



Merimbula Public School



Multicultural Perspectives Public Speaking Competition – Years 3 - 6

March 5, 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

Each year, students in Years 3-6 have the opportunity to take place in the Department of Education's Arts Unit annual **Multicultural Perspectives Public Speaking Competition**. At Merimbula Public School we hold class finals, followed by a Stage Final in the Jackson Hall. Classes will hold their class finals by **Tuesday March 12**, with the Merimbula Public School final to be held on **Tuesday March 19**. Parents/carers do not attend class finals, however, are welcome to attend the Stage Finals in the hall (Stage 2: 9.15-10am; Stage 3: 10-11am). The top two speakers from each Stage will then be invited to the local final (venue/date TBA), which will be held in the last four weeks of Term 2.

We encourage all students to participate. For 24 years the Multicultural Perspectives Public Speaking Competition has been encouraging primary school students to explore ideas of multiculturalism in Australia, as well as giving them a place to practice their public speaking skills and improve their confidence. Participants will need to present one prepared and one impromptu speech (topic given 5 minutes before they give their speech). Students will need to choose one of the following topics for their prepared speeches:

2019 Years 3&4 Topics

Playing together
Multiculturalism in the media
Watch your language!
Refugees
Kid power!
Belonging
Every child matters
Understanding
What makes an Australian?
Our backyard
Multiculturalism at school

2019 Years 5&6 Topics

Welcome to Australia
Human rights and wrongs
Australia Day
Colour-blindness
Being a global citizen
What would Captain Cook say?
Sport and multiculturalism
Learning from the past
Australia on the screen
It's complicated
Getting a multicultural education

Students in Stages 2 and 3 will be learning about and practising speech writing and public speaking skills in class with the theme of Multicultural Perspectives (as above). Teachers will be preparing the students in class, however you may like to assist your child using the following information. Students will need to write their speech at home as part of their homework. Please read the following information carefully about public speaking. The tips may help your child develop their public speaking skills and help you to prepare your child for their participation in the class speak-off and/or the Multicultural Perspectives Public Speaking Competition.

Public Speaking Tips for Students: Please remember, the aim of a speech is to entertain the audience while giving an opinion or perspective. It is not a drama performance and props should not be used.

Introduction: The introduction and the conclusion of a speech are the most important parts. You do not need to say good morning or good afternoon to your audience or say, "Today I am going to be talking about ..." Instead, try to make the introduction attention-grabbing. Rhetorical questions, bold statements, onomatopoeia (sound words) or dialogue are good tools to use.



Education

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The Body of the Speech: Try brain storming the topic for ideas for your speech. Come up with as many ideas as possible and choose the most interesting to use in your speech. The main part of your speech may have your own personal opinions in it. This makes it more interesting. It should contain information but it should not just be a list of facts.

Conclusion: You don't need to thank the audience for listening. It's their job! The audience thank you, your hard work and your effort by clapping you. Finish with a concluding statement and the audience will know you're finished.

Cue Cards and Eye Contact: Try to use cue cards. Writing dot points or drawing pictures on palm cards is a great way to encourage eye contact and to assist you not to read your speech.

Pace: Speaking in front of people can be nerve-wracking. Speaking slower and controlling breathing can assist. It also helps the audience to catch what you are saying.

Volume: Try to remember the audience at the back of the room want to hear what is being said. Try to project your voice without shouting.

Expression: Use expression to your advantage! The intonation and expression people use when speaking helps to make speeches even more entertaining. Think about the expression we use when reading an entertaining book.

Posture / Body Language: Try to stand comfortably, with your feet about shoulder width apart so you are balanced. You may use hand gestures to support what you are saying. Try to not fiddle because this is what the audience will start focusing on, instead of the interesting things you are saying.

Time: The time for the prepared speech should be **3 minutes (Years 3 and 4) OR 4 minutes (Years 5 and 6)**. Speeches that go for 30 seconds either side of the required time/s are acceptable.

The time for the impromptu speech is **1 minute**. Speeches that go for 30 seconds either side of 1 minute are acceptable.

What the Adjudicators are looking for?

The adjudicators will make their decision based on the manner, matter and method the contestants employ in presenting their speeches. They will look for contestants to be confident and engaging speakers. The prepared speeches need to show an understanding of multiculturalism, and be well developed and interesting.

Contestants are also expected to demonstrate a balance of personal opinion and information in their speeches, as well as a balance of humour and sincerity. Finally, adjudicators are required to give equal consideration to the prepared and impromptu speeches in making their decision.

Please see your child's teacher if you have any questions.

Regards,

Natasha Sconfienza
Public Speaking Festival Coordinator

Michelle Hulme
Principal