



Dear Parents and Whānau,

Year 5 & 6 Speech Information 2026

The main theme for our speeches this year is: ‘Our Roots, Our Voices, Our Future. When we know who we are and where we come from, we can achieve anything.’ On the [Rehu Tai](#) website this theme is further described as being about ‘ensuring that every student feels like they truly belong and are supported to thrive. In Aotearoa we achieve this through connections with our land, through Te Ao Māori and by using our unique culture and environment to create a fair, healthy space where everyone can learn in their own way.’

The theme is broad to allow for interpretation and creativity. The aim is to be inclusive of all learners regardless of their ability and should be accessible by all cultures.

Some possible speech topics:

- Why every family history is worth saving
- The power of my name
- We need to protect our local landmarks
- Age is just a number, why kids opinions matter now
- Being bilingual
- Kindness is a loud voice
- Why we need to disconnect to reconnect
- Guardians of the earth, small changes, big future
- The Playground of 2050
- AI vs Human Imagination

There are four sorts of speeches to choose from:

1. Speech

Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Three minutes ● No microphone allowed ● Cue cards acceptable ● as per APPA speech competition* <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Construction ○ Engagement ○ Content ○ Language ○ Effectiveness ○ Vocals
Example	Kindness speech by a 10 year old https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DtCxjMdE5dM
	Judging Rubric

2. Spoken Word Poem

Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Three minutes● Microphone allowed● No cue cards allowed● Reflect and write on theme at an individual, cultural and societal level<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Preparedness○ Theme○ Language fluency○ Imagery○ Performance○ Vocal techniques
Example	Asha's spoken word about writing https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rtnEnEqjkOE
	Judging Rubric

3. Flash Talk

Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Three minutes● Microphone allowed● No cue cards allowed● 12 slides - 15 sec each● Visual images only● Students talks to presentation<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Digital requirements met○ Fluency○ Visual Imagery○ Poetic Device○ Performance○ Vocal Techniques
Example	Education for all - example of a flash talk speech https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OMbNoo4mCcl
	Judging Rubric

4. Rap

Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Three minutes a cappella or instrumental beat● Microphone allowed● No cue cards allowed<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Originality○ Language○ Lyrics○ Flow / Rhythm○ Focus○ Effectiveness
Example	Rap by a group of students. Please note for Rehu Tai, the rap is done by an individual student and not a group. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I34CfKGI7XY
	Judging Rubric

Speech Structure & Persuasive Features

To write a powerful persuasive piece, students will be taught to structure their writing using the following framework:

- The Hook & Introduction: Grab the audience's attention and clearly state their opinion/stance.
- Three Main Body Points: Present three strong reasons supporting their opinion, backed up by explanations and real-world examples.
- Conclusion: Summarise their main points and leave the audience with a lasting thought.

Timeline & Homework Expectations

- Week 10 and 11: Topic selection, brainstorming, and initial drafting.
- Holidays: Refine draft writing.
 - Every student will be required to write, practice and come prepared with a three minute speech (rap, spoken word or flash talk) they have written. Please support your child to finish writing and refine their speech.
- Next Steps: Transition to cue cards (if allowed for their stream) and practice delivery (voice and stance). All speech types will be presented in Week 2, of Term 3 during class time.

A timeline is attached to this email and a hard copy will also be sent home. Thank you so much for your ongoing support at home. If you have any questions about the timeline or expectations, please feel free to reach out. We can't wait to hear our students' voices shine!

Warm regards,

The Year 5 & 6 Teaching Team

2026 Rehu Tai Oral Language Festival: Timeline/Homework

When	What	Notes
TERM 2	Persuasive genre; Theme: 2026 Theme: Our Roots, Our Voices, Our Future	
Week 10	For homework: Decide on topic and stream (speech/flash talk/spoken word/rap) The theme is 'Our Roots, Our Voices, Our Future.' Most students do speeches unless they have help from home and are confident with flash talk / rap / spoken word. See details in the parent email. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Speech should be 3 minutes long ● Brainstorm and research ● Start planning ● Be original- you are the writer, no AI use. 	
Week 10 in class	Four speech types, examples, rubrics shown in class Language devices Oral language activities to build up opinions/reasons Examples of speech types - from YouTube	
Week 11	Speech Topic Research (take home for rest of term and holidays) Website for speeches <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Start draft writing ● Draft speech writing at school and for homework <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hook, introduction/state your opinion ○ 3 main points/reasons ○ Use examples and explanations ○ Conclusion ○ Editing ○ Use of persuasive language features 	Language devices: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A - Alliteration ● F - Facts ● O - Opinion ● R - Repetition, rhetorical question ● E - Emotive language / exaggeration ● S - Statistics, superlative (the best, the most...) ● T - Three-groups of 3
HOLIDAYS	Finish speech writing (structure as above). Put speech on cue cards when checked. Aim to finish speech writing.	If you have finished and want to get it checked, put it on a doc and share it with your teacher.
TERM 3		
Week 1	Finish cue cards; aim to have cue cards ready in the classroom in W1 (if using) Practising in class	Cards are available for cue cards
Week 2	Class speech presentations	Rubrics
Week 3	Tuesday 4th August Semi Finals 1:00 pm (PE time) Friday 7th August School Speech Finals Competition Time: 2:00 pm Place - school hall	Parents of students who are in the semi-finals or finals will be notified by email. Parents of these students are welcome to attend.