



The Ratchet



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A Monthly Newsletter

Issue #133 October 2008

Dictionary Project Update

Rotary Programs



The Dictionary Project <http://www.dictionaryproject.org> is a 501 (c) (3) organization, created to provide a dictionary to students to help with their homework and their school work. A dictionary is an essential tool for a quality education. A student cannot do his or her best work without one. A child develops his understanding of the world and builds a frame of reference on what he or she knows, a dictionary provides the knowledge to better understand our world and the words to share information. Donations and contributions made by sponsors to the Dictionary Project are tax deductible.

On two separate days this fall, members of the Alton-Godfrey Rotary Club distributed nearly 1000 dictionaries to 4th grade students in the public and private schools. Thanks to all of the volunteers who got to experience the positive climate in public and private schools.

Captain Randy Tooley distributed at St. Mary's and questioned the students about what word was spelled wrong in the dictionary... "Wrong is always wrong no matter how it's spelled." According to Josh Farley, "Students at the MAC will now use their dictionaries to look up words in their dictionaries instead of going "on-line" to look up words." Larry Thompson reported that a student at St. Ambrose told him minutes after they distributed the dictionaries that she was already trying to learn how to spell supercalifragilisticexpialidocious backwards! The impact is huge for children in the fourth grade when they each have their "own" dictionary to keep! Thanks to Rotarian Allen McBride for purchasing the stickers again for the third year We got the wording spelled right now for two years in a row.

Submitted by Tom Turpin



Ebony distributes dictionaries at Lovejoy Elementary School.

Nov 3

LCCC

Regular Meeting 6:00 p.m. Regular Meeting 6:00 p.m. Our program will be presented by Captain Brad Wells, Chief of Detectives for the Madison County Sheriff's Department. Captain Wells is a graduate of the FBI National Academy and is on the Major Case Squad in the Greater St.Louis Metro area. He will discuss identity theft and how you may be able to reduce your risk of being a victim during the upcoming Christmas season.

Nov 10

Alton Sports Tap

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

Nov 17

Rolling Hills

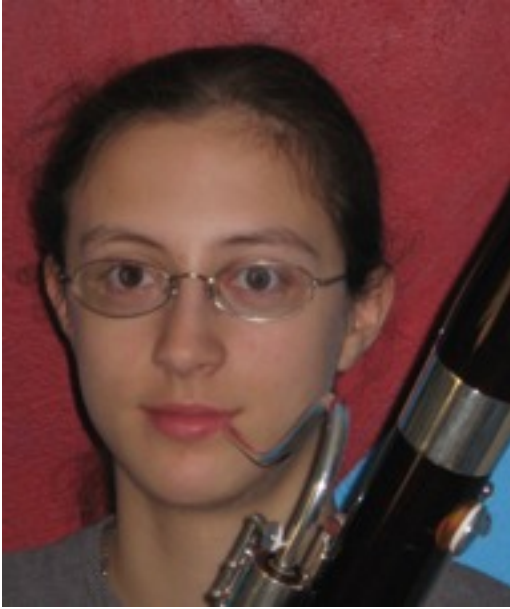
Steak Fry at the Rolling Hills Golf Course Club House 6:00 p.m. Second Quarter Club Assembly for the election of new officers and board of director members for 2009-2010. Committees report to the membership.

Students of the Month

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

Getting To Carnegie Hall

by Victoria Cacciottoli



How do you get to Carnegie Hall? Practice, practice, practice! That, at least, is how the joke goes. And apparently that is also the same way that you get to Powell Hall in St. Louis, Missouri. Currently, I am in my second year as principal bassoonist of the St. Louis Youth

Symphony Orchestra. That means that, not only do I get to play on the same stage as the St. Louis Symphony, I am the soloist of the bassoon section. Gaining such a position was no small task. The feat required auditions, and the auditions required practice, practice, practice.

