ACADEMIC BOOSTERS

Team officers, continued!

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Chief Technology Officer: Mossab Alhadi Alsadig
Treasurer: Jay Hebert
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Science Olympiad:

Officers:
Daniel Jang
Hope Flaxman
Hillary Liu
Margaret Hu
Austin Ralls

JOIN ACADEMIC BOOSTERS!!

If you haven’t had a chance to join Academic Boosters for the 2011-2012 school year, read the wonderful team news below, and then join us!

It’s easy to join the Academic Boosters by downloading the membership form or joining online at http://academics.tjhsst.edu/aboosters/. Your contributions are likely to be tax-deductible, and may be eligible for matching funds from your employer.

NEWS ABOUT TJ’S ACADEMIC TEAMS

CERTAMEN
On February 11\textsuperscript{th}, TJ sent six teams to compete at the Woodson Certamen. All the teams did very well, despite the fierce competition!

Level 1: 2nd place (Peter Kim, Reem Mohamed, Sandy Cho, Bobbie Sheng, Noah Shin).

Level 2: 1st place!! (June Ge, Owen Hoffman, Adam Goldstein, Jeff Hurowitz) and 4\textsuperscript{th} place (John Wilkes, Jay Devanathan, Marisa Duong, Ben Andre, Nolan Kataoka).

Level 3: 1st place!! (Sienna Lotenberg, Anthony Carrington, Anwar Omeish, Lauren Mostrand).

Upper Level: 2\textsuperscript{nd} place (Ricky Short, Philip Meyers, Rachel Goldstien, Akhila Ananthram) and 3\textsuperscript{rd} place (Hyae In Seo, Andrew Coffee, Molly Hemenway, Niara Lezama).

The TJ Certamen teams went to the University of Virginia on March 17\textsuperscript{th} to celebrate the 4\textsuperscript{th} annual Classics Day. Everyone enjoyed this special day of sharing their love for the Classics with other students in Virginia. The day was filled with activities, including Certamen matches, learning about the Circus Maximus, Roman theaters, and comedies. All teams (except Upper) had their best showing of the year, sweeping almost all of the first places!

Level 1: 1\textsuperscript{st} (Peter Kim, Sylvia Greer, Bobbie Sheng, Noah Shin).

Level 2: 1\textsuperscript{st} (June Ge, Owen Hoffman, Adam Goldstein, Jeff Hurowitz) and 4\textsuperscript{th} (John Wilkes, Jay Devanathan, Nolan Kataoka, Jonathan Towne).

Level 3: 1\textsuperscript{st} (Sienna Lotenberg, Anthony Carrington, Anwar Omeish, Lauren Mostrand) and 2\textsuperscript{nd} (Katie Hough, Tommy Lunn, Hannah Pho, Daphne Fong).

Upper level: 3\textsuperscript{rd} (Ricky Short, Akhila Ananthram, Austin Dunn) and 5\textsuperscript{th} (Hyae In Seo, Andrew Coffee, Morgan Cheatham).

Congratulations to all the players!

CHEMISTRY

TJ’s top 12 semi-finalists for the Local Chemistry Olympiad are: Kalki Seksaria, Victoria Xia, Chris Seok, Raynor Kuang, Yongkoo Kang, Suhas Gondi, Andrew Tao, Nick Haliday, Thuc Tran, Zhereng Zhang, Hope Flaxman, and Andrea Li. They took the “Local” exam March 14\textsuperscript{th} to compete for two seats at the national exam in April.
CHESS

TJ Chess Team wins State K–12 Championship!

The TJ Chess Team competed in the Virginia State Chess Championship and the Virginia State Blitz Chess Championship held in the Tysons Corner area March 16-18.

At the Blitz Tournament on Friday evening, the TJ Blitz Team became the Virginia State Champions with a score of 35.5. Aravind Ponukumati won first place in individual awards after going undefeated with an astonishing 10/10 points. The Blitz Team included Aravind Ponukumati, Yang Dai, Darwin Li, Richard Li, Quentin Moore, Brian Li, Ashley Xue, Jeevan Karamsetty, Arman Khojandi, Aditya Ponukumati, Zikuan Li, Kalyan Madanapalli, Arun Kannan.

