

Dear Parents,

**DEBATING GRAND FINAL – MUCH MORE THAN A WIN!**

The Forest District Interschool Debating Competition for 2009, presented our school with a rare opportunity to not only debate with other schools but to also extend a helping hand and form an alliance with another school and debate co operatively. The debating competition usually consists of the John Colet School, Hamazkaine A & S Galstaun College, Sydney Japanese School and AGBU Alexander Primary School. Sydney Japanese School faced the problem this year of only having one Year 6 student, so it was decided that rather than leaving this child out altogether we would combine with them and debate as one. This posed many problems, as to successfully debate, lots of co operative planning and discussion is needed but both schools rose to the occasion, changing timetabling and transporting children back and forth to make preparation possible. The students also took this challenge in their stride. They welcomed their fellow debaters with opened arms. It was a delight to see the Year 5/6 students from both schools interact so well. To win a debate you must work as a team and these students showed the true meaning of teamwork.



On Tuesday, we participated in the Final against Hamazkaine A & S Galstaun College. The debate topic was *'Television gives us a warped view of life.'* Our debaters were Joshua Tanno, Siroun Jelenkerian, Ilda Zorlu and Maral Boyadjian. They debated as if they had known each other for years, passing arguments to each other and discussing their rebuts. Each debater spoke clearly, presented excellent arguments and carried their case line well. The adjudicator was very impressed by their debating skills and said he could fault very little, giving us the win.

This was the sixth win for our school, in a competition that has been running for thirteen years. Galstaun College has won it four times, Sydney Japanese School three times (with this combined win) and the John Colet School once. This year I feel that the school has not only won the debating competition but has truly gained important moral and social life skills. Our school has always produced great debaters, but the skills they have gained this year go beyond the debating realm. We all agree, this has been made possible thanks to the great support and guidance provided by Mrs Vicky Dernee. All credit to her and a special thank you on behalf of the students and parents. We are lucky to have her.

A big thank you to the students from Year 5/6 of the Sydney Japanese School for their great co operation and friendship. To their teacher, Mrs Katie Chalmers for her fantastic input, endless transportation of students, organisation and gentle guiding ways. To John Colet and Galstaun College who set an excellent standard in debating and presented a wonderful array of debates.

14<sup>th</sup> August, 2009



## YOUNG AUSTRALIA WORKSHOP - 26<sup>th</sup> August, 2009

As part of our Book Week activity, on **Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> August** we will take part in a special performance called **Africa Alive**. An exciting and engaging performance of African music and discussion of African culture. Students participate in a wonderful performance of African music through singing, dancing, clapping and playing traditional African instruments. This high-energy performance with internationally renowned performer Afro Moses will compliment this year's Book Week theme - African Safari.

The performance set is once again brought to us by the Young Australia Workshop.



### **THE PERFORMER**

Afro Moses has toured all over the world at some of the biggest festivals and venues across the globe. He has shared the stage with Ziggy Marley, Angelique Kidjo and Salif Keita, to name just a few and has toured extensively throughout Europe with his education programme. Afro Moses is a singer, composer, multi-instrumentalist (fourteen in total) and teacher of music. He was born in Ghana, West Africa and was a teenage star earning the title 'The African James Brown'.

While living in Denmark, Afro created his dynamic band "Moses O' Jah" – meaning Moses fire! International awards started rolling in from best song, best album to best live act and Afro Moses was also twice voted as Ghana's best international music ambassador for 2000 and 2002. In 2003 he was involved in the composition and performance of music on the short film "Inja" which was a nominee at the Academy Awards.

### **THE PERFORMANCE**

Africa Alive is a powerful introduction to the music and culture of Africa. Students will be riveted by the performance of the dynamic multi-instrumentalist, Afro Moses (aka Akwesi), and they will also taste the culture for themselves when Afro invites them to participate, teaching them chants, dance steps, and drum rhythms. Interspersed with stories from and recent footage of his West African village, the show also gives a great insight into contemporary life in Africa.

We have invited students from the Sydney Japanese School to join us. As a result, the performance will once again be held at the Sydney Japanese School. Students will be accompanied by their classroom teacher and will be transported in teacher and volunteer parent cars to the venue. **Parents are welcome to attend. Please RSVP.**

The cost is **\$4.50 per child**. Please fill in the permission slip below and return with your payment to the school office by *Friday 21<sup>st</sup> August*.



## **YOUNG AUSTRALIAN WORKSHOP** **"Africa Alive" K-6**

I grant permission for my child/ren to attend the Young Australia Workshop at the Sydney Japanese School on **Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> August**. I understand he/she will travel from school by private cars of teachers and volunteer parents, being accompanied and supervised by class teachers.

NAME OF STUDENT/S: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT'S SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ MONEY ENCLOSED: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$4.50 per child)

## ASTHMA ASSIST

At the Foundation we know that credible health information is highly sought after but often difficult to find. Asthma Foundation NSW aims to provide the community with evidence based and user friendly information to help people better understand and manage their asthma to avoid unnecessary asthma attacks, and to minimise asthma symptoms so people with asthma can lead full and productive lives.

To this end, Asthma Foundation NSW has developed a free information service “Asthma Assist” for anyone with asthma or an interest in asthma.

By registering you will receive:

### ***onAIR – our free email newsletter***

Sent up to six times a year onAIR features information about topics such as asthma research, medications and devices, and asthma triggers.

### ***An Asthma Control Pack***

This includes an Asthma Emergency Card and other useful information to help you manage your child’s asthma, or the asthma of someone you know and care for. You can request up to 3 packs per household.

### ***A free asthma first aid magnet***

Be sure you know what to do in an asthma emergency.

### ***If your child....***

- Ever wakes in the night coughing or wheezing
- Gets breathless or wheezy during the day
- Needs to take their blue reliever puffer more than 3 times a week
- Find their asthma limits physical activity & exercise

It is possible that their asthma is not as well controlled as it could be. Many people with asthma put up with these symptoms without realising it’s their asthma that is letting them down.

Find out how you can better manage your child’s asthma. Join our free information service - **Asthma Assist**.

If you have any questions, or for further information contact Asthma Foundation NSW.



**Asthma Foundation NSW** ☎ 1800 645 130 🌐 [www.asthmansw.org.au](http://www.asthmansw.org.au)



### **The Le@rning Federation - Scootle**

The Le@rning Federation (TLF) develops or licenses high-quality digital learning resources - both interactive learning objects and single items (images, film clips, sound recordings etc) - all of which are discoverable in this repository.

Learning objects are interactive, multimedia resources designed for Australian and New Zealand curriculums.