

**An Invitation from the
BRANKSOME HALL
DEBATING SOCIETY**



**Judging at the
NORA MCRAE PUBLIC
SPEAKING TOURNAMENT
(Saturday, April 28th)**

Details on Events

HISTORY OF THE TOURNAMENT:

This competition was founded two decades ago to honour the late Nora McRae, a much admired teacher in the English Department, who worked tirelessly to promote the art of oratory during her long career at Branksome Hall.

We hope that this experience will provide students with an opportunity to develop their skills in various forms of public speaking. In particular, this tournament gives Ontario students practice with the types of speeches that are often used in national and world competitions.

WHAT HELP IS REQUIRED FROM THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY?

Parents, or other interested adults, are needed as volunteer judges on Saturday, April 28th from 8:30AM until 2:30PM. Given the popularity of this event, we will need approximately 50 judges to observe and critique the many participants! A full lunch and refreshments will be served throughout the day.

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF A JUDGE?

Working in teams usually of three, judges will evaluate the performances of participants over three rounds of public speaking. *No experience is necessary and training will be provided to judges before the tournament begins.*

The judges' deliberations will determine the top speakers for each event within the two Divisions (Gr. 8-10 and Gr. 10-12).

WHAT EVENTS ARE INVOLVED?

All participants are required to present either an *Interpretive Reading* or *Declamation*. For the second part of the competition, students must choose between *After-Dinner Speaking*, *Persuasive Speaking* and *Dramatic Interpretation*. In the final round, one of the following events must be selected: *Impromptu Speaking* or *Radio Newscast*.

EXPLANATION OF EVENTS:

INTERPRETIVE READING: Each participant will read a published passage of prose or poetry, serious or humorous.

DECLAMATION: Each participant will read aloud a speech, or part thereof, given by a famous and deceased orator from the past.

AFTER-DINNER SPEAKING: Each speaker must deliver a speech that is designed to entertain as well as to inform; it should be the sort of speech that would be given after an annual dinner.

PERSUASIVE SPEAKING: This speech is designed to persuade and must be on a serious topic.

DRAMATIC INTERPRETATION: This is a memorized selection chosen from a work of literary merit.

IMPROMPTU SPEAKING: After 2 minutes to prepare, each speaker will discuss a randomly selected topic with wit/insight.

RADIO NEWSCAST: Speakers review a newspaper over 30 minutes to create and present a fictive radio broadcast.