

Invitation

2016 PARIS SPELLING BEE

Students in CM1 - 6ème (4th-6th grade)



To:	Heads of English Departments, Teachers, Administrators, Parents, Representatives of Parent Associations and Community Leaders
Re:	2016 Paris Spelling Bee Invitation
Date:	1 December 2015
Note:	Upcoming deadlines

Dear Sir or Madam,

We are writing to invite students from your school to participate in the [8th Annual Paris Spelling Bee \(PSB\)](#), which will be open to children in CM1 through 6ème (4th through 6th grade). **Registration for the 2016 Bee (by mail) is now open** and **will close on Wednesday, 13 January 2016**. **Please note that late registrations will not be accepted**. See attached **2016 PSB Registration Form** or visit our blog: [www:parisfrancespellingbee.wordpress.com](http://www.parisfrancespellingbee.wordpress.com) to download a copy. **Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis and usually fills up before the deadline**. We do not accept registration by email.

Kindly circulate this information to the heads of your English Department, English teachers, parent representatives and students of your school. We encourage anyone who is interested in registering or following the events to regularly check our blog for updates on [registration](#), [FAQs](#), and other relevant notices.

Paris Spelling Bee will be run in the same format as last year: children from CM1 through 6ème will compete in a single group.

As in previous bees, the 2016 Paris Spelling Bee will consist of two stages. First, a preliminary written round will be held on Saturday morning, 30 January for all registered participants. The preliminary round will be a written spelling test. Finalists from the preliminary round will then advance to the oral stage of the bee. A mock bee/practice session will be held on Sunday, 14 February for all finalists. The mock session will give contestants a chance to make new friends, practice oral spelling under conditions similar to the final oral round and review the contest rules. The final oral round will take place on Sunday morning, 20 March. In the finals, children will be asked to spell aloud in front of an audience. Certificates and medals will be given to all finalists. Trophies will be awarded to the first and second-place winners. A [study guide](#) has been posted on our [blog](#) for the preliminary written event. A new study guide will be given to finalists advancing to the oral round.

The PSB is a community-wide enrichment event organized by [Gifted in France](#), in collaboration with [the American Library in Paris](#) and with the support of [AAWE](#). The Paris Spelling Bee is modeled after spelling bees held by schools and other organizations in the United States. Spelling bees help promote literacy by allowing children to work towards a specific goal and by providing a forum in which children can demonstrate their accomplishments. Bees also help children improve their spelling, vocabulary, study and public speaking skills and ability to thrive under pressure.

At the 2015 Paris Spelling Bee, more than 70 children from 35 schools participated in the Preliminary Written Round. Twenty-one students advanced to the Oral Finals on 15 March 2015. [Click here for 2015 PSB highlights](#).

**Please read carefully the following information
if your student or child is interested in the 2016 Paris Spelling Bee**

