

# Strictly Speaking

Ridge High School  
Forensic Team  
Newsletter

2002-2017 NJSDL STATE CHAMPIONS

March 6, 2018

*Congratulations to everyone on a phenomenal showing this weekend at both Bridgewater and Union Catholic CFL. While for some, yesterday was bittersweet, I want you all to know how proud I am of all of you for all you accomplish week-after-week, month-after-month.*



*Yesterday truly reminded me of how special our opportunities are. Many of you already know this, but yesterday, Christine Wang, a former RFer from 2011-2013 returned to the competitive stage since she experienced a ruptured aneurysm in 2015. I remember Christine from her senior year. She was just like all of you. Heavily involved in activities, multiple AP classes, orchestra, tennis, golf -- a typical Ridge student, very social and outgoing. Over the past two years, since her return to Ridge to finish her high school experience, at the age of 20, her story reminds us all of how precious our opportunities are -- and how one can overcome such extreme obstacles to grow, to persevere, and to triumph. Our greatest gifts in life cannot be solely determined by a trophy, a qualification to nationals, or even a national championship. The greatest gift this activity provides is the power of voice, of confidence, of presence. Three years ago, Christine couldn't speak a word, couldn't walk, couldn't move. This weekend, three years later, she donned the Ridge Forensics power suit once again and reclaimed her voice!*

*That, my friends is what this activity is about. During these days, where our newsfeeds and our worlds continue to foster dissention and polarization, it is more important than ever that we pause and remind ourselves of the precious gifts we have been afforded, either by chance or by hard work, whether by persistence or privilege. We must take our gifts and opportunities and use them with whatever ability or capacity we are granted. Christine has been working on this speech since December, and to see her overcome her mental and physical obstacles, to stand tall, to actually memorize an eight-minute speech, to persevere through three rounds, was awe-inspiring as a coach and teacher. And yet, even though she didn't advance to the final round, her words, her expressions, her laughter, her joy, her parents' eyes, her parents' smiles -- truly remind me why I feel called to continue this work, year after year.*

*So, I encourage all of you to realize the power of your voice and your participation, along with the effects of your experiences with this team. I am proud of all of you for constantly working your hardest, not just to keep Ridge as the preeminent speech and debate team in the state of New Jersey, but to challenge yourself to achieve the heights of your own personal aspirations. Whether it be Wall Street, Broadway, the Ivy League, the Supreme Court, a Best Sellers list, a classroom, or an informative round at Bridgewater, the power of this activity is endless. Please remember that!*

— Mr. Yastremski

## NCFL GRAND NATIONAL QUALIFIERS IN WASHINGTON DC

- Sanil Torani - Congress
- Malaika Ravindran - Congress
- Arnav Gupta - Congress
- Kishan Gandham - Congress
- Jennifer Huang - LD Debate
- Jerry Yang - LD Debate
- Tanvi Namjoshi - LD Debate
- Marko Cukar - LD Debate
- Daphne Tang - LD Debate
- Albert Wu & Albert Wen - PF Debate
- Andrea Zhang & Udheesh Gaddipati - PF Debate
- Nick Casey & Akshaj Pandey - Duo
- Camille Furst & Siddarth Sasane - Duo
- Jonathan Tondora - Dramatic Performance
- Kyle Watkins - Dramatic Performance
- Aashita Dixit - Dramatic Performance
- Allen Wang - Dramatic Performance
- Lucy Wei - Oral Interpretation
- Anjini Mathur - Oral Interpretation
- Julian Wadhwa - Original Oratory
- Max Su - Original Oratory
- Charlize Chen - Original Oratory
- Anvitha Prasad - Original Oratory
- Libah Farooqi - Declamation
- Nihal Kurki - Declamation
- Raheel Abubakar - Declamation
- Omar Bekdhas - Extemporaneous
- James Gao - Extemporaneous
- Rayhan Murad - Extemporaneous
- Rohun Jinturkar - Extemporaneous
- Evan Li - Alternate
- Esther Zhang - Alternate
- Sonali Pai - Alternate
- Kevin Tang - Alternate
- Kathy Wei - Alternate
- Grace Zhu - Alternate

