



ASCA NEWS

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The ASCA Newsletter – October 2013

In this edition

Important information for 2014 scholarships

Exam day reminders

NSW Awards Ceremony

Victoria Report 2012

Past Students – Where are they now?

Welcome to New Members

I would like to welcome new members for 2013, Bianca Block, Jacqueline Field, Marie, Hollstein, John Lambeth and Vicki Skyring. It is great to see lots of new names. Any queries or contributions can be sent to the addresses on the last page of the newsletter.

Opportunity for 2014

The Scots College in Bellevue Hill plans to introduce ASCA to its Speech Communications program in 2014, and seeks expressions of interest from ASCA teachers. The work is casual/peripatetic at this stage but the program is expected to grow strongly over the coming years. Please call Claire Duffy, Co-ordinator, Speech Communications on 0412 365 739 or email c.duffy@tsc.nsw.edu.au if you are interested.

ASCA SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS 2014

Below are the requirements for the 2014 ASCA Scholarships, please take a moment to read through them. If you have any students who qualify send nominations to the Secretary, details are below.

The ASCA National Award for Excellence

*This scholarship award is worth \$800 and will usually be awarded annually to an outstanding student, nationally, who is working towards a Diploma exam.

*The student must be doing the Senior Grades from 6 upwards, including the *Certificate of Communication*.

*Outstanding marks must be achieved.

*Exam reports will need to be submitted for consideration.

*Written exams may be considered.

The Director's Award

*This award will usually be made annually to a candidate from each State (QLD, NSW, VIC.) for outstanding work leading up to and including a Diploma exam. The award is currently worth \$300.

*Students will need to submit exam reports from Senior Grade 6 upwards.

Nominations should reach the Secretary of ASCA, PO Box 4570 North Rocks NSW 2151 by the **31st December.**

Reminders for Exam Time

Exam Codes

The new exam codes have made differentiating exams from different syllabuses much more easy and the feedback has been positive. These codes have been introduced to specify which syllabus an exam is from.

Please include these codes on the Exam Request Form and the Exam Result Form. It makes it easier to track the exams that are being undertaken, to prepare as an examiner and to ensure correct certificates are being printed.

The codes are listed on the back of the *Request for Examinations* form which has been included with this edition of the Newsletter.

Organisation of Exams

A reminder to teachers that the order of sections in ASCA exams is flexible and does not need to follow the order in the syllabus. If you feel a students would benefit from changing the order of the exam, if it gives the program a more cohesive flow or if it just gives a student time to put on their costume for a piece of drama without delaying the whole day this completely acceptable. If you are changing the order of exams please give the examiner a program for the day outlining the changes to ensure the days still runs smoothly and they are able to prepare for each section as they come.

Useful Websites

The following websites be of interest in preparing lessons or to share with students as examples of excellent communication. They are also just a very enjoyable way to pass some free time.

Storytelling – www.themoth.org
Public Speaking – www.theeloquentwoman.blogspot.com
www.ted.com
www.speaking.alltop.com
Something else - www.thisibelieve.org

If you have found any other online resources you would like to share please send an email to ewalsh.communicate@gmail.com and I will include them in future newsletters.

New South Wales Awards Ceremony

This year's awards ceremony was a great success again. Performances ranged from some of our youngest candidates telling stories and reciting poetry to speeches from the Diploma of Communication by some of our most experienced.

Special congratulations to Rebecca Pennings who was awarded the Excellence in Teaching Award.

Congratulations also to Samantha Luck who received the Award for Excellence in Communication and gave the address. Samantha has been a teacher and examiner of ASCA for many years, she is now the National Communications Manager at the Australian Business Community Network (ABCN). ABCN is a partnership of national business leaders and companies who develop and provide mentoring programs for students from high needs schools and does wonderful work promoting personal and professional development to some of our most vulnerable young people.

An excerpt of Samantha's address is included below

I obtained the Certificate of Communication and the Diploma of ASCA and then spent 10 years coaching my own students in Speech and Public Speaking. I've had a good 20 years of experience now in how to formulate a simple but effective message. Experience in how to communicate sincerely. Experience in how to persuade people genuinely without making them feel like you're selling something. And any social media guru will tell you that unless you can tweet like that you won't get any followers.

But what I value more than anything else about my speech training is that it has given me the ability to speak out – to voice my concerns and fight for what I believe in. So I'm going to finish my speech today with the story of a young girl called Tina, to whom ABCN recently awarded an academic scholarship. Tina is a 17 year old Afghani refugee who used to live in Kabul with her mum her dad and her 2 brothers until her family were pursued by the Taliban because Tina's father insisted on his daughter being educated.

