



Media Release

David Campbell MP

Minister for Transport

Minister for the Illawarra

LOCAL STUDENTS COMPETE IN PREMIER'S SPELLING BEE REGIONAL FINAL

Tuesday 15 September 2009

Minister for the Illawarra and Member for Keira David Campbell today said students from 21 local schools are gearing up to battle it out in next week's Wollongong Regional Final of the 2009 Premier's Spelling Bee.

Mr Campbell said the students are competing for the chance to represent their region at the State Finals in November, where New South Wales' best speller will be crowned.

"Bellambi Public School is hosting the event, which will involve approximately 80 students from all over the region," Mr Campbell said.

"I wish these students the best of luck. They've been putting in many extra hours of study in preparation for this event, and regardless of today's results, I congratulate them on getting to this stage of the Premier's Spelling Bee challenge.

"This year more than 2900 students state-wide are competing to be one of 35 Junior and 35 Senior representatives at the State Final in Sydney on 18 November."

NSW Premier Nathan Rees said the Spelling Bee is an initiative of the NSW Government to promote the importance of spelling to NSW public school students.

"The Premier's Spelling Bee is about encouraging students to focus on their spelling in a fun and competitive format," Mr Rees said.

"Participation has increased from 800 students in 2004 – to a record 87,449 students this year.

"I wish every student who is participating in this year's finals all the very best as they prepare to take on their peers for the title of the state's best speller."

NSW Minister for Education and Training, Verity Firth said the initiative is an example of the NSW Government's commitment to ensuring all students have access to opportunities that will help them develop and improve their literacy.

"National testing has confirmed NSW students are the best spellers in the country and this is thanks to the significant investment by the NSW Government in literacy and numeracy," Ms Firth said.

"The Premier's Spelling Bee is another initiative by the NSW Government which is helping NSW students to lead the way."

Westpac's State General Manager for NSW Damien Macrae said that Westpac is a passionate supporter of the Spelling Bee as a fun and educational way for primary school students to improve their spelling and, helping raise awareness of the importance of spelling and literacy in our community.

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FURTHER INFORMATION

The Premier's Spelling Bee is proudly supported by principal sponsor Westpac with additional support from ABC local radio, *The Sun-Herald*, Qantas, Franklin Electronics and Macquarie Dictionary.

The Wollongong Regional final will be held on Wednesday 30 September 2009 from approximately 9.30am – 11.30am (junior final) and 12.30pm – 2.30pm (senior final) at Bellambi Public School, Owen Park Road, Bellambi.

Schools participating include:

- Austinmer Public School
- Balgownie Public School
- Bellambi Public School
- Bulli Public School
- Fairy Meadow Public School
- Figtree Heights Public School
- Gwynneville Public School
- Helensburgh Public School
- Keiraville Public School
- Mount Keira Public School
- Mount Ousley Public School
- Mount St Thomas Public School
- Nareena Hills Public School
- Pleasant Heights Public School
- Stanwell Park Public School
- Thirroul Public School
- Towradgi Public School
- Waniora Public School
- West Wollongong Public School
- Woonona Public School
- Woonona East Public School

At the regional finals, the winner is determined via an elimination process which involves:

- The announcer reading out a word, a sentence including the word, and repeating the word again.
- Contestants repeat the word before they spell, and say the word again to indicate they've finished spelling.
- Contestants may ask the announcer to repeat the word and may also self-correct after indicating they are starting again.
- After spelling a word, the announcer will either state 'That is correct' or 'That is incorrect. The correct spelling is...'
- Every student receives a certificate for competing.
- The winners receive a Budget Macquarie Dictionary and a Collins spellchecker from Franklins Electronics.

For more information on the Premier's Spelling Bee visit www.pau.nsw.edu.au
