**March, 2011**

**CHHS PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION 2010**

Term 4, 2010 saw a reinvigoration of our school public speaking competitions for Years 7, 8 and 9. All classes in these years completed units of work on public speaking in English, culminating in the students presenting their speeches to their classes. Year 7 students recounted an event in their lives; Year 8 students reviewed a favourite text; and Year 9 students discussed an issue of their choice. Two or three students were then chosen from each class to go on to their Year Finals. Those finals were held in Week 8 and it was wonderful to see the depth of public speaking talent we have across all classes.

The Year 9 students were the first group to compete on Monday. Dylan Arkoshy was a confident and capable chairperson for these finals, with Emily Hinton in charge of the stop-watch and bell. Jai Arkoshy, Daisy Krix, Codie McGovern, Matthew Grohn, Georgia Newell, Harley Norton, Sienna De Salis, James Seccombe and Evlyn Kok-McKosker presented a range of very thoughtful discussions. Evlyn Kok-McKosker was chosen as the winner in this group and was also invited to present her excellent speech on books and reading in the digital age at the school’s Awards Ceremony.

Year 8 was up next on Monday after lunch. Maddison Howse, James Jeffs, Jackson Nicholls, Mikayla Holwerda, James Franklin, Georgia Nash and Jasmine Wake represented their classes and presented reviews on an interesting array of books, films and TV series’. The adjudication was very difficult, but it was eventually decided to declare Georgia Nash the Year 8 winner for her clever review of the telephone book. Jed Venn chaired the Year 8 competition and Jamie Wicks was timekeeper.

The Year 7 competition was hotly contested on Thursday by Lachlan Lugg, Benjamin Wilson, Zoe Hain, Eliza Hall, James Langfield, Nina Gordon, Gabe Ellicott, Chelsea Rose, Amrit Singh and Kieren Bellemore. After much deliberation, the adjudicators declared James Langfield as the winner for his amusing recount of a frighteningly close call. These finals were very capably chaired by Billie Chauncy. Ellyse Stuart was the timekeeper.

All of these students admirably overcame their nervousness to not only speak in front of their own class, but to then go on and speak in front of a bigger group at the finals. The adjudicators at each event were extremely impressed with the way the finalists articulated their thoughts and the confidence and poise they demonstrated in their presentation. All finalists received merit awards at their Year Assemblies, and the winners received their awards at the School Awards Ceremony.

Thank you to all the students who participated, including the classes who provided quiet, attentive and supportive audiences, and also to the teachers who assisted in supervising and adjudicating. It’s great to see so many students developing this very valuable skill and we look forward to even bigger and better things this year!

Ms Deanne Ion

Public Speaking Co-ordinator