



**WAUNAKEE ROTARY
YOUTH COMMITTEE
UPDATE
2 December 2009**

Youth Protection. Mike Ableidinger is considering the idea of having background checks done on all Rotary Club members who might be in contact with our exchange students. This would include hosting the student at your home, going to events with them, transporting them to school or Rotary events, and more.

Bird's Progress. If you haven't had a conversation with Bird lately, do so soon. You'll be amazed at his ability to communicate and understand English!

He is taking school more seriously, has some assistance from one of the teachers, and attempts to do his homework. We celebrated his birthday on November 19, but on another calendar we can do it again on **December 10**. He received a bass guitar as his Rotary birthday present, so now he can not only entertain himself and his host family but also jam with the other Exchange students when they get together.



The big thing now is that Bird has joined the Swim Team, which means practicing before AND after school every day. They had their first meet last week, in which Bird achieved his best time so far.

You can reach Bird on the cell phone which Rotary is providing: 608-575-0168.
Try texting!

Second Home Host Family. Barb and Kevin Schlittler, and their three sons (Keegan and Taylor who are 17-year-old twins, seniors at WHS, and Aidan, a freshman) all agreed they would like to welcome Bird into their home for the next three months. Not only are they a super family, but the two older boys are also on the swim team, so their schedules jibe with Bird's. And Aidan played soccer with Bird. Bird's new address will be 1030 Ganser Drive, Waunakee. The change will be made this Saturday, December 5.

Thanks to Tom, Rhonda, Danny, Will, and Lydia Reis!!! For being such a super host family for Bird during the past three months. They have made him truly a part of their family and given him the sense of security that has made his stay such a success so far.

Lunch money account. Bird needs big lunches because of his sport activities. Just replenished the account which should take us to mid-January. We'll be okay budget-wise because there were left-over funds from Raissa and Marie!

Outbound students. On November 8, Ray and I participated in an afternoon of interviews with students from the District wishing to go abroad next year Rotary Youth Exchange students. That is an interesting experience!

Two students from Waunakee applied and were accepted into the program for 2010-2011. Until their departure next August, they will be participating in several District-sponsored gatherings, sometimes along with their parents. Although Outbound students and their families bear much of the expense for this, our Club may provide a measure of support, including their official blue jackets and the fee for attending a huge conference in July at Grand Rapids with all of the Youth Exchange students from 17 midwestern districts.



Derek Fuerstenberg is a junior at Waunakee High School. He lives in the Town of Vienna on Windsor Prairie Road with his parents and two younger brothers. He is passionate about all things Japanese, and is learning Japanese on his own. So Japan is his #1 choice. He plans to foot the bill himself for the trip with earnings from being a referee for soccer and ice hockey, and even lacrosse.



Emma Hansen, a senior at Waunakee High School, wishes to live in France or Belgium. Or maybe Croatia, etc. Each student must list five choices and usually gets to go to one of these countries, though not guaranteed their first choice. Since Emma will be graduating in June next year, she will be spending her year abroad before going to college. Her family lives on Turnberry Drive in the Six Mile Creek area.



Let's not forget we have an Outbound student right now – in Sao Paulo Brasil! Lauren Jahnke has been staying in touch with Joy McMerty. Here is her latest email message that included this and a few other photos:

hey, everything is going great! i have attached some pictures of my life. please share them!

i am learning fast and i am haveing a really great time.i am about to go on my country trip. it is a month long and i cant wait! Here is my address:

Rua Joao da Cruz Melao
432 Morumbi
CEP: 05621-020
Sao Paulo - SP - Brazil

District activities. Bird attended the Madison Hockey Weekend, November 13-15 at Edgewood College, staying up all night, as is usual. Jonathon Jordan picked him up Sunday morning and took him to two church services, during which Bird confesses to some shut-eye.

Now it's time to begin planning serious for the Winter Weekend which our club is again sponsoring, February 5-7, 2010. The weekend begins on Friday with the arrival of students from elsewhere in the district. They are dropped off at the Village Center, and picked up by home hosts in Waunakee who bring them back on Saturday for an afternoon of winter sports. We will host a potluck supper that evening, and the students stay at the Village Center all night once again. Since the weekend earlier this year was so successful, we can more or less follow the same plan. Will be sending out requests for volunteers.