

New Zealand Super Eight Schools' Cultural Festival Results 2011

	1 st	2 nd	3 rd
Junior Debating	PNBHS	HamBHS	NPBHS
Senior Debating	HamBHS	TBC	PNBHS
Drama	TBC	HasBHS	NBHS
Kapa Haka	RBHS	GBHS	PNBHS
Solo Music	NBHS	HamBHS	NPBHS
Group Music	PNBHS	GBHS	NBHS
Junior Oratory	NPBHS	HamBHS	TBC
Senior Oratory	RBHS	HamBHS	NBHS
Junior Theatre Sports	HamBHS	TBC	NBHS
Senior Theatre Sports	TBC	HasBHS	HamBHS



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MC Reports

<p>OVERALL EVENT</p>	<p>We were really looking forward to hosting the event but knew it would be a challenge, not having a designated performing arts centre as other schools have developed. The NZ Super Eight Schools' Cultural festival had its first outing at Napier Boys, but some events had to be held at venues in town. Although they allowed for an excellent performing and audience space, the logistics of getting down there, parking and getting back for other events were things we wanted to avoid this time. The hall worked well for performances as well as catering and a big well done and thank you to the stage crew and techies who constantly had to alter this space for the different events. Luckily at the moment, we have a liberal lot of loquacious librarians that formed the bulk of the timekeepers, setter-uppers, introducers and gofers, you did a great job.</p> <p>We thank some schools who had to wait an hour for classrooms to finish lessons before they could gain access and use them as green rooms. Thanks to all but one or two school who left their rooms in impeccable order. We ask that that if host schools do give out keys that teachers are present when boys are accessing rooms and that they are not used as a common room and for eating.</p> <p>We tried to shift things round a bit by starting a little earlier and reducing the time for lunch and by swapping round some events. By these, junior debaters were able to expend their concentrations in the afternoon and the long Friday, even after supper, finished at 9.30. We also started a little later than normal on Saturday to allow more technical rehearsals as well as schools to arise and be adequately breakfasted. I also hope it helped stating the individual performance times for every event according to the rules. This way, schools could work out any clashes. And in regards to rules, I can't strongly advise enough the need to read rules thoroughly and share the rules with the performers. Thank you to all schools who queried the rules in regards to what they wanted to do would be acceptable.</p> <p>So finally, well done to all students and teachers for the massive amount of time rehearsing and preparing to make this a high standard, quality, enjoyable and special event.</p>
<p>Debating</p>	<p>Sourcing eight judges from the local community who were impartial and skilled in debate adjudication proved challenging but we were delighted in the end that the senior competition had local lawyers and an MP.</p> <p>We were grateful of many little helpers, particular our body of librarians, setting up chairs, chairing and timekeeping, altogether it involved a minimum of 8 assistants being available for up to 8 hours. We should consider the following for future years:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Realign the marking framework to the system of debating practised by all of the schools in the competition, i.e. the Russell McVeagh system. ➤ Add in a semi-final round so the final is not points-based but based on number of wins.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Hold the preliminary round and semi-finals for both the junior and senior competitions on Friday afternoon and evening. Hold both the junior and senior finals on Saturday morning. ➤ Utilise the teachers in charge of debating from each school to act as adjudicators for debates. The marking system should be fair enough and general professional integrity to avoid deliberate points-weighting and bias.
Drama	Drama was held on the Saturday morning, and, as always, was an entertaining morning for all involved. Apart from a few lighting issues, the programme ran smoothly and adjudicator Chris Davidson was impressed with the standard of performance across all the groups. Some outstanding acting saw Tauranga Boys' in first place with their performance of two scenes from Hamlet. Hastings Boys' took out second place with a modern adaptation of scenes from Othello, including a rap! Napier Boys' came in third place, with a short comedic piece: Big nose (a modern Cyrano).
Kapa Haka	The two judges, Maku Ropatini and her brother Tuhoe Huata, both agreed that the standard of performance at the NZ Super Eight Kapa Haka was very high. In spite of absences by the kapa from New Plymouth and Tauranga, the level of competition was intense. The evening began with the Napier Boys' Kapa performing with pride and distinction. Tutored by old boy Cody Hollis, Matua Peter Robin and Matua Robin Fabish, the boys delighted their whanau and friends with a bracket that celebrated Kahungunu. The competition was won by Rotorua Boys' which was a well-deserved result. Following the performances, performers and whanau joined in a supper which was well received by our visitors and a great opportunity to demonstrate Kahungunu hospitality.
Music	<p>[verbatim from the adjudicator's written report]</p> <p>As you would expect the standard of soloists was very high. The boys have had several months to prepare and are obviously involved musically in their extended communities. The playing successfully engaged our audience through quality tone, excellent technical ability and choice of repertoire.</p> <p>Please note that when you enter any competition that you should always read the rules and conditions of participation. For example the conditions of entry specify that all accompaniments are to be live. The performer that used a backing track will be pleased to know that they didn't lose any marks however if they had been placed equal with another performer within the rules it would have influenced the final decision.</p> <p>Marking the performances was very difficult as many performers were awarded similar marks for their accuracy, technical ability, articulation, phrasing and interpretation. One area that many performers overlooked was communication and presentation and it was the 15 marks available in this category that finally separated the best musical performances. So do introduce yourself, do state what you are performing and do acknowledge the applause from the audience at the conclusion. Unfortunately some truly excellent performers were let down by small things such as instruments that weren't tuned properly.</p>



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	<p>Schools are advised to be careful when setting more than one musical group during their 20 minutes. Although this added to the variety of the overall performance by that school, sometimes one individual group of performers was weaker than the next thus the overall marks for that school were hindered.</p> <p>Well done to everyone and thanks for an enjoyable afternoon.</p>
Oratory	<p>Seven schools competed for Junior and Senior speakers. Junior students were especially well prepared and Senior topics ranged from fanciful to deadly. All captured the listeners for up to seven minutes of sustained speaking without notes. Interest was expressed in reinstating the impromptu section of the competition, which will be under consideration for 2012.</p>
Theatre Sports	<p>“Dora the Explorer!”, “You’re a man who is always falling down holes!”, “You have to touch the ceiling!”, “You’re taking a driving lesson!” These were just some of the ‘ask-fors’ audience members put out there to be turned into entertaining theatre. Six junior entertainers joined together to develop their skills of teamwork and showcase their ability to think on their feet and provide witty entertainment at this year’s Theatre Sports.</p> <p>The three round competition involved a game of your own choice, a luck of the draw and a physical challenge.</p> <p>Deemed by many to be one of the most difficult games they drew Backwards Interview. A tough afternoon ensued given the strength of the competition from Tauranga, Hastings and Hamilton Boys’ High School seniors who lead the way.</p> <p>We are unfortunate to have had two adjudicator’s withdraw due to unforeseen circumstances, we were fortunate that another event’s adjudicator with experience in theatre sports was able to step in as well as offers from visiting staff. And although the planetarium wasn’t overly conducive for a mass spectator event such as this, somehow two lots of 90-piece audience were all seated and enjoyed some hilarious, quick-witted unscripted drama.</p>



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