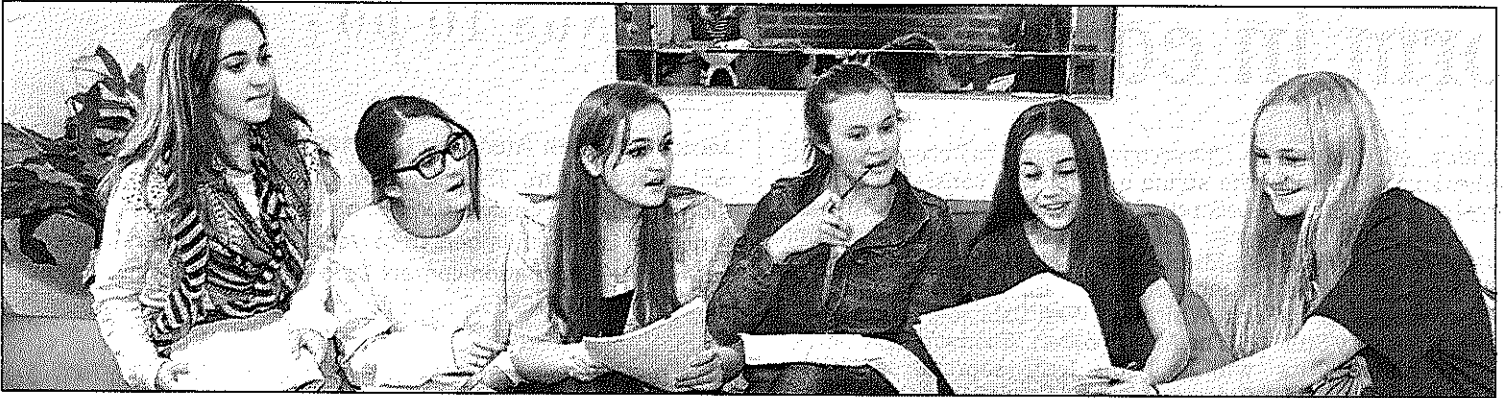


## JAMES CALDWELL HIGH SCHOOL



Students from James Caldwell High School, West Caldwell, from left, 10th graders Abby Lebet and Hannah Rothstein, 12th grader Nicole Garamella, 11th grader Regina Peters, 10th grader Rachael Borrows and ninth grader Lydia Wielgus, meet to discuss fundraising options for the creation of a Forensics Club at the high school.

# Forensics students looking to raise funds for club

**WEST CALDWELL TWP.** — Several students from James Caldwell High School petitioned the K-12 district's Board of Education and won last month, asking to form a new academic club that focuses on the art of declamation and interpretive reading.

The Forensics Club, supported by Superintendent James Heinegg, will focus on forensics, a competitive form of public speaking that involves both interpretive reading and speech recitation. Currently offered at the district's middle school as part of its Gifted Academic Program (GAP), several of the students now working to create the club at the high school were involved in the middle school's program, but are opening the club to all interested students. The middle school participants have a long track record of performing well at the forensics competitions, earning first place trophies and first place overall awards several years running.

The middle school team competes against a variety of nearby towns, including Livingston, Chatham, Nutley, Florham Park, Morristown, Randolph, Bernardsville and others. When the students arrived at the high school, they quickly realized that a

Forensics Club was not available and set the wheels in motion to create one.

"As a shy and quiet person by nature, forensics has opened my eyes to the enjoyment and benefits that accompany public speaking," said 10th-grader Rachael Borrows.

"It teaches life skills," said 11th grader Regina Peters. "It was far and away one of the best academic experiences I've ever had."

The club, despite not having met formally, has already attracted the interest of students in grades nine through 12, some of whom were never involved in the competitions. Competition categories include Oral Interpretation, Dramatic Interpretation, Comedic Interpretation, Dramatic Duo and Comedic Duo.

"We hope to compete locally and perhaps nationally," said 12th grader Nicole Garamella.

At their first meeting held last week, the students discussed fundraising options. In order to officially fund the club, the group needs to raise at least \$4,500 for this school year and \$4,500 for the 2014-15 school year. After that, if the group attracts students, it will

be eligible for district support through the Board of Education.

To compete this year, the group needs to raise the necessary funds by the end of November. This will provide the members time to practice and enter competitions during the winter and spring.

"My experience in forensics has taken my knowledge, teamwork skills, and public speaking abilities to new heights," said ninth grader and forensics participant Lydia Wielgus.

"We want to focus on other art forms," Garamella said. "Forensics is both academic and an art form."

Some better known forensicators include actors Brad Pitt, Zac Efron, James Earl Jones, Kelsey Grammer, Ted Turner, singer Bruce Springsteen, Bill and Hillary Clinton, John F. Kennedy and Oprah Winfrey.

The future club members are now looking for individuals and organizations willing to help them get started.

Interested supporters can make a tax-deductible donation to "CWC Public Schools" with "Forensics" in the memo line. Donations can be mailed to Rachael Borrows, 5 Birkendene Road., Caldwell, N.J., 07006.