

Delco Hi-Q Contest Report  
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**MARPLE NEWTOWN WINS 2006/2007 DELCO HI-Q CHAMPIONSHIP**

Penncrest High School, March 6, 2007: The Marple Newtown High School Hi-Q team reclaimed the championship and kept possession of the Donna Zerby Trophy by edging out Penncrest and Garnet Valley in the championship contest. Home team, Penncrest finished second, and Garnet Valley took third place in the competitive competition. This was the fifth championship meeting of these schools since 2001.

Mr. John Lon, Assistant Principal at Penncrest, welcomed guests, visitors, and introduced Mike Magnavita, Executive Vice President, from primary corporate sponsor Franklin Mint Federal Credit Union. Mr. Magnavita expressed the credit union's commitment to education and to the Hi-Q program. He reminded the 1,200 students in the audience "no matter which team has the highest score today, each of the students on stage are already winners." Among the many guests were superintendents from all three school districts, Dr. Denise Kerr from Rose Tree Media, Mrs. Merle Horowitz from Marple Newtown, and Dr. Anthony Costello from Garnet Valley.

Each team started strong by giving correct answers in the first three categories. This led to an early three-way tie. The tie was broken when Garnet Valley missed the toss-up Sports question but the visiting "Jaguars" evened the score when they were the only team to give the correct answer in Mathematics. At intermission, Penncrest and Marple Newtown were tied at 28 and Garnet Valley was close behind with 22 points.

After the break, Penncrest missed answering their Chemistry question on the first try and earned three points instead of four. That gave Marple Newtown the lead, which they maintained for the rest of the contest. The Penncrest "Lions" fought their way through this scholastic "catfight" but as their faculty advisor, Mike Ludwig commented, "they [Marple Newtown] closed the door and we couldn't get back in." Garnet Valley was able to steal two points by answering Penncrest's missed team choice question in American History. Marple Newtown "Tigers" showed their claws and snatched the last toss-up question of the contest but there was no suspense as they had already racked up enough points to gain the win. Final score was, Marple Newtown, 57; Penncrest 46; Garnet Valley, 39.

John Unangst, President/CEO of Franklin Mint Federal Credit Union presented the Donna Zerby Trophy to Marple Newtown. Unangst was joined on stage by Christopher McGinley, Executive Director of Delaware County Intermediate Unit and Al Danish, Delaware County Chamber of Commerce Board Chairperson.

Marple Newtown not only holds the Donna Zerby Trophy for another year but also earns a \$3,000 cash prize for their school. The champions also earned the right to represent Delaware County in the Pennsylvania Academic Challenge held next month in Harrisburg. Penncrest earned \$2,500, and Garnet Valley will have \$2,000 to use in their school.

Finalist teams and the other 18 Delco Hi-Q teams will be honored by The Foundation of the Delaware County Chamber and the Delaware County Intermediate Unit at the annual Hi-Q Partners in Education Celebration on March 28<sup>th</sup> at Drexelbrook Corporate Events Center in Drexel Hill. Reservations are available to the general public by contacting the Chamber of Commerce at 610-565-3677.

Delco Hi-Q is the oldest academic quiz competition in the United States. Delaware County Intermediate Unit partners with the Foundation of the Delaware County Chamber to help ensure the continuation of the program. Ginger Beaumont and Rick Durante are Co-Directors, Tom McCarthy is Quizmaster, production engineer is Dave Bramble and Hi-Q assistant is Michelle Skrobak.

In addition to the 21 participating schools' support, primary corporate sponsor is Franklin Mint Federal Credit Union. Kimberly-Clark Corporation's Chester Operations is the Valedictorian sponsor. Contributors and supporters are: Delaware County Daily Times and the Hilbush Foundation.

Hi-Q Program Co-Director Ginger Beaumont noted that all of the contestants on stage began preparing for the 2006/2007 season early last summer and had worked hard to earn admission into the championship competition.

The Marple Newtown team was the defending Delco Hi-Q champions. This was their sixth appearance since 2001. Marple has also won championships in 1972 and 2004. Faculty Advisor Deborah Bonder is celebrating her tenth year as coach. Team members are: Daniel Albert, Roashan Ayene, Jennifer Dailey, Amy Xiujie Guo, Joseph Mansky, Jason Pan, and Wei Wang.

Penncrest made their twenty-first Championship contest appearance since 1959, winning seven championships. Six of those championships were earned under the guidance of Faculty Advisor, Michael Ludwig, now in his twenty-seventh season as coach. Penncrest team members are: Rebecca Dunn, Robert M. Graham, Victor Janmey, Emily Moberg, Natalie Scherer, Alexander Senko, Teresa Slifer, Erik Virbitsky, Dustin Volz, and Emily Wright.

This was the tenth consecutive championship appearance for Garnet Valley. Their teams have won first place in 1978, 2001, and 2002. The team is under the guidance of Faculty Advisors Carol Rockafellow in her fourteenth season and first season coach, Dr. Lesley Arensberg. Team members are: Kyle Brown, Stephen Ciarrocchi, Jeffrey Conway, Curtis Covelli, Amoca Elsaify, Chloe Glynn, Nicki Martini, Keith Mikus, Hetty Nie, and Wasiaq Sheith.

Photo Caption:

Marple Newtown Hi-Q Team:

Standing (l to r): Roashan Ayene, Jason Pan, Dan Albert, Faculty Advisor Deborah Bonder

Seated (l to r): Amy (Xiujie) Guo, Marisa Felsher, Joey Mansky, Jen Dailey, Jenny (Wei) Wang

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