

PSBB KKN's Achievements with the Indian Schools Debating Society

The academic year of 2017-18 has been among the most successful years for the PSBB KKN Debating Society, whose students from the 9th to the 12th grade have brought the school many prestigious, international laurels with the Indian Schools Debating Society.

The year started off with a bang, as two of our students, Harsith of 10G and Tejas of 10K, participated in the International Competition for Young Debaters, held in the prestigious Cambridge Union, England, after a highly competitive regional selection. They won the international round of the tournament, prevailing against 700 teams from across the globe, and winning every single debate. Tejas was declared the Best Speaker of the tournament, and Harsith tied for a close Second Best Debater.

In July, three of our students, Hemanth of 12G1, Harsith of 10G, and Tejas of 10K, participated in the Asia World Schools Debating Championship in Bangkok, Thailand, representing the Indian Schools Debating Society. Hemanth and Tejas were part of the 10th best team at the tournament, and qualified to the octofinals. Harsith was declared the 33rd best open speaker in the tournament, and the second highest ranking Indian speaker.

In August, Hemanth of 12G1 and Tejas of 10K were part of a team consisting of the five best debaters in the entire country to participate in the World Schools Debating Championships, in Bali, Indonesia – the world's most prestigious school-level debating tournament. The team was ranked the tournament's 4th best team, and made it to the quarterfinals. Hemanth was named the 36th best school-level debater in the entire world, and the 8th best English-as-a-Second-Language debater.

Following an intense intra-school selection, six students from PSBB KK Nagar represented the school at the Indian Schools Debating Society regional tournament, held at Bhavan's Rajaji Vidyashram: Saranya of 9J, Navin of 10H, Aksharah of 9H, Karthik of 9N, Akshara of 9J, and Amay of 9K. The team consisting of Saranya, Navin, and Aksharah won all six debates, thus being the highest ranking team at the tournament. The team with Karthik, Akshara, and Amay won five out of six debates, tied for the second highest number of wins.

Navin of 10H and Saranya of 9J have been selected to represent the school, again, at the International Competition for Young Debaters, held at the Oxford Union this year. The two of them will be defending champions at the tournament, having defeated teams from Sri Sankara, Adyar, and Bala Vidya Mandir, in order to be selected for this prestigious competition.

Five of our students – Hemanth of 12G1, Tejas of 10K, Saranya of 9J, Navin of 10H, Harsith of 10G, and Aksharah of 9H – were named among the top 54 best debaters in the country, in the World Schools format, in the Indian Schools Debating Society National Selection Tournament, held in Chennai in January. The tournament culminated in Hemanth, Tejas, and Saranya being named among the top five debaters in the country – three out of the five from PSBB KK Nagar! – and Navin and Harsith both being named among the top 13.

Saranya, Hemanth, and Tejas will represent the country at the World Schools Debating Championship in 2018, to be held in Zagreb, Croatia. Navin and Harsith will represent the Indian Schools Debating Society at the Oldham Cup, in Singapore.

We, the KK Nagar Debating Society, would like to thank the school management for giving the school a range of different opportunities, including the conducting of a one-month-long debate workshop within the school premises. We'd like to thank, in particular, debate in-charge teacher Mrs. Syna Binoy, the whole English Department, the heads of our school, and Debating President for the academic year 2017-18, Aishwarya Sethuraman of 12G1.