In order to keep her safe her father quickly sold their house, and his small newsagency business and the family fled to Pakistan where Tina was hidden until her father could arrange to send her by boat to Australia. The rest of the family could not afford to go with her. Tina spent 15 days on a boat before arriving at Christmas Island as an unaccompanied minor. She was then sent to Darwin Detention Centre for 6 weeks. Tina is now an Australian resident who attends a public school in Queensland and through ABCN has an academic scholarship and a mentor from KPMG who will help guide her through her tertiary studies.

I tell Tina's story not to make you feel sorry for her, not for any political or philosophical gain but as an example of the value that we as human beings place on the freedom of speech. The desire for an education which enables us to develop our ideas and speak our minds is greater than the fear of losing our family. Greater than our love for our country, greater than the fear of death. And it's not a new phenomenon. My Grandmother fled Communist Russia and then Nazi Germany in the second world war so that her children could be educated in a country which celebrates the freedom of speech.

So when you go to your speech lessons this week don't get nervous about your next exam or your next eisteddfod performance. You're studying for something far greater than Senior Grade 1 or the Australian Verse Section. You're studying speech for the ability to speak your minds, for the ability to speak for those who don't have a voice, for the ability to persuade, inform and motivate an audience. You're studying speech so you can thank your parents at your 18th for all their love and support and toast your best friend as their wedding. You're studying speech because you're lucky to live in a country which grants you this basic human right. So, enjoy it and use it well.

Past Students – Where are they now?

We all know that students of ASCA have an advantage when they leave school, or finish their Speech and Drama education, and we often know about some of the fascinating careers our students go on to engage in. This new feature of the ASCA aims to share some of the achievements of past students and reflect on how much students get out of their time with ASCA.

Please send in the achievements of your past students, especially those that are linked to Speech and Drama to share with us all.

David Phelps, former student of Grace Stein

David Phelps had received the prestigious Medical Rural Bonded Scholarship (MRBS) to study medicine at Monash University's Gippsland Campus. This Prestigious scholarship is worth over \$25,000 a year – is tax free and indexed annually.

After Graduating from St Paul's College, Walla Walla in 2007 David completed a gap year in Poland teaching English to primary students. David attended Charles Sturt University in Wagga where he completed a degree in Pharmacy in 2012. David and his wife Claire moved to Churchill and he commenced studying medicine on the 31st of January this year. He was awarded the MRBS Scholarship on Friday 8th of February.

While at St Paul's David studied Speech and Oral Communication gaining his Certificate of Communication and Diploma of Communications with ASCA.

Heloise Reece and Emma Tate, former students of Annette Emerton

I would like to introduce two of my past students who learned useful skills from their ASCA studies which have enabled them to go on to bigger and better things.

Heloise Reece: I started teaching at Northholm Grammar school when she was 12, she continued on with her ASCA training after school and whilst at University. Heloise obtained her Diploma, completed the Communications course at University and is now the editor of The Hills Times newspaper. She is married with a little boy and says that her training in ASCA increased her interest in literature and "words", built her confidence in public speaking and presentation skills and increased her interest and confidence to perform drama.

Emma Tate: I started teaching when she attended St. Pauls Grammar School and was 14 years old. Emma had extensive learning difficulties but went on to achieve her Diploma in ASCA which helped her to learn and memorise poems, prose and drama. Having a natural talent for acting Emma performed in many school plays and musicals and then went to work back stage as a stage manager in the West End of London.

Returning home Emma has now graduated from University as a high school drama teacher, is at present performing in The Mousetrap at Richmond Players together with Heloise and credits her training in speech and drama for encouraging her discipline in learning lines, developing research skills for literature and for her love of theatre and acting in particular.

It fills my heart with joy to be still in contact with these young women and to watch them grow and develop in many areas of speech and drama. This is what makes teaching worthwhile.

Annette Emerton

Victoria Report 2012

The past year has been a year of tremendous success for ASCA in Victoria. We have continued to grow in numbers in both junior and senior levels, with many students continuing to do their Certificate of Communication.

The Speech and Drama Teachers Association of Victoria (SDTAV) has held a number of Professional development events. A Voice and Speech Workshop facilitated by Arjun Raina as well as Poetry and Dramatic Verse for Intermediate students facilitated by Dr Melissa Agnew

Andrea and I are networking very hard hoping to influence more of the SDTAV teachers to start using the ASCA syllabus. In 2012 we had one new teacher Vicki Skyring enter some junior students who presented some vibrant and cute examinations, so well done to Vicki and her students. Welcome to ASCA Vicki!

Best of Luck to Imogen Frawley (winner of the ASCA Directors award in Victoria) and Anna Xue who both will go on to compete in the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA) Plain English Speaking Awards in June.

Best wishes to all our NSW and Queensland colleagues, we hope you have a productive and fulfilling 2013.

Robyn Schiller & Andrea Crawford

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 will be gratefully received
by the editor.

**All newsletter correspondence to
PO Box 4570, North Rocks, NSW 2151
or ewalsh.communicate@gmail.com**