The Main Event lasted two days with four matches on Saturday and two more matches on Sunday. Players competed in games of chess that could last up to three hours. TJ brought one of the strongest teams the state tournament has ever seen, bringing five experts to the competition. Twenty-five TJ students played in the main event: Andrew Freix, Quentin Moore, Aravind Ponukumati, Jeevan Karamsetty, Yang Dai, Kun Liu, Katherine Wu, Richard Li, Ashley Xue, Aditya Ponukumati, Arman Khojandi, Shicheng Zhao, Roshan Sajjad, Arun Kannan, Daniel Fontenot, Kiffa Conroy, Gavin Moore, Eric Bo, Kalyan Madanapalli, Winston Ou, Jeremy Loffredo, Vivek Gorijala, Zikuan Li, Edi Danalache, and Nihar Gudiseva. TJ dominated this event, taking 10 of the top 15 places!

The tournament ended with a four-way tie for first place, with each co-champion earning 5.5/6 points. Three of these co-champions were from TJ: Andrew Freix, Quentin Moore, and Aravind Ponukumati. Yang Dai received the top scoring female award with 5/6 points. The team won the competition with a score of 21.5, making it TJ’s 11th state championship title in a row!

Special thanks and congratulations to the team’s coach, Dr. Gabor, who received the 2012 Virginia Coach of the Year Award!!

Next the TJ Chess Team marches on to the National Scholastic Chess Championship in Minneapolis, Minnesota in mid-April!

To see the final standings, go to vachess.org and look under Virginia Scholastic & Collegiate Championships.

TJ DEBATE TEAMS WIN JUDY L. SEWARD SWEEPSTAKES AWARD!
TJ’s debate teams received special recognition on March 17, 2012. The teams were awarded the WACFL’s 1st Place Judy L. Seward Sweepstakes Award for achievement across all categories of league events during the 2011-2012 competition year. This award recognizes the achievements of students from Forensics, Lincoln Douglas Debate, Public Forum Debate, and Policy Debate. Congratulations, TJ debaters!

Read on for more news about TJ’s terrific debate teams...

Forensics

Congratulations to Forensics Team Members Kyle Angelotti, receiving 3rd place in extemporaneous speaking, and Karina Charipova, receiving 3rd place in storytelling, at the VHSL Regional competition in February. Both students advance to the VHSL State Competition in late March.

Congratulations to Kyle Angelotti, placing 4th in extemporaneous speaking at the Virginia NFL District Competition on February 4th.

On February 17th, Forensics Team members Leif Bakke and Kyle Angelotti traveled to Cambridge to compete at the Harvard University Invitational competition, one of the largest and most competitive in the nation.

Forensics Team Members Nidhi Gandhi and Nita Takanti, Duo Dramatic Interpretation, and Leif Bakke, Original Oratory and Impromptu Speaking, competed at the WACFL Metro Finals competition on March 17th.

Congratulations to Leif Bakke who placed 1st in Impromptu Speaking in the Washington Arlington Catholic Forensic League which represents approximately 65 schools in our region.

On February 4, 2012, TJ received the Leading Chapter Award for Virginia for its participation in the National Forensics League from 1988-2010! (Since a school representative was not present to receive the award in 2011, it was presented at the 2012 Virginia District NFL Tournament.) Congratulations to both current and alumni forensics team members!

Lincoln Douglas

In just three weeks, Lincoln Douglas competed in four tournaments. At the VHSL District tournament on Saturday, February 25, Tushar Kamath placed third, qualifying him for the regional tournament. At regionals, Tushara Kamath earned an alternate slot for the state tournament in April.

At the WACFL Metro Finals tournament, Nancy Ding took fourth place in varsity, and Kunal Khurana took sixth, so they'll both be competing at the NCFL national
tournament in May. At the JV level (JV competitors don't go on to Nationals, no matter how well they do), TJ put three debaters in the elimination rounds: Sraavya Poonuganti, Neeraj Gandhi, and Robert Wang. Robert Wang made it all the way to the final round. He lost there to a competitor from the Maret School—the younger sister of TJ's star debater from three years ago. It's a small world!

