



# BERMUDA SPELLDOWN COMPETITION 2011

## INFORMATION BOOKLET #1



## About the Bermuda Spelldown Competition

The Bermuda Spelldown Competition was a part of The Bermuda College's 30th anniversary celebrations in 2004. The College's theme for their 30 year celebrations was "*Leaving our Mark*" and the College thought that the Competition was an excellent way in which they could collaborate with the Ministry of Education and leave a very positive mark on the public school system.

They have indeed left their mark as the Competition has been held every year since 2004 except for the school year 2009/2010 but will take place again this school year 2010/2011.

The Bermuda Spelldown was introduced as the National Spelling Competition for primary school students in years Primary 4 – Primary 6. The objectives of the Bermuda Spelldown Competition, like those of other national spelling competitions are to:

- Encourage students to explore and study the English language and its roots;
- Help students to learn to spell quickly, accurately and with comprehension;
- Promote students knowledge of proper word usage; encourage students to strive for excellence in spelling skills and other educational pursuits; and
- Provide an opportunity for students to meet and compete with their peers in an atmosphere of fun and friendship.

The Bermuda Spelldown Competition has met and continues to meet all of the above objectives.



# The Bermuda Spelldown Process

The Bermuda Spelldown Competition is a **three stage process**.

**Stage 1** begins months before the finals when each school sets out to find the best speller in the school at the P4 – P6 levels. All schools, both public and private, are invited to participate. Schools conduct their own in-house competitions, sometimes held during assemblies, where the best spellers are chosen

During this stage the winning student at each school is assigned a coach who will work with him/her during the Zone Downs and in preparation for the Finals.

In **Stage 2** schools are divided into three Zones and then Zone-downs take place. Each school sends one winner to the Zone downs. The Western Zone includes – Somerset, West End, Dalton E. Tucker Primary, Port

Royal, Heron Bay, Bermuda Institute, Purvis, Warwick Academy and Paget primary schools

The Central Zone is comprised of Gilbert Institute, Saltus Grammar School, Bermuda High School, West Pembroke, Victor Scott, Northlands, Prospect and Clara Muhammad primary schools.



The Eastern Zone is – Somersfield Academy, Elliot, Francis Patton, Harrington Sound, St. David's, East End and St. George's Preparatory primary schools.

In addition there is normally a social event with the all the spellers so that they have an

opportunity to meet and get to know their peers and competitors. This social event helps to take some of the 'edge of' the competition jitters.

**Stage 3** is the exciting Finals. After the Zone-downs are completed, the three top winners from each of the zones spend time with their coaches in preparation for the Finals.

The general public is invited to the Zone-downs as well and the Finals and there is usually a large turnout for these events.

The Spelldown is a great community event and over the years the sponsorship from community businesses has been tremendous.

So, welcome to the **Bermuda Spelldown Competition** – Bermuda's national spelling bee.



# Important Dates for Bermuda Spelldown 2011

January 2011



*Cool Cat says "It's the Bermuda Spelldown Season and GOOD SPELLING IS COMPELLING"*

Check out the Bermuda Spelldown Friday Family Movie Nights where **compelling** movies featuring spelling bees will be shown. **All student spellers in P4 – P6 (Gr. 3-5) in each Zone and their families are invited to the movies.** The Central Zone, because of the large size of the schools is divided into two(2) sections. Tickets to the movies will be given out prior and **all persons must have a ticket to enter.** These movies are **free.** All movies start at 6.30pm. All movies are family oriented. Door prizes will be available.

What's the movie showing in your Zone? Do you think Cool Cat will be there?

1. Friday 14<sup>th</sup> January –at **Francis Patton** for all schools in the Eastern Zone – *Akeelah and the Bee.*
2. **Friday 21<sup>st</sup> January – at West Pembroke (+ Northlands, Clara Muhammad & Saltus). – Spellbound.**
3. **Friday 28<sup>th</sup> January – at Victor Scott (+ Prospect Prim., MSA & Gilbert Inst.) – A Boy Named Charlie Brown**
4. Friday 4<sup>th</sup> February –at **Heron Bay** for all schools in the Western Zone – *The Girl Who Spelled Freedom.*

Schools are asked to send in the names of their Spelldown Coaches to the Curriculum office, attention Johnnel Booth ([jbooth@moed.bm](mailto:jbooth@moed.bm)) by **Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> January.**





# RESOURCES FOR COACHES / STUDENTS / PARENTS



# HELPFUL WEBSITES

There are a number of websites that coaches, parents and/or students might find useful as well as fun. Some have teacher worksheets and lesson plans. Others have games and other interactive activities that student-spellers might find helpful. Here are just a few:

[www.spellingbee.com/](http://www.spellingbee.com/)

This is Scripps National Spelling Bee official website and includes information for participants in it's Spelling Bee. Some of the pages are accessible only to schools that are participating but many of the pages have open access. It includes four free study resources, one of which is a 794 page wordlist in PDF format. Another useful feature in this site is a 36week study programme, *Carolyn's Corner*, with spelling rules and even inspirational stories.

[www.myspellit.com](http://www.myspellit.com)

This study site, jointly created by Scripps and Merriam-Webster, the official dictionary of the Scripps Spelling Bee, contains list of frequently misspelled words and homonyms that include audio files so that users can hear the work as well as see its definitions and origins. This site offers spelling study words categorized by language of origin with interesting activities for each language. It also offers a free downloadable booklet, *Spell it! Tricks and Tips for Spelling Success*, which teachers have permission to reproduce for classroom use.

[www.spellingcity.com](http://www.spellingcity.com)

A great free resource for teachers and students, this site allows you to enter lists of spelling words and generate test and games from them. If you register you can store word list and keep track of progress. The programme pronounces words entered and uses them in sentences. The spelling games offered include a version of hangman and a word search; games can be printed or played on line.

[www.bigqkids.com/onlinespellingbee](http://www.bigqkids.com/onlinespellingbee)

This is a great site for parents and student-spellers with lots of games and activities. It simulates a real spelling bee in that spellers are given 90 seconds to spell the word. It's a great resource for those parents whose children are trying out for Spelldown. Registration to the site is free and there are spelling bees for all grade levels from 1 – 7 (P2-M2).

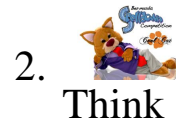


# Help your speller learn how to spell new words.

This five-step process has been shown to help commit new words to memory.



Look carefully at a new word. Can it be split down into smaller bits? Do any of the smaller bits look like the patten of letters of other words?



Think about parts of the word that might be trouble-some, such as double letters or a vowel that is pronounced in an unusual way.



Cover the word and close your eyes. Try to see it in your mind's eye.



Write the word down without checking back.



Check to see if the spelling is correct. If not look carefully at where the spelling went wrong and try again.



