Oratory
Information
Booklet
2017
From the Oratory Coordinator

In 2017, there are sure to be more competitions and events that will be held and are not covered in this document. Please watch out for Oratory Reports in the newsletter and consider discussing these with your daughter. For any further information, please contact the oratory team at Loreto Normanhurst at oratory@loretonh.nsw.edu.au or the Oratory Coordinator at bodwyer@loretonh.nsw.edu

Ms Bernadette O’Dwyer
Oratory Coordinator

From the Academic Activities Captain

From Malala Yousafzai’s speech on girls’ education to Emma Watson’s ‘He for She’ UN address, the spoken word is used as a powerful tool in inspiring and empowering women and girls everywhere. Extra-curricular activities, such as oratory, have been an integral component throughout my schooling life at Loreto Normanhurst, helping shape my growth through the FACE curriculum, for which I am extremely grateful.

Loreto offers numerous internal and external oratory activities from Inter-House, CSDA and Archdale Debating to Mock Trial and Model UN Conferences. Through these, students are given the opportunity to develop and foster skills of communication, leadership, critical thinking and confidence in simultaneously exciting and challenging ways. Not only do students benefit from these valuable skills, which resonate throughout all components of schooling life, but they help shape strong, compassionate women who are confident within themselves.

And so, at the start of a new year I encourage every girl to utilise these opportunities and find the power of their voice so that they may go on to make their mark upon our society.

Niamh Condon
Academic Activities Captain 2016/17
Oratory at Loreto Normanhurst

Welcome to Oratory@LN 2017. Loreto Normanhurst has a long and proud history of Oratory involvement. This is a thriving program in our school where we focus on encouraging all students to participate in Oratory programs and events throughout the year. The focus is not on developing the most successful speakers and debaters, but rather providing an opportunity for all students to engage in public speaking and debating in a meaningful and exciting way. In 2016, we had a number of great successes including:

- Festival of Speech, 2nd Place Drama
- CSDA Public Speaking, Year 10, 2nd Place
- CSDA Public Speaking, Senior Finalist
- CSDA Debating, Year 10, Semi-Finalists
- CSDA Debating, Year 11, Quarter Finalist
- CSDA Debating, Year 7, Elimination Round
- Archdale Year 7 Playoff Rounds
- Mock Trial, Missed finals inclusion by 1 point
- Significant Increase in Student Participation in all areas of Oratory.

Your daughter can become involved in a number of competitions. She can sign up as they are emailed out or advertised through the school newsletter or come and speak to the Academic Activities Captain or the Oratory Coordinator. In 2017, Loreto Normanhurst will offer the following oratory programs:

- CSDA Public Speaking
- CSDA Debating
- Archdale Debating
- Macquarie University Debating Competitions – Round Robin Days
- Sydney University Debating Society Competition – Round Robin Days
- Interhouse Debating
- Rostrum Voice of Youth
- Plain English Speaking Awards
• Legacy Public Speaking Competition
• Mock Trial
• Festival of Speech
• UN Youth Conference
• UN Evatt
• Year 7 and 8 Introduction to High School Debating
• Year 7 and 8 Introduction to High School Public Speaking
• Primary Mentoring Debating Program

Selection Processes

Underpinning the Oratory program at LN, is the mission to provide an inclusive and open environment to all student interested in Oratory, no matter their ability, skill or previous experiences.

We are limited by external factors at times, to the number of entrants we can register and as a result have implemented a selection process for some competitions and events. When this occurs, students will be informed in a timely fashion.

Each student will be required to attend at an appointed time and present a prepared speech and impromptu. Students will be selected according to the specific requirements of the event they are trialing for.

We aim to ensure that all students are given the opportunity to participate in the process fairly and are encouraged to ‘have a go’. This process is conducted with the House Pastoral System to provide further support and encouragement for each individual student.
CSDA Public Speaking

Round One will be held at various schools across the Sydney Metropolitan area on the 3rd of March. Entry for 2 students per year group from Year’s 8-12. This competition requires students to complete a prepared speech and an impromptu speech. Students will need to provide their own transport to the venue. We are unable to provide supervision for your daughter at this event as our staff will be involved in adjudication. Students will receive 1-2 sessions of coaching with a staff member in the lead up to the event. Please note, that due to increased costs of this event, students in 2017 will now be charged a fee, amount to be confirmed.

CSDA Debating

Beginning Friday night the 28th of April. CSDA is a debating competition that is run in various forms across Australia. In NSW and Sydney Metro area, students are given a topic area in the lead up to the debate. Students are given the actual topic on the night, have one hour to prepare and then debate the opposing team. Coaching generally occurs on Friday afternoon from 3:30pm to 5:00pm before the debate. CSDA Debating normally begins at approximately 6pm and generally concludes between 7:30pm and 8:30pm. There are 6 rounds and then finals. We aim to have one coach per team, but sometimes this is not possible and there will be one coach for 2 teams. Registration for CSDA will be in Week 5 Term 1, with coaching to begin in Week 7. All students are eligible to enter and we aim to have 4 people per team. It is important that if your daughter signs up, every endeavour is made to ensure she is present at all debates. Rounds will be held both home and away and draws are not released until late Week 6. Transport to away venues needs to be organised by students, unless arrangements are made for group train travel or bus. Parents are more than welcome to attend debates and must collect their daughter in a timely manner at the conclusion of the evening. For more information about this competition, please follow this link: http://www.csda.nsw.edu.au/

Please note that there is a fee associated with this extra-curricular to cover the costs of coaching, adjudicators and catering. This fee will be charged to your daughters account.

