Thank you so much for joining us for the information session tonight about the spelling bee and the bumblebee.

Christie Lassen: I'll introduce myself and then turn it over to my colleagues. I'm Christy Lass, and I'm the director of communications and external affairs for Howard County Library system. Simone.

HCLS Instructor: Hi! I'm Simone. Good evening. I'm Simone Colnick. I am the event producer for Howard County Library system.

HCLS Instructor: and Addison.

Christie Lassen: Great! Thank you. So gosh! You know I don't. Even we didn't. I didn't even look to see how many years we've been doing the spelling bee, but it's quite a while and we were so pleased that in 2019 Sakea Sundar was our spelling bee champ, and one of the Octo Champs of the scripts. National spelling bee.

Christie Lassen: So we've been, and he was one of our judges last year, and has been very supportive of our spellers, and so we are excited that you are here tonight and wanna learn more about spelling bee.

Christie Lassen: So next slide, please.

Christie Lassen: So just quick little background. So this is something that we have been doing as a partnership between the library system and the school system.

Christie Lassen: it is, it is open to. And I'll get into this later, too. So while it's a partnership between this with the school system it is open also to private school students and home school association students.
Christie Lassen: The B is organized, not just the oral BI think we missed that. The B itself is organized under the rules of the scripts national spelling bee. So that doesn't mean that we follow all of their rules as just as they do them. They give local B's leeway and defer to the local B decisions. But we do. Look to their rules for guidance.

14
00:03:57.940 --> 00:04:19.280
Christie Lassen: next slide. Okay, so let's start by talking about the bumblebee. So we're gonna talk about the bumblebee and the spelling bee. The bumblebee is a way to prepare your students to participate in the spelling bee. So the bumblebee is just for grades, one through 3, and those are just held at your school. So

15
00:04:19.625 --> 00:04:37.210
Christie Lassen: yeah, just as in this spelling bee you can start at the classroom level and then move up to the school level. But basically each participating school will send their bumblebee. See one bumblebee per school to our spelling bee.

16
00:04:37.690 --> 00:04:54.480
Christie Lassen: to be recognized on stage the the night of the event. So there is no county wide spell spelling be for the bumblebees. It's just it's just prep. For these little little people. To get them prepared for the for the larger be starting in fourth grade.

17
00:04:56.100 --> 00:05:15.949
Christie Lassen: The benefits. So why do this beyond just preparing them for the spelling bee? So it helps obviously to improve their spelling it increases our vocabulary develop self confidence as they're standing up on front of the classroom or in front of the school and the in the cafetorium to

18
00:05:15.960 --> 00:05:27.930
Christie Lassen: increase their comments as as they spell the words, and learn more about the words as well.

19
00:05:22.650 --> 00:05:27.930
Christie Lassen: and then, of course, preparing them for the B. So who is eligible? So again, it's students in grades, one through 3.

20
00:05:28.140 --> 00:05:35.210
Christie Lassen: It's Howard county public school system students, its students who attend a private school in Howard County.

21
00:05:35.220 --> 00:05:36.880
Christie Lassen: and next slide
Christie Lassen: homeschool students who live or attend home school classes in Howard County

Christie Lassen: as part of a home school association. So there have to be a minimum of 15 contestants conducted by that homeschool association.

Christie Lassen: So how it works is schools or homeschool associations will register with us, with the library system.

Christie Lassen: We have a B Coordinator handbook which outlines the roles and responsibilities, and that's coming soon. And we provide a suggested word list for the bumblebee.

HCLS Instructor: It's coming sooner than we thought, because it's already up on the website. So the school coordinator handbook is live on our spelling bee website right now.

Christie Lassen: Great. Thank you.

Christie Lassen: Simone and Addison.

Christie Lassen: And then the school B coordinator is responsible for providing study words and tips to the students deciding how and when to hold these, and we'll go through dates in a minute.

