

Dear Friends:

We are pleased to invite you to the Needham High School "Day at the Oscars", aka School Spring Fling, aka 'March Merryness' Speech and Debate Tournament, to be on Saturday, March 19, 2011. Delicious Food will be sold throughout the day.

We represent both the last opportunity to qualify for States, while striving to offer a 'fun and festive' venue for all. So be it dress or dancing shoes (or both!) We look forward to seeing you!

**Please note: ALL speech and debate events will be held at the high school site this year.**

Please read the nuisance fee category regarding our plans to use those proceeds towards the Boston Urban Debate League. Additional donations are welcome.

**Please make all checks payable to Friends of Needham Speech and Debate.**

**Speech Events:** We will be offering all MFL Speech events, including Student Congress. Student Congress legislation will be available on the MFL website. We will also be offering a variety of special events. Special events will be offered during a flight between finals and MFL event prelims. The speech and Congress fee shall be \$5/entry.

**Debate Events:** The applicable NFL topics will be used in debate. At least four preliminary rounds shall be held. The decision between additional preliminary rounds and elimination rounds will be based on tournament registration numbers. LD and PF shall be \$15/entry. CX is \$20/ entry.

## JUDGING

Judging One judge per five entries in speech.

Debate- One judge per three entries in LD and PF. Adult judges only in varsity LD.

One judge per two entries in Novice CX

There is a \$50 missing judge fee in speech- please do not rely on the fee!

There is a \$75 missing judge fee in debate. Please do not rely on the fee!

## Awards

We are excited to be awarding stupendous Oscar-themed trophies to our first place winners, as well as 'Almost as Stupendous' trophies to second and third places contestants. The remaining finalists, through 6th place including both LD and PF, will receive shiny awards as well. We will be handing out speaker awards in PF as well as the other debate events.

(Events such as multiple, with traditionally low single figure entries, will receive

awards through third or fourth place.)

## Entry Information

Students may double and triple enter, **subject to the following restrictions.**

1) Students in draw events (VX, NX, RB), group discussion, and student congress may not double enter within the MFL events pattern. They may double enter with special events.

2) No student may enter more than one special event.

3) There is no double entry between debate and speech, including special events.

4) **Multiple** students may not enter a special event, as it will be held in the same time slot.

5) **Group Discussion** –In honor of the Oscars theme, the topics will again be drawn from the ideas of Neil Postman, in particular ‘Amusing Ourselves to Death.’ There are various speeches, interviews, and writings of Postman online.

6) Special events include Mixed Duo, Tabloid Extemp, Freeze Improv, Impromptu Sales and Student’s Revenge. Entries in special events DO NOT count against a school’s judging quota.

**Registration Deadline:** Wednesday, March 16th at 5pm. Please register at the Massachusetts Forensics League Website. Registration fees and judging requirements are set at that time. Later changes do not change the judging obligation or entry fees.

Drop Deadline and Contact Info : You may drop without nuisance fees until Thursday March 17th at 3pm. There is a \$10 nuisance fee for changes between Thursday afternoon and the tournament. This is in addition to the original cost. Again, your judging obligation is based on your original entry.

Please email [paul\\_wexler@needham.k12.ma.us](mailto:paul_wexler@needham.k12.ma.us) with changes.

The school phone # is (781) 455-0800 x2423. This number will not be checked on tournament morning. Drops tournament morning may be called into Paul Wexler’s cell phone (781) 330-6610 (see below).

**‘Nuisance’ fees** will be assessed for all drops and changes from 3pm March 17th through the morning call-in. A nuisance fee of \$25 will be assessed for changes at the table. The key to running an on time tournament is minimal last minute changes!

All dedicated Nuisance fees for this tournament, up to at least one hundred dollars, will be donated to the Boston Urban Debate League, in the form of a donation to MFL and Needham alum Mike Wasserman's and Needham coach Samantha Gathers' marathon run on behalf of that cause. Thus, we are requesting that such fees be paid separately if at all possible. A box shall be provided for that purpose. **Those Needham staff accepting registration fees will be instructed to nod pleasantly and point mutely to the box when pleas for exceptions to nuisance fees are made.**

Collected fees shall be matched by a Needham donor. We welcome additional donations on the BUDL's behalf.

Sweepstakes. Sweepstakes will be awarded to the top five schools based on their top ten entries in ten separate events, plus their next top three scores. A Note on room cleanliness. There have been issues. We are in danger of losing use of the building. We will be checking rooms throughout the day. If a room is found to be in poor condition, the tournament will be delayed until that room is sufficiently neat. Repeat offenders will be dropped from the tournament. Students after round three, four, and finals are asked to erase the board of all tournament related markings.

