



Message from the President

It seems as though the basketball season was just beginning when I wrote my last article...oh, it **was** just beginning! Wow - does it seem to you, like it does to me, that time has just flown by as we have just finished attending the division banquets and the teams are celebrating the end of their season together?

I would like to reflect on all that you may have experienced recently with OCO:

In **October**, **Judy James** and **Ellen Natsume** coordinated basketball registration and practice, all on the same day ~ a real timesaver for our busy families! You may have attended the fishing event in Long Beach that **Justin Yamasaki** organized, or brought your children to the annual Halloween Party hosted by **Bob** and **Arlene Kubo**. Octagon advisors **Howard Kunihiro** and **Bob Kubo**, along with Junior Optimist advisors **Vince Hamasaki**, **Pat Doi**, **Donna Murata**, and **Donna Okuda**, rounded up their Octagon and Junior Optimist members to provide all the games, prizes and the scary haunted houses!

In **November**, you went through your cupboards and donated canned food to help the Octagons fill 50 baskets they delivered to local families in need at Thanksgiving. The Junior Optimists were busy too as they served up food on Thanksgiving Day at a local restaurant.

In **December**, **Wallace Chan** was hard at work with the SEYO basketball schedule as practices continued and the games began. You may have lost your weekends, but may have made up for lost time by shopping at the Holiday Boutique **Stacey Yoshinaga** orchestrated in Rancho's cafeteria. Inside the gym your child may have selected a gift tag which **Mitch** and **Donna Okuda** prepared with wishes from a child or adult living at Hylond Home for the physically and mentally disabled. Santa Claus (**Clay Sakurao** and **Kurt Goss**) delivered these gifts to the residents of Hylond Home while the Octagons provided a pizza and bingo party. The board members became "Santa's Helpers in cooperation with the U.S. Postal Service by fulfilling wishes written to Santa Claus by families in need. **Glenn Tanaka** putted around that month and turned up one successful golf tournament, raising \$17,000 for the blood donor match program "A3M" - thank you for your sponsorship and support at this event! Lastly, in 2004 you may have brought your children to **Glenn** and **Shirley's** "**Tanaka Farms**" in Irvine (with coordination assistance from **Les Ito**) to pound rice or shape the pounded rice into mochi. If you arrived early enough you might have been served breakfast cooked by Chief Jesse (Karly now likes deer). If you stayed too late you got "powdered" ask Judy!

In **January** while your weekends were taken up with basketball your high schooler may have written an essay using the theme "The Power of One" and submitted it to **Donna Grier** to be judged for the Essay Contest. You found time to attend the general meeting that **Debi Lew**, **Mark Sugamura** and **Justin Yamasaki** arranged with the help of **Caryn Ito**. Our special guest speaker was Arlene Turner, MS, Exercise Physiologist and Personal Trainer. That night you learned how many calories you should be consuming based on your age and other factors, and also learned what to eat before a game, after a game and in between games. You probably attended the "OCO Night" at Chapman University where our girls and boys provided the half-time entertainment at the Chapman Women's and Men's basketball games. Halftime entertainment was choreographed by **Dwayne Yoshinaga**, **Alvin Hagino** and **Wallace Chan** - very impressive ball handling!

In **February** your kids probably submitted art and literature masterpieces to **Jean Lee** to be judged for the Visions Contest theme "I like to help by . . ." Next, you purchased tickets to Casino Night, got a baby sitter and had a wonderful time eating, gambling, and watching "Las Vegas" quality performances - not to mention winning lots of prizes! You may have had your picture taken in front of the "Apollo" marquee (built by **Tim Shimasaki** but stored in **Robin Shimasaki's** living room) with any one of our "OCO Greeters:" **Eileen Kato**, **Ann Joyce**, **Judy James**, **May Auerbach**, **Glenn Tanaka** or **Jesse James** - what will they wear next year?! Without the help of all the parents and families purchasing tickets, getting pop-a-balloon items, putting together Silent Auction baskets, and making special donations, the hardworking Casino Night committee could not have put together the class act event that came to be once more. This list of volunteers stretches far and wide - everyone's collective efforts made this another great OCO event!

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I sincerely hope you have enjoyed this recap of all that you probably did since the basketball season began. We often get busy, time flies by, and we forget or do not take the time to appreciate the wonderful quality of life we have. And, more importantly, the quality time we are spending with our children and the friends we are making along the way.

I appreciate **YOU** and all that you have done to make each of our programs and activities so wonderful and worthwhile. As you can see, we have not wasted too many moments these past five months. We have done so much to improve the lives of our children while also making a difference in the lives of others that we are able to help as an organization.

Remember, we are not just a basketball program, so I look forward to seeing you at the next General Meeting, our annual Easter Party for Orange-wood and Olive Crest children, on the baseball/ softball fields, enjoying delicious food at the Steak Dinner fundraiser, supporting our youth as they are presented with scholarships during the Scholarship dinner, in the gyms with Volleyball, Nikkei games, OCO basketball camps, and so much more!

