

## Hello Families of Debate Club Participants!

### **Class Highlights:**

Debate Jeopardy, tongue twisters, around-the-room speaking turns, and a game involving tossing an object and quickly thinking of an argument are just some of the activities the Debate Club kids from Coe, John Hay, Blaine, and Lawton are doing in preparation for the tournament. Next week, students will watch a dvd of former Debate Club students demonstrating a debate round.

Students, with the coach's help, are also finalizing their debate speeches. Your student will have time in class to practice, and should practice reading the speech at home, too, striving for clear speaking, eye contact, and projection.

When you watch your student at the tournament, the first 'speeches' will be read from paper. The speeches that follow, and the cross examination questions, answers, and rebuttals, are not pre-written. The SSIA Debate Club format is based on "Policy" debate, which emphasizes research and organization. There are many other debate formats.

See <http://www.schoolsinaction.org/debate.php> and click on the document links at the bottom for details about the SSIA Debate Club May 22<sup>nd</sup> tournament and the speech descriptions.

### **Information:**

Tournament will be held on the morning of Saturday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, at Blaine K-8. Student registration will begin at 9:00am, and we expect to be finished with awards by 11:30 or noon. More details to follow.

Topic: Seattle Public Schools should change to a year-round school schedule.

Mid-term student report emails were recently sent separately to each family, as prepared by the coaches. Let me know if you'd like your student's mid-term report sent again.

-Sandy Nielsen  
Debate Program Manager