

# Primary Schools Program 2024

- Training Days
- Debating Days
- Public Speaking



**The Debaters Association of Victoria (DAV)** is a non-profit association that exists to promote debate. We are the peak debating body in Victoria and run large competitions in primary and secondary schools across Victoria. We also provide training and resources for debaters, teachers and adjudicators.

**The DAV's Primary School Program** is the perfect introduction to the Australasian style of debating, in which two teams of three debate on a set topic. This format of debating is used in high schools and universities across Australia, so training students now will serve them well throughout their school lives. Our in-house training sessions provide both you and your students with a firm grounding in the rules and strategies of a debate, which can then be put into practice at one of our many Regional Debating Days across the state. We are able to be very flexible in how these sessions are run so a program can be tailored to suit your school if required.

Debating is a great way to teach a variety of skills, and lines up well with the key aims of the Critical and Creative Thinking capability of both the Victorian and Australian Curriculums. Debating allows students to use a variety of processes and strategies to organise their thinking in a creative and logical way. Working in teams, students build their confidence by utilising and practicing their public speaking skills in a safe environment where they are encouraged to step out of their comfort zones. The skills outlined in the curriculum as part of this capability are a natural and integral part of a debating program and as such, the program provides a structured way to teach this capability as well as prepare students for the persuasive section of the NAPLAN, while providing resources and training programs as requested.

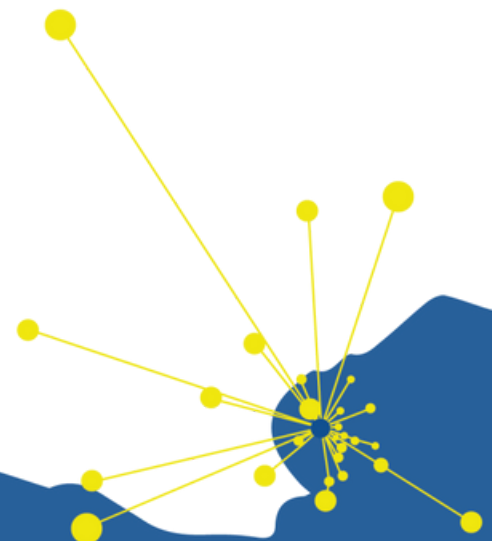
*All DAV trainers and adjudicators hold current Working with Children checks, details of which can be provided in advance if required.*

## Contact Us

Any questions or concerns about our Primary School Program should be directed to the DAV office.

T: 03 9348 9477

E: [debater@dav.com.au](mailto:debater@dav.com.au)



# Training Days

## Primary Teacher Inservice

The DAV runs a Primary Teacher Inservice at the beginning of each year to help Primary School coordinators and teachers learn more about debating and develop skills to pass this information on to their students.

The Primary Teacher Inservice is an excellent opportunity to learn about debating and to develop the skills to pass this knowledge on to students in classrooms, or coach them to success in competitions. The Inservice will provide an array of useful hints, practical tips, activities, real life applications, and examples.

The Program will include:

- A discussion of the benefits of debating;
- Adjudicators advice on how to prepare and present a case;
- Tips on how to adjudicate debates and coach a debating team; and
- An explanation of how adjudicators determine scores and results.

You will also receive a comprehensive set of materials to use throughout the year.

The total cost of the session is \$90 to be invoiced to the school at the close of registration.

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## In-house Workshops

The DAV provides accredited trainers to run an introductory workshop day internally at your school. The interactive seminar includes:

- Discussions on persuasion
- An explanation of the rules and structure of debates
- Rebuttal strategies and activities
- Methods for debate preparation
- Tips for presenting to an audience

The program typically runs across 3 hours (including recess break) and can be tailored to your school's timetable. The workshops can involve a single class or entire year levels and can cater to years 3 and 4, or years 5 and 6, depending on your needs.

If you would prefer to split the training across multiple sessions, or run a longer training program, this can be arranged.

To book a workshop please fill out the form at [dav.com.au/schools/TrainingServices.php](http://dav.com.au/schools/TrainingServices.php) or email us at [debater@dav.com.au](mailto:debater@dav.com.au).

The cost for the standard session is \$180 per trainer. Please contact the office for a quote for any alternate sessions. We recommend having groups of no more than 20-25 students per trainer.

# Debating Days

## Regional Debating Days

Throughout terms 2-4 the DAV runs a number of Regional Debating Days at host schools across Victoria. These programs are an excellent opportunity for students to put their skills to use in 'friendly' debates with students from other schools. We welcome first-time debaters as well as those who have previously participated in our programs.

Days are run within school hours, with teams participating in three debates (two will have prepared topics and one will have a secret topic announced on the day). Accredited DAV adjudicators provide students with feedback after each debate.

No debating experience is required, although students should be familiar with the very basics of debating. Schools may register **up to four** teams per regional day, but are only guaranteed entry of two teams, subject to registration. The cost per team is \$90.

For a complete list of regions and dates, and to register, please visit our website at [dav.com.au/schools/primary\\_about.php](http://dav.com.au/schools/primary_about.php).

## State Tournament

As a capstone to this program, the DAV holds an annual Primary School Debating Tournament in term 4. This round-robin competition aims to introduce students to competitive inter-school debating whilst also providing further opportunities to develop their debating skills.

The day follows the standard format of three debates (two prepared topics and one secret topic). After the debates, medals are awarded to the overall winning team of the day, as well as the overall highest-scoring speaker.

Each school is able to enter one team of 4-6 students. Lunch is provided for students and staff. Further details of location and cost will be released later in the year and will be available on our website at [dav.com.au/schools/primary\\_state.php](http://dav.com.au/schools/primary_state.php).

## Hosting

We are always on the lookout for more hosts for our Regional Debating Days. Host schools are required to provide at least three rooms for debates to be held in, one large gathering space (such as a hall) and a staff member in case of emergency. In return, your school will receive discounted registration of one team for the day.

If your school is interested in hosting a regional day please contact the office on 03 9348 9477 or email [debater@dav.com.au](mailto:debater@dav.com.au).

# Public Speaking

## Primary School Public Speaking Competition

In 2018 the DAV launched a new competition for primary students, the Primary School Public Speaking Competition. The competition aims to give young speakers the opportunity to put their ideas forward in front of an audience whilst expanding their knowledge of current affairs. Students will develop the “building blocks” of public presentation—confidence, clarity, and the development of arguments—which are very important skills both in and out of school.

The competition includes two preliminary rounds, North and South, which take place over a single school day. Students participate in a training session conducted by DAV instructors, before taking part in three rounds of speeches: one prepared and two impromptu. The highest-scoring students from each region will progress to the Grand Final to be held on an evening in late November.

Students will be able to choose one of three prepared topics to present on which will be released in June 2024. Their prepared speech should go for 3-4 minutes. They will also be required to present two impromptu speeches of 1-2 minutes.

For further details and to register please visit our website at [http://www.dav.com.au/schools/ps\\_primary.php](http://www.dav.com.au/schools/ps_primary.php).

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## Hosting

We are looking to expand our Primary School Public Speaking Competition in 2024 with new hosts. Host schools are required to provide at least four standard rooms for the day, a large holding space for the afternoon, and a staff member in case of emergency. In return, host schools will receive discounted registration for two students in the competition.

If your school is interested in hosting a public speaking day please contact the office on 03 9348 9477 or email [debater@dav.com.au](mailto:debater@dav.com.au).