



February, 2024

Spelling Bee

By R.K.

This was the first year my son's school was organizing a spelling bee. I had heard about kids who have participated and won Spelling Bees. Most people say kids who read a lot of books already have a good handle on words. I registered my kid and to my surprise, I received lists of words. There were 2 sets: List 1: 400 words and List 2: 2000 words. The instructions said, list 2 will be used only when they exhaust all the words from the List 1. It seemed pretty straightforward. My kid along with so many others in his class knew all the words from List 1 by heart.

When the day came, all the kids were given a number, and they were called one by one. They were asked to spell words that were in the list in order of difficulty.

Kids who I thought would make it to the top fumbled in the beginning and were disqualified due to some silly mistakes.

Most of the kids there knew all the words, but the challenge was to say it correctly facing the audience. If you make a mistake and even though you know you said 'a' in place of 'e', you cannot go back. It was a game of calm and confidence rather than just knowing the spelling.

My son did well for a few rounds and, in
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Aaron's Answers

The science behind atmospheric rivers

An atmospheric river (AR) is a flowing column of condensed water vapor in the atmosphere responsible for producing significant levels of rain and snow, especially in the Western United States. When ARs move inland and sweep over the mountains, the water vapor rises and cools to create heavy precipitation. Though many ARs are weak systems that simply provide beneficial rain or snow, some of the larger, more powerful ARs can create extreme rainfall and floods capable of disrupting travel, inducing mudslides and causing catastrophic damage to life and property. Visit www.researchnews.gov to learn more.

A strong AR transports an amount of water vapor roughly equivalent to 7.5-15 times the average flow of water at the mouth of the Mississippi River.

ARs are a primary feature in the entire global water cycle and are tied closely to both water supply and flood risks, particularly in the Western U.S.

On average, about 30-50% of annual precipitation on the West Coast is due to just a few AR events and contributes to the water supply—and flooding risk.

ARs move with the weather and are present somewhere on Earth's surface line.

ARs are approximately 200-250 miles wide on average.

Scientist improved understanding of ARs has come from roughly a decade of scientific studies that use observations from satellites, radar and ground-based in the direct support of weather models. More studies are underway, including a 2015 scientific mission that added data from instruments aboard a NOAA ship.



(Top) A diagram about atmospheric rivers
(Below) An image of the storm closing in on California

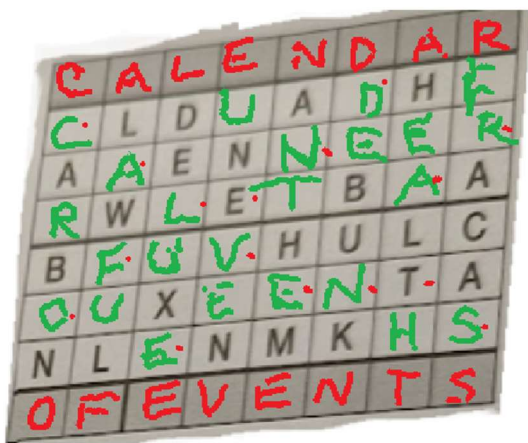
Questions: California was recently hit with a storm that has been characterized as an 'atmospheric river.' Until recently, I'd not heard that term. Is the development of such storms a fairly recent development?
-Jerry

Aaron's Answer (A'sA): Atmospheric rivers are actually kind of simple! Well, they can be explained in a simple manner. Everybody knows the atmosphere has currents and fronts that can collide and clash, merge etc.

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Solution to Last Month's Quiz

What's Happening ?



This Month's Quiz

Do You Want Seconds ?

February being the second month has inspired me to hunt through historical events to find some notable "also-rans." Can you identify them, and then transfer their circled letters to the correct corresponding numbered spaces below to find another meaning of "second"? It's a short month, but you needn't rush – you have TIME.

THE OTHER MEANING

5	7	4	1	9	3	10	5
		4	2		5		
8	4	4	9	6	1		

- 1 _ O _ _ O _ _ _ _ 1956
- 2 O _ _ _ 1976
- 3 _ O _ _ _ 1948
- 4 O O O O _ 1960
- 5 O O _ _ _ O _ _ 1892
- 6 _ _ _ _ _ _ O 1856
- 7 _ _ _ _ _ O _ 1940
- 8 O _ _ _ _ _ 2008
- 9 _ O _ _ _ O _ 1988
- 10 _ _ _ _ _ _ O _ _ 1964

Spelling Bee continued

my opinion, got disqualified because now he was **over**confident. Maybe that feeling was because most of his friends who he thought would do better than him were out...

It was an amazing experience, and I am sure everyone there learned so much more than just how to spell correctly. Sometimes, winning is not the only reason why we should participate: there's also the process, the exposure and the reality check. It is **so much more** than just a competition!

TARGET DATE FOR Next Month's Contributions

March 20, 2024

Please reach us with your articles, news, photos,
CHILDREN'S ARTWORK or ideas at

344 Bowfin, (650 572-9153) or email us at our
email EDITOR@BOWFININQUIRER.COM *or by*
adding a NOTE on our Facebook Page

or our website: BOWFININQUIRER.COM

Aaron's Answers continued

Atmospheric rivers are small sections of the atmosphere along the border of two major fronts or currents, which push the thin section in a certain direction. What's special about atmospheric rivers is that they tend to pick up a *lot* of moisture, hence the name river (it's a flowing body of water, in the air basically).

As it happens, California is hit by atmospheric rivers every year! It's estimated that California is hit by an average of 3-8 atmospheric rivers every year, though they are normally quite small. In fact, 30-50% of the rain that the west coast gets during winter is due to atmospheric rivers. It's quite a common occurrence, and yet it's quite rare that like this year a river is this large. Parts of California have severe thunderstorm and flood warnings, emphasizing how bad it is this year. The atmospheric river hitting California is probably associated with the massive storm system also approaching California, packed with rain and lightning. It's possible that like orbiting planets, the atmospheric river is being accelerated by the storm's rotation and also pulling off some parts of the storm. While atmospheric river are quite common, it's certainly true that this year's is the biggest in a while.

Coming Soon to Hillbarn Theatre



PERFORMANCE DATES

Thursday, March 21, 8pm
Friday, March 22, 8pm
Saturday, March 23, 8pm
Sunday, March 24, 2pm

Friday, March 29, 8pm
Saturday, March 30, 2pm
Saturday, March 30, 8pm
Sunday, March 31, 2pm*

Friday, April 5, 8pm*
Saturday, April 6, 2pm
Saturday, April 6, 8pm
Sunday, April 7, 2pm

MASK-REQUIRED PERFORMANCES
*Sunday, March 31, 2024 2PM
*Friday, April 5, 2024 8PM

TICKETS may be purchased online at www.hillbarntheatre.org, by phone at 650.349.6411 Ext. 2, or by visiting the Box Office at 1285 E. Hillsdale Avenue in Foster City, Tuesday – Friday 11am-3pm. Discounts are available for youth 18 years of age and under, seniors 65+, and groups of 10 or more.

Foster City

Chamber of Commerce

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The **San Francisco Chronicle's** on-line edition is easier for me to read, as my eyes aren't quite what they used to be. It's great to bone up on the SF Giants and Golden State Warriors seasons, sans eyestrain!