Christie Lassen: recruiting people to be judges and officials. So typically, that's people within your school environment, so could be the principal assistant principal could be. The media specialists could be a teacher you could have it could be your Pta President or someone, or you know, maybe you've got a local celebrity who's affiliated with your school and and they wanna participate. So
Christie Lassen: there's a number of opportunities there, a number of ways. You can do that and then you submit your winner in winner information to the library. And again, that's one bumblebee per grade. So if your school holds a bumblebee for grades 1, 2, and 3, we will receive 3 bumblebee con names from your school.

Christie Lassen: Okay? Important date. So the second was the deadline to complete the intent to participate for

Christie Lassen: so between now and February fifth is when you should be holding your classroom and or grade level and or school level B's again, you can decide whether you want to

Christie Lassen: start in the classroom level and work your way up to the I'm sorry grade level. There won't be a school level, be there will just be grade level or if you just do a grade level B, that's up to you.

Christie Lassen: So that's February fifth. That's your done line to complete those those bumblebees. And then the twelfth of February is your done line to get your information to us. There is a form on our website, where you can submit all the information that we need, so that we can be in touch

Christie Lassen: with your bumblebee winner parent or caregiver, and let them know. Give all the information about where and when they need to come to the spelling bee

Christie Lassen: to be recognized.

Christie Lassen: So when is that spelling? Be? It's March fifteenth. It is a Friday night. We are going back to Friday nights. This one will be at Hammond High School, and please note again that it's a Friday night at 7 pm. And then, in the event that we're gonna have some sort of snow or something that

Christie Lassen: the schools would be closed for any reason. We have a snow date the very next day. But it will be online. So we'll use the
scripts online testing platform. And we will send information out about
that if we need that

00:09:06.710 --> 00:09:12.209
Christie Lassen: But actually, that would just be for the spelling bees,
not for the bumblebees. But

00:09:12.650 --> 00:09:15.969
Christie Lassen: yeah, that's the fifteenth is the date to keep on your
calendar.

00:09:18.450 --> 00:09:31.199
Christie Lassen: Alright, Simon, you wanna go over to you. Want to take
the spelling. Be absolutely. I will take that over. I just wanted to
clarify one thing on the last slide. So if we do have a snow date for the
spelling bee, of course we wouldn't have

00:09:31.210 --> 00:09:45.779
HCLS Instructor: a ceremony for the bumblebee winners. But we will make
sure that they all get their memorabilia and certificates. So for the the
Hcl is spelling bee. I just wanna clarify before I get started that

00:09:45.960 --> 00:09:59.949
HCLS Instructor: as a reminder to everyone. And I think most people are
up to date. There's some new new school coordinators that are trying to
work on the spelling bee in our newly participating in our program. Just
a reminder that because of the generous sponsorships.

00:10:00.070 --> 00:10:09.119
HCLS Instructor: we that we receive for this event we are able to pay for
and cover the enrollment fees for schools to participate in. Rb, so.

00:10:09.260 --> 00:10:23.100
HCLS Instructor: Please do not enroll your school directly or enter into
payment. It kind of makes it difficult for our team to access the invoice
to be able to cover the fee for you for your school. So just as a
reminder

00:10:23.290 --> 00:10:29.460
HCLS Instructor: Howard County library system will pay scripts for your
school's enrollment.

00:10:29.530 --> 00:10:54.880
HCLS Instructor: So spelling be how it works. So school host classroom,
grade and or school wide spelling bees. By February fifth the school
sends one winner and an alternate to the spelling bee. By February twelfth. The alternate, of course, is needed. In the event your winner is not able to participate in the B, and that is up to the start of the B so it's really important for your alternates to attend.

HCLS Instructor: And then the HC. Hcl spelling bee winner advances to the script scripts. The national spelling bee in May of 2024, and the exact dates for that are this year are May 20 sixth, through June first, which is updated on our website. That's what Scripps calls B week.

HCLS Instructor: which culminates with their national spelling bee

HCLS Instructor: contest and congratulations to our 2023 Hcl. Spelling B. Champion, nav Navya Devetti from Clarksville, middle School. In grade 6,

HCLS Instructor: and Nabia won by correctly spelling the word schnul. SCHN ELL for any one who is interested.