*Congratulations are in order to Mrs. Harvey, Mrs. Retzko, and the entire cast and crew of Annie. An amazing show!! We are all so proud of your hard work! You were phenomenal!!*



## **MONTVILLE SPEECH & DEBATE TOURNAMENT**

Camille Furst, CHAMPION - Program Oral Interpretation  
 James Gao, CHAMPION - Extemporaneous Speaking  
 John Tondora, CHAMPION - Humorous Interpretation  
 Marko Cukar, CHAMPION - Varsity Lincoln Douglas Debate  
 Aadhavaarasan Raviarasan and Brandon Lu, 2nd Place - Varsity Public Forum Debate  
 Allen Wang, 2nd Place - Improvisational Acting  
 Anjini Mathur, 2nd Place - Oral Interpretation  
 Anvitha Prasad, 2nd Place - Original Oratory  
 Audrika Chattaraj, 2nd Place - Informative  
 Divya Krishnan and Juliet Nolt, 2nd Place - Duo Interpretation  
 Jennifer Huang, 2nd Place - Varsity Lincoln Douglas Debate  
 Kathy Wei, 2nd Place - Impromptu Speaking  
 Libah Farooqi, 2nd Place - Declamation  
 Nicholas Ge, 2nd Place - JV Lincoln Douglas Debate  
 Omar Bekdash, 2nd Place - Extemporaneous Speaking  
 Anjini Mathur, 3rd Place - Program Oral Interpretation  
 Daniel Zhang, 3rd Place - Informative  
 Kathy Wei, 3rd Place - Declamation  
 Rohan Jinturkar, 3rd Place - Extemporaneous Speaking  
 Tanvi Namjoshi, 3rd Place - Varsity Lincoln Douglas Debate  
 Julian Wadhwa, 4th Place - Original Oratory  
 Julie Wang and Nurah Kutty, 4th Place - JV Public Forum Debate  
 Nihal Kurki, 4th Place - Declamation  
 Esther Zhang, 5th Place - Informative  
 Jerry Yang, 5th Place - Varsity Lincoln Douglas Debate  
 John Tondora, 5th Place - Improvisational Acting  
 Juliet Nolt, 5th Place - Extemporaneous Speaking  
 Max Su, 5th Place - Original Oratory  
 Vincent Jia, 5th Place - Impromptu Speaking  
 Alan Liu, 6th Place - Varsity Lincoln Douglas Debate  
 Audrika Chattaraj, 6th Place - Declamation  
 Camille Furst, 6th Place - Humorous Interpretation  
 Caroline Lidz, 6th Place - Informative  
 Pasha Saidi, 6th Place - Extemporaneous Speaking  
 Prakrit Raj, 6th Place - Novice Lincoln Douglas Debate  
 Sonali Pai, 6th Place - Oral Interpretation

## **BRIDGEWATER-RARITAN HS 1ST PLACE TEAM SWEEPSTAKES**

Caroline Lidz, CHAMPION - Improvisational Acting  
 Miah Vesotsky, CHAMPION - Oral Interpretation  
 Varun Gongireddy, CHAMPION - Original Oratory  
 Audrika Chattaraj, 3rd Place - Informative Speaking  
 Emma Reilly and Rajvi Shah, 3rd Place - Duo Interpretation  
 Julie Wang and Nurah Kutty, 3rd Place - Novice Public Forum Debate  
 Rajvi Shah, 3rd Place - Improvisational Acting  
 Shriya Kosuru, 3rd Place - Extemporaneous Speaking  
 Aman Singh, 4th Place - Varsity Lincoln Douglas Debate  
 Arsh Mohite, 4th Place - Impromptu Speaking  
 Arsh Mohite, 4th Place - Original Oratory  
 Amy Huang, 5th Place - Humorous Interpretation  
 Emma Reilly, 5th Place - Oral Interpretation  
 Gagan Singh and Kent Hairston, 5th Place - Duo Interpretation  
 Varun Gongireddy, 5th Place - Impromptu Speaking  
 Laasya Gaddipati, 6th Place - Oral Interpretation  
 Lucy Wei, 6th Place - Program Oral Interpretation

