

CDS debater places first in international competition



The 32nd International Independent Schools' Public Speaking Competition was a resounding success, and a Country Day School student now has bragging rights.

One hundred and 55 students representing 47 schools and seven countries converged at Kingbridge Conference Centre in King City for four days of intensive debating and public speaking. This is a great way to [get over your fear of public speaking](#)! These talented orators approach this as a sport and reveled in the highly competitive atmosphere throughout the weekend. All of the competitors should feel an enormous sense of pride for their outstanding accomplishments.

CDS Grade 10 student, Natalie Ganzhorn, won the Selwyn House Trophy for the top individual speaker overall. St. John's Ravenscourt School from Winnipeg finished first, followed by Branksome Hall School in Toronto. The CDS team of Jai Singh, Lukas Weese and Natalie Ganzhorn finished third out of 50 teams.

Impromptu Speaking

Third place speaker, Natalie Ganzhorn, the Country Day School; second place speaker, Polly Gabrieli, Winsor School; top speaker, Justice Betty, The Bishop Strachan School.

Extemporaneous Speaking

Third place speaker, Lukas Weese, the Country Day School; second place speaker, Philip Balson, the Roxbury Latin School; top speaker, Daniel Huang (SJR2) St. John's-Ravenscourt School.

Parliamentary Debate

Third place speaker, Philip Balson, The Roxbury Latin School; second place speaker, Daniel Huang, St. John's-Ravenscourt School; top speaker, Alex Chalmers, Reading Blue Coat.

Radio Newscast

Third place speaker, Nathan Scott, Maclachlan College; second place speaker, Benjamin Feldman, The York School; top speaker, Lukas Weese, The Country Day School.

After Dinner Speaking

Third place speaker, Fraser Jang-Milligan, York House School; second place speaker, Tyler Demchak, Shady Side Academy; top

speaker, Imaan Kherani, Strathcona Tweedsmuir School.

Persuasive Speaking

Third place speaker, Stephanie Fennell, St. John's Ravenscourt School; second place speaker, Lila Gabrieli, The Winsor School; top speaker, Justice Betty, The Bishop Strachan School.

Interpretive Reading

Third place speaker, Noah Lehman, Lakefield College School; second place speaker, Karen Mardini, Stoneleigh Burnham School; top speaker, Stephanie Fennell, St. John's Ravenscourt School.

Dramatic Interpretation

Third place speaker, Natalie Ganzhorn, Country Day School; second place speaker, Fraser Jang-Milligan, York House School; top speaker, Natalie Solomon, Glenlyon Norfolk School.

Cross-Examination Debate

Second place team member 1, Philip Balson (Roxbury Latin School); second place team member 2, Hamza Chaudhry (Roxbury Latin School); first place team member 1, Samantha Hargreaves (De La Salle); first place team member 2, Jameel Manji (De La Salle).

Specialized Awards

St-Margaret's Trophy for Top Student U16 ? Natalie Ganzhorn.

Embodying the Spirit of the Event, chosen by Peers ? tied between Lukas Weese (CDS) and Ciara Burrows (Saltus Grammar School).

Montreal Cup ? Top Individual Canadian student ? Natalie Ganzhorn.

?It was thrilling for us to host an event in which students from around the world not only honed their speaking skills, but also had the opportunity to make friends and learn about other cultures,? said Kerstin Wyndham-West, the CDS Debating Coach and event organizer.

?Natalie Ganzhorn's first place finish overall on home turf was particularly exciting, and although she was not able to qualify for the Worlds at this event, as she had already participated in last year's tournament in South Africa, her performance was remarkable as she is still only in Grade 10. The fact that the CDS team placed third out of 50 teams is also indicative of the strength of the public speaking and debating program at The Country Day School.?