

The Alton Area Optimist Club names Karisma Burnett and Antonia Phillips as Students of the Month

February 18 2016 5:34 PM



OPTIMIST
INTERNATIONAL

Friend of Youth

Karisma Burnett of **Alton Middle School** and **Antonia Phillips** of **East Elementary** were named as Students of the Month for February by the Alton Area Optimist Club.

The Alton Area Optimist Club gives a \$25 gift card to the student as well as a \$25 donation to a non-profit organization of the student's choice.

Karisma is the daughter of Takeisha Burnett-Thompson and Kenneth Burnett of Alton. She chose Target for her gift card and St. Jude's Children's Hospital for her donation. Karisma is an 6th grade at Alton Middle School (AMS) in the Eagle's Nest. She represents the CREST motto of Cooperation, respect, encouragement, safety and trust superbly. Karisma is an active dedicated student and a considerate peer as well as a leader in her school. She has been a successful Honor Student and her teachers recognize her for her enthusiasm for education and commitment to doing her very best. Her teachers say she is respectful and helpful to all students she meets. Karisma is always willing to help in community service opportunities in which she and her cheerleading squad take part. She continuously tries to improve herself not only I cheerleading but in school, too. Karisma has volunteered to be an active member in the Airport express as well as the Shop-With-a-Cop program. Although she is unclear about what she wants to do with her future, it is clear that there will be many opportunities come her way.

Antonia Phillips is the daughter of Guadalupe and Durando Phillips of Alton. She is a 5th grader at East Elementary School. She chose Target for her gift card and Impact for her donation. Antonia is described as a leader among her peers. She shows characteristics that exemplify an excellent student both academically and behaviorally. Antonia volunteers to teach her peers sign-language on her free time, as they are all eager to learn. She is motivated, organized and passionate about learning. She is always kind to everyone she meets and is constantly wears a smile. Antonia is a member of Little Redbirds Football and wrestling teams and exhibits great sportsmanship. She has also been a consistent member of the East math team and is a high honor roll student. Although Antonia is a deaf student, she is and has always been very optimistic about her future and plans to become a math teacher when she graduates from college.

The Alton Area Optimist Club is a youth oriented community service organization that has been in existence for over 60 years in the Riverbend area. The Alton Area Optimist club sponsors various youth sports teams, supports Boys and Girls Scouts, participates in the Rock Springs Celebration of Lights, Memorial Day Parade, and supports school activities such as poster contests and the Elementary and Middle School Students of the Month. The Alton Area Optimist is also a yearly sponsor of the 1st Responder

Recognition Dinner. Our biggest activity is the bestowing of several college or trade school scholarships to area high school students each year.