

**Dear SHS SD parents,**

We have completed the Fall semester and entering peak tournament season over winter. As you may be aware, we are in a year of rebuilding. In this newsletter, we celebrate the grit and determination of all students who show up to practice, leaders who rally their teams through these first few months to rally up and show what Falcons are made of !!!



*You have an option of scanning the 2-min summary or reading this entire document for an estimated 8 mins.*

### Summary (2-min)

- **Club news**
  - Two new coaches recruited for speech - Fridays 5 - 8pm. Search for LD coach and pgm director ongoing.
  - Mark your calendar for a Booster Meet and Greet on Dec 6th between 4:30 - 7 pm.
  - Welcome new booster President, Srividya Velchamy. Sophia Kao is stepping into new role as Volunteer chair. Thank you Sophia for taking on this role amongst your other obligations these first few months.
  - Upcoming tournaments
  - Boosters PSA. yes, we need your matching contributions.
- **And finally, tournament achievements**
  - You will notice that we may not be winning events outright, but this is a sign of early progress, as we are moving into a cadence of operating as a student-led and run team - like most public school teams.

### Welcome aboard - Coaches Steven and Jen

The Club has added 2 new coaches on speech events. We now have a total of 4 coaches for the Club: Victor Rivas (Debate), Vidya Ullal (Speech), Steven Leal (Speech) & Jennifer Leal (Speech.) Steven & Jennifer come highly recommended by our own students from their middle-school debate days, so it has been a nice reunion ! Oh.. did we say, Senior Bijan Naimi is returning after a couple of years break ? You should hear his HI - humorous interpretation.

### Meet and Greet on Thursday, Dec 6th between 4:30 - 7 pm (details tba)

Mark your calendar for a **first Meet & Greet** social with our Coaches, Advisor, district officials on Dec 6, 2018 at 6:30 pm. This is a great opportunity to meet with the coaches. Hope to see you all.

### List of upcoming tournaments

- Nov 30 - Dec 2, 2018 - La Costa Canyon Tournament at San Diego (**tentative based on Student interest of at least > 6 and Chaperone availability**)
- Dec 2, 2018 - CFL Tournament at Evergreen High School
- Dec 7- 9, 2018- Paradigm at Dowling Catholic in Des Moines, Iowa (**tentative based on Chaperone availability**)
- Dec 14 -16, 2018 - Dempsey Cronin Invitational at Santa Clara University
- Dec 22 - 24, 2018 - College Prep LD Invitational at Oakland (**great tournament.. Need to watch out for exams**).
- Jan 4- 6, 2019 - Arizona State HDSHC Invitational at Arizona State University

**And.. oh yes.. This year we WILL go to the Cal invitational in Berkeley. We have paid for our spots in advance.**

### [Your matching contribution is welcome](#)

This Club wouldn't be possible without the donations that we receive from parents. We would like to extend our appreciation to you for your kind and generous donations. For those of you whose employers provide a matching contribution benefit, please follow the following steps:

- Login into your HR portal at work, select our charitable org - Search by our 501(c)(3) info - SARATOGA HIGH SCHOOL SPEECH AND DEBATE SUPPORTERS or our Federal IRS EIN 77-0108042.
- One of the main matching service provider is Benevity, Inc and our club is certified with them. We get matching funds remitted to us electronically. We also accept BrightFunds and the easymatch.
- If your provider has a different procedure, please let us know by replying to this email. We'd be happy to help you.

### [Chaperone, please complete your certification](#)

Beyond your monetary contributions, and parent judging at tournaments, the Club welcomes active parent participation between tournaments. We will send around a Signup Genius so that parents can sign-up for volunteer opportunities. Another important way to support the team is to complete your chaperone certification, This is especially important for travel tournaments which our coaches cannot accompany our students or are short-handed. The district's new policy requires a female chaperone to accompany our minor girls.

### [Falcon achievements](#)

We are proud to announce our wins..

- **Robert Garcia Invitational @ St. Francis High School:**
  - LD- David Koh in Quarterfinals
  - LD - Chris Feng in Octofinals
  - We closed out in Varsity Public Forum (Siva/Nolan and Adhit/Ronak)
- **Presentation Voices:**
  - PF-Double Octofinalist -Nolan Chen and Siva Sambasivam
- **CFL - Novice Speech @ Gunn**
  - Sammy Suliman- International Extemp - finalist (5th place)
  - Harshini Velchamy - Original Oratory - finalist (7th place)
  - Selina Chen - POI - finalist (3rd place)
- **Florida Blue Keys:**
  - LD - Ujjwal Krishnamurthi -Double Octofinals
  - PF- Adhit and Ronak - Double Octofinals
- **Presentation Panther Fun Invitational:**
  - Rohan Chakravathi and Arjun Walia - 4-1 winning record.
  - Anouk Yeh- First in impromptu
  - Harshini Velchamy - First in OO
  - Anouk Yeh - Sixth in OO

Thank you for the continued support.

Sincerely,

**Speech and Debate Boosters**

President, Srividya Velchamy

Tournaments, Mumuksha Shah

Fundraising, Bhanu Kannan

Volunteers and Events, Sophia Kao

Communications - tbd.. We are looking for volunteers.