

Parentlink

Telethon
Speech & Hearing 
Linking parents and families to news
at Telethon Speech & Hearing.

ISSUE 38 | TERM 3, 2020



WINNERS FROM OUR 31ST POWER OF SPEECH!



Parentlink

Term 3, 2020

Our purpose

As experts in our field, we excel in bringing together services to support children and families to speak, hear, connect and learn, in ways that empower them to live fulfilling lives.

Chief Executive Officer

Mark Fitzpatrick

Principal

Janene Hall

Deputy Principal - Outpost

Geoff Reader

Deputy Principal - Talkabout

Karole Marshall

Head of Hearing Services

Philippa Hatch

Head of Marketing & Venue Hire

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Dates for Your Diary

What your family can look forward to this year!

SEPTEMBER

25

▶ **LAST DAY OF TERM 3**
School Holidays 26/09 - 11/10

28

▶ **TROLLS MOVIE FUNDRAISER**
Get ready for the Happiest. Movie. Ever!

30

▶ **MAKE A DIFFERENCE LOTTERY**
Amazing WA getaways and cash prizes to win!

OCTOBER

07

▶ **WINNERS DRAWN**
Check your tickets to see if you're a winner!

12

▶ **FIRST DAY OF TERM 4**
We look forward to seeing you back at TSH.

14

▶ **LUCKY SIP OPENS**
Every ticket sold wins \$200+ worth of premium wine!

23

▶ **LOUD SHIRT DAY**
A day to wear your loudest, brightest outfit! Talk to a TSH staff member about how to get involved.

NOVEMBER

19

▶ **FAMILY INFO NIGHT**
Provides an introduction to families on the work that we do and how our programs support your child.



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Your last chance to win come incredible prizes!



We're on a jar!

TSH has been selected to participate in Local Matters at Grill'd Subiaco this September!

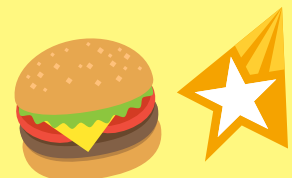
Local Matters is the Grill'd community donation program that sees each Grill'd Burgers restaurant donate \$500 back into the community every month. The donation is split between 3 local community groups \$300 / \$100 / \$100.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

We'd love your support in receiving the highest \$300 donation! Simply head to Grill'd Subiaco during September for a burger and pop your Local Matters token in our jar:

Grill'd Subiaco
Lot 54, 20-38 Subiaco Square 6008

The group with the most tokens at the end of the month receives the largest donation. It's a simple (and delicious) way to show your support!





Message From Our CEO

A message from our CEO, Mark Fitzpatrick



After what was an eventful Term 2 thanks to COVID-19, I am glad to say that we have returned to many of our normal practices in Term 3. For a term that has seemed to go by so quickly, much has been achieved at Telethon Speech & Hearing. Our programs are growing from strength to strength, with TSH now supporting more Western Australian families than ever before.

Appointment of New TSH Chair

During Term 3 we welcomed the appointment of our new Chair of the Board, Dr Alec O'Connell. Dr O'Connell is currently the Headmaster of Scotch College and has had a long and esteemed career in the education sector. Dr O'Connell took over from Professor Gary Martin, who was part of the TSH Board for five years and whose leadership has helped guide us into the strong, resilient organisation we are today. We thank Gary for his dedication to TSH and welcome Alec as we embark on an exciting future.

Power of Speech

Even with COVID-19 still having a slight impact on our community, the TSH staff were determined that we would hold a Power of Speech event in 2020. Held on September 12, the Power of Speech awards were an inspiration, showcasing the amazing abilities of children aged between 6 and 12, all of whom have hearing loss and all of whom are supported in our Outpost School

Support Program. A big thanks to all of the families who attended, the staff who put in so much work to make the event happen, our wonderful judges for giving up their time to do a very difficult job, and Luisa Mander (TSH Talkabout Teacher) and Geof Parry (Channel 7 Journalist and parent of a TSH alumni) who were sublime as our Masters of Ceremony. It is one of the most uplifting events in the TSH calendar.



