

Massachusetts Middle School Speech League



Dear Colleague:

We are pleased to announce and invite you to the:
10th Annual **SPRING FLING** contest to be hosted at
Oak Hill Middle School
130 Wheeler Rd, Newton, MA 02459
on **SATURDAY, April 1st**

We hope that you will be able to bring a group of students to the Fling's three rounds of regular events plus finals as well as encourage them to try a challenging, fun event in our special Spring Fling Bonus Round! Also special to this tournament: "5th Grade Foray" includes two activities exclusively for 5th graders. Please join us and celebrate our terrific league and camaraderie at this unique tournament!

We look forward to seeing you!

Kim Vanaman, Kathy Goldberg, Maya Michlin

SPRING FLING EVENT DETAILS:

Enclosed, you will find a tentative schedule for the day, a link to tabroom.com for registration, and a description of each special Spring Fling Bonus Round and the 5th Grade Foray to be offered.

Registration Deadline is **Wednesday, March 29th at 9 pm**. **Tournament fees will be considered final by this deadline. Thank you for your support. Any drops the morning of the tournament or the phrase "no changes" must be texted within 7:00-7:45am to Craig Powers at 574-309-6744**

Regular Event Competition is open to *students in grades 6 through 8* who may choose to participate in one event (experienced competitors may double enter with their coach's permission) in this single-flight tournament. There will be three rounds of competition and finals in KL, Dec, Demo, DP, Duo, FV/Poetry, Storytelling, Impromptu, Prose and OO. 8 Finalists and Honorable Mentions will be recognized. Please visit <http://mmsl.weebly.com/> for these regular event descriptions. We are asking you to limit your entries to 40 IN REGULAR EVENTS (don't count fling bonus) AND to provide Craig with a separate email of a waitlist with student names and event requested at the same time as you register. Craig has graciously agreed to let you know by the day after registration closes, how many students we can add from the wait list. This will allow us to host as many speakers as we can. Thank you for using this new two part registration and waitlist plan.

Our unique, fun **Spring Fling Bonus Round** will take place right after round 3 and will include the following fun events: Team Improv, Impromptu Sales, Haiku in a Hurry, Tongue Twister Races, You're the Expert, Impromptu Children's Lit, and Original Literature (any style). There will be no finals and students who receive a 1st in any round will be recognized with a playful award. Spring Fling Bonus event descriptions are at the end of invite. (Sorry, No Double Entry in Bonus Round)

Special Note: Students selected and volunteering to have 2-3 minutes of their piece/event filmed for our instructional video will not be participating in the Bonus Round. They are scheduled to be filmed at that time.

5th Grade Foray is a special partial day program offering for 5th grade speakers only, with the following schedule:

- A. Starts during Round 3 with an instructional session on tournament participation and skills
- B. Spring Fling Bonus Round: Students will only perform in "5th Grade Foray Novice Reading" round with other 5th grade entrants in any reading event of their choice: Prose, Free Verse/Poetry, Children's Literature, Declamation, or Play Reading(aka Dramatic Performance) with manuscripts required in any form comfortable to the student (book, cards, sleeves, binder, etc.) These events will use the same event descriptions (minus memorization requirements) and ballots from our website. They will receive their ballot and any student receiving a rank of 1st will be recognized.
- C. Observe a final round of the event of their choice.

Each team bringing 5th graders must designate (and provide their name to us) one Adult whose only responsibility is to supervise and support the 5th graders from your team while they are at the tournament (later arrival permitted). 5th Graders will be required to attend all three activities listed above. Spring Fling Bonus Round option for 5th graders is only "Novice Reading" Please see event description at the end of this invitation

All students not breaking to finals or not entered in the Bonus Round are expected to attend and observe an event during those rounds, serving as respectful and supportive audience members. **Absolutely no cell phone use in the rounds and professional behavior is a requirement for all.**

JUDGES: Each school must provide **ONE JUDGE PER FIVE regular event ENTRIES** (Note: one duo pair equals a single entry when making your judge count). Parents, teachers or other interested adults may serve as judges. High school students who have experience in speech are also welcome to judge.

ENTRY FEES: \$7 per solo student entry for all events, regular, 5th grade or bonus round; \$14 per duo or team. Please make checks out to: Newton Community Education

We are using Tabroom.com for all registration (regular events, bonus round and 5th grade Foray).

A variety of breakfast items will be on sale in the cafeteria upon your arrival, and there will be pizza available for purchase for lunch. Beverages and snacks will be on sale throughout the day.

Please feel free to reply and/or call (857) 636-8644 with questions or concerns

Kim_Vanaman@newton.k12.ma.us



SPRING FLING tentative SCHEDULE APRIL 1, 2017

7:00 – 7:45 Text any drops or “no changes” to Craig Powers at 574-309-6799

8:00 -8:15 Arrival and Registration; breakfast will be available for purchase

8:40 Judges Meeting and Student Warm Up time

Students should return to the cafeteria in between rounds. Each round will be announced in the cafeteria when it is time for students to head to their next round.

