

January 2014
MSDL Newsletter

Happy New Year! May this year be great for all coaches and students of the MSDL!

First and foremost we must recognize the amazing talents of the directors of The Holly at Natick High School on December 14. The calm and cool heads of Joyce Albert, Sarah Donnelly, and Amanda Parker, carefully controlled the weather and over 800 entries through a tough day of competition and concerns about snow. With great forethought, they made the decision to run two rounds with two judges in the second round allowing for the students to have three scores in two rounds. By cutting out the third round, they saved several hours and the tournament ended early enough for everyone to get home happily and safely – ahead of the snow. Their consideration for all the students from Massachusetts and our neighbor, New York, was a great testament to their passion for speech and concern for all competitors, coaches, and parents. Great job ladies!

James Sullivan, a reporter from The Boston Globe, was also at The Holly and took pictures and interviewed many of the contestants. This past Saturday, January 4, an article ran in The Globe and it was amazing. If you want to read it, go on line and check it out. It was a nice overview of speech and debate in Massachusetts.

Newton South opened up the new year with a great “Game On” tournament. Mrs. Honeyman ran an efficient tournament and we all got home early. Lexington’s debate tournament is this weekend and is already completely full. At the end of the month we start our qualifiers for Nationals in Overland Park, Kansas and Catholic Nationals in Chicago, Illinois.

As always, our tournament directors are very careful when it comes to winter weather. Please make sure when you setup your school for a tournament that you enter a good phone number and email address. Be sure to check your email and phone on the morning of the tournament if you have snow concerns. Tournament directors usually cancel a tournament the night before if there are concerns, but check in the morning of as well.

Over the past months many of you have brought ideas and concerns to me about the league, tournaments, and general areas of the MSDL. Please feel free at any tournament to find me in the tabroom and discuss any issues you feel we need to address. Hopefully some of the changes we have made, based on your suggestions, have helped to make this 2013-2014 season better already.

Have a great 2014

Susan Marianelli

