On Saturday, PS 161 hosted the first NYC Urban Debate League debate tournament of the year!  We welcomed 20 schools from all over the city, and around 300 students!  Students debated whether hate speech should be illegal, whether immigrants should be required to learn English, and whether youth competitive sports do more harm than good.

***SWEEPSTAKES RESULTS***

The home team won the tournament!

**1st place -- PS 161**

2nd place -- Speyer

3rd place -- East Side MS

4th place -- Computer School

5th place -- IS 230

Also at the tournament were Salk School of Science, WHEELS, MS 243 Center School, St Hope Leadership, Hamilton Grange, PS 149, West Prep, Inwood Academy, Berkeley Carroll, Hunter, NYC Lab School, Thurgood Marshall, PS 180 Hugo Newman and HEAF.

***IN VARSITY DEBATE***

The team of 8th grader **Tajiri Wilson** and 7th graders **Jaden Lamarre** and **Romeo Silverio** went undefeated and earned **4th place overall.**All three earned top speaker awards.

The team of 8th grader **Isaiah Santana** and 7th graders **Eliel Ortega** and **Manny Pena** had a winning record and earned 6th place overall.  Manny and Isaiah also earned top speaker awards.

Congrats to 8th graders **Nyomi Russo,** **Avant Anderson** and **Jeniyah Martinez** for earning top speaker awards.

Job well done also to 8th graders Rosdely Ciprian, Donovan Carmichael, Jakhi Milton, Miracle Battle and Sean Correa and 7th grader Jeremy Merejo in the Varsity division.

***IN NOVICE DEBATE***

The team of 6th graders **Wilman Perez, Britny Quito** and **Marvin Legros** went 3-0 and earned 6th place overall.

The team of 7th graders **Candido Rivera, Pedro Rodriguez** and **Alejandro Espinosa** and the team of 8th graders **Majely Collado, Samyah Kennedy** and 7th grader **Briana Previllon** both earned winning records and top team awards.

7th grader **Dakeem Nock** earned a top speaker award. Congrats also to brand new debaters Reylli Valdez and Khari Dabney.

[***CLICK HERE***](https://photos.app.goo.gl/pm7UzpbutooMThh02) ***for an album of pictures from the event, thanks to Peter Kornicker, Clemencia Acevedo, and Vanessa Baus!***

***SPECIAL THANKS TO...***

Dave, Collin and the 161 custodial and security team

Tyrone Denson, Clemencia Acevedo, Peter and Canyon Kornicker

Parents of Tajiri, Romeo, Jeniyah, Miracle, Candido, Alejandro, Briana and Reylli

Amazing alumni volunteers:  Jamaly Collado, Dashaun Conde, Melvin Morla, Nelson Sanchez, Feiry Guaba, Rajendra Singh, Luis Benitez, Julio Cordero and Mohamed Conde

Ms. Price for making it happen!

***NEXT TOURNAMENT...***

November 11 at Midwood HS