

25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee

Music & Lyrics by William Finn,
Book by Rachel Sheinkin,
Conceived by Rebecca Feldman

Production Team

Directed by David McCamish
Musical Direction by Melanie Guerin
Choreography by Kate Loughlin
Assistant Direction by David Edgar
Costume Design by Lisa Bebey
Lighting Design by Tate R. Burmeister
Technical Direction by Ken Jones
Properties by Kate Loughlin
Sound Design by Kyle Olmstead
Head of the Performing Arts Program – Susan Chrzanowski

Technical Team

Kai Sheng Tham – Sound Engineer/ Assistant Stage Manager
Jasper Gitlitz -Stage Manager
Isa Spina – Stage Manager
Jamnia Ai - Technical Crew/ Assistant Stage Manager
Angela Adu-Boateng – Technical Crew/Sound
Emma Dear – Technical Crew/Spotlight Operator

Pit Musicians

Clara Chen – Clarinet
Cal McCandless – Drums/Percussion
Angela Ye - Flute

Please Note: No Flash Photography or Video Taping during performance.

Gratuities

Special thanks to the following for making this show possible:

Andris Briga
Asmir Nurkic and the Housekeeping Team
Ben Riva
Bruce Vidito
Campus Safety
Dan Corjulo
Dan Foley and the Electrical Team
Grounds and Landscaping
Greg Flower, voice instructor
Lance Hall
The Loomis Chaffee Deans
LCPA
Mike Fischer and Campus Services
Paula Henriques, Accounts Payable

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Cast of Artful Spellerz

Rona Lisa Perretti/Olive Mom	Lana	Breheney
Chip Tolentino/Jesus	Aidan	Cooper
Marcy Parks	Eva Millay	Evans
Leaf Coneybear/Carl Dad	John	Howley
Logainne Schwartzandgrubennier (Schwarzy)	Rosalie	Lyons
Olive Ostrovsky	Talia	Mayo
Vice Principal Paula Panch	Elizabeth	Pecoraro
Williamina Barfée	Kassie	Rivera
Mitch M. Mahoney/Dan Dad/Olive Dad	Baihan (Tom)	Zhang

Cast of Spellicans

Vice Principal Douglas Panch/Dan Dad	Arthur	Beaugeard
Chip Tolentino/Carl Dad	Brigham	Cooper
Marcy Parks	Jessica	Luo
Logainne Schwartzandgrubennier (Schwarzy)	Rosalie	Lyons
Leaf Coneybear	Vanessa	Magid
William Barfée /Olive Dad	Ben	Radmore
Olive Ostrovsky	Kate	Shymkiv
Rona Lisa Perretti/Olive Mom	Jade	Silverstein
Meg M. Mahoney/Jesus	Grace	Thompson

The Musical Numbers

1. The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee - *Company*
2. The Spelling Rules/my Favourite Moment of the Bee - *Panch, Rona and Spellers*
3. My Friend the Dictionary - *Panch, Rona, Olive & Company*
4. The First Goodbye - *Company*
5. Pandemonium - *Chip & Company*
6. I'm Not That Smart - *Leaf Coneybear*
7. The Second Goodbye - *Company*
8. Magic Foot - *Mr. Barfee & Company*
9. Pandemonium (Reprise) - *Chip, Mitch, Rona & Company*
10. My Favourite Moment of the Bee 2
11. Prayer of the Comfort Counsellor - *Mitch & Company*
12. Why We Like Spelling - *Spellers*
13. My Unfortunate Erection (Chip's Lament) - *Chip*
14. Woe Is me - *Schwarzy, Schwarzy' Dads & Company*
15. I'm Not That Smart (Reprise) - *Coneybear*
16. I Speak Six Languages - *Marcy & Girls*
17. The I Love You Song - *Olive, Rona & Mitch*
18. Woe Is me (Reprise) - *Schwarzy & Company*
19. My Favourite moment of the Bee 3
20. Second - *Rona, Olive, Barfee & Company*
21. Finale - *Company*
22. The Last Goodbye - *The Company*

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THE SPELLING BEE BIOS

The Artful Spellerz

Lana Breheney '21 (Rona/Olive Mom) After acting in all 8 shows since her freshman year Lana is excited and very tired but cannot wait to continue acting in college. She wants to thank all of the amazing family she has gained in the past 4 years. “They’ll hold the scene” “Let’s go!” and “Johns acting” are some quotes she will never forget! Also, thank you to Mr. McCamish for dealing with and teaching Lana for over 1000 hours.

