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GROWSMART DEBATING COMPETITION 2018

INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS:

Introduction

The Debating competition is for Grade 6 learners only and will run alongside the Growsmart Literacy, Maths, Science and Story writing competitions, although it will be completely separate from it. The Debating competition will be for teams of three learners from the participating Growsmart schools. They must not be the same learners as those competing in any other current Growsmart competitions, nor have competed in any previous Growsmart competitions.

Eligibility

- Only the 150 selected and Growsmart-registered schools from Metro Districts East, North, South and Central may participate in Growsmart.
- Schools that have applied for the competition shall select three learners from Grade 6 only to form a team and represent their school in the Growsmart Debating competition. This means that if your school competes in all five competitions you would have fifteen learners from your school competing for Growsmart prizes.
- Important note: If a learner competed in a previous year's Growsmart competition, that learner may not compete again this year.
- Learners may not compete in Growsmart unless their parents or legal guardians have signed the Growsmart Indemnity Form.
- Teams must arrive on time for their competition rounds or they may be disqualified from the competition. Teams not arriving at all will be prohibited from participating in the next three years of the competition.
- Any contestant or school not in compliance with the eligibility requirements may be disqualified from the competition. Up to four months after the competition has ended, any school or contestant found not to have been eligible may forfeit their prizes or benefits received.

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Growsmart Debating competition format

- Each debate session has two schools. Each school has three debaters, who each speak once. After each speaker has spoken once for 4 minutes, each team has one reply speech. This can be given by the first or second speaker on the team. The reply speech is 2 min long. During the main speeches the opposing team can offer points of information. However, no points of information may be offered during the reply speeches.
- During a debate speakers may not communicate with their coach, other team members who are not speaking in that debate, or any person in the audience, except to receive time signals in accordance with the rules
- In the case of an absent learner and a substitute speech is given, judges shall award that speech the lowest possible score within the Marking Standard, regardless of the quality of the speech. (If such a situation occurs, the marks for this speech shall not be used in the calculation for any individual speaker rankings or awards.)
- Every team at the competition must be accompanied by a team mentor.
- The Chair must resolve any disputes about eligibility.

Launch date:

- February 1 - South and Central
- February 2 - North and East
- Venue - Oude Molen Academy of Science and Technology
- The competition will take place over four levels on Saturdays.
 - Level 1: 32 teams compete to see who will advance to the next level. Each school will compete only once in Level 1. The winning teams will advance to Level 2.
 - If a school does not arrive the opposing school will automatically compete or advance to the next level

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- Level 2: 16 teams compete to see who will advance to the Semi-final. Each school will compete only once in Level 2. Eight winning teams will advance to the Semi-Final.
 - Semi-final: The 8 teams compete of which the winning 4 teams will compete in front of an audience at the Semi-final to determine which 2 schools will advance to the Final round.
 - The final: The final 2 schools will compete to determine the overall winning team and the second- placed schools.
- Each participating school must select their three learners who will form the school team. This can be done through a series of preliminary competitions at the school, conducted by teachers at class level, inter-class level and grade level. The school has the discretion as to how all learners can be encouraged to participate in the selection stage.
 - The competition will focus on English literacy. Growsmart newspapers will be produced from which the bulk of the competition questions will be drawn, the content of which will include various subjects in the Curriculum. There will be a Practise edition which you can use for selecting your teams, plus three other editions which will follow prior to each competition level. The concepts will be expanded through stories and activities to be used for reading practice, enjoyment and comprehension.
 - Topics will be provided 1 weeks before the teams are due to compete. The below topics are examples of what a motion could be.
 1. This house would choose to never grow old
 2. This house believes that parents should have access to their children's social media accounts
 3. This house would ban homework
 4. This house would ban school uniforms
 5. This house would ban homework
 6. This house would ban zoos
 7. This house would ban beauty pageants for kids
 8. This house would ban junk food from school tuckshops
 9. This house believes that people should be fined for not recycling
 10. This house would make physical education compulsory in school

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11. This house believes that all schools should be co-ed
12. This house would ban animal testing
13. This house would make voting mandatory
14. This house believes that all people should be vegetarians
15. This house believes that all parents should be required to attend parenting classes before having a child
16. This house believes that it's the Governments responsibility to ensure that we will always have a good supply of water in the Province
17. This house believes that consumers should pay tax on bottled water
18. This house would ban swimming pools in this critical time of water shortage
19. This house would privatise water in the Western Cape.

- There will be a debate chair who will conduct each round of the competition.
- A panel of judges who comprise of the team mentors those are due to compete in the next round. They will provide oversight and will have the final say in terms of answers and in the case of any disputes or disagreements, rule-breaking or generally unacceptable behaviour relating to the competition rounds. The judges' decisions will be final and no correspondence, including from the audience, will be entered into in this regard.
- The judges will do scorekeeping and track of the points allocated to, or deducted from, each team.
- Each school must select a team mentor for the duration of the competition. The mentor will be the Growsmart coordinator for the school and will ensure that their team is adequately prepared. The mentor will arrange for the selection of team members, obtain consent from parents or legal guardians, ensure the team's preparation for each competition round and arrange transportation for the team to the competition venue. Mentors may gather their team members together on special occasions for revision and practise if they so choose.
- Teams arriving late or not at all may be disqualified at the discretion of the Growsmart organisers, and may be prohibited from participating in future Growsmart competitions.