### **IMPORTANT!**

*Students and adults are expected to abide by standard principles of professionalism and etiquette* throughout the day. Students who do not model these codes will be dropped from the tournament. This includes being present in areas not specifically designated as tournament spaces, and those who use school equipment without permission. If you have to ask, chances are you shouldn't even look at it, let alone use it.

No food or drink of any sort, except water, is allowed in the classrooms.

Please inform your judges that no person, including adults, may sit, breathe, or even gaze upon a teacher's desk. We may station a trained team of (hungry) gorgons at each teacher's desk to enforce this rule.

Students must be accompanied by an adult, approved by their school administration, who will be responsible for them during the entire time they are present at the Needham Tournament

We will be pleased to present the 7th annual Needham Parent Award on the 21st. Past winners are

2005 Karen Goldenberg Needham High School  
2006 Gail Cirillo and Sheryll Strohl-Hammett Ursuline Academy  
2007 Dave Berridge Shrewsbury High School  
2008 Michelle Baer Manchester-Essex RHS  
2009 Steven Murphy Catholic Memorial  
2010 Marian Channon Natick High School

### **TOURNAMENT MORNING**

Please call 781-330-6610 the morning of the tournament ONLY to report. Please call as soon as you know of any changes. This is a MFL requirement. Schools which do not do so are subject to a \$25 fee.

**Please make all checks payable to Friends of Needham Speech and Debate.**

Registration will begin at 8am. Please arrive no later than shortly after 8am. Rounds will begin as expeditiously as possible, we hope to have the opening meeting in speech no later than 9am, coinciding with the beginning of draw. Please call the morning of the contest with any changes.  
(781) 330-6610

Judges Meetings: 8:30AM  
Round One Draw 9:15 AM      Round One Debate 9:15AM  
Round One 9:30 AM              additional rounds to follow expeditiously  
Round Two 11:00AM  
Round Three 12:15 AM

Multiple/specials, Finals and Awards to follow as soon as possible.

Awards will be as close to 6:00 pm as possible- earlier if possible.

No ballots will be released before awards. Ballots/trophies will not be mailed.

Scrumptious Food will be sold throughout the day!

We will expedite the schedule if tournament numbers allow.

We look forward to seeing you in Needham on March 19th!

The Needham Speech and Debate Team and Coaching Staff

Needham Spring Fling Special Events

Spring Fling Events- To be held during the off round with one round of competition and finals if needed.

### **Mixed Duo... Shaken not Stirred (aka: mixed duo)**

Teams will be randomly generated from all event participants. All materials will be provided. You and your new partner will have 15 minutes of prep time for cutting and practice. The presentation must include an introduction that cites the name of the piece and the author. You may only touch and make eye contact during your introduction. The author's words as published in the literature may not be altered for this presentation with the exception that cutting is permitted. This is a scripted reading event.

Time limit: 15 minute- prep, 7 minutes, 30 second grace- presentation

### **Alumni/Student Duo**

Teams will consist of one current high school student and one alum. All normal duo rules apply, except for the time limit. Scripts are required. This event will be scored by student judges.

Time Limit: 7 minutes, 30 seconds grace.

### **Aliens Have Landed in Needham (aka: tabloid extemp)**

Pulled right from the tabloid headlines. You may have already won! 15 minutes of prep time will be allotted to create a "factual", yet light hearted extemp speech. You will have 7 minutes to convince your judge that bat boy lives, and that aliens have indeed landed in Needham. Some topics may come from the Weekly World News or so we say- but if they are shut down by the Conspiracy we will make do. This is a limited prep event, except for those who can see the future...

Time limit: 7 minutes, 30 second grace

### **Sold! to the Highest Bidder (aka: impromptu sales pitch)**

You will randomly select one item to use as the impromptu topic. 7 minutes of prep time will be allotted to create and present your sales pitch.

### **Freeze Improv**

Freeze Improv: This event is open to all students. Given a starting scenario, each student will partner with every other student in the flight

according to a set order to create various short scenes, a la 'Whose Line is it Anyway?' After a scene has gone on for at least 60 seconds, and before it reaches 90 seconds, the next student in line will yell FREEZE and take the place of a student already in the scene. The new pair will then begin to act out a fresh scene, starting from the positions they were frozen in. Sign up for some crazy, off-the-cuff madness!

Students Revenge (aka: student judging competition)

This event is open to all students. You will be judging the Alumni Duo event. Your ballots will be reviewed and ranked in this unique competition. You will need to dig deep to find thoughtful comments for the good, the bad, and the well... They may even make an appearance in Interpretative Ballot Reading, so have fun and be creative!