Aidan Cooper '22 (Chip/Jesus): Aidan is ebullient to return once more to the Loomis stage, in whatever form, for his fourth theatrical production! Though his former English teachers would denounce such flagrant verbosity, he appreciates the opportunity to challenge his lexicon in this sensational Spelling Bee. Aidan is a subordinate editor of the Loom and a stressed academic. Thank you to the cast and company for preserving the NEO spunk in these bizarre times! May the finest participant triumph!

Eva Millay Evans '21 (Marcy Park) This is Eva’s fourth and final show at Loomis, where she plays the ultimate overachiever (but that’s not like her at all). Eva speaks only two languages, but has written over 157 original songs on guitar and plans to release an album this summer! Outside of the theater, she can be found crushing kids in ping pong and dancing to Taylor Swift in the dining hall. She thanks everyone who is a part of this show.

John Howley '21 (Coneybear/Carl Dad) Finally, after four years of playing murderous dictators, decrepit old women, and Shakespearean fools, John is taking his final NEO bow as a naive man-child. Regardless of which character John is portraying on-stage, his tenure in the NEO – whether in a building or on a platform – has been transformative. He wishes to thank Mr. McCamish, his current castmates, and the talented casts and crews from each of his eight shows for four years of laughs and love.

Rosalie Lyons '21 (Schwartzzy) Rosalie is back for a 7th show and a bittersweet end to her NEO career. Being Logainne in both casts, she wants to thank everyone for 2x the laughs and love. She is particularly pumped to flaunt her somersault skills on stage instead of just in the NEO greenroom.

Outside of acting Rosalie stares at the sky and writes a bunch. She will miss the NEO with her entire being.

Talia Mayo '21 (Olive) Talia is overjoyed to do her 8th and final show at the NEO. Starting as Young Fiona in *Shrek* (a nerdy little girl with abandonment issues) and ending as Olive (a nerdy little girl with abandonment issues), Talia has shown a tremendous range over her 1200 hours in the NEO (just kidding, she also played a murderer in *Macbeth!*) She would like to thank the NEO for some of the best memories of her life.

Elizabeth Pecoraro '21 (Panch) Elizabeth is very excited to participate in her first and final NEO musical! She was previously featured as the prestigious Guard #2 in last fall's *Antigonick*. She hopes that her latest role as Paula Panch will be just as, if not even more, memorable than her last! She is so grateful for the opportunity to be a part of such a wonderful production, and she will treasure the memories made with her amazing cast and crew forever.

Kassie Rivera '21 (Barféé) Is anyone really surprised that the culmination of Kassie's 8 show career in the NEO is her role as a 12 year old nerd? She's definitely not. Outside of the NEO, Kassie doesn't have any free time but sometimes she sits on the floor and reads. In all seriousness, the NEO's been a home for Kassie these last 4 years and she couldn't be more grateful to have met such a lovely group of people.

Baihan "Tom" Zhang '21 (Mitch M. Mahoney/Dan Dad/Olive Dad) Tom is beyond happy to be a part of NEO's history-making cast that put on an unprecedented production outdoors defying the chaos and disaster of the Covid. Tom did not shave his head because of the show. In fact, he wanted all this hair gone since a long time ago. He is predicting that his bald head will grow into a buzzcut by the time of the show. Did that happen? Breathe in the reality of outdoor theatre and let it take you away.

Cast of Spellicans

Arthur F. Beugeard '23 (Vice Principal Panch) wants you to know that his last name is pronounced bow-jhar. He is a new sophomore at the Loomis Chaffee School and his activities include theater, debate, and writing for publications on campus. In his free time, he enjoys sleeping and reading himself to sleep.