9:15 Round 1

10:15 Round (optional arrival for 5th grade participants)

11:15 Round 3

Lunch will be available for purchase beginning at 12:00noon

1:00 Spring Fling Bonus Round Special Events

2:00 Finals of Regular Events Announced

2:15 Finals


3:30 Presentation of Awards

Estimated departure 4:30



SPECIAL “SPRING FLING” BONUS ROUND EVENTS 2017

- **Team Improv:** In this event, two students will pull a “set-up” (2 characters, 2 places; either may be real or fictional) from envelopes and will have seven minutes in which to prepare and present a short, coherent scene utilizing no props, costumes, or notes. The presentation may be humorous or serious in nature and should have a logical beginning, middle and end.
Maximum time 7 minutes for both preparation and presentation with a 30 second grace period.
- **You’re the Expert:** A student will pull 3 “expert” titles/ professional expertise areas (silly or serious) from an envelope and quickly select one to portray. The judges will then open the selected expert paper and then “interview the expert” from a list of 5 questions about his/her selected field. Knowledge of the “expert’s” field is not required and the responses may be humorous or serious in nature however students should strive for a natural, realistic and believable portrayal. Content and delivery will be evaluated. **Maximum time: 7 minutes or 5 questions, whichever comes first.**
- **Impromptu Sales:** In this solo event, the student will pull one image of an object (which may be familiar but most likely unknown) from a “for sale bag” and then have 5 minutes to both prepare and present a short, coherent “sales pitch” inspired by the newly named picture in hand. The presentation should have a logical beginning, middle and end and should be designed to “sell” that item to the audience. The presentation may be humorous or serious in nature and knowledge of the true function of the item is unnecessary. It is an opportunity for a contestant to be creative and imaginative. **Maximum time limit 5 minutes with a 30 second grace period for both preparation and delivery, which may be divided up at the student’s discretion.**
- **Haiku in a Hurry:** In this solo event, the student will pull three optional "jumpstart" topics/titles from which they will then quickly select one to inspire them to create an original Haiku poem (3 lines: 5 syllables, 7 syllables, 5 syllables) on the chosen topic. Students should bring and use a pencil and a 3X5 notecard on which to compose their Haiku. The jumpstart selected should be delivered as the title of the Haiku. Students will be judged on creativity, imagery, delivery, **utilizing the topic theme** and appropriate speech skills. **Maximum time limit 5 minutes with a 30 second grace period for both preparation and delivery, which may be divided up at the student’s discretion.**

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- **Original Literature:** A performance of an original piece of writing in any literary style: prose, children’s literature, free verse/poetry, or play delivered from text, notes or from memory. The rules of the event that the writing falls under will govern the delivery (Ex. eye and physical contact limitation rules apply if the presentation is a duo). The material may be humorous or serious in nature, and both the writing and the delivery will be evaluated. The authorship may be collaborative but must be only student written and totally original. The introduction need only provide the title(s) and (optional) set the scene. **Maximum time limit 7 minutes. 30 second grace period.**
 - **Impromptu Children’s Literature:** In this solo event, a student will take 3 possible short, (approx. 2 minute) version of a fairytale, fable or children's stories and then quickly select the one they wish to deliver. Timing will begin at the moment of selection. They will then prepare by reading quietly to themselves, make decisions on voices, pops and gestures while audible time signals are provided by the judge. They will not be evaluated while preparing. Once ready, they will present the piece utilizing the appropriate skills to bring the story to life. **Maximum time limit 7 minutes with a 30 second grace period for both preparation & delivery, which may be divided up at the student’s discretion.**
 - **Novice Reading:** This event is ONLY open to 5th grade speakers who are current members of a MMSSL team. Please note that there is also an instructional round during the 3rd round of the regular tournament, just prior to this event in the bonus round that 5th graders should attend as well. Any team bringing 5th graders are required to provide a “non judging” adult chaperone to support the 5th graders while they are at the Spring Fling. 10:45 arrival permitted for 5th graders. In this solo event, students are required to use a manuscript from any of the following events: prose, children’s literature, free verse/poetry, dramatic performance or declamation utilizing appropriate speaking skills to bring the material to life without costumes or props. **Maximum time limit 7 minutes. 30 second grace period.**
 - **Tongue Twister Races:** In this solo event, students in the round will first check in and give their ballots to the judge, be reminded of their speaker order and then all but the first speaker will leave the room and wait quietly down the hall out of hearing. The first student will then be given the short tongue twister for that round and have 30 seconds to practice it (it is recommended that you practice this out loud to a wall as in a warm up). Speakers will not be judged during practice. The judges will inform the speaker when the 30 seconds are complete; the judges will then reset the stop watch/timer and indicate they are ready. The student will then deliver the tongue twister with clarity, diction, reading for meaning and with correct pronunciation as quickly as possible but trying to be without stumbles or errors. Students will be evaluated on all these items, and being errorless will be more important than speed. Once the student has finished, they will go into the hall and invite the next speaker into the room. They will also return to the room to observe as respectful audience for the rest of the round. **30 seconds for preparation; no time limit - self limiting by length.**

Thank you Coaches!

We look forward to seeing you on the 1st ... NO Foolin’