In 2006, my bassoon teacher, Anthea Ybarra, informed me of the youth orchestra. She thought I was good enough, so I shrugged and went along with it. It was not until I was filling out the application that I found out what I needed to prepare for the audition. The twelve major and minor scales, two contrasting movements of a solo and sight-reading; I balked at the idea. Yet, I was set on the goal and pressed onward. Most days when I practiced, I would find myself playing for an hour or more. The preparation was what I imagine preparing for the Olympics would be like, except with less sports and more bassoon. Eventually, the day for the first audition snuck up on me. I went alone, with my newly acquired driver's license. It was not long before I found out that my mother gave me the wrong directions and I had to call her and drive around for several minutes to find the correct building. Luckily I was early and all was well except for the nervous pang as I walked inside. I sat down in the room with three judges looking at me. They told me

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Football Training Camp

by Patrick Fitzgerald



The summer before my sophomore year of high school, my football coach had the idea to take the entire football team to Quincy University and have pre-season practices there. I arrived at school with my teammates one morning, bright and early. We

climbed on board a charter bus and sat down for a several hour ride. The upperclassmen got seats to themselves, but all of us lowly underclassmen got to double up and cram in. We spent the ride thinking about all the possible horrors that awaited us at this "camp." We made it to the college with just enough time to go for a nice conditioning session. We did Up-Downs, pushups, and suicides, just to name a few. After our warm up practice, we made our way back to the dorms. By the grace of God, we got our own rooms and they were air conditioned. Oh yeah, this was the hottest and most humid week of the summer by the way. In the dorms we were allowed to do whatever, as long as we didn't disrupt the coaches. Some of us managed to sneak in poker chips and some cards, so we would set up little games in each other's rooms. All of the seniors and juniors would play one another, and the freshman and sophomores would play each other. With what little free time we had, we spent most of it playing cards.

The rest of the camp went a little something like this: wake up at 5:45 and be in the dining hall for breakfast by 6:30. We met in a classroom and discussed positions and assignments for each position after breakfast, and made our way down to the field for the first session at 7:45 or 8:00. The first session usually

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Carnegie Hall

to start and I played through my solos and the scales they picked. Before I knew it, I was done and on my way out the door. I felt embarrassment I when I tried to pull instead of push, but the feeling meant little compared to opening letter I received a few weeks later – I had made it to the second round. Also enclosed within that envelope were my excerpts, three parts of pieces the YO would be playing that season. I only had two weeks to practice them and everything else. It was hard work, but my band and orchestra teachers supported me greatly by letting me practice during class.

When that second audition came, it was at Powell Hall. I had only been there a few times when I was younger, and walking out onto the empty stage with only a chair, a stand and a curtain concealing judges in front of me was daunting, but I heard the voice of my bassoon teacher in my head giving me advice, telling me I would be fine. When it was over, I was relieved, but not as much as opening the acceptance letter. The first time I stepped on stage I almost fell over from joy. My name was on the first chair folder. I called everyone I knew and later found out my bassoon teacher called everyone she knew despite whether or not they would care.

This year, I had only to audition in the second round. Preparing was no easier as I picked a harder piece to play for a solo. In the days before the audition I came down with a cold, which did

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Footall

consisted of breaking down into groups of lineman, running backs, and receivers. I was of course stuck with the most glamorous of the groups- the lineman, or “hogs” as we prefer. We would break for lunch no sooner than noon, and no later than just having finished our morning conditioning. After lunch we had about two hours to relax, and, you guessed it, we played poker. We went back to the field at around 2:00 or so, and there, in the hottest part of the day, had our second practice in full gear. This session was devoted to team offense and team defense and, because of the extreme heat, our practice was short- only three hours this time. We got to eat again around 5:30 or so and then made our way back to dorms. We had a few hours rest, and by this time we were all too tired for cards and usually just sat around. At around nine our coaches grabbed us, and took us on a few mile run. That wasn’t too bad in the cool night air though. Then finally, they let us sleep... for a full six hours.

