



THE PLATFORM

Volume 13
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www.speechanddrama.co.za

First Term 2012

Although by now the school year is well under way, I take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy and fruitful year. This first issue of *The Platform* for 2012 has a variety of articles which I hope you will enjoy and find informative.

The 2011 bursaries were finalised at the end of last year and the complete list of recipients and their schools is printed on page 2, followed by an explanation of how the bursary fund works.

If you have visited the Speech and Drama Association website recently, you will have seen that the 2011 Monologue Competition was won jointly by two girls from Grosvenor Girls' High School. If you haven't seen it on the website you can read about it here.

Festival News contains a few reminders and the *Poetry Page* has some charming poems written during 2011 by Grades 6 and 7 pupils.

Enclosed with this newsletter is the Notice of the Annual General Meeting of the Speech and Drama Association, as well as your invitation to the Convenors' Get-together, which will follow the meeting on Monday, 5 March.

And finally, if you're looking for speech and drama lessons, perhaps one of the studios advertised here will suit your needs.

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INVITATION!

**DON'T MISS THE ENCLOSED INVITATION
TO THE CONVENORS' GET-TOGETHER**



2011 BURSARY RECIPIENTS

ELIZABETH SNEDDON BURSARY

Grosvenor GHS Sithokozile Gumede

JILIAN HURST BURSARY

Clarence Primary Sonali Maharaj

HAZEL MEYER BURSARY

Maritzburg Christian School Sikhulile Nguse

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To find out more
about donating
to the bursary
fund contact
Vyvienne on
031 201 6356



BURSARY AWARDS

During the festival the adjudicator may nominate candidates who show exceptional ability. A candidate should have entered more than one individual item in order to be nominated for a bursary. The list of nominations is then presented to the school principal who makes the final choice as to which nominee will receive the bursary.

If the school has made a donation to the bursary fund (this is optional), someone from that school will be nominated and the award can be finalised immediately after that festival. Nominations from schools that have not made a donation to the bursary fund will only be considered when all the festivals have been completed, at the end of October. From these nominations three candidates will be chosen to receive the Elizabeth Sneddon, the Jilian Hurst and the Hazel Meyer Bursaries.

The amount that a school donates to the bursary fund is entirely optional. However, as a guideline, a term's fees at a speech and drama studio start at about R400.

Bursaries may be used for lessons in the year that they are awarded or during the following year.

2011 BRUCE PIPER AWARD MONOLOGUE COMPETITION

The Monologue Competition was held on Saturday, 5 November 2011.

The twelve contestants, listed below with their respective schools, entertained the audience with their monologues which covered a wide range of topics from the amusing “Stella Sheila Sophie” performed by Zanele Njapha to “My Heart Beats” written and performed by 2009 winner Sholene Ramdass.

The award was given jointly to Stephanie Jenkins for her performance of Fantaine from “Les Miserables” and Sithokizile Gumede, playing a woman in a therapy session dealing with grief. Both girls are from Grosvenor Girls’ High School, so the announcement was received with delight by their drama teacher, Mrs Loshani Puymann.

The full list of candidates and their schools is:

Stephanie Jenkins	Grosvenor Girls’ High
Sithokozile Gumede	Grosvenor Girls’ High
Zanele Njapha	Kingsway High
Dantia Subramoney	Northlands Girls’ High
Chanté Seiler	Northlands Girls’ High
Sholene Ramdass	Northlands Girls’ High
Darnae Manuel	Northlands Girls’ High
Nokwanda Ngcobo	Northlands Girls’ High
S’celo Kunene	Port Shepstone High
Siphumelele Chagwe	Port Shepstone High
Phumelele Ngcongo	Port Shepstone High
Nonkanyiso Zuke	Port Shepstone High



Back row: Adjudicators Prof. Mervyn McMurtry and Mrs Jean van Elden

Front row: Winners Stephanie Jenkins and Sithokizile Gumede with their teacher Mrs Loshani Puymann

Would you like your school or studio to be listed on our website
as a MEMBER of the Speech and Drama Association of South Africa?

E-mail your logo or badge, with your details, to vball@speechanddrama.co.za

www.speechanddrama.co.za

Festival News

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DATES



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POST



STUDY THE
RUBRIC



Festival dates are booking up rapidly and four staff workshops have been booked for the early part of the year. What an encouraging start to 2012!

