



Dear Parents and Students,

This year our School Spelling Bee will be held Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2019 in our school hall. The senior competition will start at 9.30am and the junior competition will start at 10.30pm. This is an optional competition and teachers will run class finals prior to this date. Two students from our junior competition (Year 3 & 4) and two students from our senior competition (Year 5 & 6) will progress to the next level.

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.

### **Who is eligible to compete?**

The Premier's Spelling Bee is open to all NSW government primary, central and community schools. The competition comprises two divisions – Junior for Years 3&4 and Senior for Years 5&6. Each school can enter a maximum of two students per division (i.e. a maximum of four students per school).

### **How much does entry cost?**

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

### **What are the competition stages?**

- **School:** This year our School Spelling Bee will be held on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2019 in our senior classrooms. The senior competition will start at 9.30am and the junior competition will start at 10.30pm.
- **Regional:** Regional Finals will take place between: 2-13 September 2019 NSW-wide venues
- The Premier's Spelling Bee Coordinator will advise schools of the dates and venues of Regional Finals in early Term 3. The winner of each division of each regional final progresses to the State Final (please note: the runner-up does not).
- **State:** The State Final will be held on State Final: Friday 8 November at The ABC Centre, Sydney.

### **What word lists 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. Wordlists were given out to students at the beginning of this term. You can find the word lists at: <https://www.artsunit.nsw.edu.au/premiers-spelling-bee>  
The password is pizza.

### What are the competition 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 the word, then 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 a 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.

### Contact details

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