Brigham Cooper '24(Chip) Brigham is very excited and honored to bring Chip to life! When not sliding around uncontrollably onstage, he enjoys making/listening to music while thinking about all the work he should be doing. This is Brigham's first production here at Loomis and is eager to participate in many more. He wants to thank his incredible cast members for welcoming him in with open arms. It was a very nice beginning indeed!

Jade Silverstein '23 (Rona) Jade is syzyg-yzed to perform in her second Loomis show. Surprisingly, her prediction last year about a parking lot show was indeed correct. Playing a micromanaging, ecstatic thirty year old has been beyond enjoyable for her. Jade has now developed an interest in announcing people's presence with unnecessary details. She is also considering buying a green power suit. She hopes you enjoy the bee, and is overly prepared (per-Rona-usual) to hear you spell!

Jessica Luo '24 (Marcy Park): Jessica is honored to be playing the role of Marcy Park in this year's production of spelling bee, her first Neo musical. Marcy's confidence can be contrasted against Jessica's actual personality which she is currently working on. Occasionally, she becomes hermit and hides in boxes under her bed, and you can often find her in the practice rooms or miserably studying at her desk. She hopes that everyone reading this will have a great day!

Rosalie Lyons '21 (Schwartz) Rosalie is back for a 7th show and a bittersweet end to her NEO career. Being Logainne in both casts, she wants to thank everyone for 2x the laughs and love. She is particularly pumped to flaunt her somersault skills on stage instead of just in the NEO greenroom. Outside of acting Rosalie stares at the sky and writes a bunch. She will miss the NEO with her entire being.

Vanessa Magid '22 (Coneybear) Vanessa is thrilled to perform in her 4th Loomis show. Living in her glory days as a 12 year old, Vanessa has a newfound love for South American rodents, hair clips, and rainbow heelys. When not in the "NEO", who is she kidding, she's never not in the "NEO". Vanessa would like to thank her cast-mates and directors for keeping her afloat, in check, and teaching her how to attempt to do a push up.

Benjamin Radmore '22 (William Barfeé) Ben can barely contain his excitement for his sixth mainstage role with the LC theater department. He has relished every moment in this new environment, exhilarated by the opportunity to perform with others again. Outside of the theater, Ben enjoys playing D&D and listening to rock music. He wants to thank his friends and mentors for their continued support, and the audience for their patronage under these exciting new conditions!

Kate Shymkiv '22 (Olive) Kate is excited to perform in her second 'NEO' show as a shy, neglected kid. Apart from practicing her stage combat skills with her fellow stage partner Ben, Kate is often seen jiggling her limbs to random songs aka dancing. She wants to thank the actors, the tech crew, her friends and her parents for getting her through the junior year!
#juniorspringvibes

Grace Thompson '22 (Meg M. Mahoney/Jesus) Grace is thrilled to be a part of Putnam County Spelling Bee and playing her dream role, a convicted criminal. When she is not pretending to be a sacred religious figure on stage you can find her in the library probably trying to finish her Latin homework. She'd like to thank her parents for their support, her sisters for their funny memes and her fellow castmates for an amazing experience.

The Technical Crew

Isa Spina '22 (Stage Manager) Joyful to be outside, Isa is super enthusiastic about her second show! She is even more enchanted by the magic of theater and the outdoors! Pulling out this show has been a unique experience for all the cast. During rehearsals, it is likely to find Isa holding her clipboard all around and taking notes of everything! It is an honor to share these moments with such wonderful people!

Jasper Gitlitz '22 (Stage Manager) Jasper is thrilled to be returning to his position of Stage Manager for his fourth show at Loomis and third show as stage manager along with the amazing Isa Spina. Despite his terrible spelling skills, Jasper loves watching the audience volunteers spell and claiming that he could spell better than them. When he's not in rehearsals, Jasper enjoys playing the trumpet and studying for his pilot's license.

Kai Sheng Tham '21 (Sound Engineer, Assistant Stage Manager) The Guy Who Does Sound, An Absolute Beast) This is Kai's seventh and last show. It is also the seventh time writing a bio for the playbill and he still lacks creativity to reach the 75 words limit. He sleeps on the floor of Hubbard. He left us for a while for water polo; only one person was sad about that. He still does not know what to write. Fourteen, thirteen, twelve, eleven, ten, nine, eight, seven, six, five, four...enjoy the show!