Ear Health Partnership Grows

In our next Parentlink I will talk more about the burgeoning relationship TSH has started to form with Clontarf Aboriginal College through providing a holistic ear health program. Over the past year we have been supporting students in Clontarf with their ear health, with the supports we provide helping students hear better which impacts on all aspects of their lives, including their learning. This term we added an ENT clinic with thanks to Dr Tim Cooney and his colleagues at Perth ENT. The response from Clontarf has been effusive and is another wonderful illustration of how two likeminded organisations can come together to make a real difference.

More than Just Supporting Children

One of the most important elements of our philosophy is that we are a family-led organisation. We were founded by families in the 1960s and today that legacy continues to shape us as we ensure our programs are designed specifically to engage the whole family, providing support wherever possible. This term we have had the most successful ever Mums' Night and Dads' Night run at TSH this term, plus we have run Circle of Security and other events. A big thanks goes to Michelle Jamieson, our brilliant Family Liaison Officer, whose passion helps drive those events, with the support of the TSH staff. Our thanks also go to the families who gave up some of their precious time to come and attend the various TSH events we have run through the term.

As the weather starts to clear, I have no doubt that many of the TSH families will take the opportunity to visit various parts of Western Australia. For those of you who are travelling, I hope you travel safely. For those who are having a stay-cation in Perth, I hope you get the opportunity to rest after what has been a frenetic year. For all of our families, I hope you have a wonderful break and we look forward to seeing you for the start of Term 4.



Update your details

The information that parents/guardians provide at enrolment is important in helping us to look after your child, and should be kept up to date.

If not current, your family may miss important information from TSH such as health and safety updates.

Please contact **Linda Donald** if your family details have changed: ldonald@tsh.org.au / 9387 9888.

It is essential that you inform us in writing of any change to student details. In particular, we need to know:

- ▶ change of **address**
- ▶ change of **telephone numbers** (particularly **mobile phone numbers**)
- ▶ change of **email address**
- ▶ any new **medical condition or allergies** that your child may have.

New Board Chair

Award-winning Headmaster, Dr Alec O'Connell to lead TSH Board

This term TSH was pleased to announce the appointment of Dr Alec O'Connell as Chair of its Board of Directors.

Dr O'Connell, who joined the TSH board in 2019, succeeds Australian Institute of Management WA CEO Professor Gary Martin, who has held the position for the past four years.

Currently Headmaster at Scotch College, one of WA's top performing schools, Dr O'Connell is highly regarded within the education sector and joins TSH with a respected history in teaching, administrative and leadership positions within schools and universities.

"It is a great honour to take on the role of TSH Chair, continuing its advocacy for world-class services for children impacted by hearing loss and/or speech and language challenges," said Dr O'Connell.

"TSH is renowned for its leading practices in supporting children and families, but its true point of difference is the life-long connection it develops with the people it supports. I am constantly amazed by the profound impact TSH has had on so many people and how fondly they reflect on the supports they received. It is my privilege to be a small part of this true Western Australian success story."

Dr O'Connell also paid special tribute to outgoing Chair Professor Gary Martin, who he recognised as playing a pivotal role in Telethon Speech & Hearing's progressive impact within the WA community.

"TSH's dynamic and expansive growth across all programs and services is a testament to Gary's exceptional leadership and passionate advocacy for the organisation and the role it plays in our community," said Dr O'Connell.

TSH's current Directors comprise of Chair Dr Alec O'Connell, Peter Marcakis, Dr Tim Cooney, Anna Gelavis, Olivier Marion, Jeremy Rigg, Dianne Symons, Daniel White, and Rae Wyatt.



Your COVID-19 Feedback

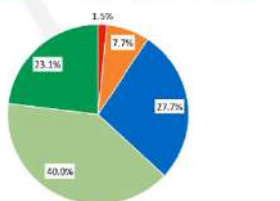
Learnings from our time in a pandemic

Thank you to all families who spent the time to provide us with some feedback in our recent TSH COVID Family Survey. We had 106 families take the time to provide us with feedback, which has been a critical part of our planning should a second wave of COVID-19 hit WA.

What you told us

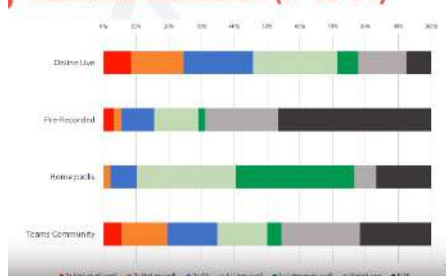
A difficulty we had in replying to the COVID-19 restrictions was trying to put in solutions that would work for all families across all of our programs. As such, we had a mixed response about what worked well and what did not. Put simply (and unsurprisingly), you need options that suit your family's needs, not a blanket response.

