

Stage Two Public Speaking Term 3, 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

During Term 3, all students will be working on developing their public speaking skills. Public speaking is an element of Speaking and Listening in our English syllabus. At school, the teachers work closely with the students to build their skills and confidence in presenting their ideas and opinions.

The Metropolitan South Operational Directorate Primary Schools Public Speaking Competition will be running in 2020 with an adjusted online format because of restrictions posed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Whereas previously we have run a face-to-face competition for all four stages, this year we will be running an online trial where finals will be run virtually using videoconferencing tools so that students can still engage with public speaking in a safe manner. The trial will be offered to Stage 3 students only. The winners of the Early Stage One, Stage One and Stage Two competitions will not be going on to a District Competition this year.

The purpose of the competition is to further develop the public speaking skills of students K-6 and increase students' self-confidence to talk in front of an audience at class, stage, school, network and grand final level. At the Stage Finals, students will be expected to present a prepared speech and an impromptu speech.

Your child will be presenting one prepared speech this term in Week 7 (beginning Monday 31st August). Included below are some guidelines and helpful hints to assist you and your child. **Please be aware that ALL speeches need to be ready by Monday, 31st August.**

TOPIC and TIME: Students must write and present a **PERSUASIVE 3 MINUTE** speech.

Speakers should choose a topic that they feel very strongly about so that they can speak with sincerity. They should also choose a topic that would be of interest to the rest of the audience. Students can also choose simple topics but they should talk about other people in relation to their topic. Their entire speech should not just be about themselves. Students are encouraged to justify their opinions.

Term 3 Timeline

Weeks 1 - 2	Students will develop public speaking skills in class. Parents are encouraged to also practise this skill at home.
Weeks 3 - 6	Students will write a speech for the competition <u>at home</u> . Students will need to practise their speech regularly in preparation for the competition.
Week 7	Speeches due Monday 31st August. Class competitions will be held throughout the week. Finalists will be chosen to partake in the Stage competition.
Week 8	Class winners will be notified. Students will practice their speech regularly in preparation for the final.
Week 9	Monday Stage Finals will be held with only students and adjudicators in the Assembly Hall and classes will watch via Zoom from their own classrooms.

Hints

Three aspects need to be considered when constructing and presenting the prepared speech.

- Manner, Matter and Method
- Website with useful tips to help your child with their speech
<http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study/english/english-tips/public-speaking-in-primary-school>

Manner (worth 20%)

Manner refers to the presentation of the speech. The key to good manner is to be natural. Acting, singing, dancing and props are not allowed. Parts of manner include:

- Eye contact: speakers should look at the whole audience by focussing on parts of the audience for a short period of time.
- Stance: Speakers should be comfortable but should not do anything that distracts from what they are saying.
- Voice: Natural volume and tone of voice
- Gesture: If a speaker has to think about gesturing, then they should not be doing it.
- Palm cards: speakers should use cardboard palm cards (1/4 A4) not pieces of paper. Palm cards should be numbered.
- Speakers should not read their speeches; they should deliver them.

Matter (worth 40%)

Matter refers to the material of the speech. Whilst the involvement of parent is strongly encouraged, speakers should always write their own speech. Matter refers to what is said in the speech. Speeches should be as original as possible. Each speech should have a message or a point of view. This is what distinguishes a speech from an information report. The speaker should make his/ her opinion clear and they should leave the audience with something to think about.

Method (worth 40%)

Method refers to the structure of the text. It must have a beginning, middle and conclusion.

- Beginning:
 - There are 3 ways to begin a speech.
 - Story: must be relevant to the speech as a whole
 - Statement: Should be interesting and thought-provoking
 - Question: Must be answered at some point in the speech.
 - *Avoid phrases such as... 'The subject of my speech is' or 'My name is'*
- Middle development
 - The way the speech is developed will depend on the speaker's purpose and personality. This part of the speech should be linked to the introduction in a logical and interesting way. It should also contain ideas and examples that support the topic and purpose of the speech and are linked to each other. This is the part of the speech where the speaker 'gets his message across'.
- Conclusion
 - This is the climax of the speech. The conclusion should be short final statement this is linked in style and content to the introduction and sums up the speech's subject and purpose.
 - Ending: speakers should make the point of their speech clear. The three ways to end a speech are the same as the three ways to begin a speech. That is, with a story, statement or a question.
 - Avoid ending with 'Thank you for listening to my speech' or any similar phrases.

Impromptu speeches are also adjudicated using the same rules. **The prepared speech and impromptu speeches are adjudicated equally, both as 50% of the total mark for the stage competitions.**

Students will be given 5 minutes to prepare for their impromptu speech, with students expected to speak for one minute about their allocated topic.

We're excited to give our students this opportunity and look forward to your support.

Kind regards,
Stage Two Teachers