

So, we looked into our Rotary crystal ball, and we saw “hope”. Why were we gazing? Because inside our crystal ball (or atleast our meeting room) were our.....Students of the Month! And, as always, the selections were true, and the speakers were amazing. We met:

From Inverness Middle School – Makayla Butler and Jett Ritli. **Makayla** already embraces the spirit of service. She has raised \$600 for the animal shelter, works in the school library (well, she does love to read) and helps out with teen night. She also enjoys being a part of the “outsiders club”, which is a group that engages with the out-of-doors with walks through Whispering Pines Park. Her love is for horses, and she is currently training for barrel ride competition. Regarding future, it isn’t hard to guess that this A/B honor roll student has her sights set on becoming an equine vet at the University of Florida.

**Jett** Ritli is also an honor student who loves sports, whether it is tennis, soccer, cross-country or track. Currently, he is training for the Gasparilla marathon. His favorite class is gifted education, because he really enjoys the teacher and the curriculum that encourages him to think outside the box. All that running must also give him plenty of time to think, as he is planning a future in software development and will begin that journey at our Computer Academy.

From Citrus High School – we met Conner Peltier. Conner is a self-proclaimed “Nerd”. While he actually laughs at that distinction, let’s not be fooled. At the end of this year, Connor will have completed 14 AP classes. He is also going to University of South Florida to study Bio Medical Engineering with a focus on genetics and genetic modifications that could be applied to crop growth in areas of devastation and starvation. He is also interested in finding a way to modify the DNA of genetically transmitted/inherited disease. Already a rotarian at heart, Conner is looking at ways he can help the world be a better place.

And so, here is our “hope” for a brighter future.....and the students were given their shades.

Other News:

100 club - \$10 to Brian Fitzpatrick, \$20 to **Scott Hebert**, and \$30 to you guessed it!(Tom)

Feb 17 – (this Saturday) Medical Sorting with Megan Carella at 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian 9-2pm

Feb 24 – BREWFEST

Mar 2/3 – Strawberry Shortcake Sales at the Festival

Mar 5 – One Bag with Floral City Elementary at Whispering Pines Park

Mar 6 – Blessings Stock the Pantry and Church without Walls Feed Citrus at the Fairgrounds  
*(this is a very active club)*

Happy/sad Dollars - \$192

50/50 - \$30 to **Scott Hebert** (he was feeling very lucky after this meeting. Hope the rest of the day went as well for him)

May you be healthy, may you be happy, may you be at peace.....