

The John Carroll School Theatre Department  
presents



## The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee

May 21<sup>st</sup> & May 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 PM  
May 22<sup>nd</sup> & May 23<sup>rd</sup> at 2:00 PM

Director – Larry Hensley    Music Director – Julie Parrish

Winner of Tony and Drama Desk Awards, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* has charmed audiences across the country with its wit and humor. An eclectic group of six students vie for the spelling championship of a lifetime. The tweens spell their way through a series of "interesting" words, hoping never to hear the soul-crushing, pout-inducing, life un-affirming "ding" of the bell that signals a spelling mistake. Six spellers enter.....one speller leaves as champion. A riotous ride, complete with audience participation, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* is a delightful den of comedic genius. The Bee is one unforgettable experience!

### **AUDITIONS – JC AUDITORIUM** (by appointment only)

Monday, February 22 (4:00 – 8:00) - Grades 9 / 10 – Register for Audition time here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090444AF28ABFF2-910>

Tuesday, February 23 (4:00 – 8:00) - Grades 11 / 12 – Register for Audition time here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090444AF28ABFF2-1112>

Wednesday, February 24 (4:00 – 7:00) - Callbacks as needed

## **CHARACTER LIST**

*CHIP TOLENTINO* – an athletic, social, boy scout and champion of the Twenty-Fourth Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, he returns to defend his title.

*LOGAINNE SCHWARTZANDGRUBENIERE* - is the youngest and most politically aware speller, often making comments about current political figures. She is driven by internal and external pressure, but above all by a desire to win to make her two fathers proud. She is somewhat of a neat freak, speaks with a lisp, and is a little uncomfortable in her body.

*LEAF CONEYBEAR* - the second runner-up in his district, Leaf gets into the competition on a lark and finds everything about the bee incredibly amusing. He is home-schooled and comes from a large family of former hippies. He has severe Attention Deficit Disorder and spells words correctly while in a trance. His mother has made him wear his protective helmet to the bee.

*WILLIAM BARFEE* - a Putnam County Spelling Bee finalist last year, he was eliminated because of an allergic reaction to peanuts and is back for vindication. His famous "Magic Foot" method of spelling has boosted him to spelling glory, even though he only has one working nostril and is loud, combative with a defensive and bullying personality. He develops a crush on Olive.

*MARCY PARK* - the ultimate over-achiever, Marcy has never been given another option. She comes from a family where excellence is expected and so simply produced. A parochial school student, she assumes God, too, expects perfection. She sees herself as a mass of problems but she keeps them to herself. Her many talents include piano, dance, martial arts, baton twirling, etc.

*OLIVE OSTROVSKY* - a word lover, Olive has a fairly quiet life. An only child with often-absent parents, Olive spends a lot of her time alone. She fills some of that time reading the dictionary – the words bring her comfort, as does the idea of the vastness of the world the book contains. During the first half of the bee, she often peers into the audience to see if her father, who is delayed at work, has made it yet. She starts enormously shy, and shyly blossoms.

*RONA LISA PERETTI* - the number-one realtor in Putnam County, a former Putnam County Spelling Bee Champion herself, and the returning moderator. She is a sweet woman who loves children, but she can be very stern when it comes to dealing with Vice Principal Panch and his feelings for her.

*VICE PRINCIPAL DOUGLAS PANCH* – is frustrated with his life. He fell into education, less out of love than a general ability uncoupled to a particular passion. The drive of the young spellers is alien to him. He never found anything that important. Stuck in his current job, endlessly awaiting a promotion that isn't coming, he was not happy to get the call that he was needed to substitute; but he starts the bee eager to do well, to redeem himself for past mistakes, and to impress the local hostess, Rona Lisa, who impressed him long ago.

*MITCH MAHONEY* - the Official Comfort Counselor. An ex-convict, Mitch is performing his community service with the Bee, and hands out juice boxes to losing students. He has no idea how to offer comfort but does find himself wishing he could find a way to make the kids feel better.

*CARL DAD* - Schwarzy's main trainer, the more intense and competitive of Schwarzy's fathers.

*DAN DAD* - the more laid back and ineffectual of Schwarzy's fathers.

*JESUS CHRIST* - invoked by a speller in need.

*LEAF'S MOM, DAD, AND SIBLINGS* - all more academically gifted than Leaf, they are even more surprised than he is by his success.

*OLIVE'S DAD* - a fantasy version of Olive's dad coming to the bee from work.

*OLIVE'S MOM* - a fantasy version of Olive's mom at her Ashram in India.