*Neddie Bokosky
OCO President*

Octagons

For a number of years, Octagons have been going to Hylond Homes, to celebrate the holiday with the residents. Most of the people are mentally and physically disabled. Many of the residents don't have family members to celebrate the season with, so we get their wish lists and have OCO members donate Christmas gifts. Then we gather all the gifts together and have approximately twenty-five Octagon members go and celebrate the day with the residents. Santa and Mrs. Claus delivered gifts door-to-door with the help of the Octagon elves. While Mr. and Mrs. Claus delivered to the rooms, there were octagons who had a pizza party with the other residents. We played games like bingo and sang Christmas carols while passing out gifts. I think we'll have to work on our caroling for next year. Hopefully, the residents had a great time and enjoyed the day as much as we did.

This was our first year participating at Casa Heiwa, and it was a success! Casa Heiwa is a housing center for families with low-income. Some of us got to go shopping for the families' wish lists. When we arrived we got to see that these were kids just like us. They had interest in the same things as we did, like basketball and other sports. We were also able to see that they really appreciated the gifts we had brought them. To watch them open the gifts and see their genuine expressions of gratitude was one of the best feelings.

*Shannon Nishinaka
Secretary*

Congratulations . . .

to **Bryce Kobayashi**, who was a member of a select group of students to participate in the People to People Presidential Inauguration, an educational program in Washington, D.C.! Bryce was nominated and accepted for this exclusive honor based on previous participation with People to People programs, he has been involved in for two years. Bryce went to Washington, D.C., and his agenda included observing the official swearing-in of the President and Vice President, the inaugural address, parade and celebratory ball. He was also given the opportunity to visit many historical places. Bryce is in eighth grade at Buena Park Jr. High School, and he has a perfect 4.0 GPA.

OCO Easter Party

March 19, 2005

11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Rancho Alamitos High School

There will be crafts, games, and lunch...
plus an Easter Egg Hunt!

Lots of fun for the entire family!

Hamburgers, cheeseburgers, and hot dogs
will be provided.

Please bring the following,
according to your last name:

A - I - appetizer, chips, dip, etc.

J - R - salads, veggies, rice dish

S - Z - desserts

Visions and Tri-Star winners will receive their awards
on this day too.

OCO Scholarship

Each year our OCO organization grants scholarships recognizing the skills and achievements of graduating Orange County High School seniors.

High school seniors are eligible to apply for the scholarship if they attend one of the following high schools:

Anaheim
Rancho Alamitos
Savanna
Western

OR if the student is a member of one of the following clubs:

OCO Octagon
OCBC youth Services
Rancho Octagon

OR if the parent is a member of OCO.

Students who are actively involved in community service and/or school activities and who are excelling academically (unweighted 3.0 GPA or higher) are being sought.

For an application and more information, please contact Marsha Hamamoto at marsha.hamamoto@med.va.gov.