As you know the syllabus that came out last year will be in use until 2013 so you will not automatically receive a new syllabus when you pay your membership fee this year. However, you may order additional copies if you wish to do so. You may also order the booklet which contains guidelines and suggestions for teaching four of the group categories in the syllabus; Choral Verse, Theme Programmes, Mime and Dramatic Movement.

Entry forms for festivals in the first and second terms are being posted now so if you do not receive your entry forms within a reasonable time, please let me know.

Entry fees remain the same as last year, i.e. R12.00 per item for Grades R to 3 and R15.00 an item for Grades 4 to 12. Group items are R55.00 and R60.00. You will receive a full list of fees with your entry forms.

I remind you to study the guidelines for each category that you will find in the rubric in the front of the syllabus. You can then advise your pupils accordingly. The guidelines for Category 13 are reprinted below, by request.

Remember that I am always available to assist you with your preparations, so don't hesitate to contact me if you have any queries.

CATEGORY 13 - ORAL POWERPOINT PRESENTATION

MAXIMUM TIME ALLOWED IS SIX MINUTES, WHICH INCLUDES SET-UP TIME.

THE TECHNOLOGY MUST ADD TO THE PRESENTATION NOT DISTRACT FROM IT.

- It is not acceptable to add 10 pictures, one at a time, to a slide, and call it one slide. That is ten slides! Each picture requires discussion so that makes it a separate slide. Similarly, do not combine two slides into one so that you keep to the limit of seven slides. This can result in the script becoming too small to read. Rather edit the text.
- The slides must not simply be a verbatim script of the talk. A slide should contain a few key words or phrases which highlight the main points.
- Learners must not just read the slide. The adjudicator will read the slide. Learners must elaborate and discuss the ideas summarised on the slide.
- Avoid too many fancy techniques which detract from the message of the slide. This is an exercise in speaking/communicating, so try to avoid too many animations as this can be very distracting.
- Remember that the slide is supplementary to the talk and is meant to enhance the talk.
- It is unacceptable to blame the computer for anything! ("Sorry but the computer won't read the first slide"). An important aspect of any presentation is to be prepared, so check the slides and the computer beforehand.
- It is better to change the slides manually. Setting the timer can result in either running out of time or going over time. It is acceptable to use the remote control – just check that it is working beforehand.
- It is important to glance at the slide as it is projected to check that the correct slide is there and that the learner is not talking about a different slide to the one on the screen.

Poetry Page

Thank you to the three Durban Girls' College pupils for their poems, all of which are entitled *The Old Man*, *The Oak* and to Gabi Grieve from Crawford La Lucia, for her poem *The Gift*.

There he stands amongst the young.
 The youth all drawn out of his face.
 The bark of his face wrinkled, his eyes just hang
 on his face like sagging bags.
 The children never play on his branches like they
 used to many years ago.
 His arms that used to reach for the sky
 just droop now, with barely anything to keep him warm.
 His crinkled mouth, a crooked line across his face.
 As he stands there alone, sad and dejected,
 he envies the young trees swaying in the wind.

Scout Fynn

THE GIFT

I sit in silence as I watch the world awaken;
 For now it is beautiful, my breath taken.
 The dew is fresh, my bare feet are cold -
 I don't mind, for there is a world to unfold..
 I rise from my perch and let down my hair,
 I tiptoe in the meadow, placing my feet with care.
 I build my confidence and begin to dance,
 Between the flowers I leap and prance!
 It is early morning, with breath of mist..
 The whole earth is new, with sunlight kissed.
 Every sunrise is a blessing to see -
 Filled with promise, adventure - a gift just for me.

Gabi Grieve

Amongst many he stands,
 the oldest of all,
 with his saggy arms outstretched,
 tired and injured,
 wrinkled, gnarled and crinkled
 he sits there all day
 while the joyful children
 ignore him in their play.
 Younger trees are more loved,
 unlike him they're new and fresh,
 the vultures come and peck his hair out
 and his face is blemished and blotchy,
 full of the marks and scars of time,
 he is a forgotten oak,
 alone,
 with no-one to love.

Jodie Koenig

There he stands on top of a hill amongst the new fresh ones.
 His old blemished fingers stick out,
 all curved and ragged.
 His rough crinkled gnarled body stands out from
 all the other smooth bodies.
 His face is wrinkled and his bushy eyebrows stick out
 from a distance.
 His saggy smile is almost pleasant,
 yet his eyes droop down to the ground.
 His creased skin has hearts and writing all over it.
 As the wind blows, his brittle skin slowly
 starts to flake away,
 his time has come, the sun has set
 and now he knows he has met his death.

Sarah Hampson

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