

# Annual McMaster Brain Bee



Department of Psychology,  
Neuroscience & Behaviour

McMaster  
University



## Information for Teachers

# 6th Annual McMaster Brain Bee

February 17, 2009

- The **Psychology, Neuroscience, and Behaviour** department at McMaster University is hosting the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual McMaster Brain Bee. Modeled after a spelling bee, students answer questions about the brain and neuroscience.
- The competition is open to students in grades 9 - 12 from all high schools in Hamilton and surrounding areas.
- Questions for the competition are based on the 2005 edition of the "**Brain Facts**" book (available online, check our web site for the link). This book is all you need to study for the local competition.
- There will be prizes for the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place winners.
- NEW! McMaster University will also be hosting the Second **CIHR Canadian National Brain Bee (CCNBB)** in the Spring of 2009! We hosted the very first CCNBB in May 2008 and it was a great success. Winners from local brain bees all over Canada will come to compete at the CCNBB. The winner will represent Canada at the International Brain Bee, to be held in Baltimore, Maryland in the fall of 2009. There are lots of prizes (cash, scholarships, trophies, travel) at each level of the competition.
- Interested students should visit our website:  
<http://brain.mcmaster.ca/BrainBee/>
- And definitely check out the CCNBB website for highlights of the first Canadian national competition:  
<http://brainbee.ca/>
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See reverse for more details....

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#### What is the Brain Bee?

- Modeled after a spelling bee, grade 9 to 12 students answer questions about the brain and neuroscience. This event provides students with a fun and exciting way of learning about issues such as memory, emotions, intelligence, movement, aging, stress, and lots more. Participation is a wonderful addition to an academic resume.

#### What is required?

##### Before the competition:

1. Visit the McMaster Brain Bee website (<http://brain.mcmaster.ca/BrainBee/>) for lots of information about this and past Brain Bee competitions.
2. Obtain a copy of the new 2005 edition of "Brain Facts" (available online, check our web site). All questions in the local Brain Bee will come from this book.
3. Contact Dr. Judith Shedden at [shedden@mcmaster.ca](mailto:shedden@mcmaster.ca) to register (check the web site for registration details).
4. Start studying! Students are welcome to study individually, in groups, or even organize a "Brain Bee Study Team" for their school. The competition itself is at an individual level.

##### On the day of the competition:

1. On Tuesday, February 17, 2009 students should arrive at McMaster University (Psychology Building) between noon and 1pm, ready to compete. We will all meet in the lobby of the Psychology building. The Brain Bee begins at 1pm and will end at about 4:30pm. Campus maps can be found on the Brain Bee web site.
2. Teachers are encouraged to come and support their students, but students are more than welcome to attend on their own if a teacher is not available.
3. Students, parents, teachers, and friends are all welcome to come and watch, even if they are not competing.
4. Enjoy the competition, reception and awards ceremony. There are prizes for the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place winners, and certificates and prizes for all the competitors.

Contact Dr. Judith Shedden at [shedden@mcmaster.ca](mailto:shedden@mcmaster.ca) if you have any questions about the competition. And also if you have ideas for how we might make it better!

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