



**CALLIGRAM
COMPETITION
DISEGNARE CON
LE PAROLE**

2026

What is the ILC Calligram Competition?

It is an annual competition run by ILC, encouraging school students from Prep to Year 8 to ‘disegnare con le parole’ / draw with words. Each year a new theme is introduced and students are invited to create a calligram aligned to the theme to showcase their creativity and language skills in a fun and engaging way.

What is a calligram?

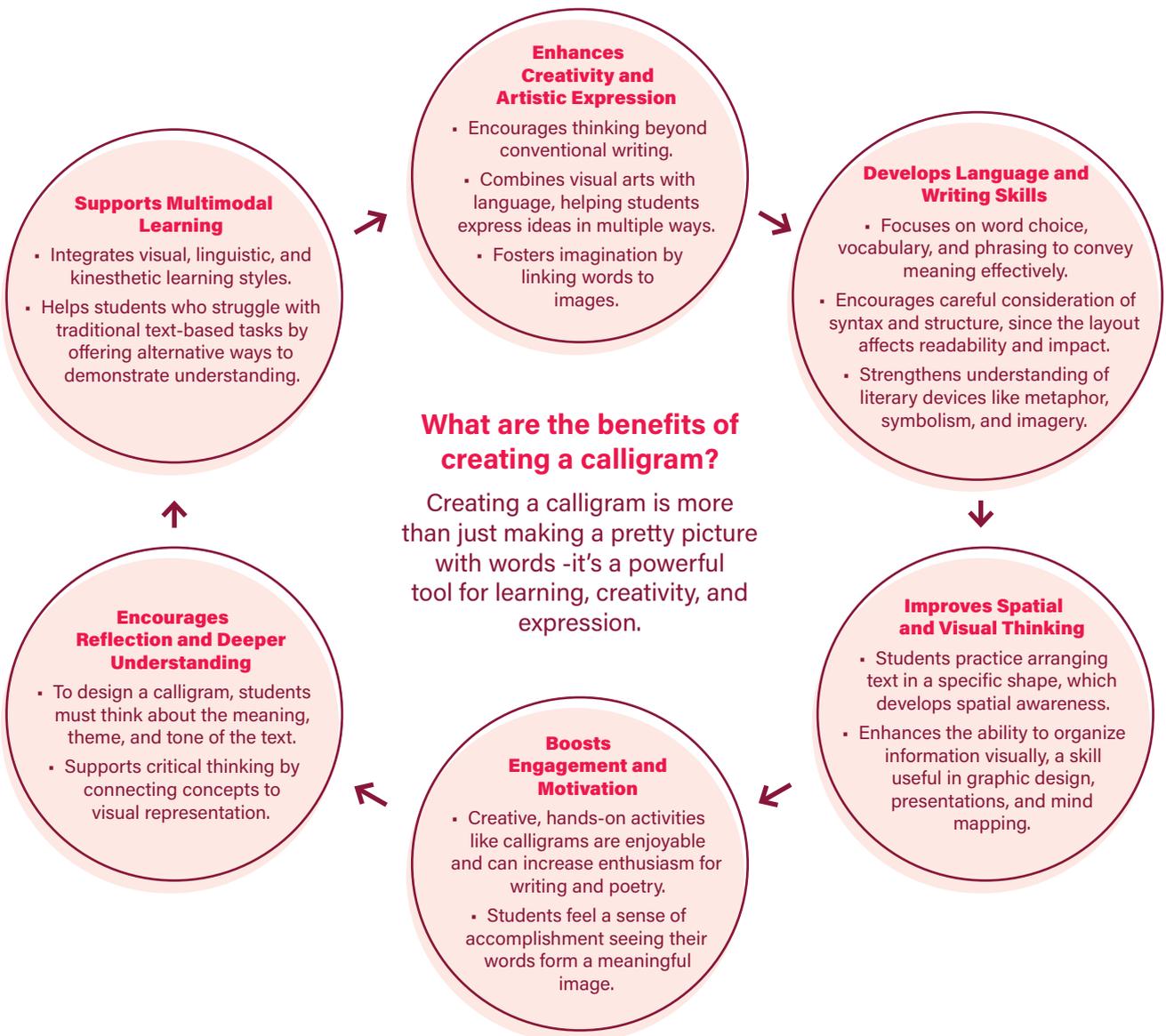
A calligram is a piece of text, usually a word, phrase, or poem, arranged visually so that the shape of the text forms a picture related to its meaning.

In other words, the way the words are laid out on the page reflects the subject or theme of the writing.

For example:

- A poem about a tree could be arranged so that the words form the shape of a tree.
- A love poem could have the words forming a heart.

Calligrams are a mix of visual art and literature, creating an image with the text itself rather than using separate drawings. They are often used for artistic expression, visual poetry, or creative design.



Theme
Vacanze al mare



Students are to create their calligram inspired by the theme Vacanze al mare / Holidays at the seaside. Each year level has different category as outlined below. Please instruct students to carefully follow the instructions, entry requirements and criteria.

Please follow the steps below before distributing the entry form to students:

Step 1: Complete the school details before printing the application forms to save time.

Step 2: Print the document double-sided.

Step 3: Distribute the forms to students.

