CLASSROOM & TWEED CATHOLIC SCHOOLS PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION

Dear Parents,

During Term 2 each student will be required to present a speech as part of our English curriculum. From speeches presented the classroom teachers will select 2 students from each stage / section who will then represent our school at the Tweed Catholic Schools Public Speaking Competition on Thursday 30th July (Term 3). Below is some important information which may assist in preparing your child for their speech.

**Early Stage**: Kinder. Students will speak for 1 minute (up to 1 ½ minutes) on a topic of their choice. This could be about their pet, favourite toy etc. It is similar to a news item they may give in class, try not to list items.

**Stage 1**: Years 1 & 2. Students will speak for 1 minute (up to 1 ½ minutes) on topic of their choice. This could be about their pet, favourite toy etc. It is similar to a news item they may give in class, more information should be inserted, a bell will sound at the end of 1 minute. They can go up to 1½ minutes.

**Stage 2**: Years 3 & 4. Students will speak for 2 minutes on a topic of their choice. Creative ways of orally presenting information is expected. A bell will also sound at the end of 2 minutes. They can go up to 2½ minutes.

**Stage 3**: Years 5 & 6. Students will speak for 3 minutes on a topic of their choice. Creative ways of orally presenting information is expected. A bell will sound at 3 minutes but then they can go up to 3½ minutes.

Please note the following tips which are used at the Tweed Catholic Schools Public Speaking Competition which at a school level are also endorsed:

- Students in all sections **must begin their speech** by acknowledging the chairperson and the members of the audience. E.g. Chairperson, ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls… or You may start with a quick statement, to build intrigue before you say Chairperson, ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls…..

- **Students shall not begin with “today I’m going to talk about”**

- **Conclude with ‘chairperson’. Do not conclude with** Thank you for listening. Instead say: Chairperson.

- At no time will scores or comments be given to individual students.

- Public Speaking is different from drama, prose, verse speaking eisteddfod work.

- It is not a dramatic performance so **NO PROPS ARE ALLOWED AT ALL**.

- The topic may be one of the students’ own choice.

- Make sure you are aware of the audience – use your eyes to have contact with the whole audience not just the adjudicator.

- Try to learn your speech off by heart – but be natural

- **Palm Cards Allowed**. However if your child is selected to represent our school in the competition it is recommended to use palm cards to jog your memory – DO NOT READ FROM THEM – points will be deducted.

- Make your delivery clear, precise, punctuated and expressive – use your facial expressions and some body movements (avoid movement of feet).

- Try to change the tone of your voice according to your topic.

**Attached on the other side of this sheet is a copy of the JUDGEMENT CRITERIA used at the Tweed Catholic Schools Public Speaking Competition which may assist you with your preparation.**

The following criteria will be used to adjudicate the students:

1. **Appearance** – to include general grooming, stance and wearing of full school uniform by the student.
2. **Presentation** – to include the general delivery of the speech eg. use of appropriate gestures, facial expression, eye contact and mannerisms etc. How your speech is delivered.
3. **Voice** – to include voice control, intonation, expression, fluency, loudness etc
4. **Content** – to include interest level, audience appeal, age related information, creativity etc.
5. It is **not a writing competition; it is a Public Speaking Competition**.

Please contact your child’s teacher if further clarification is required with preparing with your child their speech.

Regards,

Carolyn Waugh
Assistant Principal