



## **BERMUDA SPELLOWN COMPETITION 2011**

### **INFORMATION BOOKLET #2**



# Important Dates for Bermuda Spelldown 2011

February 2011



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

1. Friday 4<sup>th</sup> February –Spelldown Movie Night at **Heron Bay** for all schools in the Western Zone.
2. Friday 4<sup>th</sup> February - Mrs. Kelley will interviewed by the Youth News team.
3. 7<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> February – Half-term holiday –spend some extra time getting ready for the Spelldown
4. 10<sup>th</sup> February – article in Youth News/Royal Gazette on Spelldown – interview with Mrs. Kelley
5. 24<sup>th</sup> February – article in Youth News/Royal Gazette on Spelldown winners from 2004 – Where are they now?





# RESOURCES FOR COACHES / STUDENTS / PARENTS



## HELPFUL WEBSITES #2

In our first Information Booklet, we listed some website that might be useful for coaches, students and parents. Here are a few more:

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

This site of the musical “The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee”, offers a game that simulates the spelling bee. You can even ask for the definition and the word to be used in a sentence. Fortunately, unlike a real spelling bee, you can attempt to spell the word many times.

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

You can select from one of our spelling lists, or create your own. Custom spelling lists can be saved, and linked to from a classroom website. Once you have selected a list, play one of our many free spelling games listed to the right. These spelling games have been designed to improve spelling abilities in a fun way, that your student's will love.

[www.learner.org/interactives/spelling](http://www.learner.org/interactives/spelling)

This set of activities is like an old-fashioned Spelling Bee. Contestants -- that's you! -- in grades 1-8(PreSch – M3) will listen to three stories, one at a time, and then spell words from each story. Students in high school will listen to separate sentences and then spell the words from each sentence.

If you get stumped, you can click to hear a word again, as many times as you need to. If you're in grade three(P4) or higher, you can ask for a definition too. Since words often make more sense when they are attached to an idea, all the words in the story or sentences are in context. Review the words, hear the audio, and SPELL the missing words. Make sure to check your SPELLING carefully, since your results will be calculated at the end. Depending on the speed of your computer and internet connection, you may experience brief delays.



# How to Get your Child Ready for the Spelldown

If you look at a Spelldown as a game, you can have a lot of fun getting your child ready for the challenge. It can also be rewarding and at the same time enjoyable for the whole **family**. Take a few steps to get your child ready for the Spelldown with minimal stress.

## Instructions

1. Look through the list of words in the Spelldown booklet. Determine how many pages there are in the booklet and then break it up into different sections so that you can work on one section a day.
2. Write out a list of words randomly from each section that you want to work on with your child. Have him take some time to read through the words.
3. Break long words into several syllables. This will make it easier to remember and recognize than trying to remember it as one big word.
4. Explain the meaning of the word to your child. Understanding the meaning of the word usually helps with the memory process because she will be able to better relate to it.



5. Allow him to study for a while and test him on the words.
  
6. Turn the word list into a game. Start off with a word which she understands. Give her two guesses at spelling the word. If she spells it right, she gains a point; if not, she loses a point. At the end of the game, reward her according to the number of points she earned. Repeat with more difficult words and continue with the game until she is ready to take a break.
  
7. Keep the atmosphere relaxed and fun while learning. If you appear tense and stressed, you will put too much pressure on your child and she will not perform as well.
  
8. Make sure he has a good night's sleep and a nice breakfast before the Spelldown challenge.

adapted from: [How to Get a Child Ready for a Spelling Bee | eHow.com](http://www.ehow.com/how_2106652_get-child-ready-spelling-) [http://www.ehow.com/how\\_2106652\\_get-child-ready-spelling-](http://www.ehow.com/how_2106652_get-child-ready-spelling-)



# Spelling Bee Tips and Tricks

## **Personalize your spelling program for success**

According research by Dr. Karen R. Harris and Dr. Steve Graham, professors in the College of Education at the University of Maryland, the average elementary spelling lists contain as few 800 to 1,000 words, comprising 89 percent of their vocabulary. While most students tend to stick with a teacher-provided list, to be efficient, personalize your study. To make the most progress, your spelling bee program needs to be self-designed.

## **Study Tips**

1. Test yourself to determine what to study. Get lists of likely spelling contest words, try to spell them all and then study what you missed. That way, you learn what you do not know and can fill in the knowledge gaps. \ According to the National Spelling Bee official website, teachers can get lists of National Spelling Bee words for your grade level online, so ask for a list. Constantly create new lists of words with which you are not comfortable. The National Spelling Bee official website also suggests researching word sources to add to your lists by accessing online sources or publications.

## **Training Tricks**

2. Repetition is important, but space repetitions apart: If you repeat a word too often consecutively, it stays in your short-term memory and never moves to your long-term memory. This means that you may not be able to recall it when competition time comes. You may need to repeat a word six to seven times before it becomes part of your vocabulary. According to Word Buff, do not look at misspellings. Just as reading and repeating the correct spelling fixes it in your mind, reading the wrong spelling can undo all your hard work by fixing the misspelling in your mind. Make sure that all words on your spelling lists are correct, and avoid looking at or thinking about common misspellings.



Study with multiple senses. Do not just look at new words, instead learn their pronunciations and say them aloud. Since spelling bees are verbal, you need to prepare for a spoken competition. If you have never heard the word or spoken it, it will be difficult to do so in competition. Record, or have someone else record the word lists from which to practice. Sometimes, it helps to close your eyes and visualize the word on paper. Organize the words. It is difficult to memorize a random list of words. Harris and Graham suggest grouping words together in practical way creates logical patterns and aids memory. Whatever organization works for you is best, but here are a few possibilities: organize by suffix, by first letter, by length or by topic.

### **Competition Strategy**

3. Stay calm. The most important thing at a competition is to relax. Gail Small, co-author of "The Spelling Bee and Me: A Real-Life Adventure in Learning," says to take a deep breaths at the microphone and take your time. Do not worry about the audience---think of them as looking like heads of cabbage, sitting in their underwear or whatever works for you. If you have questions, ask the pronouncer to use the word in a sentence or give you the definition to help clarify that word you are spelling. Most of all, remain composed and focused: listen and hear the word clearly.

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