Jamnia Ai '24 (Technical Crew/ Assistant Stage Manager) - Jamnia joined the musical this year as a future assistant stage manager, helping out with both sound and light. Even though English is one of her favourite classes, her spelling is horrible and her autocorrect has finally given up on helping her. When not in Hubbard for theatre, you can find her in practice rooms, playing the piano or the clarinet or on walks around campus.

Angela Adu-Boateng '24 (Technical Crew) Angela is excited to be able to participate in her first ever musical at Loomis... and in her entire life. Although she wasn't able to be a part of the production this year, she hopes to be an actor during next year's musical. She was so happy to get to know everyone and is very excited for her future in theater.

Emma Dear '22 (Spotlight Operator) Emma is very excited to be back in her second year of tech working the spotlight. Outside of theater tech, Emma is also responsible for managing the lights and sound for the various weekend events on campus, so she is happy to continue expanding her knowledge of lights and bringing it back to theatrical productions. When she's not working with tech, you can find her in the pool playing water polo or taking a nap.

The Student Musicians

Clara Chen '21 (Clarinet) After her pit orchestra debut in the *The Addams Family* last year, Clara is excited to return for her second and last Loomis musical. She has performed in a variety of ensembles including the LC wind ensemble, All-State orchestra, and All-Nationals Concert Band. In addition to clarinet, Clara has also been dancing and playing piano from a young age. She is part of the dance company and plays the piano accompaniment for Musical Revue.

Angela Ye '24 (Flute) Angela has been playing in orchestras and ensembles for the past three years in her previous school in Hong Kong and is so excited to be playing in the pit orchestra in her first musical at Loomis. Other than playing the flute she also runs and loves cooking and eating.

Cal McCandless '21 (Pit, drums and percussion) Cal is excited to return to pit performance with LC's musical theatre program as he moves into a jazz drums performance major next year in college. When he's not practicing, Cal is a passionate captain of the crosscountry team and an avid tennis player. Cal's excited for the end of the year and the show's coming performances!

The Production Team

David McCamish (Director) David is thrilled to direct the first outdoor musical at Loomis Chaffee, his 16th show on the Island. David has directed and performed throughout Connecticut, and across the United States. He is a guest director & adjunct professor at the University of Hartford's Hartt School, where pre-Covid he provided fight direction for Cloud Nine. Other recent fight credits include Macbeth (Trinity College), Breakdancing Shakespeare (Hartford Stage). David has taught acting for Long Wharf Theater, Hartford Stage, Hartt School of Theatre, Hartford Performs, Center for Creative Youth at Wesleyan University, GHAA, and Manhattan Edge. He has been seen in New York City on stage at Lucille Lortel, 45th Street Playhouse, New Perspectives, @here, Manhattan Edge, Collective Unconscious, The Sandy Meisner Theatre, 23rd Street Studio, and with Shakespeare's Sister Company. Locally, David has crossed the boards with Bated Breath Theatre Company, Capital Classics, Art Farm, Oddfellows Playhouse, and HartBeat Ensemble.

Melanie Guerin (Musical Director) Ms. Guerin taught in Connecticut public schools for eleven years before joining the faculty at The Hartt School, where she teaches courses in conducting and musicianship and serves as a vocal coach, music director, and accompanist in the Theatre Division. As a music director, Melanie enjoys working with school, community and professional theater companies, including the Young People's Center for Creative Arts, Ivoryton Playhouse, and Playhouse on Park. After such a difficult year without live musicals, Melanie is very grateful to everyone who made this production of "Spelling Bee" possible. www.melaniebguerin.com

Kate Loughlin (Choreographer/Properties) Miss Kate has been the dance teacher and choreographer at Loomis Chaffee since 2009. She began her dance life as an Irish Step Dancer at age three, and never looked back. Trained in ballet, modern, jazz, tap, and choreography, Kate credits her teachers and mentors with leading her to the fulfilling career she loves. Kate earned her BA in Dance and graduated Cum Laude by Connecticut College in 1998. She taught at Choate Rosemary Hall for ten years before coming to Loomis Chaffee to work with the most talented, dedicated and hard working students in the world. There is a saying, "Do what you love, and you'll never work a day in your life," and Kate gets to live that every day. The dancers

and actors at LC give Kate joy, purpose, inspiration, and happiness, and she counts herself as one of the luckiest people in the world because of these students. Thank you for coming out to support our cast and crew, and please enjoy the show!

