, trustworthy,
 hardworking, dedicated and
 resourceful
 My definition of a true leader



The cafeteria reeked with an odor of greasy fries and dog chow nacho meat. Fruit juice residue covered on the picnic tables. Trash decorated everything, excluding the trashcans. The daily process of standing in a line of rude and impatient peers became tiresome. The "good" food vanished into growling stomachs before my lunch shift, the last lunch. Everyday I picked up trash left behind by peers in order to avoid crunching carrots with

continued on page 3

Awareness Club

would be our focus. Now we had to find a teacher to sponsor us so naturally we asked our Spanish teacher Senora Burke and without even a thought she agreed. Our next step was to present this idea to the school principal, Mike Slaughter, another yes!

The group decided our first project as a club would be to survey the students in school and actually find out how many have known or know someone that has been affected by breast cancer. We then discussed different ways that we could help raise money to help find a cure for this disease.

To date we have sponsored a dress down day at school, a bake sale and set collection cans out at businesses in several cities. Through my job at Duke Bakery they allowed me to set out cans at the Alton, Godfrey and Granite City locations. Just on the bake sale and dress down day alone we have raised over \$600 so we are well on our way to making a difference.

This club has not only brought me closer to my peers but I have learned so much about this deadly disease. One fact that I was totally not prepared to learn is that men can also suffer from breast cancer. Wow!

If we can just educate our fellow classmates then this information could have a ripple affect throughout their families, community and friends. If they just pass along what we teach them in school and they in turn tell someone else and they tell someone else then we could educate everyone.

Maybe this education can spur one person to catch this deadly disease earlier than they normally would have and a life is saved. Wouldn't that be wonderful?

Taking Charge

my shoe and to set an example for others. As a result, I decided to eliminate lunch. I craved to indirectly impact my peers.

I applied to be an Educational Talent Search Tutor for an hour each day of the school week during my lunch shift. I tutored all grade levels of Alton High students during my junior and senior years.

I grasped concepts in class without a second thought, but tutoring did not come naturally. The students were truly confused and faced personal conflicts. Determined and self-motivated behavior from the students appeared to be a foreign concept to them. The students were assigned to attend tutoring so a pessimistic attitude developed. In order to assist students, I encouraged and supported them. My method of relaying advice changed from student to student. I tutored in every subject including subjects that I had not taken. The position of being a tutor broadened my outlook on life. I learned to thoroughly explain a subject to the clueless and to help undo the dreadful habits of students. The tutees taught me patience. I faced potential high school dropouts. I continued to tutor because it challenged my communication skills and my knowledge. Hugging the tutee, who passed an exam with an A, was a rewarding feeling. The glow and self-confidence seen through the students' eyes is better than the community service hours gained.. The benefits of tutoring are infinitely defined.

Mar 30 Alton Sports Tap

Regular Meeting 6:00 p.m. Program to be announced.

Apr 4 Crowne Plaza Springfield

District 6460 Assembly - Training for club officers and committee leadership.

Apr 6 Alton Sports Tap

Regular Meeting 6:00 p.m. Program to be announced.

Apr 13 Alton Sports Tap

Board of Directors meeting, 5:00 p.m. Regular Meeting 6:00 p.m. Students of the Month for April will be honored.

Apr 20 Rolling Hills Golf Course

Steak Fry at the Rolling Hills Golf Course Club House 6:00 p.m. A golf outing will precede the meeting. Contact Richard Johnson for details.

Apr 27 Alton Sports Tap

Regular Meeting 6:00 p.m. Fourth Quarter Club Assembly. Plans for 09-10 Rotary year to be announced. Committee organization presented.

-Bill Hoagland, Program Director



Students of Month

After graduating from Alton High, Whitney plans to major in Accounting at the University of Illinois.

Sarah Beth Johnes is the daughter of Tim and Beth Johnes of Alton. Johnes is a member of the National Honor Society and a regular on the school's honor roll. Her academic awards include a Congressional Student Leadership Certificate and selection to the National Society of High School Scholars.



Johnes has been very active in school activities as a member of the Chorus, the Peer Leadership Program, the Spring Musicals, and the Campus Ministry. She served as

Vice President of the Breast Cancer Awareness group, and has been an active member of Students Against Destructive Decisions.

Her real love is golf at which she has excelled as a member of the Explorer girls golf team. She was selected to the Riverbend Area All Star Team and to the first team of the Metro East Golf Association during her junior and senior seasons. For the past two years she has qualified for the Girls State Golf Tournament. She earned an honorable mention for the Post Dispatch All-Metro Golf Team. She has been extremely active in the St. Mary's Youth Group and is a regular volunteer for community projects.

Johnes plans to major in elementary education after graduating from Marquette.

Preparing the Chili



Club Officers 2008-2009

President.....Scott Neudecker
 5212 Richland Woods Dr., Alton, 462-4697
 Vice-President..... Ford Phillips
 1007 Henry St., Alton, 463-0769
 SecretaryRoland Hansen
 820 Creekwood Lane, Godfrey, 466-1970
 TreasurerMike Tillman
 1902 Paris Dr., Godfrey, 466-1928
 Executive Secretary.....Melissa Seymour
 3026 Edwards St., Alton, 462-7206

Board of Directors 2008-2009

Rod Elias-3rd yr	Ebony Huddleston-2nd yr
Dick Jones-3rd yr	Brian White-2nd yr
Sam Stemm-3rd yr	Dave Walker-1st yr
Ken Spells-3rd yr	Chris Fox-1st yr
Gail Weinrich-3rd yr	Brock Hendricks-1st yr
Jasper Fisher-2nd yr	Michael Osborne-1st yr
Martha Morse-2nd yr	Tom Turpin-1st yr
Alan McBride-2nd yr	Josh Farley-PP