



THE BRONX GREAT DEBATERS WEEKLY!

Week of May 17th - 23rd, 2010



The Bronx Great Debaters Weekly! is a weekly newspaper dedicated to the accomplishments of the debate and advocacy programs at the Bronx School for Law, Government, and Justice - Debate, Mock Trial, Build On, Justice Club, and more on the way!

Greetings!

Apologies! Many people have been emailing me regarding the absence of the LGJ Weekly! Apologies! For the past several weeks we shut down all operations to focus exclusively on training for the New York City Debate Championships Tournament. Apologies! However, I will save the results for next week's Weekly which will be devoted exclusively to those tournament results. Apologies! Also, you may have noticed our "LGJ Weekly" title is gone! Apologies! Our staff voted to change it to focus exclusively on our coverage of debate and advocacy programs!



And as for the NYC Debate Championships results, all I can say is that there was only one school from the South Bronx competing and that team not only won 1st place but swept every division of debate! You could have combined the points from the top five teams of Brooklyn, Manhattan, and Queens and they still would not have equaled this mysterious school from the Bronx. The name of this school will be released in next week's edition.....

This week we celebrate the creation of two blogs our students can now upload their [law](#) and [justice](#) articles! We also celebrate the Thurgood Marshall Middle School Mock Trial Tournament. The tournament is named after the first African American Supreme Court Justice, Thurgood Marshall. This annual event is held each year by the Supreme Court right here in the Bronx for middle schools across the city. Each year LGJ has always sent one of the largest number of participants. This year was no different with about 25 of our middle school students serving as student lawyers and witnesses. This is the culmination of a semester long learning experience where students have been partnered with various law firms, lawyers, and our high school mock trial team members.

All rise! The Court is now in session!

Be Just,
Mr. Fogel

THE WONDERFUL WONDERS OF MOCK TRIAL!

by Starr Arroyo (7th Grade, Lawyer,
Defense Team)

In This Issue

Law Update!
Justice Update!

**Law Teams Student Spotlight -
Viktoria Pashtriku (again!)**

For more pictures of our Mock Trial Team, [click here at our Law Teams website.](#)

For more articles by our Mock Trial Team, [click here at our Law Club blogspot.](#)

May 5, 2010 a beautiful Wednesday I did something special. I became a lawyer, well not actually but it is part of a History

assignment. It was a case that would decide whether a man was going to be put it Jail for killing someone in self-defense or just because he thought a man was going to kill him. As we walked to the Supreme Court my excitement grew and I was nervously waiting and so was my friend Gabriel Brito but his nervous took over him. He wasn't able to compete but I think that his team was still able to accomplish what they came for "To Win". As we all get assigned to our room I noticed that I was shaking but I knew that I was going to have to shake it off and do the best I could because "I was a lawyer". As we waited for the judge and our opponents, we practiced but I noticed that I forgot my whole speech. I didn't know what to do but I knew for the sake of my job, I had to do what I do best TALK! The other team came in and automatically started laughing which made our nervousness go away because it showed that they were also nervous but trying to cover it by laughter. The prosecution said their opening which was hilarious because they weren't sure about anything of what they were saying. Next was the defense which was my team. Yaira Brito was first and she was great, explained everything, and spoke clearly. During cross-examination, Yaira made the other team say that they were lying about everything that they said. Which was an automatic win for us. The other teams' cross-examination was only one minute long which wasn't even enough time for us to object, but luckily my other partner, Tiauna, got a chance to make an objection. The objection was "Beyond the scope of the witness" which means that the team was asking questions to the witness that they couldn't answer. I did the closing which was basically giving the judge an extra reason for us to win. I think we won but we have to wait until May 10,10 to see if we won. I'm hoping that we won because I love being a Lawyer!