How well did TSH support you?



Your feedback will help guide TSH's emergency response in future.

Resource evaluation (n=89-94)



Things that worked well

- ▶ Home packs/activities (for programs that used them)
- ▶ Resumption of face to face groups in the Auditorium for our Talkabout 3 program
- ▶ Online sessions for some families
- ▶ Continuation of services via online means (i.e. teletherapy)
- ▶ TSH's communication with parents
- ▶ Teachers/therapists' support to families

Challenges you faced

You told us that the most challenging part in responding to COVID-19 restrictions was often the ability to engage online for some children, retaining their attention, and balancing various demands on your family and time.

Learnings from COVID

Key actions families suggested for TSH to begin or continue post-COVID included:

- ▶ Use online programs for teacher/parent meetings, parent education and coaching of parents
- ▶ Pre-recorded sessions
- ▶ Online sessions
- ▶ Maintain gate drop-off and pick-up

What we've done since

Despite many of the restrictions in WA being lifted and things progressing back to "normal", the lesson from Victoria is

that all parts of the world are susceptible to a second wave. To make sure we are prepared, TSH has used your feedback and the feedback of staff to put together an action plan.

TSH has learnt a lot from our first experience of a pandemic, so we have planned for organisation-wide measures, along with specific responses for specific programs.

Importantly, we continue to practice effective hygiene controls, put screening questions in place for people accessing our sites, retained higher level cleaning protocols, and more.

Our highest priority

The health and safety of the families and children we support and of our team is of the highest level of importance. We will continue to review and refine our plans, while hoping that we will never need to action them.

Thank you to all of the families who have provided to our survey and your ongoing support of our team and organisation.

If you still have any concerns please do not hesitate to contact a TSH staff member. You can chat to someone in person or leave anonymous feedback through our website:

www.tsh.org.au/about/contact-us/compliments-complaints.



Taking on Characters in Nursery Rhymes

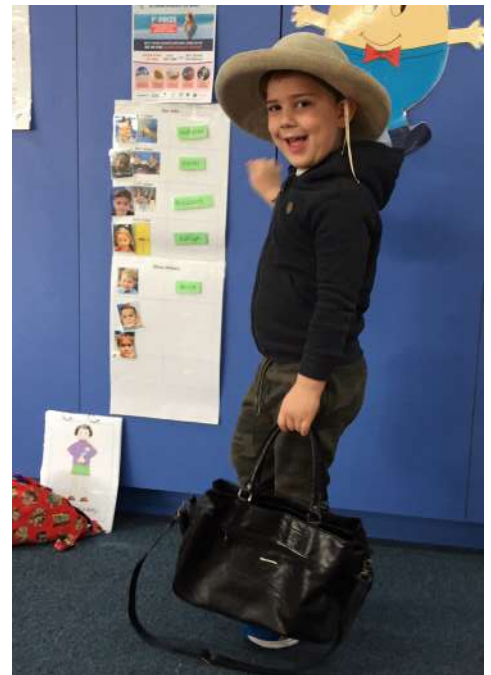
An update from our Chatterbox program

Our Chatterbox students have had lots of fun focusing on nursery rhymes this term to help build their listening, speaking and language skills.

The children have enjoyed unpacking familiar nursery rhymes, singing and chanting them at mat time and using gesture, props and pictures to help bring the rhymes alive. TSH staff built walls for Humpty Dumpty, helping nurse Jack and Jill in hospital and have had great fun frightening Miss Muffet away with hairy spiders.

Our Kindy group all wanted to take part in our retell of Miss Polly, playing the role of the doctor and Miss Polly and immersing themselves in the roles. We have been delighted to see the children take on characters and develop their imaginative play through acting out nursery rhymes. The rhymes have also provided a wonderful opportunity for us to introduce simple narrative sequences for children to learn and retell, developing their early narrative skills.

For our younger children, the rhyme and repetition in nursery rhymes provide good opportunities for children to learn to tune in and listen, to develop new vocabulary and to start engaging in simple social routines that help consolidate the important communication skill of turn taking.





