

15 June 2014

Dear Japanese Teachers

Southland Interschool Japanese Speech Competition

This year the Southland Interschool Japanese Speech Competition will be held in Week 9 of Term 2. The details are as follows:

Date: Tuesday, 1 July 2014

Time: 9.00 am – 12.30 pm approx

Location: Southland Boys' High School

Topics: The topics and instructions for students are attached.

Cue cards: Cue cards may be used (in English or Japanese) for quick reference, but they must in no way dominate the presentation.

Questions: Year 10-13 students will be asked two questions in Japanese immediately following their speech. A judge or a questioner will make them up on the spot.

Entries: Each school may enter **3** students in each of the Year 10-13 categories and 3 pairs may be entered for the Year 7/8 section and 3 for the Year 9 section. (Only if schools have two large classes at any year level, they may enter four in that category.)

Names of entrants must be e-mailed to Midori Sasaki at Southland Boys' High School (midori.sasaki@sbhs.school.nz) by **Tuesday 24 June 2014**.

From a suggestion in the 2012 debrief, we are asking schools to supply photos of the entrants to help the judges. Please send with your entries.

Entries after this date will not be accepted.

Judging: The same as last year, there will be 3 sections. However this year the combinations will be:

1. Year 7&8 and Year 9

2. Year 10 & 11
3. Year 12 & 13

This will give us time to do activities (water calligraphy, chopstick races, region discussion, puzzles, etc) with the students between the speech contest and the prize-giving. It also allows us more time at the prize-giving to hear the winners' speeches. The students will be able to see what the next section involves by seeing the winners present their speeches.

Each section will hopefully have one judge and one questioner, who will prepare and ask questions to all students in the section. (If we are lacking in Japanese speakers a judge may be both the judge and questioner).

We would appreciate the assistance of all teachers with various jobs on the day. Please indicate if you will be available to help.

The students will be judged holistically on their speech and the judge will be listening for Information, Accuracy, Variety of language, Fluency, Pronunciation, Timing, Audience appeal (i.e. eye contact, confidence, expression, props) and the ability to comprehend and answer questions.

Time Limit: It is important to keep to the time limit given. Year 10 & 11 students will only be marked up to the 1 minute & 10 seconds mark. Likewise Year 12 students will only be marked up to the 2 minute & 20 seconds mark and Year 13 students will only be marked up to the 3 minute & 30 seconds mark.

Audience Appeal: We would like to encourage the students to work on their "Audience Appeal" with the use of props, expressions, etc. One possibility may be the use of a power point presentation to accompany their speech.

Audience: Family members are more than welcome to come and listen. Other students of Japanese are also welcome. Please indicate how many 'extras' you will be bringing on the day for seating purposes.

Morning Tea: we will have water available for the judges and not stop for an official morning tea break, as it often holds up our proceedings.

Teachers are of course, welcome to go to the staffroom and help themselves to a hot drink should they desire one.

Prizes:

Each student will receive a Certificate of Participation. Students who get 1st place will receive trophies. The prizes will be donated by the Sasakawa Fellowship Fund, the Japan Foundation, and local organisations. We are very grateful to these organizations for their continued support. Since we have 3 sections now, we will have 3 Mayoral prizes, one for each of the sections.

Just like last year we will hold an Interaction Afternoon for Year 11-13 students on the afternoon of the Speech Contest to give them an opportunity to complete an interaction with students from other schools. Some sushi and juice will be provided for the senior students, thanks to the Sasakawa Foundation, between the Speech Competition and the start of the Interaction afternoon at 1.20pm

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me at school or by email.

I look forward to seeing you and your students on Tuesday 1 July 2014.

Yours faithfully

Midori Sasaki
HOD Languages
Southland Boys' High School