JUDGING CRITERIA

All sections will be marked out of 10.

APPEARANCE: Full school uniform – general grooming – hair – shoes- socks – neat and tidy, smiling, confident. No rocking on feet, bending knees, twisting clothes, head stiff, hands in pockets etc.

PRESENTATION: Good delivery - The speech must have an introduction, and a closing statement. The judges will watch for facial expression, eye contact, use of the audience and appropriate mannerisms like gestures / movement (some hand/arm but not feet). It is NOT a drama production, be careful of over acting. The delivery should be relaxed and natural, not forced. The speech should be interesting and able to capture the audience’s attention. NO PROPS ARE ALLOWED – Points will be deducted. Children who forget may re start but points will be deducted for mistakes. If reading palm cards, points will be deducted.

VOICE: Clear diction, fluent, interesting, use of intonation, good English expression, and well modulated.

CONTENT: Should be informative and have a purpose. As the age of the children increase the speech should show depth of meaning. The speech should be relative to the child’s stage. A simple recount is not appropriate for a Stage 3 child. But information about a topic can be cleverly intertwined with a personal aspect can be very entertaining. It is expected that they know their speech off by heart to get full marks, but palm cards may be used however, points will be deducted, if the speech is read. Speech should begin with the appropriate introduction – either with a simple introduction (a thought provoking statement) and then acknowledging the Chairperson and audience OR begin with Chairperson, Ladies and Gentlemen, boys and girls. Points will be deducted if they include: “Today I want to talk about…..” Children can start again if they make a mistake but points will be deducted.

LENGTH OF SPEECHES: Early Stage 1: Kinder 1 – 1 ½ minute – bell at 1 min
Stage 1: Yrs 1 & 2 1 – 1 ½ minute – bell at 1 min.
Stage 2: Yrs 3 & 4 2- 2½ minutes – bell at 2 mins.
Stage 3: Yrs 5 & 6 3 - 3½ minutes – bell at 3 mins.
Children can go to the ½ min mark, but they will be penalised if they go under.