

SHMS Speech and Debate Needs YOUR Help!!!

August 25, 2009

Dear Students and Parents/Guardians,

The 2008 – 2009 competitive season was the most successful period in the history of our Speech and Debate team. Not only did our team defend its first place sweepstakes in AA Division of the California State Speech Championship; but, we garnered numerous awards throughout the year. We then capped our season with more victories. At the National Championship held in Birmingham AL. our team took an unprecedented four semi-finalist – a first in our school history. Daniel Weingarten and James Shechet won 13th place in Duo Interpretation, Oscar Wang placed 11th in National Extemporaneous Speaking, and Nabeel Zewail placed 7th in International Extemporaneous Speaking. Throughout the year, countless students achieved their personal career best, and I look forward to guiding our team into greater prestigious heights.

Our competitive success would not have been possible without your support. The cost of speech and debate education and competition is substantial. It costs about \$75,000 each year to run our extracurricular program, almost all of which come from donation and fees rather than school funding. Approximately \$70,000 of the total costs is from general operations such as membership dues for league, state and nationals, entry fees, tournament transportation, hotel cost, consulting fees, materials and supplies. The remaining costs are from student-specific tournament expense. On average, a varsity student spends \$3,000 per year to compete at speech tournaments.

On behalf of the entire San Marino Forensics Team, I invite you to become a part of our community by donating to the Forensics Team Fund. Your contribution may qualify as a tax-deductible. Please make your check payable to **SMHS Speech**. You may mail it along with the perforated portion of this letter to the address below or leave it in my box in the main office. Feel free to stop by Room 400 or call me anytime to find out more about our squad. Your generosity is greatly appreciated, and the SMHS speech and debate team thanks you for your support.

Sincerely,

Oliver Valcorza
Director of Forensics

Donor Name: _____

Donor Address: _____

Donor Phone: _____

Donation Amount (please check the appropriate space):

\$1000 \$750 \$500 \$250 \$100 Other

Address: SMHS Speech, 2701 Huntington Drive. San Marino, CA 91108

Phone: (626) 299 – 7020

E-Mail: OValcorza3@aol.com