Archdale Debating

This competition starts on the Tuesday the 16th of May, in Term 2, rotating between home and away games. Registration for this competition will be in Term 1 and coaching starting in Term 2. Students are given a topic area in the lead up to the debate. Students are given the actual topic on the night, have one hour to prepare and then debate the opposing team. Coaching generally occurs on Tuesday afternoon before the debate. Year 7 and 8 debate around 4:30pm, with remaining years debating after this and the night concluding between 8:30pm and 9:30pm depending on location of debates. Away debates do have organised transport to ensure that all
students arrive together. Parents are more than welcome to attend and to watch their daughter’s debate. Students are to be collected from the school in a timely manner at the conclusion of the night. For more information about the Archdale competition, please follow this link: http://www.ahigs.nsw.edu.au/AHIGS/ArchdaleDebating.aspx

Please note that there is a fee associated with this extra-curricular to cover the costs of coaching, transport and catering. This fee will be charged to your daughters account.

**Macquarie University Debating Competitions**

**Round Robin Days**

These are one day events for Years 7-8, Years 9-10 and Years 11-12 and occur during the school year. The event is open to all students and is a great taster competition. The first debate topic is prepared and the other two are impromptu. Loreto Normanhurst enters this day to provide students a taster of debating. There is minimal preparation for the event prior and the focus is on having fun and challenging yourself. A great fun day of debating. http://muds.org.au/

Please note, that due to increased costs of this event, students in 2017 will now be charged a fee, amount to be confirmed.

**Sydney University Debating Society Competition**

**Round Robin Days.**

These are one day events for Year 7-8, Year 9-10 and Year 11-12 and occur during the school year. The event is open to all students and is a great taster competition. The first debate topic is prepared and the other two are impromptu. There is minimal preparation for the event prior and the focus is on having fun and challenging yourself. A great fun day of debating.

Please note, that due to increased costs of this event, students in 2017 will now be charged a fee, amount to be confirmed.


**Training Days.**

Loreto Normanhurst in 2015 introduced an Introduction to High School Debating for Year 7 and Year 8 students. It was highly successful and will run again this year. The training session is run by senior students and overseen by the Oratory Coordinator. Dates for the Debating training session will be released in early 2017 and the Public Speaking Training Session to be released later in Term 1.

**Interhouse Debating**
A fun school based competition where students debate each other in their house groups during a lunch time. This event is organised by the Academic Activities Captain and is a popular way for students who are busy with other extra-curricular activities, to be involved in Oratory. There are no coaching sessions, just fun topics and an opportunity to see how debating works.

Rostrum Voice of Youth

A Public Speaking Competition organised by Rostrum. Entry is open to all students and includes a prepared and impromptu speech. Please follow this link for more information, http://www.rostrum.com.au/voy

Registration Fees are charged to the students accounts

Plain English Speaking Awards

A public speaking competition that is organised by the NSW Government. Two contestants per school can enter the competition. Students will be nominated to participate in this competition. Please follow this link. https://www.artsunit.nsw.edu.au/speaking-competitions/public-speaking/plain-english-speaking-award.

Please note, that due to increased costs of this event, students in 2017 will now be charged a fee, amount to be confirmed upon registration.

Legacy Public Speaking Competition

Open to students 14 yrs and under in 2017. Two contestants per school can enter the competition. Students will be nominated to participate in this competition. http://www.legacy.com.au/LegacyJuniorPublicSpeakingAwardNationalGuidelines

Please note, that due to increased costs of this event, students in 2017 will now be charged a fee, amount to be confirmed upon registration.

Mock Trial

Mock Trial is organised and run by the Law Society of NSW and is open to years 10-11 students. Students are selected to participate in this program which aims to expose high school students to the judicial system. Coaching is from a registered Solicitor, Magistrate or Barrister, who meets with the students in the lead up to the Trial. Trials are both home and away and require commitment from the student to the program. Students are given roles and scripts and the competition is judged by a registered Solicitor, Magistrate or Barrister. For more information, please follow this link. http://www.lawsociety.com.au/community/forschools/mocktrial/Mocktrial
Please note, that due to increased costs of this event, students in 2017 will now be charged a fee, amount to be confirmed.

**Festival of Speech**

This is an event organised through the Association of Heads of Independent Girls Schools, (AHIGS). It was started as an opportunity to showcase all things Oratory. This event is invitational to students who have participated in the oratory program in some manner in the year. This is a wonderful event, one which we have achieved great success in previous years. 2017 marks 100yrs of the Association of Independent Girls Schools and Festival of Speech will celebrate this. Abbotsleigh will host the event on the 21st and 22nd of October. This year’s Festival of Speech will be a full program and will include the following events.

- Public Speaking
- A Current Affairs
- Religion and Ethics
- Poetry Reading
- Readings

This event is held on a Saturday; and students are coached for this event by school staff in the lead-up. Please follow this link for more information

**United Nations**

The United Nations Youth Program includes:

- Youth UN Conference
- UN Evatt

Both of these events are open to all students in different age categories. The event occurs after school hours and students receive some coaching from staff in preparation for the event. Both events provide students with the opportunity to learn about Global Issues, International Relationships, whilst strengthening public speaking and debating skills. No supervision can be provided by Loreto Normanhurst staff and therefore students must make their own way to and from the event.

Registration Fees are covered by the student upon registration.
IPSHA Debating and Primary Mentoring Debating Program

The Independent Primary School Heads of Association runs a debating day once a year in Term 4. The aim is to introduce Year 6 students to debating in a fun environment. In Term 3, students nominate to be a part of the Primary Mentoring Debating Program and during the course of the term, Year 10 students work with Year 6 students at one lunch time a week. Students learn about the basics of debating, such as the roles of speakers, the importance of definitions and team lines, breaking down a topic area and rebuttal. Teams are then selected and then prepare for the IPSHA Debating Day in Term 4. The program is coordinated between Primary Teaching Staff and the Oratory Coordinator.