David Edgar (Assistant Director) Mr. Edgar teaches Freshmen and Sophomores. When not coaching spelling in Chaffee or Brush, he can be found lounging in Loomis's most elite dorm (Kravis). Despite the COVID, his first year at Loomis has been a joy!

Lisa Bebey (Costume Designer) Lisa was the Costume Shop Manager at Hartford Stage for 14 years, and has built costumes for the Long Wharf Theatre, Goodspeed Opera, Theaterworks and the Yale Repertory Theatre. For almost 20 years she has worked with students as the resident costume designer for the Loomis Chaffee School. Her design work has also been seen at Ivoryton Playhouse, NVCC , Hall High and Seven Angels.

Tate R. Burmeister (Lighting Designer) Tate has worked as a designer and technical director throughout Connecticut, Minnesota, California, and New York and is enjoying her 11th season as the lighting designer for Loomis Theater and Dance department. In addition to working as a designer, Tate is the Asst. Production Manager for Escapology Escape Rooms. In Connecticut, she has designed for Playhouse on Park, Ivoryton Playhouse, Seven Angels Theatre, Hartford Stage Education Department, Oddfellows Playhouse, Albano Ballet, and others, as well as various local schools.

Kyle Olmstead Based in Boston, Kyle has designed sound for productions at Central Square Theater, The Barnstormers Theatre, The Dana Center, and many other schools and theaters in Massachusetts and Connecticut. Kyle is thrilled to be back for his 15th production at Loomis Chaffee. He is most proud of his sound designs for *The Old Man and the Old Moon*, *Into The Woods*, *Addams Family*, *Anything Goes*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, *A Little Night Music*, *Pippin*, *Urinetown*, *Big River*, *Brundibar*, *Other People's Money*, *The Unexpected Guest*, *The Glass Menagerie*, *Painting Churches*, *It Had To Be You*, *You Can't Take It With You*, *The Foreigner*, *Metamorphoses*, *Anon(ymous)*, and *The Laramie Project*. He has also worked as an audio engineer and production sound engineer for the Hartford Stage. Previously, he worked under renowned sound designer Frank Gaeta, owner of Sound For Film in Los Angeles, California. While there he worked on films such as *Twilight*, *Taking Chance*, and *Surfer, Dude*, with actors and directors that

included Matthew McConaughey, Catherine Hardwicke, Robert Pattinson, and Kristen Stewart.

Ken Jones (*Technical Director*) Ken is delighted to have collaborated in his 18th consecutive show with Loomis Chaffee Theater & Dance. He has designed and staged over 125 productions in the Farmington Valley area. Since 2003, Ken has directed and taught theater craft for a number of local theater groups, including Canton Public Schools, Avon Summer Theater, Theatre Guild of Simsbury, and of course The Loomis Chaffee NEO Theater. Ken is also Vice President of Theater Operations and Lead Production Designer for Farmington Valley Stage Company in Canton. In his tech notes, Ken writes: "This show is a perfect choice for staging outside, with Hubbard Music Center and Chaffee Hall as its backdrop. Our crew has faced interesting conditions unique to the outdoors including rain, wind, and bright sunlight that often seems to be at the "wrong" angle. Despite these challenges, everyone is joyful to be creating and performing. The show ALWAYS goes on!"

Susan Barone Chrzanowski -Performing Arts Department Chair - Now in her 23rd year at LC, Ms. Chrz is thrilled to be a part of the first outdoor full-scale musical on the Island. She has enjoyed supporting this production immensely – and she learned a lot of new words. Congratulations to the exceptionally talented cast, crew, pit orchestra, and production team!

Coming soon from the Performing Arts...

Next week: Spring Dance Show Under the Stars

Guitar and Jazz Ensemble - May 4th

Ensemble Sampler - May 10th

Spring Improvaganza Under the Stars TBA

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