Power of Speech 2020

A word from TSH Teacher of the Deaf, Simon Tomlinson



Ashton Jugov-Janiec, Year 4



Liam McBain, Year 6

On September 12, we once again held our fantastic Power of Speech event at the TSH Auditorium. The Power of Speech event celebrates the wonderful outcomes possible for our students with hearing loss, as they exhibit their public speaking skills in front of a live audience. This is the flagship event for our primary students in the Outpost school support program from Years 1 through to Year 6.

This year, we had two guest speakers (past winners) and 27 participants who presented their speeches to a live audience of family members, VIPs, and TSH staff. The quality of the speeches and the presentation skills of the presenters were arguably of the highest standard in the 31-year history of the Power of Speech event.

Thanks go to the Outpost, Marketing and Technology teams at TSH. They worked hard to put on the event with the additional challenges and restrictions placed upon them by COVID-19. The room was full and the vibrancy palpable despite all social distancing and other regulations unfortunately enforced upon

us. Well done all.

Also, a special thanks must go to TSH Talkabout Teacher, Luisa Mander who stepped into the daunting role of Master of Ceremony. Luisa did a fantastic job and we very much appreciated her taking this on at such short notice.

Of course, the biggest thanks and credit must go to our wonderful TSH primary students. Once again, the work, bravery and fantastic speech, language and public speaking skills they exhibited were amazing and an extremely positive and rewarding thing to watch. All students are winners for their achievements in delivering their speeches.

The judges, however, had the unenviable task of selecting the four award winners:

- ▶ **Leon Dean, Category 1 Award**
- ▶ **Abeer Ghous, Category 2 Award**
- ▶ **Archer Rowntree, Geoff Reader Encouragement Award**
- ▶ **Lucas Gherardi, Mary Shurman Most Improved Award**

Perhaps the best way to showcase the event is through the words of the students themselves. **Turn to page 17 to read Lucas Gherardi's winning speech "My Hearing Loss".**

Thank You

To our supporters, Allmark & Associates for their generous donation of this year's awards and trophies for all students.



www.allmark.com.au
@allmarkptyltd

Pia Barrera, from P.S. Smile Production for capturing all precious moments from this year's event!



www.pssmileproduction.com
@p.s.smileproduction

Be sure to visit TSH's Facebook and Instagram pages to see more photos online:
www.facebook.com/telethonspeechhearing



Jacob Lloyd and
Eamon Doak, Year 2



MCs Geof Parry (7News)
and Luisa Mander (TSH)



TSH Speech Pathologist,
Jeannie Read with Austin Viji



Our dedicated TSH Outpost team



Elijah Ray, Year 3



Trophies and awards thanks to Allmark & Associates



All 29 courageous voices at this year's Power of Speech.



Neil Johns, Year 5



Dads' Night

A night off for our amazing dads!

TSH's annual Dads' Night was held on September 9 with a fantastic turnout of 51 dads across all our programs. On this night TSH Psychologist, Jane Carmignani, addressed dads on the topic of "The Father Effect" and shared research on the vital role dads play in a child's world.

Dads who are engaged in their child's lives contribute so much to their child's development; from improved social skills to better school grades to increased language. They also bring an element of fun and action that is important for emotional regulation.

Practical tips were shared on things such as connecting with our kids and reflecting on our role as a father. All dads also enjoyed pizza and drinks and a reminder that we value them and the opportunity to celebrate the central role they play.



Circle of Security

Strengthening Parent-Child relationships

During Term 2, TSH Family Liaison Michelle Jamieson and TSH Psychologist Jane Carmignani ran a Circle of Security (CoS) parenting course.

Twenty wonderful parents joined our CoS sessions, which is based on years of attachment research and focuses on supporting and strengthening the parent-child relationship.

In two groups, parents met over eight weeks and learnt about healthy attachment, understanding and responding to a child's needs and creating safe and secure relationships. All of our parents were so committed and engaged to this group and we are so grateful for their participation.

We had some very positive feedback from our parents who have found their new CoS knowledge has allowed them

to develop different ways of interacting with their child and strengthened their bond.

Thank you so much to all who attended. We enjoyed working with you all over the term. What an amazing group of mums and dads you are!





Is your clothing SunSmart?

