

ROTARY Public Speaking COMPETITION



Group 2: Prophylactic distribution in schools.

Public speaking is an important aspect of our lives. At a certain point we all get to speak in front of an audience whether it is in front of family, in a court or delivering a political speech.

One thing I realized when participating in the public speaking competition is that there is no public speaker that never gets nervous before delivering his or her speech. However, in my opinion, we all managed to move our emotions aside and do the best we could do, whether it was talking during the semi-final or during the final itself.

At first I was not ready to take part in the competition. I thought to myself that I would not be able to deliver a controversial speech in front of an audience, yet I still decided to take part in it, just to try. And...I loved it! Overall, it was an overwhelming experience.

My group did have certain problems in the beginning, such as changing the topic of the speech a few times. However, we decided on a subject that would grab attention of the judges prophylactic distribution in schools. We had certain doubts as to whether the judges would eliminate our group because of this unusual subject but we still decided to go ahead with it.

Taking part in the speaking competition is extremely time-consuming. I still remember those sleepless nights, whether it was due to working on the presentation or learning my lines. Furthermore, we had to attend rehearsals which took place on weekday afternoons, Saturdays and during our school holidays. Yet, it was an amazing time spent together, as the four groups that took part in this year's contest managed to work hard altogether. We all supported each other to the very end.

Standing on stage and talking to an audience is a nerve-racking thing in general, especially if it is done for the first time in one's life like it was for me. I have to admit, however, that talking in front of students is more frightening rather than talking in front of people that you do not know. In school, my group did not perform as well as we did in the semi-final! But we all improved miraculously.

Right now, after the competition is in the past, I can say that it is not about winning it or getting the prize. It is about getting confidence to stand up there and deliver your speech. From this point of view we are all winners all four groups, we just do not have the prize.

We would never have been able to improve so much if it had not been for our coaches Mr. Efstathiou and Ms. Tsikkou. Without them our school would have been unable to participate with such strong groups. I send my special thanks to them and to my team-mates, the Chairperson Constantia Charalambous, the Main Speaker Rafael Younes and the Proposer of the Vote of Thanks: Anna Reshetilova. I believe we all did an excellent job.

Your Supporting Speaker,

Ekaterina Mozloeva

There is a strong tradition of charity work at the American Academy, and students of all ages actively participate. Very often the initiative comes from the students themselves, so in recent months funds have been raised for earthquakes in Haiti and Chile. Local charities also enjoy the support of the students with substantial sums being raised for the following projects.

October 2009, Thirty students from class 6-7 were involved in the Radio Marathon fund raising over € 5000 for children with special needs.

April 2010, Twenty students from class 6-7 were involved in the event for Journey for Re sight. They were able to raise € 572.80 for the blind.

On April 22, twenty four students were involved with the Cyprus Anti-Cancer society raising € 420 for the society.

The most recent event was a Civvies Day to raise money for the Sirius Dog Shelter in Limassol which is threatened with closure.

CHARITY

