

Dear Parent,

Your child is about to be a part of a very exciting and important educational program-- the 4-H/Tropicana Public Speaking Program. Though oral communication skills are most commonly associated with productive living, they are not as heavily emphasized as reading, writing, and computing. Leon County schools have recognized the importance of communicating effectively, and have endorsed the inclusion of this public speaking education program in the curriculum for 4th, 5th, and 6th graders.

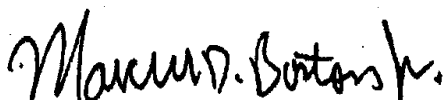
The program is underwritten by the Tropicana Corporation and coordinated by Leon County 4-H. The educational materials were made available to the schools in early fall. Teachers conducting the program set aside part of their classroom time to help students research, organize, practice, critique, and present speeches of their choosing. The rules are simple:

- Speeches:
- * must be original and student written.
 - * must be a different topic each year of participation.
 - * must be between 2 and 3 minutes.
 - * may NOT utilize visual aids (no costumes, posters, props, etc.)
Note Cards are not considered visual aids.

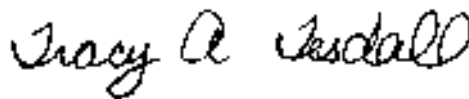
Speeches are written and presented in the classroom with classroom winners advancing to a school contest and school winners advancing to a county contest. School contests must be completed by Thursday, January 7, 2010. The county contest (for school winners) will be held Saturday, January 23, 2010 at the Perry Paige Auditorium on Florida A&M University campus.

If you would like additional information about this important program, please don't hesitate to call your youngster's teacher or the Leon County 4-H Office at 606-5204.

Sincerely,



Marcus D. Boston, Jr.
Extension Agent III, 4-H



Tracy Tesdall
Extension Agent II, 4-H

