The Dramatic Pause

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Las Lomas Speech & Debate Newsletter, Issue #1, 2024-2025



LLSD Season Openers Yield Victory and Promise

Can you believe it? Las Lomas Speech & Debate is already ⅓ through the regular season with both our first Parliamentary Debate tournament and our first speech tournament behind us. A blend of rookies and vets descended upon the debate tournament at Miramonte High School with no fewer than 40 Parliamentary debate competitors, and we debated a number of challenging and sometimes even fun debate topics. Just three Saturdays later, an impressive 26 Knights came to the James Logan High School, a school rich in Speech and Debate history and accolades, to compete across seven of the 12 available events: Original Oratory, Original Advocacy, Original Prose and Poetry, Declamation, Program Oral Interpretation, Impromptu, International Extemporaneous, and National Extemporaneous. And while sometimes winning looks like making it at 7AM to school to meet the carpools, other times winning is ⅓ of our team making it to IE1 finals! Likewise, at Parli 1, multiple teams had winning records and now "get to" move up a level to compete against more developed competitors. Top it off with our very own Raphael and Thangaraj going 4-0 in Varsity. Mic. Drop.



Upcoming Tournaments

The groundwork has been laid for us to compete at SRVHS at Parli 2 on November 2. To this end, debate captains past and present are working to address new Parli rules and other strategies we're seeing from our competitors already this season as our league has recently adopted NPDL rules and regulations. Then our team turns up on SUNDAY December 8 for IE2 at Lowell location and calendar). Here is the current schedule.

LLSD Volunteer Village Turns Up

LLSD debates under GGSA which is under CHSSA as well as NSDA, ICYMI TBH. In all seriousness, the sport of competitive speech and debate is truly run by volunteers. Thank you to the following parents who have judged for our tournaments so far this season:

Phil Abellera
Sean Buhler
Andrew Campbell
Roompan Chowdhury
Mason Freed
Evdokia Gesheva
Randy Gregson
Zak Islam
Reed Kawahara
Debbie Raphael
Robert Raphael
Justin Sumner
Denese Walsh
Kristy Woods
Steve Zhang

And thank you as well to those parent drivers who provided extra driving support: Milanfar, and Chowdhury.

$ $ $ Donations and Fundraising $ $ $

People always say "this couldn't happen without...," and it really couldn't happen without **donations**. Half of our families have managed to donate money to the team, and we are so thankful. Any amount that remaining families can manage to give (easily on the LL webstore) goes to honor society fees, association dues, tournament entries, sweatshirts, supplies, coach and chaperone travel expenses at state, and more. LLSD does not have a football foundation or a performing arts foundation pounding the pavement for money. Thus far, we have relied on family financial donations. Coach Reeves-Hampton has written a letter in pursuit of local attorneys to "sponsor" our team, and we raised a bit from a recent fundraiser at Handel's Ice Cream. Our next fundraiser at **Chipotle** on **Nov 5**. Still, please keep the family donations coming if you can.

Alumni Check-in...

Yasi Navvab is an LLSD Alum and currently attends UCSB as a political science student with an Iranian studies minor. A dean's honor student, a public policy intern for the C4 organization Communities for a New California, and the secretary of UCSB's Mock Trial team (ranked 24th nationally), Yasi is certainly accomplished. Working for CNC, Yasi contributed to research, public policy analysis, and the development of policies aimed at interrupting the profitability of white supremacy. She analyzed data, directly reported to CNC's senior policy advisor and executive director on projects regarding the 2024 election, and co-lead the draft creation of the Lúcete Latina Messaging Toolkit. While at CNC, Yasi published an op-ed in the Fresno Bee, a newspaper for a battleground district. At UCSB, Yasi is a force to be reckoned with "What I learned in speech and debate has definitely carried over into my life beyond high school," Yasi explains. "Because of the public speaking skills I learned at LL, I'm stronger at fast critical analysis quickly, which is incredibly helpful in everything I do."

