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# ASCA NEWS

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PO BOX 4570 North Rocks NSW 2151  
[www.australianspeechcommunication.com](http://www.australianspeechcommunication.com)

**The ASCA Newsletter**

**April - June 2016**

**Keeping you up to date, and in the loop, with ASCA goings on.**

Welcome to current members and a very warm welcome to new members, **Gunnedah Public School (Kate Palmer)** from NSW and **Valerie Warwick** from Queensland.

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## **Hullo World!**

ASCA Committee member and Examiner, Elizabeth Walsh, welcomed a daughter into the world. Josephine Ella Bennett was born in June.

Congratulations to Lizzie, Darren and Josie.

Elizabeth hopes to have Josephine doing a Junior Preliminary Exam in the near future!

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## **ASCA's Website.**

**Just a reminder that various ASCA forms, the Syllabuses and past newsletters can be downloaded from the Website.**

**The Website is:**

**[www.australianspeechcommunication.com](http://www.australianspeechcommunication.com)**

## **Membership reminder.**

Just a reminder for anyone who hasn't sent their 2016 membership form and fees - they are now due. The forms were sent out last year and need to be filled in, particularly if your details have changed from 2015.

The membership forms can also be downloaded from the website.

Membership fees are:

Student Associate Membership	\$20
Individual Membership	\$40
Corporate Membership	\$50

Please make cheques payable to ASCA and send with completed form to Mrs Susanne Harrison, ASCA Membership Secretary, PO Box 322, Manly, NSW 1655.

## **Syllabus reminders.**

### **a. Junior Grade 2. Yellow Syllabus.**

Section 1, Personal Project. There is now an alternative to the narrative or recount, and that is a book review.

### **b. Individual Junior Performance Drama, Junior Grade 1,2 and 3. Green Syllabus.**

Section 2 or 3, Improvisation.

This must be an Improvisation and not a prepared piece.

Below are some ideas on preparing students for this section, provided by Andrea Crawford, from Melbourne.

## **The ASCA Awards Ceremony 2016**

This year the Ceremony was held at Ravenswood School for Girls and we thank Ravenswood for supporting such an important ASCA event. Many thanks to Mrs Jillian Burgess for organizing the Ravenswood auditorium. Also, without all the volunteers who gave freely of their time, the event would not have been possible. Many, many thanks! Thank you as well to all the students and teachers who travelled from around the State to attend.

The Ceremony ran smoothly and professionally and feed- back from parents, teachers and students was very positive.

Awards presented were:

Certificate of Communication

Diploma of ASCA

Diploma of Communication (Teaching: Public Speaking)

Diploma of Communication

Centre Medals

Studio Medals

Studio Achievement Medals

Other Major Awards were:

### **National Scholarship Award for Excellence.**

Jacqueline Farrell (Ravenswood )

Isabella Gerardi (Ravenswood )

Penelope Henderson (SCEGGS )

Sophie Kleinschmidt ( Trinity Lutheran College, Queensland )

### **Gino Piro Director's Award for Outstanding Performance.**

Nieshanka Nanthakrishnakumar (North Rocks)

### **The Valerie Malone Award for Achievement through Performance**

Chloe McKenzie (Sacre Coeur )

### **Zdenek Piro Memorial Award for an Outstanding Candidate with English as a Second Language**

Haelim Lee ( Sacre Coeur )

### **Award for Excellence in Communication**

Annie Crawford AM

Annie Crawford AM was the guest speaker.

Annie is the Chair and Founder of **Can Too Foundation**. Her inspirational speech is included for you to read. Annie delivered the Speech with great enthusiasm and dignity and her message was an inspiration to all present.

*I am so delighted to be here on this special day for you all. When I look around the room at your faces..... I can't help but see the future... a bright and a brave future.*

*Today we are here to celebrate not just the success of winning awards and prizes. We are here to celebrate the fact that you took public speaking, or drama lessons in the first place.*

*You were brave enough to take a risk, to face any fears of speaking or performing in public, to improve your communication skills, to better prepare you for the life ahead of you and the opportunities available to you.*

*I am sure you know that public speaking is one of the greatest fears, many **adults** have in life and yet you as primary and secondary students, have already moved beyond this fear.*

*Now you know that whatever other fears you may encounter in your life you can face, just as you faced the fear of speaking in public and signing up to do this course.*

*I want to tell you a story about how I came to be here to present the awards to you today. The reason that I know public speaking can be frightening is that I was terrified of it.*

*When I was in second grade - just a bit younger than you I had to perform a poem that I had written myself, at a school concert.*

*I got so nervous when I came out on stage that I started giggling, and giggling and giggling until finally the teacher came and took me off the stage. I was mortified- humiliated. I never got to say my poem- not even a single word!!!*

*From that day forward I hated speaking in public. I hated it when we had to give talks at school. I hated debating. When I was at university I couldn't even bear saying my name when we went around the room to introduce ourselves.*

*If I had to give a presentation I would do anything to get out of it - I would fake a sickie , even pretend I had to go to a funeral ( how bad is that ) anything to avoid speaking.*

*At my wedding I really wanted to raise a toast to my beautiful new husband, but I was too scared. At work I would always get out of giving presentations.*

*I would not **face** my fear of public speaking.*

*This made it really hard for me to be good at my job. This meant that I couldn't lead a team, This meant that I missed out on promotions. This meant I wasted opportunities that were available to me.*

*Then when I was 40 years old - older than some of your parents - I created a program called Can Too.*

*At Can Too people have to move beyond their comfort zone and face fears as they train to run a 5k, 10k, half marathon or a marathon, do an ocean swim or a triathlon and raise money for young cancer researchers.*