## **NEWARK CFL #6 AT UNION CATHOLIC 1ST PLACE TEAM SWEEPSTAKES**

Allen Wang, CHAMPION - Varsity Dramatic Performance  
 Libah Farooqi, CHAMPION - Varsity Declamation  
 Marko Cukar, CHAMPION - Varsity Lincoln Douglas Debate  
 Omar Bekdash, CHAMPION - Varsity Extemporaneous Speaking  
 Prapti Roy, CHAMPION - JV Oral Interpretation  
 Kevin Tang, 2nd Place - Varsity Lincoln Douglas Debate  
 Max Su, 2nd Place - Varsity Original Oratory  
 Nihal Kurki, 2nd Place - Varsity Declamation  
 Rohan Jinturkar, 2nd Place - Varsity Extemporaneous Speaking  
 Sanil Torani, 2nd Place - Varsity Congress  
 Sathya Gopinath, 2nd Place - JV Oral Interpretation  
 Anvitha Prasad, 3rd Place - Varsity Original Oratory  
 Camille Furst and Siddarth Sasane, 3rd Place - Varsity Duo Interpretation  
 Gauhar Sarwal, 3rd Place - Varsity Oral Interpretation  
 Kishan Gandham, 3rd Place - Varsity Congress  
 Aashita Dixit, 4th Place - Varsity Dramatic Performance  
 Esther Zhang, 4th Place - Varsity Original Oratory  
 Grace Zhu, 4th Place - Varsity Congress  
 Mason Krohn, 4th Place - Varsity Extemporaneous Speaking  
 Sonali Pai, 4th Place - Varsity Oral Interpretation  
 Dhristi Raval, 5th Place - JV Oral Interpretation  
 Neha Razak, 5th Place - Varsity Oral Interpretation  
 Arnav Gupta, 6th Place - Varsity Congress  
 Charlize Chen, 6th Place - Varsity Original Oratory  
 Evan Li, 6th Place - Varsity Extemporaneous Speaking  
 Kathy Wei, 6th Place - Varsity Declamation (DEC)



# COMING UP...

- **March - 7**  
Monthly Meeting @ 5:30PM
- **March 10** - Summit HS -  
Buses leave at 7:30AM
- **March 16-17** - NJSDL State Championships  
@ Hunterdon-Central - Departure TBA  
*Roster will be determined post-Summit*
- **March 23-24** - NSDA Districts @ Delbarton -  
*Roster will be determined post-States*



# TOC ENTRY REVIEW

Please [click here](#) and review to ensure accuracy. Thank you.

# NCFL GRAND NATIONALS

As featured on the first page of the newsletter, we have qualified 34 for the NCFL Grand Nationals in addition to two CX teams! This will be the most ever representing Ridge at the national championships! Forms can be downloaded [here](#). Payment is due March 14th.



The state finals of *Destination Imagination* will take place on March 24th. This is the freshman parents' event. We need steering committee individuals. Please email Ms. Sadaf Haroon - [sadafharoon@gmail.com](mailto:sadafharoon@gmail.com) if you can help us out.

# JOINT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY ASSEMBLYMAN JON BRAMNICK

In honor of *Speech and Debate Education Day*, Assemblyman Jon Bramnick of Legislative District #21 sponsored a joint legislative resolution which was delivered to us last week.

From the resolution,

*“Ridge High School stands as a beacon of the heights to which education can aspire and is to be applauded for its inclusion of speech and debate as an essential component of a well-rounded curriculum.”*





# **MONTVILLE, NEWARK CFL #6 AND BRIDGEWATER-RARITAN IN PICTURES!**