While at the time this camp seemed to take forever (it lasted only six days), looking back it was actually a good time in my life. You can’t go through a tough time like that with your buddies, and not come out stronger friends. My best friends are on that team, and our time at Quincy brought us closer together. Heck, without all that football getting in the way, it was actually kind of fun.

Nov 24 Alton Sports Tap

Regular Meeting 6:00 p.m. Our speaker will be Pam Perlmutter, a local representative for the American Girl Scouts, who will discuss the American Girl Scouts and their new program to increase membership.

Dec 1 St. Anthony's Health Center

Regular Meeting 6:00 p.m. Annual Christmas Program - Spouses Night.

Dec 8 Alton Sports Tap

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

Dec 15 Rolling Hills Golf Course

Regular Meeting 6:00 pm. Club Christmas Party. Family night. Special guest will be Santa Claus to provide a preview of his upcoming world tour.

Dec 22 Alton Sports Tap

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

Dec 29 No Meeting

Holiday

Bill Hoagland - Program Director



nothing to help the fear that I would not get in a second time. When I arrived at Powell Hall, I talked to a friend from the previous year instead of practicing my excerpts and solo. There was a girl auditioning for her first time, so I gave her the best advice I could: not to look out into the hall, which was a daunting empty space. The time came too soon and I stepped out onto the stage, the same chair, stand and curtain in front of me and the same bodiless voices telling me what to play. And I played. Once again, I hardly realized I auditioned, but in hindsight I knew what went well and what did not. I went home happy, thinking that, even if I had not gotten in, I still played well.

A few weeks later, my father handed me an envelope with the St. Louis Symphony stamp on it. I put it on my desk, to sit there for a while while I nervously twiddled my fingers. I realized it would not go away, so I opened it and smiled. I was in again. I called everyone I knew again and told them the news, and my bassoon teacher called everyone she knew as well. The first rehearsal I saw new and old faces. The girl I had seen at the audition told me that she had taken my advice and did not look out into the hall until after she played and I felt happy that she had made it too.

Being in the St. Louis Youth Symphony Orchestra has not only made me a better musician, but it has given me the chance to play music with other great musicians and meet new people. The hard work it took to get in was nothing compared to the reward of hearing applause after a great concert or listening to the recordings of concerts and knowing you worked with a hundred other students to accomplish something so fantastic. So, how do you get to Carnegie Hall? Practice, practice, practice, and you can achieve great things.

Using Technology to Enhance Your Club's Public Image

Our club is already doing more than most Rotary clubs are in the area of technology. Below are some ideas from Rotary International. If you think we should include some of these, let us know.

Rotary clubs should strive to be creative and resourceful when it comes to electronic communication. A modern, sophisticated club Web site is a source of pride for existing members and promotes your innovative club to prospective members. Streaming video, digital audio, [podcasts](#), and [blogs](#) on your site all add to its appeal. Consider embedding video clips from the [YouTube Rotary International](#) channel as well.

If your club does not have a member who is tech savvy or familiar with how to use [new media](#), consult your local business directory to find a new media marketing professional in your community, and invite him or her to speak at a club meeting. Also think about inviting media professionals to your next prospective member information program. (For information on how to conduct these programs, see [New Member Orientation: A How-to Guide for Clubs](#)).

While local news and Rotary club events should be the focal point of your club's Web site, it's also easy to add a fresh, up-to-date, international dynamic by signing up for RI's [RSS feed](#). Find out about RSS feeds and how to sign up at www.rotary.org.

RI also has a [free image library](#) available for clubs. If you want to use a Rotary photograph for a newsletter or Web site, browse the images for something that suits your needs.

Club Officers 2008-2009

President.....Scott Neudecker
 5212 Richland Woods Dr., Alton, 462-4697
 Vice-President..... Ford Phillips
 1007 Henry St., Alton, 463-0769
 Secretary.....Roland Hansen
 820 Creekwood Lane, Godfrey, 466-1970
 Treasurer..... Mike 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