

## Debating Club

In 2005 Mrs. H Nieuwoudt started a bilingual Debating Club for Grades 6 and 7. Members are

- trained in public speaking,
- taught to take a stand for what they believe,
- taught to defend a statement,
- advised on how to convince the adjudicators of their point of view.

At present there are between 15 and 20 learners who attend these meetings.

## Training

We have 2 courses per year - the first course is held in the first term. During this course members are taught how

- to prepare a speech,
- to format an excellent speech,
- to formulate and organize information,
- to use mannerisms and body language.

The second course is usually held during the third term. In this course members are

- trained to do unprepared speeches,
- told what to remember when doing an informal speech. Toastmasters usually assist with the training.

## Functions and participation

Club members present their speeches twice a year during a school assembly. The finalists chosen at these two assemblies participate in two competitions, namely, the Afrikaans Inter-Schools Competition (organized by Gymnasium Primary School and the Afrikaans Language Museum) and the **English Inter-Schools Competition which La Rochelle started in 2007. We were very proud to win both these competitions in 2007.**

## Dreams for the future are:

- to have a Junior Debating Club for Grades 3 - 5,
- to participate in Afrikaans "ATKV" competitions,
- to have at least 50 club members.