Some helpful tips for dressing your child up in warmer weather

Please help us keep your child safe as we head into the warmer months by remembering to dress your child in SunSmart clothing.

Your child's health and wellbeing are very important to us. As a certified SunSmart School, TSH's sun protection policy ensures that we minimise every student's exposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation and provide an environment that positively influences sun protection behaviour.

This means:

- ▶ The compulsory wearing of broad-brimmed, bucket or legionnaire style hats all year round.
- ▶ Using pergolas and other shade structures in the school grounds.
- ▶ SunSmart education included in the curriculum.
- ▶ Sunscreen available for student and staff use.
- ▶ Changes to outdoor activity timetables to avoid peak ultraviolet radiation (UVR) times.
- ▶ SunSmart information in school newsletters.

IS YOUR CLOTHING SUNSMART TODAY?



Protect yourself in five ways when the UV is 3 and above.



SLIP



SLOP



SLAP



SEEK



SLIDE

myuv.com.au



New research on language development

Research conducted at TSH shows the positive impacts of data-based feedback for language development



TSH Research Coordinator,
Dr. Yuriko Kishida

Research conducted at TSH has provided preliminary evidence supporting the positive impact of data-based feedback to help improve verbal interactions between parents and children who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Led by TSH's researcher Dr Yuriko Kishida, the study found the use of a data-visualisation based feedback model, together with existing listening and spoken language therapy helped increase conversational turns between parents and their children in the program.

Parents and their children with permanent hearing loss, aged 15 to 39 months participated in this study for 8 to 17 weeks as they attended weekly therapy sessions at TSH.

During this time, therapists, working together with Dr Kishida, provided systematic graphical feedback to parents. Parents and therapists used feedback data for individualised goal planning, to help facilitate children's language use. Following the feedback sessions, conversational turns between parents and children increased overall outside of formal listening and language therapy time.

International researchers have found that the number of conversational turns that young children have with adults can

predict later language development and later IQ, and correlate with brain activity and brain structure.^{1, 2}

The research, published in the International Journal of Disability, Development and Education, now provides emerging evidence that data-based feedback can further improve caregivers' skills to promote their interactions with their children in a listening and spoken language program. The feedback model used also has the potential to assist practitioners' data-based practice, which is advantageous for children who are deaf hard of hearing.

TSH congratulates Dr Kishida and all TSH staff and families involved with this research. Getting published in a peer-reviewed academic journal is a rigorous process, but the research found will be of great benefit to improving early intervention therapies for children around the world.

For more information about the research study visit:
<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/1034912X.2020.1767761?journalCode=cijd20>

References:

¹ <https://www.lena.org/lena-technology-meta-analysis>

² <https://www.lena.org/conversational-turns-faq>



Supporting your family to access the NDIS

Telethon Speech & Hearing [TSH] is here to help your child access the therapy supports they need to reach their full potential.

ACCESSING THE NDIS

1

To become a participant in the NDIS, you will need to provide evidence of your child's eligibility. If your child is:

- Under 7 years of age - Contact Wanslea Early Childhood Early Intervention team via email ndis@wanslea.asn.au or phone 1300 969 645 and ask for an Access Request Form.
- Over 7 years of age - Contact the NDIA directly via their website or call 1800 800 110 <https://www.ndis.gov.au/applying-access-ndis/how-apply>
- Once you know you are eligible for the NDIS, contact TSH so we can assist you with your planning meeting as soon as possible.

YOUR PLAN REVIEW MEETING

- Six weeks before your plan ends, TSH will provide you with an NDIS review report.
- Let TSH know if you have an earlier planning meeting scheduled so we can help you prepare for it.

PRE-PLANNING WITH TSH

- Chat with TSH about assisting you to identify the goals and supports your child may need over the next 12 months.
- Our dedicated NDIS Consultant will be able to meet with you and help explain what to expect during a planning meeting with the NDIS.

YOUR PLAN IS APPROVED

- Please let TSH know as soon as your plan is approved.
- We will confirm the services that you would like to access from TSH and contact you to sign a service agreement.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS & RECOMMENDATIONS

- TSH will develop a clinical service recommendation based on pre-planning discussions and your child's goals.
- We will be able to collate any supporting documents such as medical reports, and annual assessments for you to take to your planning meeting.

