

A Buzz in the Theater

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee



Can You Spell E-N-E-R-G-Y?

For nine weeks, over two hundred and fifty hours, the cast of the musical **"The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee"** devoted their evenings, school holidays and some weekends to rehearsals. Like the most dedicated of athletes, they ran through scenes and musical numbers over and over until they nailed them. (Clockwise from top): Olive Ostrovsky (Tori Hartson, 11) and William Barfee (Marshall Webb, 12) share a moment at the microphone. **The Bee Team** (Lucie Englehart, 9, Saskia Reford, 9, Maddie Guy, 11, and Alex Jimenez, 9) stirs up publicity for the musical. Rona Lisa Peretti (Jane Emma Barnett, 12) sings about her "favorite moment of the Bee". **Olive Ostrovsky** (Tori Hartson, 11) and **William Barfee** (Marshall Webb, 12) hug triumphantly as Barfee wins 1st prize, as presented by **Vice Principal Douglas Panch** (Drew McElvany, 12). In the heart-wrenching climax of the show, **Olive's parents** (Natalie Curran, 12, and Alex Jimenez, 9) sing their hearts out about their daughter as Olive dreams The I Love You Song, made all the more moving for its chimerical nature. **Backstage, crew and cast members** celebrate opening night: Marshall Webb, 12; J.T. Garcia, 10; Micaela Hogan, 11; Dante Jarrett-Izzi, 10; Drew McElvany, 12; Elizabeth-Anne Casillas, 12; Alex Jimenez, 9; and Mr. Joseph Muller, the director. The **girls' dressing room** is full of energy on opening night, as cast members get changed before curtain: Natalie Curran, 12; Saskia Reford, 9; Gabby Garcia, 9; Maddie Guy, 11; Mary Barnett, 10; Tori Hartson, 11; Zoe McCreary, 9.



Lose yourself in the moment

Each cast member is an important member of this hilarious, heartwarming musical.

"I enjoyed learning a song and being more involved in the musical than I thought I'd be. It was awesome to meet new people and become a singer with them."
- Alex Jimenez, 9 (far right in above photo)

"Buzz words"



Marshall Webb (12), whose character William Barfee sings about his foot's magical spelling abilities, enthuses, "I've always wanted to dance in a chorus line!"

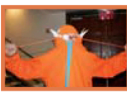
In the limelight

Philip Clement, 10; Gabby Garcia, 9; Mary Barnett, 10; Thomas Curran, 9; Tori Hartson, 11; Marshall Webb, 12; and Ben Parrish, 11.

Chilling offstage

The boys prepare themselves for their second performance. Alex Jimenez, 9; J.T. Garcia, 10; Marshall Webb, 12; Ben Parrish, 11; Drew McElvany, 12; Braedon House, 9; Sam Hawkins, 12.

"Being the stage manager is one of the most rewarding jobs. Elizabeth Anne and I both worked very hard to help the cast put this on, and seeing their success on and off the stage is the best thing I could ever ask for! This cast was so much like a family to me and working with them was perfect way to end my last musical at Saint Mary's Hall!" — **Cita Atwell**, 12



"Being in this year's musical has been a great experience for me. The community that it creates is simply astounding because everyone is there to enjoy themselves and have fun through creating something that will be with us for the rest of our lives." — **Philip Clement**, 10



Last bow

The cast of "The Twenty-Fifth Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" raises their joined arms triumphantly in the closing number. Throughout the course of this production, cast mates grew very close as friendships formed across all age groups. Senior Natalie Curran, third from left, reflects that "the beauty of an ensemble production is that each person is vital to the show. I felt an amazing bond with all my cast mates, from freshmen to my fellow seniors, and it is that mutual love and respect that made this show so incredible."

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