HCLS Instructor: Alright, so German, it means fast, and that's about all I know. So I spelling be sponsored by the friends and foundation of Hcl. In Howard County public school system.

HCLS Instructor: Spelling bee benefits. Of course you increase the vocabularies. Students are able to learn word, etymology and country of origin, the meanings, and so prefixes and suffixes in spelling rules, they're able to read and write more effectively and just improve their overall spelling for life.

HCLS Instructor: who is eligible for our spelling? B. So students from grades 4 to 8 in Howard county public school system, or students who attend private schools. Parochial schools are included in that here. In Howard County, as well as home school students who reside

HCLS Instructor: or attend homeschool classes in Howard County, or participate in a local bee with a minimum of 15 contestants conducted by Howard County Homeschool Association.
HCLS Instructor: So once scripts receives payment from us as I clarified earlier.

HCLS Instructor: the school V coordinators. You'll receive login information from scripts directly from scripts to use on spelling bee.com, which is Scripps website. You'll have access to the teacher portal and the teacher's beehive, which is a week. A bi-weekly e blast that comes to your email

HCLS Instructor: study words and more resources. There's an Otp webinar that's posted on our website right now and again, that's the online testing platform. There's a webinar that explains just what it is, how it works, how you can gain access. And again, once we complete your enrollments, which are still underway. Right now, we're trying to enroll every participating school. Once we complete that, you'll get an email to access the script's website

HCLS Instructor: if you're a returning user. So if you were a school coordinator last year, I believe the process is that you have to just reset your credentials. So just you know new login and password, and then you get access to it. So we will. Scripts will ping you when that happens, but we'll make sure to follow up as well to make sure all of our school coordinators are enrolled successfully in the system.

HCLS Instructor: and a U. The Hdls spelling be coordinator handbook which outlines my menus blocking this sorry which outlines the roles and responsibilities, is now posted on our website as well.

HCLS Instructor: The school B coordinators. Responsibilities are to provide study words and tips to students. Decide how and when to hold your Bs meaning classroom level grade, level and school level. You recruit B judges and officials within your school, or community, and submit winner and alternate information to HC. Is by that deadline.

HCLS Instructor: February twelfth.

HCLS Instructor: Important dates. So again, February fifth is when you want to complete your classroom school level.
HCLS Instructor: B. Sorry.

HCLS Instructor: February twelfth is when you, the deadline for schools to submit their winter and alternate information one each per school. So you're turning in information. We get this question a lot every year. You're turning in information to us for 2 students. One is your winner, the other is your alternate.

HCLS Instructor: and we've enabled the system on scripts to accept 2 responses from you.

HCLS Instructor: and March fifteenth is our HCLS. Spelling bee at Hammond High School. Again, as Christie mentioned. Just please note that we are returning to the Friday night model after a few years of doing it at 2 PM. On a Saturday. We're now going to be starting at 7 pm. On a Friday night. Which is how it pretty much ran for the majority of the years.

HCLS Instructor: Okay, march sixteenth, is our snow date for the Hcls spelling be online. So we will again utilize the online testing platform. The Otp there is a process for that. If we do deem it necessary to hold an online test for the snow date. You'll have full instructions on what to look out for, how to, you know.

HCLS Instructor: look out for our notices how to prepare for that. You'll have access to a practice test so your student can get warmed up before taking the actual test, and we've done that a couple of times now, successfully. So we pretty much

HCLS Instructor: are able to pivot to that quickly. May 2024. I'm sorry. May 2024. Again, is the Hcl. Spelling B champions come competing in the scripts. National spelling bee B. Week is May 20 sixth to June. First all expenses are paid for this.

HCLS Instructor: and it's in. If I didn't. Yeah, I didn't say it takes place in National Harbor, Maryland.
HCLS Instructor: Alright.

HCLS Instructor: so we can take some questions. But just wanna remind everyone that our sites are Hc library.org forward slash spelling, dash, b

HCLS Instructor: for bumblebee and spelling B information. And if you need to email us, our alias is b@hclibrary.org and Christy, myself and Addison are just a portion of the B team here, so we all receive.

