

Speech & Debate Newsletter



Important Meetings

August 2014

1. First Student Meeting

- What:** Mr. Chris Harris will give new students overview of the program and answer questions.
- When:** **12:15 PM Tue, September 2nd**
- Where:** Room 705
- Who:** All students participating in Speech and Debate. Pizza provided.

2. First Parent Meeting

- What:** Mr. Harris & the Committee Members will give parents overview of the program and answer questions.
- When:** **7:00 pm Thursday, September 4th**
- Where:** Saratoga High School Cafeteria
- Who:** All parents of students participating / interested in Speech and Debate

3. Coast Forensics League Demo Day

- What:** This event will help you to learn about Speech & Debate events, tournaments & judging skills. Must attend event for all new students and parents!
- When:** 8AM– 5PM **Sat, September 6th**
- Where:** **St. Francis High School**
1885 Miramonte Ave.
Mt. View, CA 94040
- Who:** All parents of participating/interested students in Speech and Debate

4. Practice Sessions

Practice Schedule will be posted on our website soon.

Hello Speech & Debate families,

Welcome to the new school year. We are excited to begin a whole new year and build upon the successes of our Saratoga High School team in 2014-15.

Go Toga!

Saratoga High School had an exhilarating year in the 2013-14 season. We had record club membership of over 100 students. Our school ranked 3rd overall in the Coast Forensic Leagues, which is one of the most competitive leagues in the nation. Our students placed top 20 at the National Tournament and several more to State Championships. Mr. Chris Harris (classroom 705) is the head coach of the team. Professional walk-on coaches give weekly training and practices. It's a great opportunity to be a part of a growing team with a great team spirit!

Why Speech and Debate?

Speech and debate is one of the finest skills our students can develop. It teaches students lifelong skills, oral and written communication, critical thinking, organization of ideas, and reasoning. It cultivates the ability to think on your feet and improves your self-confidence. Here are some excerpts from a great article on the benefits of forensics published on PBS by Yale University Professor Minh A. Luong, <http://www.pbs.org/accidentalhero/parents/college.html>:

"... dedicated participation in drama and debate has significantly increased the success rate of college applicants at all schools which track such data. State and national award winners have a 22% to 30% higher acceptance rate at top tier colleges and being captain of the debate team "improved an applicant's chances by more than 60% compared with the rest of the pool...Colleges and universities today are looking for articulate thinkers and communicators who will become active citizens and leaders of tomorrow."

"...In my opinion, there is no better activity that will develop essential academic, professional, and life skills than dedicated involvement in speech and debate. Colleges and employers are actively seeking these skills and when it comes to selecting extracurricular activities, like many other things in life, those savvy high school students who will win admission to the best schools will select quality over quantity."

Saratoga Speech and Debate Website

Please check our website <http://www.saratogasd.org/> for the information update. Some areas are restricted to members only. (ex: Calendar, Tournaments etc.) Please contact coaches, captains or committee members for the login and password information.

How to Join?

Register on www.saratogasd.org/membership.shtml and fill out the mandatory student medical form.

Also join the Facebook group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/SaratogaSD/>

Contribution

In order for the SHS Speech and Debate to compete in the tournaments planned for 2014-15, the Speech and Debate Booster Club is requesting a contribution of \$700 be made for each participant payable to the SHS Speech and Debate Booster Club via web registration. This year we are going green! So all registrations and payment to the club will be via our website. Presently, we are working with our Webmaster to integrate our website with the PayPal account. We will notify you once the web registration is ready.

Invitational tournaments are optional and students can register for it separately.

Our Coaches, Captains, & Committee Members

They are here to support our students with great learning experiences.

Coaches:

Head Coach: Mr. Chris Harris

More Coaches: TBD

Committee Members:

President: Kakali Bhattacharjee

Vice President: Manu Gupta

Treasurer: Jayshree Desai

Secretary: TBD

Other committee members: VP of Tournaments

Jayashree Dutta (VP of SCU)

We are looking for more parent volunteers to join the committee.

Please do contact us if there is any question or suggestions.

Sincerely yours,

Kakali Bhattacharjee

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