**COLUMBUS OPTIMIST CLUB, INC.**

**P.O. BOX 1143**

**COLUMBUS, GA 31902-1143**

 **Gregory S. Ellington**

 **Contest Chairman**

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\*\*\*\*The 2014 Optimist Oratorical Contest Provides Students An Opportunity to Win Cash Prizes, Scholarships and Practice Public Speaking.\*\*\*\*

“**How My Passions Impact the World.**”

Dear Principals, Teachers and Students:

 I am writing to inform you that the Columbus Optimist Club is again hosting its annual Oratorical Contest for area students who are under the age of 19 and who have not yet graduated from high school or the equivalent.

**Our contest will be conducted on Thursday, March 6, 2014.**

**This year’s topic is “How My Passions Impact the World”**

 The Optimist Oratorical Contest gives students the chance to learn the invaluable skill of public speaking. First conducted in 1928, nearly 2,000 clubs participate in this program each year. More than $150,000 in college scholarships funded by the Optimist International Foundations are awarded annually from this program.

 One male and one female winner from here in Columbus will receive a cash prize from our local club and will advance to compete again in a regional competition (at a time and location to be announced) with a chance to advance again to compete for a first place scholarship of $1,500, a second place scholarship of $1,000, and a third place scholarship of $500.

 I would appreciate it if all those intending to participate would notify me by fax or e-mail with the student’s name, date of birth and the name of the school that the student attends by no later than noon (12:00pm) February 28, 2014. The Club is limiting the number of participants to a maximum of 8 male and 8 female candidates. These spots will be filled on a first come first serve basis in the order in which I am notified of the individual’s intent to participate. Each school will be limited to 2 contestants unless there are fewer than 16 students registered for the contest as of noon (12:00pm) February 28, 2012, in which case we will fill any available spots on a first come first serve basis. Again, anyone wishing to participate may notify me by fax or email at the number or address provided above.

 I am attaching to this e-mail a pdf copy of the official contest application and rules. You can fax or email the completed application to me or bring it to the contest to turn in.

**Again, the Columbus contest will be held on March 6, 2014**  **at the CB&T Community Room located in Downtown Columbus. Directions to the location are attached. We would like contestants to arrive by 5:30 p.m. and we intend to start the program promptly at 6:00 p.m.**

 We appreciate your assistance in getting the word out to the students in your school who would like to participate in this contest and we look forward to another inspiring evening with these young people.

Please do not hesitate to call me with any questions.

 Sincerely,

 /s/

Gregory S. Ellington

Chairman

Optimist Oratorical Contest

cc: Mr. Scott Solomon, Optimist Club President