PLANNING MEETING SUPPORT

- TSH can support you during your planning meeting. This may be in person, with additional information or documentation.

Contact Telethon Speech & Hearing if you would like more information about this process or have questions your child's plan:

ndis@tsh.org.au | 9387 9888

Telethon
Speech & Hearing



Preparing for Power of Speech

What does it take to prepare a winning speech?

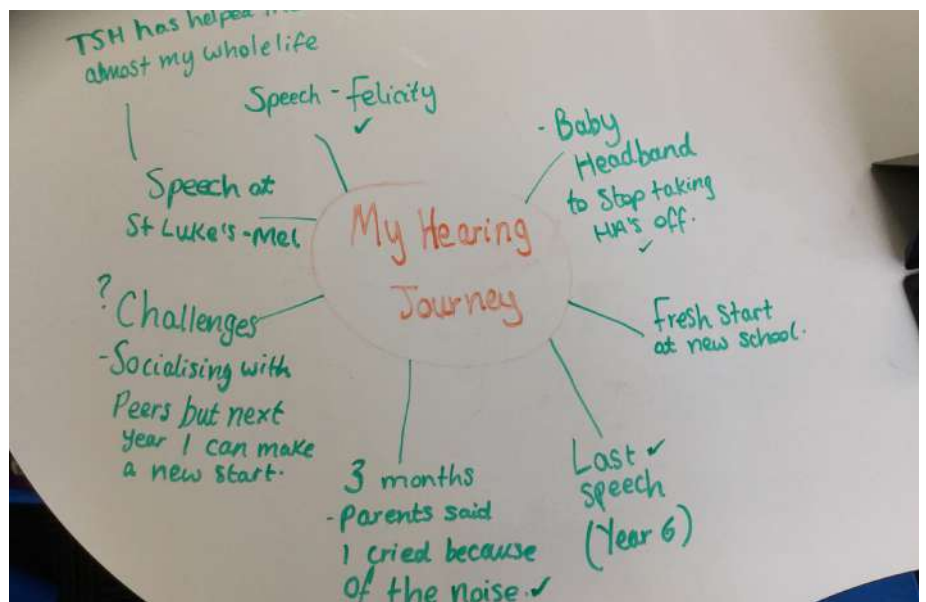
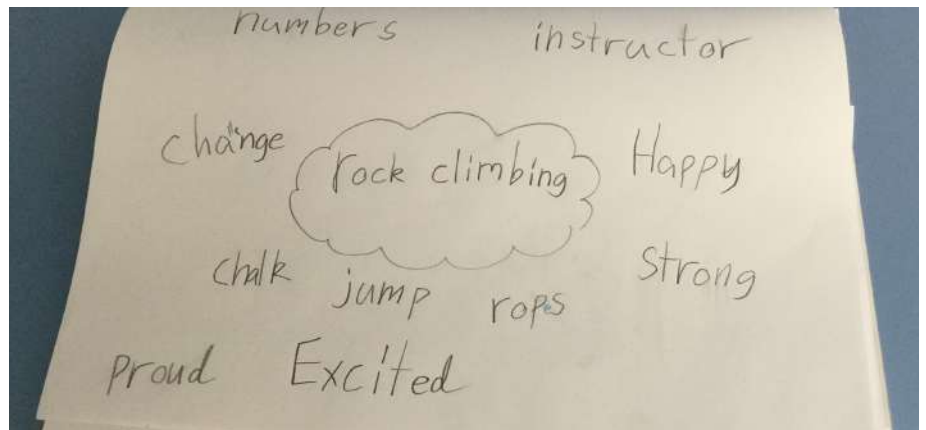
Outpost students begin preparing for the Power of Speech in Term 3 after the school holidays. In their Teacher of the Deaf sessions, the students discuss ideas they have and create a brainstorm of topics they are interested in or passionate about. After many discussions at school and home, the topics are narrowed down and the students start researching and taking note of ideas they want to include in their speech.

For younger students who are unfamiliar with the process, they watch past speeches and talk to older students in the school to know what to expect on the day.

Students begin the writing process by putting their thoughts and ideas into paragraphs that eventually create a 3-minute speech. After editing their work, the speech is typed up and printed so students can begin to practise reading with fluency and expression.

Our Outpost students work extremely hard to prepare and practise their speeches in Term 3, alongside their busy school schedule. There is great excitement (and a few nerves) in the week leading up to the big event!

