



## **BERMUDA SPELLDOWN COMPETITION 2011**

### **INFORMATION BOOKLET #4**



## Important Spelldown Rules & Guidelines

As the Zone-downs and Finals get closer here are some important rules and guidelines students, coaches and parents should be aware of.

1. All decisions of the Bermuda Spelldown officials are final
2. Words are pronounced according to the diacritical marks on the wordlist and the official dictionary.
3. A **penalty-free round** has been introduced for the **Zone-down competition only**. During this first round contestants will NOT be penalised if they misspell a word and all contestants will move on to the next round.
4. Students may ask to have the word repeated, to have it used in a sentence and to ask what part of speech it is. But no additional time will be added to accommodate this request.
5. The allotted time for **familiar words is 30 seconds** and begins once the pronouncer says the word.
6. The allotted time for the **unfamiliar words is 45 seconds**.
7. The role of the three judges is to determine whether the contestant has spelled the words correctly. The decision of the judges is final.
8. Contestants are encouraged to pronounce the word **before and after** spelling it.
9. Contestants are given 2 chances to spell the word. When spelling the word for the second time, the contestant will **not** have the opportunity to change the letters once they pronounce them.
10. Except for the Penalty-Free round, once a speller misspells a word, a new word is given to the next person in line. At the end of the round each person who has misspelled a word in that round drops off.
11. In both the Zone-down and the Finals, when there are two(2) contestants left:
  - a. if one contestant misspells a word then the 2nd contestant is asked to spell that same word.
  - b. **If the second contestant spells that word correctly and then spells the next word correctly – he/she is declared the winner.**
12. If however the second person misspells the first word, both contestants get a new word.
  - a. If the 2<sup>nd</sup> contestant misspells the new word, then the new word is given to the 1<sup>st</sup> contestant.
  - b. If the 1<sup>st</sup> contestant spells the new words and the next word on the list then he is the winner.

**13. Best of luck to all contestants!!**



# The Spelldown Outing at Dockyard

The Spelldown competitors had a great time during their special Spelldown Outing at Dockyard on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2011. Each year all competitors are invited to spend a day prior to the actual competition getting to know each other outside the school setting.

This year the outing took place at Dockyard. The student arrived at Dockyard from Hamilton on the Ferry. Our first stop was in the Keep Yard of Bermuda National Museum. There we met the statue of King Neptune, who the students were able to identify because he come on their favourite cartoon show Sponge Bob Square pants – I guess cartoons are good for something. We also met Dr. Charlotte Andrews in the Keep Yard who told us a little about the Museum and the special project she is researching which is the wrecks around Bermuda.

Then we met with the curator of the Maritime Museum, Elena Strong. She took us to the Hall of History which is special mural that shows Bermuda History. This was painted by Bermudian artist Graham Foster. The artist was there doing some touch work on the painting so the students were able to ask him questions directly. Mr. Foster took over 7,000 hours, 1277 days and 3<sup>1/2</sup> years to complete the mural. The mural covers 1000 square feet. It was great talking to the artist himself.

After lunch at the Freeport Seafood Restaurant we went to look at all the insignias that have been left by the various ships that have visited the Dockyard. When the ships came into the harbour there was not always something to do so the painted the insignias as something to do and also to let people know when they visited Bermuda. Students were able to see insignias from early 1900's right up until more recently.

On our way to the see the insignias we passed the cement silos – Maxcem, and one of the workers there, Mr. Chris Shanks offered to give the students a tour of the plant and to explain how the cement gets to Bermuda and then gets around the island.

We then went back to the Keep Yard and visited the Boat Loft where various Bermuda-made boats are on display. After the Boat Loft we then went visited the Dolphin Quest area – called the Boat Pond. Although there was no show that day the staff did answer the students' questions about the dolphins. It was also pleasant just to sit and watch the dolphins at play.



At the end of the day all students and the chaperones received a special Bermuda Spelldown polo shirt, white with the Bermuda Spelldown logo and a purple Cool Cat sling bag donated by Rock Media Communications. It was a great day that accomplished its goal: **at the end of the day all the students were able to say they had fun and had made friends with their fellow Spelldown competitors.**

Check out the pictures on the Ministry of Education website - [www..](http://www..)

## Important Dates for Bermuda Spelldown 2011

April 2011



*Cool Cat says "The Bermuda Spelldown is here and WE'RE GETTING DOWN TO BEES-INESS"*

Spelldown is here!! The schools are ready, the spellers are ready and it all happens this month. Here are the dates and venues:

1. **Western Zone-down – Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2011 Dalton E. - Tucker Primary School**
2. **Central Zone-down – Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2011 - Mount St. Agnes Academy**
3. **Eastern Zone-down – Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2011 – Elliot Primary School**

**Finals of the Bermuda Spelldown Competition –**

**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 2011 6.30pm**

**Ruth Seaton James Auditorium**



