

January 16, 2009

Dear Teachers:

The Optimist Club of Minot is encouraging area students to expound on the statement “**The Power of Youth**” as part of the Optimist International Essay Contest for 2008. Our goal is to encourage them to tap into their creativity and pursue possible scholarships at the same time.

The Optimist Club will judge local student’s essays, based on the topic of “**The Power of Youth**” and determine the top winners. The top three local winners will receive Savings Bonds and the winning essay will be sent to the district level. Essays will be judged at the district level, and each district will send top entries to the international level. College scholarships are available for top winners at the district and international levels.

In the past, teachers have made the Essay Contest a classroom assignment, which gets many students involved. If your curriculum does not allow time for the Essay Contest, we would encourage you to hand out the information to your students and allow them to participate on their own.

Enclosed in this packet are contest flyers with official contest rules and application printed on the back. Please feel free to make as many copies of this information as needed.

When the applications and essays are completed please mail all entrants’ information to:

**Kelani Welstad**  
**Optimist Club of Minot Essay Contest**  
**PO Box 2072**  
**Minot, ND 58702**

If you have any questions please call me at my daytime/work number **340-8825**.

Sincerely,

Kelani Welstad  
Essay Chairperson-Optimist Club of Minot