*People come along to training twice a week for between 10 and 20 weeks to get fit for their event. They meet at the athletic track or pool one night a week and do a distance run or swim in the ocean on the weekend.*

*We have now trained 11, 500 people and those incredible people have not only achieved incredible personal health and fitness goals, but they have raised a staggering \$16 million to fund 135 young Australian cancer researchers.*

*On the first night of the first program, we only had 7 people at the track.*

*I knew I was going to have to welcome them - I was going to have to stand up and speak.*

*I was so scared that I thought I was going to vomit everytime I thought about it. But I did it (not very well, but I did it).*

*My journey had begun.*

*I had to speak to every group, every week and I didn't like it, but I knew I had to do it.*

*It taught me a valuable lesson. You don't always have to like what you do, but you do have to do it and it will become easier for you.*

*I started to get asked to speak at people's work about Can Too etc - I felt sick everytime.... I tried to avoid it.*

*The one day I made a decision.*

*I was going to face my fear. I wasn't going to let this thing debilitate me any longer. I wasn't going to waste opportunities. I was never going to say no when asked to speak at an event.*

*I was going to say yes.*

*Doing this taught me so many lessons, about resilience , about perseverance, about giving things a go - but I waited until I was 40 to learn this.*

*YOU are incredible because you have already conquered one the greatest fears that many people have. If you can conquer this, you can conquer any other fears that you may have. Don't let anything stand in your way of achieving what you want to do - whether that is in sport, in school, in drama or in any aspect of your life. Don't wait until you are an adult to use the incredible opportunities you have. Move forward with courage.*

*Congratulations to every single one of you on this very special day - I admire you so much.*

# Junior Introductory Grade HANDY HINTS

## ASCA IDEAS SHEET

This Ideas Sheet will focus on Section 1 of this grade which requires the student to tell a story, act out a situation (either as an individual or as a group ) or describe a picture.

As this grade may be the student's introduction to ASCA examinations, the aim is to develop confidence and enjoyment in sharing a story, picture or acted scene, with the audience.

### Storytelling

Every child loves a story. At this level the story needs to be a simple story with a main character, an Introduction or Orientation, some action,( Complication ) or conflict , and a Resolution ( conclusion ) and sometimes a Coda (which make it explicit how the character has changed and what has been learned ).

Stories can come from real life, imagination, fairy tales, dreams, history or other school subjects. Stories can come from titles such as The Toyshop, The Birthday Present, My Dream, Outer Space etc. Stories can also come from sentence starters, I wish....., When I was ....., If only ....., My Favourite....., What will we do now.....

### Describing a Picture

The picture can be an original drawing or painting, a poster, an illustration from a book, a map, a photograph , a print, a reproduction of a painting etc. The picture must be large enough to be seen by the audience. At least A3 size is recommended.

If the picture is their own effort the student needs to talk about why and how they created it. Where did the idea come from? Details about the picture should be included eg How did the boy fall, what caused the rope to break? Describe the materials used to create the picture- was it textas, water colours, paint , crayons.

If the picture is from a book, poster, or is a photograph etc the talk needs to include information about what when, where, why, who. Also say why the picture was chosen. Description of characters, situation, atmosphere of the subject could be mentioned.

## **Acting Out a Situation**

The situation could be a scene: in a garden, at a shopping centre, at the markets, on a camp, at the school sports day, at the beach, near a river, at a BBQ, at a sleepover, at a footy final, at a birthday party, in a cafe and so on. There should be a simple storyline with some action. Some thought must go to the characters. Who am I ? Where am I ? What am I doing? Aim to entertain your audience.

## **Presentation**

At Introductory level, children do not necessarily need notes or palm cards. They must speak as they think and share their ideas with the audience.

They need to stand confidently and with good posture.

Props can be integrated into the Story.

Costumes can be worn in Acting Out a Situation.

They need to speak out, using clear speech.

They need to use pauses and not rush.

Facial expression also helps students to build a good rapport with the audience.

The above are a few ideas from the many sources available. So, light up the sky!

This is an edited version of an article prepared by Dianne Sparks. ( ASCA Teacher )

## **Important Information for Teachers about Examination Entries**

A reminder that Examination entries (complete with numbers, grades and examination fees) **must reach ASCA 6 weeks prior** to the proposed examination date. It is also a good idea to send a draft Examination entry early in the year to give ASCA an Overview of the year. This will assist planning.

The busiest examination time of the year is Term 4, November and December in particular. For this reason, any teacher wishing to hold examination in mid December must send entries before November 1.

**The cut- off date for mid December 2016 Examinations is November 1.**

**More important information for Teachers about Examination Entries.**

### ***A message from our Secretary Dr Paul March.***

*Dear ASCA Teacher – I do hope the year has begun well for you – ASCA is already busy with many exam bookings so far.*

*In order that we can get exam report forms out to you on time, we need considerable notice:*

- *For 3rd Term Exams: numbers need to be in by 28th July at the latest.*
- *For 4th Term: numbers need to be in by the end of 3rd Term.*

*In any case, all booking forms and fees MUST be in at least 6 weeks before the exam days so that Examiners etc can be appointed.*

*It is not acceptable to book exams later than these dates as the ASCA Office needs time to properly process requests.*

*Don't hesitate to ring me with any queries –*

*Good teaching –*

*Dr Paul March  
Secretary  
0418 234 386*

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Some wise words; **“Believe you can and you’re halfway there.” Theodore Roosevelt.**

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### Queries

If you have any queries about ASCA, the syllabus, or examinations, please contact us by email, or write and they will be handed to the committee for an answer.

CONTRIBUTIONS to the newsletter gratefully received by the editor, Susanne Harrison.  
**All newsletter correspondence should be sent to: *PO Box 4570, North Rocks, NSW 2151***  
*Newsletter.asca@gmail.com*