HCLS Instructor: We all receive that messages from that inbox.

HCLS Instructor: Alright, and if you're looking directly for information from scripts, you'll want to visit spelling bee.com, just a heads up to anybody that's new. That's not our website. That's Scripps website.

HCLS Instructor: But yeah, so we open the floor for questions in the QA.

HCLS Instructor: A. Penny.

HCLS Instructor: Let's see. we don't have any questions open.

HCLS Instructor: hopefully. That means our presentation. Is that clear.

HCLS Instructor: but we'll hang out for a few to make sure that that's the case.

Christie Lassen: This could be the shortest information
Christie Lassen: meeting in history.

HCLS Instructor: I'll go back. I can go back to my last slide here.

HCLS Instructor: If anyone has questions, you can put it in the QA. Feature.

Christie Lassen: and we should say that the recording of this bumblebee or this presentation. And this Powerpoint will be posted to our website tomorrow.

HCLS Instructor: We have 2 questions, the first one, when should we expect Hcl's to pay scripts?

HCLS Instructor: Yeah. So that is actually, oh, am I muted?


HCLS Instructor: Okay. Sorry about that. I was trying to go back to my screen share. Yeah, that's an excellent question. So our our part of the other part of our B team is diligently working on that.

HCLS Instructor: I would say, by next week all of those will be entered, paid for. Believe it or not, we. We're still getting requests from some schools who just there's been a lot of transitions. So they like missed the message or there's sometimes new contacts at schools for the for the school. B, so we're just making sure that everyone who's interested is captured and enrolled into the scripts portal. So

HCLS Instructor: we should have that ready by next week
HCLS Instructor: list. That's every year.

HCLS Instructor: next next week. Yeah.

HCLS Instructor: And that allows educators to start practicing in the classrooms. Take practice tests again, there's a short video, not super short. But there's a brief enough video on our website from scripts about how to use the online testing platform. So if you want to use the time between now and next week to just kind of take a look through our handbook, understand the event leading up to our spelling bee and look at the otp and understand how to use that. That would be really. you know, good use of time.

HCLS Instructor: you know, good use of time.

HCLS Instructor: Anything else.

Christie Lassen: One more question about, are there 3 different study lists? One for class will be one for school B, and one for County B.

HCLS Instructor: We do get another list for the county level. BI don't know that you have a different list for class versus school BI think it's the same list you you study from. But it's broken down in the online testing platform tools. Oh, this actually brings up a really good point. We are not able to access the back end of the teacher portal. So we see a different we see a sponsor portal.

HCLS Instructor: So you guys are seeing the educator portal. So the information that we share is consistent with what's on scripts, Otp Webinar, for educators. But just to note that we don't have access to that same information, to the to that portal. We know the information that's in it, but we don't have access to the portal.
Christie Lassen: And can you clarify the the study list that's available...

Christie Lassen: for the for our bee.

Christie Lassen: Is that different than what the schools have?

HCLS Instructor: I think so I think later on we get a different study list to provide to the school level winners and alternates.

Christie Lassen: I am not sure, either. I will have to look into that. Yeah, we'll have to look into it. We'll try to look through the sponsor portal and see if that exists, or at least ask scripts about that information being available in the teacher portal, if possible.

HCLS Instructor: And

HCLS Instructor: It's 7, 23. I think we can hang on, maybe until 7, 25 to see if anything else comes through.
HCLS Instructor: But thank you guys so much in advance for your commitment to our be program, and certainly for making time to join us tonight for this information. And again, the recording will be available on our the website.

Christie Lassen: And I just wanted to add one more sponsor to our list. It's educational systems. Federal Credit Union is is also a sponsor. So we thank them for their

HCLS Instructor: Thank you, Christy.

HCLS Instructor: Well, thanks. Everyone. Have a great evening, Christy. Any parting words.

HCLS Instructor: Nope, just thank you very much, and if you have any questions, please reach out to us.

Christie Lassen: Thank you, Simone, and.