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Attention: News Editors

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LUTHULI MUSEUM PRIMARY SCHOOLS DEBATE COMPETITION GETS UNDERWAY

“Do boys have more privileges than girls?’ ‘Is modern technology a blessing?’ or ‘Should children own cellphones?’ These are three of the topics grade 7 primary school learners had to put their minds to and debate in the first round of the Luthuli Museum ‘Let’s Talk’ debate competition recently.

Held over two days, 12 North Coast schools were represented in the competition and winners from this round will go forward to the quarter finals scheduled to take place on 26 February next week.

Best speakers on the first day were from RA Padaychee Alicia Perumal and Victoria Maquthu and from Stanger Manor Primary Dhiya Maharaj. On the second day Londeka Mthembu from Mbekamuzi Primary, Bongwiwe Chamane from Lloyd Primary and Ernest Saldana Gumede from Glenhills secondary scored the highest number of points.

Debating in front of adjudicators Karen Bloomgarden, Thaven Harry and Ms Mohau Qalaza, from the Durban Local History Museums, learners were allowed to do things slightly differently. They were allowed to raise a point of information after the speaker had finished what he or she had prepared. Normally points of information are raised during the debate and are used to put the person speaking off. This slight deviation in the rules was agreed to because of the level of participation.

The winning schools will then compete in the semi-finals on March 5 and the finals on 12. Prizes include trophies for the top teams and certificates for all participants.

“Debating teaches the individual a number of different skills, one of which is to respect another person’s arguments, to listen and to have respect,” said adjudicator Karen Bloomgarden.

The rules of the competition were work shopped with educators last year and the event planned to take place in 2013 – had to be postponed at the time due to community unrest. The ‘Let’s Talk’ debate was first held at the Luthuli Museum in 2009 and featured two high schools. It has since grown from strength to strength with a primary and high school level.

For further information contact Luthuli Museum education officer Clinton Taylor on (032) 559 6822.

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