It is a memorable day for our students, family, and staff and one we look forward to every year.





My Hearing Loss

Speech by Lucas Gherardi, a 2020 Power of Speech Winner

Good afternoon. I'm Lucas Gherardi and I am in Year 5 at Newman College.

There's a few ways to look at things that happen in life – I'm talking about things that are out of your control. The most obvious two ways are to be either negative or to be positive. A bit like, there's night and there's day; there's hot and cold; there's good and bad.

But when it comes to hearing loss, my hearing loss in particular, its more on the good side than the bad because without my hearing aids, I can actually hear OK. I think I can hear everything but that's not what the audiologist tells me.

This is where our opinions differ, shall we say.

In preparing this speech, I had to take a close look at my hearing loss. I've been told many times before, but perhaps this is the first time that I actually 'listened' and thought about it. So this is how the story goes:

I passed my new born screening test and as far as I remember, I heard everything as a baby – I heard my bottom burp, I heard my mum and dads voices, and I definitely could hear myself scream.

It wasn't until I got to Kindy that people started asking questions about whether I could hear or not. Apparently, I wasn't following instructions. Now that could have been because of my cheekiness and ever so slight rebellious nature that lies within me although, you'd never know when you look at me at 4, or.... they could have been right. I wasn't hearing.

Mum took me to an ENT who recommended grommets. Sadly, they didn't make much difference. I still couldn't hear and apparently, I still wasn't listening (or was still being a terror) at Kindy. So back to the ENT and this time, I had a hearing test. This is when they discovered I had a mild to moderate hearing loss. I guess I was fitted with hearing aids at that point and hey presto... I could hear!

Now in discovering these details I suddenly learned that some kid in Kindy was getting cranky because I wasn't playing nicely

with him. Actually, it was because I couldn't hear. I'm a very social guy and if I think about what I would have been like as a four-year-old, I probably would have wanted nothing more than a little buddy to get up to mischief with.

So.... as much as it pains me to say this.... I guess I can thank my hearing aids for allowing me to make friends.

Now that I am in Year 5, I can say, that I'm doing pretty well at school. My grades are good, I don't get into trouble; I have lots of friends; I play basketball; I do boxing and like all kids, I'm a pro at screen time! So as you can see, I'm a pretty normal kid who just happens to need hearing aids.

Last year I didn't make it to Power of Speech. I didn't want to give a speech. It wasn't to my liking. So what's the difference this year you ask? I guess I have changed my attitude towards my hearing loss. And while we are in the zone of being positive and honest, Mrs Eder can now tick that goal in my IEP.

So I started this speech by mentioning the things in life that we can't control. I have learned to accept my hearing loss as something I can't really control but I know it is only a small part of who I am.





Canon Australia Grant

TSH wins \$5,000 Education Grant for mobile teletherapy kits

TSH is thrilled to be the winner of Canon Australia's 2020 Education Grant.

With funding from the Canon grant, we're excited to be able to purchase mobile teletherapy kits so that we can ensure distance isn't a barrier for families in regional areas, who are in need of early intervention support.

Thank you to all of our friends who voted, and to Canon for helping us bring positivity to the lives of children and their families!



Creating Access for All Children

Partnering with Huawei for better outcomes in regional WA



This term TSH's Business Development Manager, Dr Daniel Lombardo took a two-hour trip down south to visit our community partners in Bunbury.

Thanks to our project partners at Huawei, TSH has been able to expand upon the work that we do for early intervention hearing loss towards Bunbury and the greater South-West regions of Perth under the *Creating Access for All Children* program.



During his visit, Dr Lombardo visited a range of stakeholders including Hearing Australia and the Community College Childcare Centre.

Working collaboratively with other locally based organisations, children and their families in these areas will be supported by TSH's team of allied health professionals and specialised teachers using teletherapy.

TELETHON SPEECH & HEARING PRESENTS:
LOUD SHIRT DAY MOVIE FUNDRAISER



EVENT CINEMAS INNALOO
MONDAY 28TH SEPTEMBER 2020

WALK THE 'TROLLS' CARPET 10AM
MOVIE STARTS 11AM

- ADULT TICKETS \$20
- CHILD TICKETS \$20 INCL. SHOWBAG

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