

CRESCENT ELEMENTARY SPELLING BEE

Date: November 14, 2011

To: Students, grades 3rd through 6th, Teachers, and Parents

From: Mrs. Moore and Mr. Mitten, Spelling Bee Coordinators



It's time to gear up for Crescent Elementary School's Spelling Bee. This is the first step toward:

1. Being named among Crescent's top 2011-2012 spellers
2. The Orange County Spelling Bee, at the Orange County Dept. of Education, February 2012 (**Open to 6th grade Champion and 1st and 2nd Runner-Up**)
3. The \$1,000 National Elementary School Bee, in Long Beach, March 2012 (**Open to ALL 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade Finalists**)
4. The OC Parenting Magazine, Grade School Bee, OC Fairgrounds, March 2012 (**Open to 5th grade Champion and 1st and 2nd Runner-Up**)

The **preliminary round** will take place in each classroom **Monday, November 28th**. It is a written spelling test. Students absent on Monday, November 28th forfeit participation. Each teacher will administer the same spelling test, using a provided word list of approximately 20 words.

Classroom teachers will grade the preliminary round spelling tests and forward the tests and results to Mrs. Moore or Mr. Mitten. **Individual scores and classroom results may not be provided until final grade level results are announced by Mrs. Leach.** The Spelling Bee Committee, which consists of teachers and the principal, will analyze the scores across each grade level and the top spellers in each grade, school wide, as determined by their score on the preliminary round spelling test will advance to their grade level's **final round** Spelling Bee:

6th Grade: Tuesday, 12/6 at 1:15 in the Cafeteria

4th Grade: Friday, 12/9 at 1:15 in the Cafeteria

5th Grade: Monday, 12/12 at 1:15 in the Cafeteria

3rd Grade: Tuesday, 12/13 at 1:00 in the Cafeteria

The official dictionary and source of words for the Crescent Elementary Spelling Bee is the same as used by the Scipps National Spelling Bee: *Webster's Third New International Dictionary* and its addenda section, copyright 2002, Merriam-Webster, (*Webster's Third*) is the final authority for the spelling of words. All words given in competition are entries in *Webster's Third*.

The first step in preparing for the spelling bee is to master the attached study word list for your grade level. Next, go to the Crescent PTA website www.crescentpta.org

to download a copy of the school spelling bee study list for all grade levels and the Scripps 2012 Spell It! Please note, the lists may not be posted until Tuesday, 11/15. Students are also welcome to visit the Scripps National Spelling Bee website www.spellingbee.com for preparation tips. **The preliminary round will include words from each grade level's spelling list, the school spelling bee study list, as well as other words. The source of words for the final round spelling bees is the plethora of entries in Webster's Third. Good luck!**

General Information

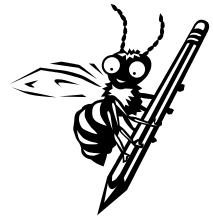
- ALL grades 3, 4, 5, & 6 students are eligible to participate.
- The preliminary round competition is written and the final round is an oral competition.
- The top spellers, school wide, as determined by their preliminary round written score, will advance to the final round for their grade level.
- Elimination during the final round of competition will be on a "miss-and-out" basis in the traditional spelling bee manner.

Procedures

- The Pronouncer will say a word, read a sentence in which the word is used so that its meaning cannot be confused with any homonym/homophone, and then repeat the word. If a word has a homonym/homophone, the contestant must spell the word that has the meaning of the word used in the sentence.
- Should the Pronouncer mispronounce a word, the judges will direct the pronouncer to correct the error as soon as it is detected.
- A contestant may request that the word be repeated once.
- The definition, part of speech, and language(s) of origin, of a given word may be requested.
- Obsolete and archaic spellings will be regarded as errors.
- The judges will monitor the contest by verifying correct and incorrect responses.
- In competition, contestants will be encouraged to pronounce the word, spell the word, and pronounce the word again. Contestants will not be disqualified because of failing to pronounce the word before and/or after spelling it.
- The competition will be completely oral. No paper or pencil may be used. Once a contestant begins to spell orally, no opportunity will be given to change letters once pronounced. **A student may retrace, provided letters and their sequence are not changed in the retracing.** If letters or their sequence are changed in the retracing, the speller will be eliminated.
- A student's time at the microphone should not exceed 1 minute after the Pronouncer has provided the word, the sentence, and then repeated the word. When 1 minute has elapsed, the judges will encourage a speller who has not begun to start spelling. Judges may disqualify a speller who refuses requests to start spelling.
- When a contestant fails to spell a word correctly, he/she drops out of the contest and another word shall be given to the next contestant.

▪ **End-of-bee procedure:**

- If none of the spellers remaining in the spelling bee at the start of a round spells a word correctly during that round, all remain in the competition and a new round begins.
- If only one speller spells correctly in a round, a new one-word round begins and the speller is given an opportunity to spell the next word on the list (anticipated championship word). If the speller succeeds in correctly spelling the anticipated championship word in the one-word round, the speller is declared the champion.
- **VERY IMPORTANT:** If a speller misspells the anticipated championship word in a one-word round: A *new* round begins with ALL spellers who spelled (correctly *and incorrectly*) in the previous round. These spellers spell in their original order.
 - Example: In Round 8 there are three spellers. Speller 2 spells correctly and Spellers 5 and 11 misspell. Round 9 – a one-word round- begins, and Speller 2 is offered the anticipated championship word. Speller 2 misspells the anticipated championship word. Round 10 begins and includes Spellers 2, 5 and 11. The rules prescribe that Spellers 2, 5 and 11 spell in their original order; so Speller 2 gets the next word on the list even though Speller 2 misspelled the previous word on the list. Round 10 is not complete until all three spellers have spelled.



*It is impossible to fail in the spelling bee.
Just by taking part, you are already a success!*