**NO HUMAN IS
ILLEGAL**
FROM THE LGJ JUSTICE LEAGUE
by Karelyn Mejia (11th Grade)

Vicktoria has been in the Spotlight before, but she has to be a repeater because her coaching has been invaluable to our middle school mock trial team members. Vicktoria is a member of the High School Mock Trial Team and after her season was over she devotes several days a week after school and at our mock trial tournament to coach our students (and myself). After a student became sick at the mock trial tournament and the teacher had to leave the courtrooms, Vicktoria took charge of our middle school mock trial team members and prepared them for the tournament!

Justice Spotlight - Ibrahima Sene

If you read Karelyn Mejia's article in this week's LGJ Weekly! you would know why Ibrahima has been selected as this week's Justice Hero! Ibrahima participates every Saturday in Build On! and the Justice League's service event. And last Saturday at the May Day rally, he stood up to racist protesters and the crowd rallied around him!

LAW SPOTLIGHT - THE ENTIRE 7TH GRADE!

You can also check out our Justice League blog, [click here](#).

You can also check out our Justice League website, [click here](#).

One of my all time favorite movies is Back to the Future but in reality I would have never thought I would enter the 1950's in 2010 until May 1st came. The Justice Club/ BuildOn members of LGJ began their day on a normal Saturday schedule with a group meeting at the McDonalds on 161st at 7:30am and we then walked the neighborhood until we had to get going to reach our destination, Union Square. Our goal for the day was to participate in a march fighting for Worker's rights and for the full legalization of immigrants. A pep rally would go on from the early morning until the start of the march at 2:30pm. The events that followed until 3pm will show the strength of the Justice members beginning with a stand towards a protester of the march.

The protester of the march shouted how immigrants need to go home and continue their criminal activities passed our American borders and how Blacks need to go with them. By this point you the reader can comprehend an anger that rose in the Justice Club with hearing a crazed Caucasian man preach ignorance. As the man approached us we shouted for him to go home. LGJ seventh grader Ibrahima walked over to the man and spoke his mind. The protester then changed his words now stating his solutions involves kicking out Hispanics to clear the way for blacks to gain jobs in the US.

The protester would later mention how Obama is against blacks and is a racist. All these things that paved the way to get more people into the argument that only consisted of Ibrahima and him, a clear racist man opposing immigration and about every other race coexisting in America. Ibrahima challenged all his

At the Thurgood Marshall Mock Trial Tournament, each school is allowed to bring up to four teams of six students each. Very few schools bring all 24 allowed students. We do every year! This year's seventh grade was no exception with 24 students participating as student lawyers and student witnesses. Several students came as alternates as well. So a big shout out to the entire 7th grade!

Upcoming LGJ Events....

DEBATE TEAM

(for all debate tournaments, meet at McDonald's at 7:30am and leave by 8:00am on Saturdays)

May 1st - NY Urban Debate League Tournament at the Institute for Collaborative Education

May 15th - New York City Championships Debate Tournament

May 15th - New York City Lincoln Douglas Debate Goldberg Invitational Tournament

May 22nd - Big Apple Debate League Middle School Tournament

May 23rd - Bronx Day March & Parade for Debate Team

May 23rd - New York Urban Debate League's Annual Banquet and Awards Ceremony

MOCK TRIAL TEAM

May 5th - Middle School Mock Trial Tournament

STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Regularly scheduled meetings. See Ms. Coleman

JUSTICE CLUB & BUILD ON CLUBS

May 1 BUILD ON - (Saturday)- May Day March in Union Square

May 2nd - Be Kind to Animals Week

May 4th - National Teacher Day

points. Finally, the man walked away and the Justice Club member Ibrahimia was given high fives and I couldn't be more proud of him.

The day moved on and we grew restless with the 89 degree weather. As a club we headed towards the playground. In the playground we encountered yet another sad mind. We walked into the playground with the disgusted stare of a woman who sat on the playground stairs and then started following us. As we played with the kids in the playground the parents of the children were enthusiastic about our involvement.