Prep	Choose TWO of the following: SOLE, MARE, BARCA, PALLA
Year 1-2	Choose TWO of the following and include 1 COMPONENT for each word: PALETTA, ONDA, SABBIA, PESCE
Year 3-4	Choose TWO of the following and include 2 COMPONENTS for each of the TWO words you have chosen: GRANCHIO, OMBRELLONE, CAPPELLO, SPIAGGIA, MEDUSA, GABBIANO
Year 5-6	Choose a minimum of TWO of the following and create a scene. Add your own choice of words for COMPONENTS (maximum 10 words in total): SDRAIO, SABBIA, MOTOSCAFO, BAGNINO, CONCHIGLIA, GOMMONE
Year 7-8	Choose a minimum of THREE of the following and create a scene. Add your own choice of words for COMPONENTS (maximum 12 words in total): CREMA SOLARE, OCCHIALI, TELO DA MARE, SECCHIELLO, SALVAGENTE, INFRADITO, MATERASSINO

Finding COMPONENTS for your scene teaches students good dictionary practice & vocabulary research

Why should you or your students participate in the ILC Calligram Competition?

This activity provides a unique opportunity for your students to showcase their creativity and language skills in a fun and engaging way.

By creating calligrams, students can learn to:

- Demonstrate understanding of a text or concept through visual representation.
- Apply poetic and literary techniques in a creative format.
- Develop problem-solving and planning skills by arranging words to fit a shape.
- Enhance attention to detail in both writing and design.
- Express personal interpretations and emotions through art and language.

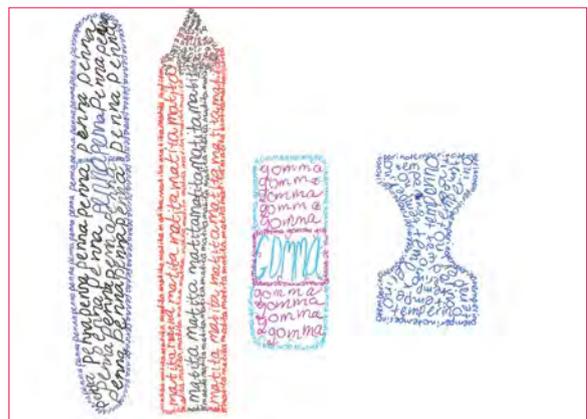
Medals and Certificates are awarded to the winners of each category, with winning and highly commended entries put on public display at ILC and published on our website.

Previous winners of our competitions



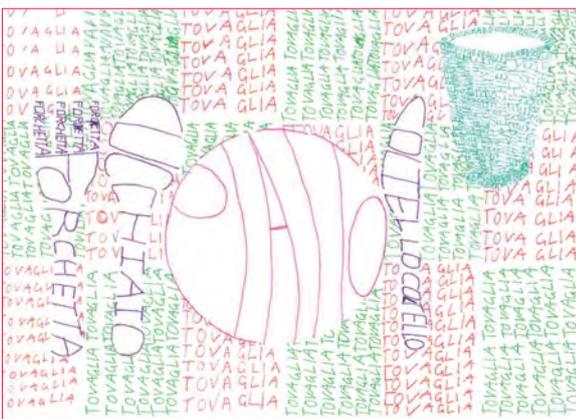
Theme: 'Mezzi di trasporto,' 2025

Year Level: Prep



Theme: 'In classe,' 2024

Year Level: Year 1-2



Theme: 'Apparechiamo-si mangia,' 2023

Year Level: Year 3-4



Theme: 'Le meraviglie del mare,' 2022

Year Level: Year 5-6

How to submit entries

Teachers must select the 3 best calligram artworks per Italian class that meet the specified entry criteria.

Once selected, the teacher must complete the competition entry form. Ensure students name are written clearly and accurately on the entry form as these will be used for printing names on winners certificates.

Once complete, attach the entry form to the back of the calligram artwork, and submit by:

- **Mail:** Italian Language Centre, Calligram Competition 2026, PO Box 59, ALBION BC 4010, or
- **In person:** Italian Language Centre, 473 Lutwyche Rd, Lutwyche QLD 4030

All entries must be received by the closing date of Friday 26 June 2026. Late entries will not be accepted.

Prizes

Winning artworks will be published on the ILC website and displayed at ILC with an artwork exhibition event (details to be confirmed) welcoming students and families to view the winning artworks.

Highly commended artwork entries will receive a commendation certificate, and artwork entries that do not place will receive a digital participation certificate emailed to their teacher.

Judging Criteria

Teachers of ILC will be judging the artwork entries and will be looking for:

- Entry criteria met
- Correct spelling
- Clearly legible words
- Creative use of Italian words to form shapes and textures
- Colour variation of written words to create shading and highlights

Competition Terms and conditions

- No colouring in. All words **must** be clearly legible.
- No outlines. Ensure any outlines are erased from calligram artwork before submission.
- All words **must** be in Italian.
- Correct spelling of Italian words **must** be used. Spelling mistakes will be penalised.
- All entries **must** be completed on the provided entry form with artwork large enough to fill the space.
- Entries **must not** be framed or mounted on backing.
- Entries must contain the relevant category criteria.
- Teachers **must** select and send **best 3 entries per Italian class only.**
- Entry Form is completed and attached to the back of each entry. Print student name clearly and accurately on entry form.
- Names on winning certificates are written as per the entry form. Ensure spelling is correct as certificates cannot be re-done.
- All entries **must** be received by **closing date Friday 26 June 2026.** Late entries **will not** be accepted.



Italian Language Centre

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