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- The winners will receive the following prizes, courtesy of Growthpoint Properties:

1st place

- Approved educational assistance valued at R10 000
- The mentor receives a R2 500 shopping voucher

2nd place

- Approved educational assistance valued at R8 000
- The mentor receives a R1 000 shopping voucher

3rd place

- Approved educational assistance valued at R4 000
- The mentor receives a R500 shopping voucher

Debating Competition Rounds

Level 1

Dates:

- 5 May
- 12 May

Venue: Oude Molen Academy of Science and Technology

Level 2

Date:

- 5 August for debating competition winners of Level 1.

Venue: Oude Molen Academy of Science and Technology

Semi-final

Date:

- 19 August for winners of Level 2.

Venue: Oude Molen Academy of Science and Technology

FINAL

Date:

- 15 September

Venue: The Lookout, V&A Waterfront

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Introduction

Why debating

Debating teaches learners how to deal with people, being able to present better, improves fluidity in communication with others, and trains a person to better understand/search for context.

It builds confidence, structure in speech, creates an inquisitive nature and makes you question the world more.

The inquisitive nature makes you ask questions about everyday life, which also initiates problem solving. It teaches you to have an interest in knowledge.

Debating introduces competitors to a lot of people.

Glossary

- Motion / topic - an argument that will be used during a debate
- Proposition -
- Opposition -
- Format - opposing side as a party in parliament
- This house supports motion - principled motion
- This house would - a term used when stating a motion
- This house believes that - a term used when stating a motion
- Point of information - a question that is asked to either agree or disagree with a proposition that was made.
- I will take you - a term used when a point of information is accepted
- Sir and mam - the manner in which a fellow debater is addressed
- Order - a term used by the chair to maintain order should a debate step out of line
- Here, here - a term used in support of a statement made
- Controversial -

Rules of debating

A motion given to all the teams beforehand, allowing them up to a week to prepare for a motion.

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Art of motion setting:

- The demographic of the child needs to be considered.
- When setting a motion it must be evenly weighted, the arguments on both sides must be able to win
- Motions are created, avoiding controversial or offensive motions and need to be carefully considered
- Philosophical or real world motions are generally created.

Order of debating

There are 2 teams competing with three learners each of which the one team offering a proposition and the other offering an opposition.

When choosing a debating team it is important to look for the right candidates that have the ideal skills sets for each role.

The three candidate characteristics or roles are as follows as proposition team:

1. Learners one has to present the lay the foundation of the proposition by defining the motion.
2. Learner two has to give motive or researched based support for their argument
3. Learners that can think on their feet are 3rd who does the reply speech
The reply speech is done by a learner that can condense the previous propositions

Roles must rotate for learners 2 of the 3 roll in following competition rounds

Communication protocol or formalities

Debating has a specific style in which a debate is conducted, this style enforces respect unto fellow debaters and consists of the following:

- One can speak to your team members, quietly, if a debate is underway.
- No distractions are allowed but if someone is in agreement of an argument the words “here here” can be said, or a gentle “knock knock” on a table. This is not to distract the speaker but rather a gesture of agreeing and supporting the fellow speaker.
- Opposing team can also be in support of an argument raised by the other team if they know it will help their next speaking right.
- The audience can also engage in this manner with gentle knocks and waves.
- No swearing, no discriminating, racial disrespectful
- When addressing each other in a debate “sir and mam” is used
- If a debate “open’s up” or anything disrespectful happens the chair says “order”.

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Point of information

- During a debate a point of information can be raised where a question is asked to challenge an argument.
- A point of information can be accepted or declined by the speaker.
- When declining a point of information the speaker can only do so 3 times.
- When accepting a point of information the speaker would say “I will take you”
- Each team must offer one point of information, allowing for a flow of communication and acknowledgement of the propositions context of their argument.
- If the speaker allows a point of information and does not answer they will get penalised.

Timekeeping:

- When making the proposition and defining the motion (speaker 1), giving supporting information (speaker 2) or speaker 3 generating a consolidated conclusion of his or her team’s debate, the following timekeeping rules apply:
- 4 minutes in total is allowed per learner, clapping will indicate to the learner where they are in their timeframe.
- 1st min consists of speaking, no points of information are allowed in this time
- Minute 2-3 min is unprotected time where points of information are allowed.
- The speaker must be allowed 15 seconds between each point of information
- A reply speech, done by speaker 3 generating a consolidated conclusion of his or her team’s debate, is 2 min long.

Etiquette when presenting:

- When presenting it is generally done without notes to enforce engagement with others but some engagement with notes are allowed. To achieve a better score the learner must try to avoid using notes.
- The two teams are seated at two tables.
- When presenting the speaker would stand up at his/her desk and face the audience or their opposition.
- The learner opens up their debate with “this house would” laying the motion for everyone to know what the debate is addressing.

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Scorekeeping:

Refer to scoring sheet.

- Content
- Style
- And Strategy
- At most 2 points are awarded for answering a point of information

Further details will be communicated to all the participating schools as we approach Level 1 of the competition. Should you have any queries at all, please don't hesitate to contact me on the cell number below. All the best!

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