

Who would pay to NOT have me speak?”, Mark Yerman said. A flurry of hands went up. But despite our quick and gleeful response, Mark preceded to regale us with his profound knowledge of the history of the Pledge of Alliance. And despite several entertaining attempts to stop him, he somehow managed to take us all the way through it! Here’s to you, Mark, for sharing your wealth of knowledge despite all odds!

On another note, we also had the pleasure of once again hearing from our students of the month. From Inverness Middle School – we met Bayli Thomas and Drake Gumero. Bayli is full of smiles and faith, being well grounded in a strong sense of right and wrong. Hardworking and conscientious, she has managed to find the balance between coursework and extracurricular activity. Managing a 4.0 gpa, she is a member of NJHS, studies high school level geometry and plays basketball and cheer. Drake is an all “A’s” student (always), who is respectful, enjoys a challenge, and is witty and very adaptable. In 5th grade, he received the President’s Gold Award (for educational excellence), and he is hoping to receive it again this year. He plays soccer and guitar, loves his “gifted” class, and plans to take over the family business as a general contractor.

From Citrus High School – we met Mahaela Sleeper and Christian Raber. Mahaela, after overcoming some serious health issues, has risen to the top through hard work and a good sense of humor. Her compassion for the future of the world is reflected in the educational path she has taken. She spent her first two years at the Environmental Academy, where she became deeply entrenched in conservation. She is now dual enrolled and will receive an AA in zoology and her future plans will lead her into zoology conservation and environmental genetics. She also volunteers at a sanctuary and the heritage museum. Finally, she has time to be in the band and the symphonic orchestra. Christian is that guy that just wants to do it all...and can. Currently, taking AP research and government, he will achieve his Capstone Diploma before graduation. This process involves a 5000-word research project which is submitted to a board for review. He has also gathered 11 AP certificates and his AA in computer programming. He will have achieved 6 additional certificates before graduation. His future vision is to attend USF in economics and cybersecurity. Very articulate and comfortable with himself, we are sure he will be a success in whatever he chooses to do.

So, once again, put your shades on everyone. The room is very bright!

In Memory - we have a bit of a heavy heart regarding the loss of one of the best members and a true Rotarian.....Paul Perregaux. We will carry fond memories of him in our hearts, always.

Other News:

Feb 19- Feed Citrus – 7-10am, Citrus County Fairgrounds

Feb 20- Board Meeting – 12 noon, 1st Presbyterian Church

Feb 22 – Rise Against Hunger – 8-12pm, Crystal River High School

Mar 1&2 – Strawberry Festival – Floral Park

50/50 - \$29.50 to Chris Dudley

Happy/sad -\$177