

Miramonte Speakers Prevail

By Nee-Sa Lossing

The Miramonte High School Public Speaking team reached their sought-after goal once again, the state tournament. Thirty-one students spoke at the tournament, which Miramonte first attended in 1982.

The success of the team was spread among many categories of speech, all of which are practiced throughout the school year leading up to the event.

In International Extemporaneous, Michelle Chern was a semi-finalist, while Tony Wang placed seventh.

In National Extemporaneous, Maria Theophanous placed fourth and Alina Hasanain placed sixth.

In addition, Joseph Chen was a semi-finalist in Original Prose and Poetry, Alison Karol was a semi-finalist in Oratorical Interpretation, Zoe Pehrson was a semi-finalist in Thematic Interpretation, and Meghan Radler was a semi-finalist in Original Oratory.

The Public Forum debate team of

Emily Chesbrough and Elliot Olson competed in the semi-finals, and

placed third in state.

All members of the Miramonte Congress, a group of students assembled to emulate governmental congress in competitions against other schools, advanced in the tournament. Hayley Andrews, Alia Fite and Pierre Thompson were semi-finalists, while Rajan Banerjee was a finalist. The highlight of Congress' success was Nico Kirk-Giannini, who was the state champion.

"These students worked so hard, and it means so much to them to even qualify for state," said Miramonte Public Speaking teacher Sandy Maguire. "I was proud of all thirty-one of them."

After Miramonte's triumphs at state, eight students will continue on to participate at the national tournament in June. Students include Zak Dychtwald, Elise Washburn, Shawdee Rouhafza, Tony Wang, Alina Hasanain, Lucas Duplancic, Jordan Mushe, and Nico Kirk-Giannini.

Other recent achievements for Miramonte Public Speaking include service club competitions, in which the winners are awarded scholarship money. Nico Kirk-Giannini was the Northern California regional champion in Rotary's Four Way Speech Contest, and was awarded \$900. Zak Dychtwald, the state champion and a national quarter-finalist, was awarded \$1500.

For the tenth year in a row, Miramonte students will be performing at the Orinda Masonic Club, at an annual public speaking event. Students include Zak Dychtwald, Nico Kirk-Giannini, and Shawdee Rouhafza.

After many such accomplishments in past years, and the more recent ones at state, Miramonte Public Speaking teacher Sandy Maguire was honored at the school's annual Visual Performing Arts (VPA) showcase.

"As a coach of the program I was deeply honored to be recognized by the VPA organization," said Maguire.

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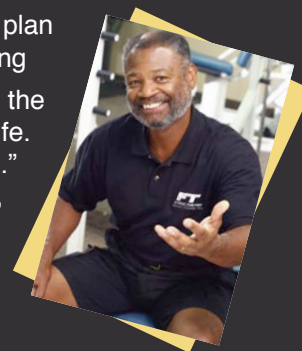
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