

Garden City Public Schools
56 Cathedral Avenue
Garden City, NY 11530

Coordinator of Public Information
Catherine Knight, Ed. D.
516 478-1079

May 26, 2017

For Immediate Release:



Garden City Middle School Debate Club Holds Finals

By John Cronin, teacher

On May 10th, Garden City Middle School’s Speech and Debate Club held its first debate finals. The club, which began in September 2016, has exhibited tremendous growth during its first year. “We have over 20 dedicated members who show up each Thursday to hone their oratorical and debating skills,” said Mr. John Cronin, the club advisor.

In addition to debates between members of the club, a debate league among Long Island middle schools has begun. “We are having a debate tournament against Amityville Middle School and Bay Shore Middle School in late May and early June. There are three active middle schools in the newly formed league, and in addition to more tournaments next school year, we are hoping to get more middle schools involved. Our message is how debate fosters research and writing skills as well as logical reasoning. These skills

can be employed in every academic subject as well as all areas of life. We have Dr. Osroff to thank for our tremendous success. We never would have achieved so much without his continual support,” said Mr. Cronin.

In the debate finals, there were teams of two, and the top eight debaters were chosen to participate. They were picked based on factors such as attendance, quality of research, logic in argumentation, mastery of oratory, and a passion for debate. There were two debates: “School Boards Should Be Allowed to Ban Controversial T-Shirts,” and, “Intelligent Design Theory Should Be Taught in Public School.”

“Just to make it to the finals makes all participants champions,” said Mr. Cronin. 2017 Champions: Aidan Metz and Farren Martinus; Second Place: Emma Nagler and Riley O’Rourke; Third Place: Libby Ferencik and Jenny Zeng; Runner-Up: Kaitlyn Fuoco and Ali Martin. Pictured here are (left to right): Jenny Zheng, Libby Ferencik, Aidan Metz, Mr. Cronin, Farren Martinus, Emma Nagler, Riley O’Rourke, and Kaitlyn Fuoco. (Not in photo: Ali Martin).