

May 2022

WALT WHITMAN SPEECH AND DEBATE



Important Dates

July - Preliminary Interest Form
(PIF) for National Tournaments

August - Student Registration

Sept - Practices Begin
Season Opener at UK
(TBA)

Yale Invitational (all
events, online 9/30 - 10/2)

October - Georgetown (TBA)
Bronx (TBA)



A Note from our Parent Board President

I am so proud of this team -- and not because of the wins, the bids, or the national rankings. This group of students showed enormous resilience in facing a challenging year of change (online or in person? masks or not?), and they handled all of the curveballs with flexibility and good cheer. Their fantastic turnout at the end-of-year pot luck shows how much this team means to all of them.

Of course, we also enjoyed success in local and national tournaments. All four events participated in both local and national tournaments throughout the year. Six of our Public Forum students and one of our speech students competed at the April Tournament of Champions; three of our Congress students will be competing at the NCFL Grand Nationals this weekend; and two of our speech students will be competing at NSDA Nationals in June.

None of this would have been possible without the hard work of many. We have many individuals to thank for the success of the team this year:

- Our talented coaches: Josh, Madisen, Grace, Brianna, Andrew, Yukiho, Marcus, Nicole, Hannah, Katherine, and Elisa.
- Walt Whitman High School, Dr. Dodd and our faculty sponsor, Mr. East
- Our student leaders: Katheryne, Isabel and the Captains
- My fellow board members, including outgoing members Lucy, Michael, Amy, and Xin.

Next year the team will be so fortunate to have Kanisha Weerakoon serving as Board President. It has been a joy to work with all of you. This is a wonderful organization, and I look forward to following its successes in the future. Have a wonderful summer!

Laura Leonhardt



Team Successes!

- At the Columbia University Invitational, both **Mitra Hu-Henderson & Justin Yang** and **Sara Willhauck & Diya Bhattacharjee** competed in Double Octafinals for Varsity PF.
- **Brian Mason & Milos Rogic** went 4-0 in Varsity Public Forum at the January WACFL.
- **Karthik Kumar** went to semifinals in the Pennsbury Falcon Invitational and quarterfinals at University of Pennsylvania in Original Oratory.
- Five PF teams broke at University of Pennsylvania's tournament: **Sylvester & Leonhardt, Bhattacharjee & Willhauck, Dwyer & Polley-Fisanich, Dandi & Yang** and **Hallward-Driemeier & Schenker**.
- At Harvard, **Mitra Hu-Henderson** and **Justin Yang** went to Octafinals in Varsity PF. **Felix Leonhardt** finished as 1st speaker in Varsity PF. **Katheryne Dwyer** and **Sophia Polley-Fisanich** reached the semifinals of the Harvard Round Robin.
- **Joseph Akinyoyenu** competed at the Tournament of Champions in Informative Speaking.
- Three PF teams competed at the Tournament of Champions: **Diya Bhattacharjee & Sara Willhauck, Katheryne Dwyer & Sophia Polley-Fisanich**, and **Felix Leonhardt & William Hallward-Driemeier**. Katheryne and Sophia reached the semifinals of this prestigious tournament.
- Three Congress students participated in the NCFL Nationals in DC this past weekend: **Jasper Lester, Matthew Wong** and **Max Freeman**.
- Two speech students will participate in the NSDA Nationals in June: **Joseph Akinyoyenu** and **Frances Laufer**.



Scenes from the Potluck



Scenes from the Potluck



2022-2023 Parent Board

President	Kanisha Weerakoon
VP	Jill Baisinger
Secretary	Susan Henderson
Treasurer	Ebru Bozacioglu
National Tournaments	Sohail Zaidi
WACFL	Jonathan Levy
At-Large	Ann Mayo
At-Large	Brad Wong



Want to help? Email president@whitmandebate.com

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2022-2023 Student Leaders

Team President - William Hallward-Driemeier

Team Vice President - Juliana Ludwig

Public Forum Captains - David Akinyoyenu, Sara Willhauck, Diya Bhattacharjee, and Mitra Hu-Henderson

Congress Captain - Jasper Lester

Speech Captains - Clara Baisinger-Rosen and Karthik Kumar

Lincoln Douglas Captain - Shreekanya Mitra

Good Luck to our Graduating Seniors We Will Miss You!

Katheryne Dwyer
Felix Leonhardt
Sophia Polley-Fisanich
Zoe Cantor
Chris Sylvester
Kat Koumbourlis
Vishnu Dandi
Sasha Blake
Alex Ibrahim
Aksel Bell
Pascal Bell
Grant Hoscheit
Iman Ilias
Sahana Ashley
Sam Bogdanovsky
Isabel Ostheimer
Frances Laufer
Claire Linton
Matt Eisner
Grace Kim