LLSD Leaders Abound

The idea of "Project Based Learning" could be considered a buzz word in the world of education, but when it works it really works. The *project* part of Project-Based Learning in this case is... the team itself. And, the project leaders are both the vets on the team and the officers. LLSD is run as a rookies/vets mentoring model in LLSD. The project part of Project-Based Learning in this case is... the team itself. Additionally, a swarm of fierce and loyal team officers do more than most team members may realize: they troubleshoot on the fly, look out for which students may need support, and constantly think about how we can improve our six-year-old team. In other words, the real-world skills gained from the project-based nature of being on this team are constantly in play. In addition, the team would not run without them.

Just a Few LLSD STATS:

Total Members: 84
Age of team: In sixth year
Number of League Tournaments: 6
Total past State Competitors: 5
NSDA Strength: 74



What are we doing in class?

Walk into room 410 and you're likely to find us doing some kind of debate. Sometimes it's full-on debates with 20-30 minutes of research and 45 minutes of argument, and other days it's a simple one-on-one spar between two students. We are expecting to see the biggest group in LLSD history at the second debate tournament, so we are getting ready to show up and show out! Even for the members of our team who choose not to compete in the weekend debate tournaments, in-class debate teaches us the essential life skill of thinking on the fly.

Other days you'll find us working to improve our writing for future speech tournaments. We have been reading and studying the speeches of previous winners to get a firm grasp of what makes a speech good. Next week we are going to begin presenting our prepared speeches that will also be presented in IE 2 in a few months. That way, we can get practice presenting in front of an audience, and have plenty of time to revise our speeches to make them exceptional by the time we have to compete.

With only two tournaments left in the semester, excitement is building and lightbulbs are going off about how Speech and Debate works!

LLSD is also working on our YEETs (Your Entertaining and Educational Talk). Basically, we are creating our own version of a Ted Talk, relating to something relevant to the news today. By becoming an expert on the topic of our choosing, we can use our knowledge for future debate rounds and become better speakers overall.

Our final exam is a Pecha Kucha, also known as the 20 x 20 presentation: a prepared speech, layered on top of a presentation with 20 slides that automatically advance every 20 seconds. This teaches the importance of rehearsing because the slides must match the speech! Could YOU do that?

It is also important to us that we are leaving time to have fun, so of course we are having a class party in November to celebrate all that we have already accomplished! Bake some treats and grab those board games!

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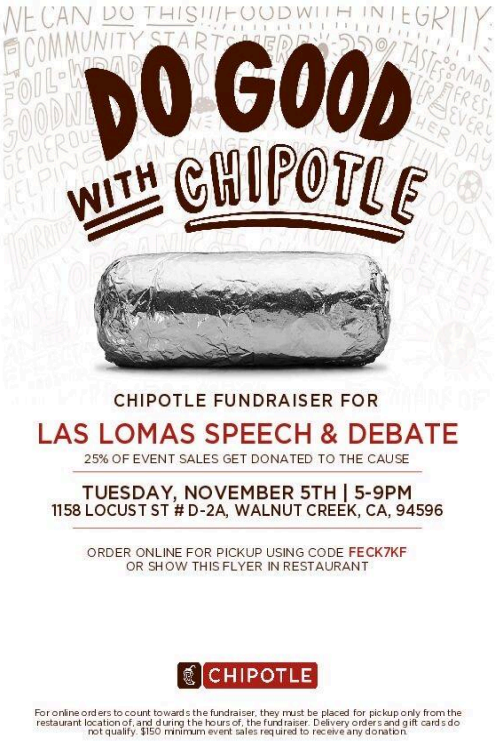
LL Speech & Debate

The official Instagram for Las Lomas Speech and Debate!
Go Knights



Some more pics from IE1!





Support LLSD on November 5th from 5-9pm
Mention Las Lomas Speech and Debate at checkout
or use code **FECK7KF** online!

LET'S THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX

parent projects

With graduation on the horizon, we're starting to plan ahead! We're exploring custom stoles for our seniors and are seeking parents to help make, supply, or organize this project—or help us decide if we should continue the tradition.

We also want to honor our 3-year team veterans with enamel logo pins and need help finding a new pin supplier.

Additionally, we're excited to launch the philanthropic arm of our speech and debate program, starting with a teacher appreciation breakfast and coffee event. If you'd like to help with any of these efforts or donate, please fill out the form below!

Parent Interest Form