

SCHOOLS DEBATING NETWORK COMPETITION (WEEK 1-7 TERM 3)

Last Friday we hosted Wenona College for Round 4 of the SDN Competition. We didn't win any debates on the night (the Senior team won by forfeit). I spoke to the adjudicators of 6 debates and they said that their debates "close debate" results (there are "clear win" and "outright win" results). In the SDN competition St Pius X debaters are competing against schools who draw their debaters from a pool of students engaged in a variety of debating competitions. St Pius X debaters do not compete in the prestigious and rigorous ISDA, GPS nor the Archdale debating competitions. We don't have an 'A' Team of debaters but rather give all debaters equal access to all debates and we mix up the teams putting weaker speakers with stronger speakers so that we don't leave anyone behind in their skill development. We could have small groups of specifically SDN debaters who stick to this competition every night in Term 3 and this could ensure that wins come our way. However, debaters seem to like the flexibility of moving around in the SDN competition, but of course this is open for debate. 😊

The other coaches and I were so proud of the attitude that the St Pius X boys displayed after their losses. The students that I spoke to at the end of the night understood the result of their debate but this didn't mean they weren't disappointed. Whilst chatting to various debaters at the end of the night I realised that despite feeling a little flat so many of you, without any prompting from me, started to talk about the brilliant arguments that you and your team mates presented and how the opposition dealt with those arguments. In these conversations I noticed your enthusiasm for your skill in debating was a 'clear and present' force and this was wonderful to see. We are so proud of our debaters, their elegance in the face of defeats and your congratulations towards the winning teams. You coaches think that you are wonderful, resilient, graceful young men and we are so proud of you all.

This Round 5, Friday 18th August, **St Pius X College** is hosting Monte Sant Angelo Mercy College. We have our compulsory 2 hours training each week--30 minutes before school training as well as Friday afternoon training from 3.30 – 5pm for ALL debaters. At 5pm this week Year 7 and Year 8 debaters rostered on for the night will move to the Blue Room to prepare for their 5.30pm coin toss.

IT IS VITAL THAT YEAR 7 & YEAR 8 DEBATERS BRING AN EXTRA SANDWICH AND DRINK ON FRIDAY NIGHTS AS THERE WILL BE NO TIME FOR THEM TO TRAVEL TO WESTFIELD BEFORE THEIR COIN TOSS.

YEAR 8B, 9, 10 AND SENIOR DEBATERS CAN TRAVEL TO WESTFIELD TO PURCHASE THEIR DINNER BUT MUST BE BACK IN THE BLUE ROOM BEFORE 6.15PM.

Students and parents can visit the SDN site at: <http://www.sdndebating.com.au> for locations of all schools.

Our topic area this week is Media.

2016 Topics – Arts & Media

5 & 6 - That all primary school students should have to watch 30 minutes of televised news per day

7 & 8 - That we should require all Australian TV shows to cast a minimum amount of Indigenous actors

9 & 10 - That we should ban TV shows that glorify crime

11 & 12 - That all artists should be paid a living wage by the government

2015 Topics – Arts & Media

5 & 6 - That we should ban reality TV shows that involve kids

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9 & 10 - That the media should not display footage of natural disasters or terrorism on television

11 & 12 - That the Australian government should privatise the ABC

Round 5 18th August, **St Pius X** hosting Monte

Round 6 25th August, **Abbotsleigh** hosting St Pius X

Round 7 2nd September, **Redlands** hosting St Pius X

Tiebreaker 8th September, hosted by **St Pius X (only students who compete in this Tiebreaker need attend)**

Final 15th September, hosted by **Monte**

- Round 5 - Arts and Media
- Round 6 - Law and Order
- Round 7 - Social Issues

Ms M Waterson – Public Speaking & Debating Convenor