Ibrahimia accidentally bumped a child but apologized and picked the child up; it was normal behavior at least we thought. The woman who had been eyeballing us the entire time had decided to tell Ibrahimia "you don't belong in here!" I wouldn't have been angered if she remained staring but she had the nerve to yell at us and tell us we shouldn't be in the playground or using the equipment or she would call the cops. I told her to go ahead and call them because I'm pretty sure minorities can be in a public park. At this moment I felt as though I time traveled and needed to stand up for our rights.

Though we were supposed to be leaving I volunteered to wait for the safety officers, or this woman would believe she is right kicking us out of a playground. Instead of leaving, everyone stayed with me which was nice because they were given an alternative to leave with the BuildOn coordinator. Since everyone decided to stay so did the coordinator to help us talk with the safety officer. A safety officer came and the woman ran up to him along with my BuildOn coordinator, Lanell, who presented the problem to the guard who responded "There's no age limit and the only way to get kicked out is for disorderly conduct." A father along with his 2 year old son came to serve as a witness of how respectful we were being in the playground and he told him how the woman just wanted to cause problems. It had nothing to do with one of us bumping a child, we were bumping into each other the whole time, the real

May 5th - Cinco de Mayo
 May 8 - BUILD ON (Saturday)- City Year school beautification and block party
 May 9th - Mother's Day
 May 12th - School Nurse Day
 May 15 BUILD ON (Saturday) - It's My Park Day at St. James Park
 May 16 - AIDS Walk NY
 May 17th - Anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education
 May 19 - Malcolm X's birthday
 May 22 - International Day for Biological Diversity
 May 31th - Memorial Day

LGJ Website Quick Links

DEBATE TEAM HOMEPAGE
<http://www.bronxgreatdebaters.org>

LAW TEAM HOMEPAGE
<http://web.me.com/erikfogel/bronxlawteam>

JUSTICE LEAGUE'S HOMEPAGE
<http://web.me.com/erikfogel/bronxjusticeclub>

LGJ Blogspot Quick Links

Justice League Blog
<http://bronxjusticeclub.blogspot.com/>

Law Teams Blog
<http://bronxlawclub.blogspot.com/>

Debate Team Blog
 Coming Soon!

LGJ WEEKLY! STAFF CONTRIBUTORS

Mr. Fogel, J.D. Debate Coach, Justice Club/BuildOn Advisor

LGJ WEEKLY! STUDENT CONTRIBUTORS

Starr Arroyo (7th grade)

Karolyn Meija (10th grade)

The LGJ Debate Team members

The LGJ Middle School Mock Trial Team members

dilemma was one of racism. At the end of the conversation with the security guard Lanell said "duces, peace!" to the woman who said either we leave or she will. The woman then said "real professional" to Lanell who said "I know and you're going to like this, an African American woman with a bachelor's degree." We were leaving and the woman went back to the playground with her daughter closing the gate as though she won property of the playground which made me say "We may not be old enough to vote but we could play in that playground." As we got rid of our anger Lanell told us it's okay and not to pay mind because we all know what it really was about and it wasn't our ages.

Our day ended earlier than the march because our group went the earliest so we grew tired and went for pizza (Thank you Fogel!) in a nearby pizzeria. Back in the Bronx we went to a sand park across from the new Target until our curfews came.

Being told not to be somewhere was painful but it made us understand how strong ignorance can get and how the march that would begin an hour later from the incident was more connected to us than we thought. If immigrants are forced out of America we promote a new form of racism worst than what we experienced on May 1st as U.S. citizens. Imagine how advanced we can truly be if we understand people are equals. "No human is illegal." This entire community service dealt with promoting immigrant rights but we faced protecting our own rights. Knowing your rights is important because people will always try to mislead you to lower your value. Having the knowledge of your rights calls for a greater self defense!

The LGJ Justice League members

Contact Us!

If you have any questions or comments about this newsletter, or if you would like to submit articles and photos, please contact Erik Fogel at.....

EMAIL: eriktheteacher@hotmail.com

MAIL: Attention: Mr. Fogel, The Bronx School for Law, Government, and Justice, 244 E. 163r St., Bronx, NY 10451.

VISIT US: Drop by the school!