OCO Tri-Star Competition

| | | | | | | | | |
|--|------------------|-----|--|--------------------|-----|---|-------------------|-----|
| 5-YEAR-OLD TINKOS GIRLS | | | 8-YEAR-OLD PEE WEE MIDDLE BOYS | | | 11-YEAR-OLD MIDGET LOWER BOYS | | |
| 1st | HALLIE KAICHI | 48 | 1st | ZACHARY MEBED | 153 | 1st | NATHAN KIMURA | 160 |
| 2nd | PAIGE IWATA | 44 | 2nd | RYAN FUNAI | 148 | 2nd | BRANDON FUNAI | 157 |
| 2nd | JORDAN MATSUDA | 44 | 3rd | JAKE PARKER | 135 | 3rd | MASAITO | 149 |
| 3rd | SERENA ING | 34 | | | | | | |
| BOYS | | | 9-YEAR-OLD PEE WEE MIDDLE GIRLS | | | 11-YEAR-OLD MIDGET UPPER BOYS | | |
| 1st | WESLEY NAKAO | 84 | 1st | NATALIE de LEON | 141 | 1st | JUSTIN LEE | 165 |
| 2nd | BRANDEN PACION | 81 | 2nd | AMY YOSHINAGA | 131 | 2nd | CHASE HOIDA | 142 |
| 3rd | MATTHEW NAGATA | 80 | 3rd | EMILY NAKAMOTO | 126 | 3rd | TAYLOR HAMASAKI | 137 |
| 6-YEAR-OLD TINKOS GIRLS | | | BOYS | | | 12-YEAR-OLD MIDGET UPPER GIRLS | | |
| 1st | LAUREN LUM | 124 | 1st | EVAN YAMANAKA | 128 | 1st | EMILY KAN | 153 |
| 2nd | DANICATAMURA | 110 | 2nd | MATTHEW OKABAYASHI | 101 | 2nd | KATIE FUJITA | 146 |
| 3rd | LAUREN WONG | 102 | | | | 3rd | KAYLANISHIDA | 145 |
| BOYS | | | 9-YEAR-OLD PEE WEE UPPER GIRLS | | | BOYS | | |
| 1st | STEVEN OSHIRO | 162 | 1st | KENDALL OTA | 131 | 1st | CODY SAKURAO | 160 |
| 2nd | ADAM VINGINO | 137 | 2nd | RILEY LOWE | 129 | 2nd | J.J. JAMES | 157 |
| 3rd | RUSSELL BUTSUMYO | 136 | 3rd | SARA JINKAWA | 128 | 3rd | NATHAN CORPUS | 150 |
| 7-YEAR-OLD TINKOS GIRLS | | | BOYS | | | 13-YEAR-OLD GIRLS | | |
| 1st | JAMIE HAYAKAWA | 114 | 1st | EVANTOM | 156 | 1st | AKEMIARZOUMAN | 155 |
| 2nd | KRISTA HAYAKAWA | 98 | 2nd | RYAN OMURA | 136 | 1st | ALYSAITO | 155 |
| BOYS | | | 10-YEAR-OLD PEE WEE UPPER GIRLS | | | 2nd | MICHELLE JOYCE | 153 |
| 1st | CORY IGASAKI | 165 | 1st | ERICA SUGIMOTO | 166 | 3rd | ALYSSA CRITTENDEN | 147 |
| 2nd | JAROD YOSHIHARA | 79 | 2nd | ANNIE CHAN | 82 | BOYS | | |
| 3rd | TYLER MURA | 76 | BOYS | | | 1st | DANE OKUDA | 183 |
| 7-YEAR-OLD TINKOS BOYS | | | 10-YEAR-OLD PEE WEE UPPER GIRLS | | | 2nd | BRYCE KOBAYASHI | 165 |
| 1st | CORY OKADA | 139 | 1st | DARREN KUSUMOTO | 149 | 2nd | AUSTIN QUON | 165 |
| 2nd | SAMANTHA MARQUEZ | 101 | 2nd | CONNOR KUSUHIRO | 137 | 3rd | ALEX LEE | 163 |
| 3rd | BAYLEY HAGINO | 100 | 3rd | ALEXANDER STONE | 130 | 3rd | SPENCER LEE | 163 |
| 7-YEAR-OLD PEE WEE LOWER GIRLS | | | BOYS | | | 14-YEAR-OLD GIRLS | | |
| 1st | CORY OKADA | 139 | 10-YEAR-OLD MIDGET LOWER GIRLS | | | 1st | BLAIR SHINODA | 167 |
| 2nd | SAMANTHA MARQUEZ | 101 | 1st | NICOLE SAKAMOTO | 151 | 2nd | MALLORY ROMERO | 154 |
| 3rd | BAYLEY HAGINO | 100 | 2nd | CAITLIN HAMADA | 139 | 3rd | CHELSEA NAKANO | 105 |
| BOYS | | | 3rd | ALEXIS BARTLETT | 129 | BOYS | | |
| 1st | BRANDON KOUCHI | 133 | 10-YEAR-OLD MIDGET LOWER BOYS | | | 1st | RYAN MCDONALD | 158 |
| 2nd | MAYSON LASCONIA | 129 | 1st | DUSTIN YOSHIHARA | 174 | 2nd | COREY NIELSEN | 148 |
| 3rd | KOBY OTSUKA | 116 | 2nd | BLAKE AUERBACH | 166 | 3rd | TIM BROWN | 145 |
| 8-YEAR-OLD PEE WEE LOWER BOYS | | | 3rd | GRANT NISHIDA | 153 | 3rd | DUANE MURATA | 145 |
| 1st | JUSTIN KAM | 132 | 11-YEAR-OLD MIDGET LOWER GIRLS | | | 15 YEAR OLD GIRLS | | |
| 2nd | TROY TAMURA | 124 | 1st | JENNIFER QUAN | 146 | 1st | DEANA de LEON | 54 |
| 3rd | MATTHEW IIDA | 121 | 2nd | KEIKOARZOUMAN | 143 | | | |
| 8-YEAR-OLD PEE WEE MIDDLE GIRLS | | | 3rd | TESS SOPER | 138 | | | |
| 1st | KRISTY OMURA | 111 | | | | | | |
| 1st | SYDNEY NISHIDA | 111 | | | | | | |
| 2nd | KATIE LEE | 108 | | | | | | |
| 3rd | JADE SANTOS | 97 | | | | | | |

Orange Coast Optimist is affiliated with Optimist International, a world-renowned organization. Optimist clubs throughout the world are dedicated to the scholastic, physical, moral, and civic development of the youths in every community.

Check out the OCO Website: www.ocoyouth.org

Jabber from the Editor

I am having one of those days...where I feel myself spinning around, but nothing seems to be getting done. Ever have one of those days? I hope this passes soon...

Stacey Yoshinaga

Interested in contributing to the *Rak Kan Newsletter*?
Please contact Stacey at AllyAmy@worldnet.att.net.



Orange Coast Optimist Club

Newsletter
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