Tuesday 1 December 2015	Registration is now open for the 2016 Paris Spelling Bee . To receive the form, email parisfrancespellingbee@gmail.com , download/print it by clicking here: 2016 PSB Registration Form , or go to our blog .
Wednesday 13 January 2016	Registration Deadline: A completed and signed registration form with payment must be postmarked on or before Wednesday, 13 January . Space is limited. Please make checks payable to “Gifted in France.” We do not accept registration by email.
Saturday 30 January 2016 09h30-12h30	Preliminary Written Round: For those who have registered on or before 13 January, this event will be held in Paris, 75005. Address and details will be emailed to registered participants. Parents are required to stay on the premises until children are finished with the event. Children will be tested as a group with the same dictation of words from a study guide and some challenge words (not on the study guide). The Study Guide will be emailed to registered participants and is already posted on our blog . About 20 finalists will advance to a mock oral round on 14 February.
Sunday 14 February 2016 09h30-12h00	Mock Bee: Finalists from the 30 January preliminary round will be invited to participate in the mock bee to learn contest rules and useful tips about oral spelling bees, and also to have a chance to meet fellow participants. Finalists will receive a new study guide for the oral final round.
Sunday 20 March 2016 09h00-13h00	Oral Final Round: Finalists from the 30 January preliminary round will participate in the oral final round to be held at the American Library in Paris. The event is open to contestants and their guests.
Registration Fee:	There will be a 15€ registration fee for the first child and 12€ for each additional child from the same family. <u>If the child qualifies for the finals, the same fees will apply.</u> These fees help cover the cost of venues, trophies, certificates, medals and printed material. Payment is not refundable.
Eligibility:	The PSB is open to English-speaking-children currently in CM1-6ème. Previous first-place winners may not participate.
PSB Community Events at the ALP	
Saturday 5 December 2015	Language Comes To Life: For children ages 8-12 Unlock the mysteries of the English language: discover how learning word origins and prefixes and suffixes can be your key to better spelling. Contact Celeste at rhoads@americanlibraryinparis.org to reserve your spot. Event is free to ALP members.
Saturday 9 January 2016 12h00-13h30	Introduction to Spelling Bees: For children ages 8-12, at the ALP. Please RSVP with Celeste at rhoads@americanlibraryinparis.org . Event is free to ALP members.
Saturday 9 January 2016 19h00-21h30	Family Pizza & Movie Night! Families are invited for a special screening of the movie “ Akeelah and the Bee ”. Pizza and refreshments will be provided by the ALP. Registration for movie night is mandatory. Click here to rsvp or go to our blog. Deadline is 5 January.
Please visit parisfrancespellingbee.wordpress.com for announcements, eligibility, registration forms and upcoming activities.	

Useful links & resources for students, teachers and parents:

- **Paris Spelling Bee's blog:** [How to Register](#), [Teachers](#), [Students & Parents](#), [FAQ](#), [Resources & Links](#).
- **Scripps National Spelling Bee (USA):** <http://spellingbee.com/resources-students>
Tips for teachers and students.
- **Merriam-Webster's Welcome to the Spelling Bee Hive:** <http://www.merriam-webster.com/spell/index.htm>, and Spelling Bee Hive <http://www.merriam-webster.com/cgi-bin/spquiz.pl>
- **Funbrain Spell Check:** <http://www.funbrain.com/spell/index.html>
- **"Akeelah and the Bee":** motion picture about a young girl from South Los Angeles who tries to make it to the National Spelling Bee. [Click here for the trailer](#).
- **"Spellbound":** an award-winning [documentary](#) that follows eight American spellers from their regional bees through the conclusion of the 1999 Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C. [Click here for the trailer](#).
- **Maternal Dementia:** Maggie Dugan, a humorous blogger, chronicles her children's Paris Spelling Bee experience in her blog: Maternal Dementia. [Click here](#) for her posts or go to: <http://maternal-dementia.com/tag/spelling-bee/>.

(These links can all be found on parisfrancespellingbee.wordpress.com under 'Resources & Links.')

About the Organizers

[Gifted in France](#) is a 1901 association for English-speaking families. We organize educational meetings for parents, teachers and other professionals on the social, educational and emotional needs of [gifted](#) and [twice-exceptional children](#) (gifted children with learning issues). We also organize activities such as science and creative writing workshops as well as the annual Paris Spelling Bee.

[The American Library in Paris](#) is a focal point for exceptional programs and performances designed to inspire, inform and enrich the community. We are grateful to the ALP for its continued support and collaboration and for hosting the 2016 Paris Spelling Bee.

[AAWE](#) is a well-known and active advocate for bilingual education in France, and publisher of several authoritative books on the subject, including the [Guide to Education in France](#).

Volunteering

The Paris Spelling Bee is a volunteer-run, not-for-profit event. We encourage parents and teachers who are interested in helping the Bee Committee to contact us as soon as possible. We are also looking for donors or sponsors who wish to contribute educational prizes or help defray costs of the Bee.

We look forward to hearing from you, your students and your children.

Best regards,

Helen Sahin Connelly
Coordinator, Paris Spelling Bee
parisfrancespellingbee@gmail.com
parisfrancespellingbee.wordpress.com

Attachments include:
2016 PSB Registration Form for students
2016 PSB flyer
2016 PSB poster
How To Study For a Spelling Bee