



THE PLATFORM

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Third Term 2012

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Festival News	2
Public Speaking Training	2
Ethembeni School Festival	3
Original Poems	4
Bruce Piper Award Monologue Competition	4

The year is flying by and once again high school students are preparing their monologues for the Bruce Piper Award Monologue Competition. The details for this can be found on page 4, together with two original poems which were written by pupils at Crawford La Lucia Preparatory School.

Ethembeni School was one of the 46 schools that held a festival last term. Read about this very special festival on page 3.

Festival News has some reminders which you should know when guiding your pupils as they decide which sections to enter.

Enjoy reading this newsletter.



BOOK YOUR FESTIVAL NOW

Although this term has been finalised
you can still have a festival this year.
Festivals will continue until 2 November.

Don't delay!
Book your date now!

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FESTIVAL DIRECTOR

Vyviene Ball

Festival News

This term's festivals are well underway and a number of our adjudicators will be travelling long distances to adjudicate, not only in KwaZulu-Natal, but to the Eastern Cape as well, where the Sterland Studio in Mossel Bay will be holding its first festival in October. We are thrilled that the Speech and Drama Association Festival is now being enjoyed in other provinces.

Please take note of the syllabus reminders below:

1. Categories 5 and 20 - Experimental Interpretation: This must contain some spoken word. If a dance is to be presented it should include a short spoken introduction. The adjudicator will not be able to award a symbol for a dance on its own.
2. Category 6 - Show and Tell: This is in the Junior Primary section. Older children should rather enter Category 12 - Prepared Public Speech, or Category 13 - PowerPoint Presentation.
3. Category 10 - Solo Theme programme: Maximum time is 10 minutes (not 3 minutes as stated in the Rubric)
4. Category 11 - Impromptu Story Telling: Maximum time is 3 minutes (not 10 minutes as stated in the Rubric)
5. In the first issue of *The Platform* this year, we listed some guidelines for a PowerPoint Presentation (Category 13). For that, and other articles that have been printed in previous issues of *The Platform*, go to www.speechanddrama.co.za, click on NEWSLETTER and search for the relevant issue.

Public Speaking and Communication training courses



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ETHEMBENI SCHOOL FESTIVAL

What a privilege it was to attend the festival at Ethembeni School, where I enjoyed a memorable morning at this very special school. With a sprawling campus just off the Old Main Road in Inchanga, Ethembeni School, which caters for children with disabilities, has been participating in our festival for over 15 years. From initially entering Choral Verses only, the pupils have embraced the festival and the challenges it offers, with the zest and cheerfulness that is characteristic of the school. This has resulted in a growing variety of individual and group categories being entered each year.

With guidance from their dedicated teachers, who are assisted by Jo Caro, they presented an exciting and festive morning for the enthusiastic and delighted audience.

Adjudicator Mpume Mthombeni was impressed with the standard of work, in English and isiZulu, and commended the teachers on their efficient organization of such a large festival.

Thank you, Ethembeni School, for a wonderful festival and your usual warm hospitality.



Ethembeni School pupils performing at their festival May 2012

Email your festival photos to vball@speechanddrama.co.za

Original Poetry

STREETWISE

You stare at me with hurtful eyes
 You walk past me, mouths despise.
 The sun stings my unprotected skin.
 Think about me when you throw your lunch away,
 Think about me when you snuggle warmly in your duvet.

I am a pot of undiscovered potential,
 A magnificently beautiful flower
 Covered in raindrops of tears and pain.
 The moon I hide behind
 For I fear to be found

Release me from this dungeon please.
 Bring me into the light.
 Take this dark cloud out of sight.
 I may seem like a rebel
 But believe me life is unbearable.

The wind gnaws my skin as winter draws near.
 Light at the end of the tunnel I'm willing to find -
 I'm almost there in my mind.
 My heart cries for love and security.
 My eyes search for my future, my destiny.

Show me the light.
 Find me with all your might.
 Look for me in your garden.
 Remember I'm not a burden.
 To you I am a street kid,
 But I am human.

Nambitha Nondala
Grade 7 (2011)
Crawford La Lucia



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 a 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
Grade 7 (2011)
Crawford La Lucia

THE BRUCE PIPER AWARD MONOLOGUE COMPETITION
 will be held on Saturday, 3 November 2012 at 2pm.
 The venue is Studio 5, UKZN, Durban.
 Entrance is free!
 ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND