

# GRANT SCHOOL

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## 2008 3RD GRADE PUBLIC SPEAKING EXHIBITION

**Dear 3rd Grade Parents:**

**BACKGROUND...**For the past seven years all third graders have participated in the Public Speaking Celebration at Grant School. We are excited about this year's Public Speaking program for the entire third grade. Students will have the opportunity to participate in a public speaking activity that will allow them to learn the rudiments of public speaking, memorize a passage from a famous children's story or poem, and recite the story to their fellow classmates. The top three storytellers in each class would participate in a Public Speaking Exhibition where there will be no judging, but rather the opportunity to perform in front of appreciative parents and classmates.

**RATIONALE...**Public speaking is one of the most crucial components of an effective language arts program; one that we typically neglect. The purpose of the public speaking unit is to encourage all students to learn how to speak.

**ACTIVITY...**Every student will select a children's story, famous speech, poem or excerpt from a story (i.e. Jack and the Beanstalk). Children will practice their speeches either in class or at home over a three week period.

Each class will conduct a contest. Students will be judged on their voice, poise, posture, eye contact and ability to act out a story. The top three students will then be selected for the Public Speaking Exhibition. Attached is an activity out of my public speaking workbook, Stand Up and Speak, Public Speaking for Students.

Here is the timeline:

January 24	Public Speaking Orientation - 1:00 PM - Auditorium
January 25-February 14	Each student selects, learns and practices a story or poem to be recited in a classroom competition
February 15-22	Classroom oratorical contest conducted to select top three speakers per class
February 29	Public Speaking Celebration 1:15 PM - Auditorium

**TEACHER'S ROLE...**Every teacher will use the time to help the children work on their public speaking skills. Students will be encouraged to choose a familiar children's story or poem that they can recite. Students will be paired up during class time to practice. During the class contests the teacher will judge each speech based on an evaluation form that emphasizes the main ingredients of an effective speech.

**PARENT'S ROLE...**For three weeks, your child will need to practice his or her selected story, poem or speech. Try to spend 5-10 minutes per day working with your child. Encourage him/her to work on eye contact, voice and poise. If possible, videotape your child giving the speech and allow him/her to review it.

**CONCLUSION...**It is the goal of the third grade team that this shared project on public speaking will help students learn to speak well. Every child will participate and grow as a student in one of the most important life skills that will be taught in elementary school.

As principal of the school, I truly believe that every child should "learn to speak" in public. I firmly hold that public speaking helps students learn to organize, improvise and gain confidence as a student and as an individual.

Thanks for your support,

Alan Friedenbergl  
Principal