



## 2009 Premier's Spelling Bee



### What is the Premier's Spelling Bee?

The Premier's Spelling Bee was introduced in 2004 as a fun and educational way for primary school students to engage in spelling. The program includes activities to encourage all students to engage with spelling and to promote improved literacy in combination with the English K-6 Syllabus.

The competition comprises two divisions – Junior for Years 3&4 and Senior for Years 5&6.

The competition has continued to grow since its inception. In 2004 800 students competed in 20 Regional Finals across NSW. In 2008 over 71,000 students were involved in the Premier's Spelling Bee at a school level with 2,400 students from 626 schools competing in 32 Regional Finals. The competition attracts significant publicity through media and television coverage.

### Who is eligible?

The competition is open to all NSW government primary, central and community schools. Each school can enter a maximum of two students per division (i.e. a maximum of four students per school).

### What is the entry fee?

There is no cost associated with the Premier's Spelling Bee.

### How is the competition conducted?

- Entry Forms should be completed and faxed to The Arts Unit on (02) 9569 6878 no later than **Friday 10 July 2009**.
- Schools can submit an entry without knowing the names of the students they will be entering.
- Schools either follow formal competition procedures or devise their own spelling activities to select students to represent the school at Regional Finals.
- Wordlists are available for download from the website from **Monday 27 July 2009**.
- The Coordinator will advise schools of the dates and venues of Regional Finals in early Term 3.
- Regional Finals take place between **Monday 21 September** and **Friday 2 October 2009** (Weeks 9-10, Term 3).
  - Junior Division: 9.30am-11.30am
  - Senior Division: 12.30pm-2.30pm
- Regional winners from each division proceed to the State Final. This takes place on **Wednesday 18 November** at the Eugene Goossens Hall, ABC Centre, Ultimo. The final half hour of the Senior State Final is broadcast on Richard Glover's Drive program on ABC Local Radio.
  - Junior division: 10am-12.30pm
  - Senior division: 2pm-6pm

### What words are used?

Words for the competition are provided by Macquarie Dictionary and are divided into several categories. Junior and Senior students study different wordlists. Regional and State Finals also include unseen words in later rounds.

Contact: Chloe Hardwick Jones – Premier's Spelling Bee Coordinator – ph: 8512 1173 fax: 9569 6878  
The Arts Unit, NSW Department of Education and Training, Locked Bag 3003, Summer Hill NSW 2130  
[chloe.hardwickjones@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:chloe.hardwickjones@det.nsw.edu.au) – [www.pau.nsw.edu.au](http://www.pau.nsw.edu.au) – [www.schools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au)

## What are the finals procedures?

- There is a demonstration round using simple words to help familiarise contestants with the competition format. No one is eliminated in this round.
- This is followed by elimination rounds of increasing difficulty.
- The announcer reads out the word, followed by a sentence including the word, and then repeats the word again.
- Each contestant must repeat the word to the satisfaction of the announcer before they spell, and then say the word again to indicate they have finished spelling. Up until this point, contestants may self-correct if they clearly indicate that they are starting again.
- Students have 45 seconds in which to spell the word. A warning bell is rung at 30 seconds with two bells at 45 seconds to indicate the contestant's time has expired.
- Contestants may ask the announcer to repeat the word – this is included in their 45 second time limit. Any self corrections must also be made within the time limit. At the second bell, any incomplete spelling will be taken as the contestant's final answer.
- When a student has finished spelling a word, the announcer will either state 'That is correct' or 'That is incorrect. The correct spelling is...'

## How is the winner determined?

- At the Regional and State Finals, the elimination process continues, round by round. To win the competition a contestant must spell more words correctly than all the other contestants.
- A contestant will only be eliminated if at least one other contestant in the same round spells their word correctly. If all contestants in a particular round misspell their words then no one is eliminated.

## What are the prizes?

- All Regional Finalists receive a certificate of participation.
- Regional winners and runners up receive compact Macquarie Dictionaries and electronic spelling tools from Franklin Electronics.
- State Finalists receive silver medallions and a Macquarie Dictionary.
- State winners receive gold medallions and their schools are acknowledged on a perpetual trophy.

## Who are the sponsors?

Westpac is the Principal Sponsor of the Premier's Spelling Bee. ABC Local Radio and the Sun-Herald are Media Partners. Macquarie Dictionary is the Official Wordlist Supplier. QANTAS and Franklin Electronics are Supporting Sponsors.

Presented by



Principal Sponsor



Media Partners



Official Word List Supplier



Supporting Sponsors



Contact: Chloe Hardwick Jones – Premier's Spelling Bee Coordinator – ph: 8512 1173 fax: 9569 6878  
The Arts Unit, NSW Department of Education and Training, Locked Bag 3003, Summer Hill NSW 2130  
[chloe.hardwickjones@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:chloe.hardwickjones@det.nsw.edu.au) – [www.pau.nsw.edu.au](http://www.pau.nsw.edu.au) – [www.schools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au)