

## LFA: First Tournament!

By Katie Philpott

On February 21<sup>st</sup>, the Institute for Principle Studies hosted its first debate tournament for private schools. The new debate league, the Logos Forensics Association, was established by the Institute this year in the hopes of getting private Christian schools involved in the speech and debate activity.

Held at Berean Christian High School in Walnut Creek, the first tournament proved to be a very promising start for the league. Represented there were Berean Christian and Contra Costa Christian Schools. Each school brought four debate teams, which competed against each other in a round robin (four debate rounds). Awards were given to the top three teams, and top four individual debaters. Taking the first place team trophy were twin sisters Sabik and Alex Saddik from Contra Costa Christian, and the first place individual debater was Jonathan Hollenbeck from Berean Christian.

With only sixteen total students competing at the tournament, the overall atmosphere was both relaxed and friendly. Judges (consisting of current and alumni NCFCA debaters) were able to take extra time to get to know debaters and provide them with additional critique and teaching. As the day progressed, it was evident that every student was not only learning something new, but was applying their new knowledge to each consecutive round.

The most encouraging part of the tournament was seeing how much each student enjoyed themselves. One student from Contra Costa Christian confessed, "I dropped out of debate two weeks ago... but they needed me at the last minute. I'm really glad I did it." Another girl noted, "I didn't like my speech class... but I had fun today!" When I asked if she would debate again at the next tournament, the answer was an enthusiastic yes.

The final tournament will be held in mid-May, and each team is working hard in preparation. The Institute for Principle Studies looks forward to working with these students further, and expanding the debate program to more schools in the year to come. 