**Policy Debate**

TJ's policy team has also been busy. At the highly competitive Harvard invitational, the policy team of David Gao and Richard Wang made it to the break rounds (double-octas).

Policy debate also did quite well at the VHSL regional tournament. The team of Nick Kim and Rishi Khanna took first place, and the team of John Chae and Samuel Luo took second. With this performance, both teams qualified for the state tournament in April.

**Public Forum**

At Metro Finals, Anthony Uitz & Kevin Jeong placed 2nd in the Arlington Diocese, in the Varsity division, allowing them to compete in the varsity semifinals.

In the JV division, Kyle Angelotti & Karen Clark were quarterfinalists, and Vansh Kumar & Usnish Majumdar were semifinalists.

With this performance, the Public Forum team of Men Cheol (Kevin) Jeong and Anthony Uitz were ranked as one of the top six varsity teams in our diocese. This qualified them for the NCFL Grand Nationals tournament, which will take place in Baltimore from May 26-27. Qualifying teams from all over the nation participate in this tournament.

**MODEL UNITED NATIONS**

March 16th and 17th, Thomas Jefferson's Model United Nations Club hosted its annual conference, TechMUN. Over 800 delegates attended, from as far away as Richmond. The conference was led by Secretary-General Collin Jones, Undersecretary-General Varun Kumar, and Chief of Staff Rachel Merriman-Goldring. Over 100 TJ Model UN members volunteered at the conference, helping make it a tremendous success.

Many thanks to our fantastic teacher sponsor, Senora Pou!

**QUIZBOWL**
The TJ Quizbowl team won the State III Scholastic Bowl championship on February 25th! They didn’t lose a single match, and beat Maggie Walker handily in the playoffs.

The team consisted of senior captain James Bradbury, plus juniors Sarah Eltinge, Raynor Kuang, and Hope Flaxman.

In early March, James Bradbury, Avi Sachs, and Varun Kumar (all seniors) competed in Round 2 of the TV show It’s Academic. The show was taped to be aired at later date.

**SCIENCE OLYMPIAD**

The Science Olympiad team has been working hard along with our sponsor Mr. Hannum to prepare for Invitationals, Regionals, and now the States tournament which will be held on April 14th at Westfield High School.

The TJ “Blue” team finished first out of 23 teams competing at the Virginia Science Olympiad regional competition on February 18th! Blue team members were: Peter Ahnn, Hope Flaxman, Margaret Hu, Austin Ralls, and Hillary Liu. The White team finished 6th at regionals. White team members were: Avand Lakmazaheri, Daniel Jang, Katie Hsia, Emma Puranen, and Billie Males. The Red team finished 8th at regionals. Red team members were: Eve Chase, John Chae, Alec Brenner, Amy Chen, and Cyrus Tabrizi.

The Science Olympiad team will be participating in the state competition at Westfield High School in Chantilly on April 14th. Team members are: Peter Ahnn, Alec Brenner, John Chae, Eve Chase, Amy Chen, Hope Flaxman, Sparsh Gupta, Katie Hsia, Daniel Jang, Avand Lakmazaheri, Billie Males, Janice Ong, Emma Puranen, Austin Ralls, and Cyrus Tabrizi. The alternates are Margaret Hu, Alexis Gillmore, Jonathan Lee, and Hillary Liu.

**SPACE LAUNCH INITIATIVE**

On March 10th, the Space Launch Initiative rocket team had a successful 1st launch of the rocket that will go to Huntsville, AL in April. The payload is still a dummy mass, but the airframe flew well. The rocket is about 7 feet long at launch, and is about 45 feet long in total when fully deployed during the recovery phase.

This year’s SLI team members are Flint Song, Bobby Huddleston, Robert Campion, Eve Chase, Fareez Chowdhury, Narotham Badrish, Jonathan Lykins, Karin Lehnigk, Eric Tobin, Genevieve Gural, and Kartik Gupta.