

## **Inter – Schools Public Speaking Competition**

The Inter Primary Schools Competition in Public Speaking was held recently at Uplands Prep School. Uplands and the White River Rotary Club are the joint hosts. White River Rotary Club sponsors generous prizes as well as a floating trophy and has been promoting this important skill among our youth for eight years. The competition itself is in its tenth year of existence.

The adjudicators, Nicci Van Gelde, Bev Rau and Rotarian Ricky Pott were pleasantly surprised by the confidence and clear speech exuded by the young speakers from Uplands, White River Primary, Penryn and St Peter's.

Most people find speaking in public daunting. It is always important to ensure that a speech has an introduction, a 'body' and a conclusion. The introduction is most important and it is deemed a 'no – no' to start one's speech with its title. One needs an attention-getter like a quotation, a startling comment or a humorous story. An explanation of why the topic should be of interest to the audience can also be included. This connection with the audience is important so that everyone sits up and listens to what the speaker has to say. The main points of rest of the speech can be outlined briefly. The speech needs 'meat' or content. Something important has to be said in as interesting a fashion as possible. There is a fine line between story telling and speech making. A creative 'story' on its own is not really a speech! For the conclusion the main points mentioned can be briefly restated. The final lines should be memorable so that the audience remembers it! The actual delivery of a speech must show pause, tonal variety, gesture, facial expressions and if humour is injected into a speech, it will be even more effective. A speaker must then always remember to wait for the laughs to subside before continuing the speech. A speaker must relax, not rush and never read from cue cards.

The following awards were made at this year's competition :

Most Potential : Nontokoza Sibande (St Peter's)

Best Diction : Karabo Mokoena (WRPrim)

Most Informative : Tsavo Raath (Uplands)

Runner Up : Geo Louw (WRPrim)

Best Speech Overall : Thembi Nyathi (Uplands)

The final points position was as follows:

Penryn	134
St Peter 's	153
Uplands	166
White River Primary	168.

On the real scale of things, the points do not matter, as long as this all important skill of public speaking is getting through to our youth.

Back from left to right

Geo Louw, Bev Rau, Karabo Mokoena, Nicci van Gelde, Tsavo Raath, Ricky Pott

Front Nontokoza Sibande, Thembi Nyathi

