



Come See *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee!*

Mona Gelfgatt, Freshman
REPORTER

The MHS Drama Club is thrilled to introduce their second production of the year, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*. With peculiar characters, challenging words, hidden love in the air, and intense life stories, you are bound to leave the theater with a smile on your face.

This chaotic show is a musical comedy centralized around six quirky kids and three equally quirky adults. Rona Lisa Perretti, being the host of the bee, is beyond excited to bring up a new speller into the world of winners. She herself won the third Annual Spelling Bee, the highlight of her life. On the other hand, Vice Principal Panch does not want to be there, but has been recruited to be the word pronouncer. And then there's Mitch, who is doing his community service work by comforting the children after their losses.

Right as the show starts, we meet last year's champion Chip Tolentino, the intelligent Logainne Schwartzandgrubenniere, not so smart Leaf Coneybear, unusual William Barfee, solemn Marcy Park, and modest Olive Ostrovsky. As the show continues, through flashbacks, we learn of the kids' deep truths hidden behind their covers. Marcy Park might not be all business, and Logainne Schwartzandgrubenniere isn't just brains. As each speller gets eliminated, the temperature of the competition rises. We learn more and more about the characters, growing to love them.

So come watch this mess of a bee! With songs ranging from energetic to jazzy to emotional, I promise that

Small Town Civic Duty

Zoe Gast, Sophomore
REPORTER

Marblehead is a unique town in many aspects including our close-knit town politics. We operate under an Open Town Meeting government, which means all eligible and registered voters in town can vote on town issues directly, rather than their say ending at elected representatives. The Representative Town Meeting government is what Swampscott employs, making Marblehead's open format distinctive. Town meetings are held annually on the first Monday of May, and during these meetings registered voters can attend to vote on the articles, also known as issues brought to the town. These articles make up the warrant, or the agenda, which can be found prior to the meeting on the Town of Marblehead website. As the annual meeting comes close, residents start to see people with signs advocating in public spaces about their issue. I enjoy seeing these people because it reminds me of our unique town government and that many adults actively participate in it.

Anyone with a proposition can get their article on the year's warrant in a multitude of ways. The Board of Selectmen, who the residents of Marblehead vote for, can sponsor an article, however the general public can also draft articles.

you'll be on the edge of your seat, dancing to every word. The arts community is so relieved to finally bring the art of performance to the public, so come support them and enjoy an hour and a half of pure joy. But beware, you might end up being a contestant, battling the roomful of insanely gifted kids.

When Is It?

Friday May 21, 6:00 p.m
Saturday May 22, 4:00 p.m
Sunday May 23, 2:00 p.m

Where?

Marblehead High School Tent!

How Do I Get Tickets?

www.ticketstage.com/T/MH-SCHOOLS

Seats are limited, so buy your tickets fast. You can also get a parking spot and sit in or atop your car!

Who Will I See?

Dan Howells as Chip Tolentino
Kate Tucker as Logainne Schwartzandgrubenniere
Griffin Homan as Leaf Coneybear
Tyler Earp as William Barfee
Molly Grant as Marcy Park
Audrey Jones as Olive Ostrovsky
Mona Gelfgatt as Rona Lisa Perretti
Will Taylor as Vice Principal Douglas Panch
Griffen Collins as Mitch Mahoney
Luke Menslage as Jesus, Olive's Dad, and Carl Dad
Marv Worrick as Leaf's Dad and Dan's Dad
Peyton McDonough as Leaf's Mom
Katie Kowalsky as Olive's Mom

After writing their article, they must get ten signatures from other registered voters, and then it will be put to the table.

This year's meeting occurred on May 3. For COVID safety, it was held outside in a tent behind the Our Lady, Star of the Sea church on Atlantic Avenue. The seats were spaced apart and masks were mandatory to adhere to Governor Baker's COVID regulations. Because of the location change, MHTV wasn't able to live stream the event, but rather record and post it the next day. Since I am not a registered voter, I couldn't sit with the general population, so I instead sat in a line of seats behind the stage. This is because the votes are counted by a show of hands, and these preventive measures ensured that I couldn't raise my hand and illegally vote. Sitting here was actually good for my first meeting because I could see everyone in the audience, and I was right behind the people speaking. Looking in the crowd, I saw a lot of recognizable faces of members of the community involved in MHS clubs. Although there were some, very few young people attended. I don't just mean high school students, but people from 18 to 30 years old. I understand that people in that demographic are busy and/or have moved away for schooling, but town politics is something so easy to participate in, and a simple way to see changes in the community.

Myth After Myth: Read *The Iliad!*

Aislin Freedman, Freshman
REPORTER

Over the last fifteen years, a book series has risen and remained on the New York Times Children's Series Bestseller List for over 600 weeks. This series, as you may already know, is none other than *Percy Jackson* by Rick Riordan, or as his fans call him, "Uncle Rick." This series is about a boy who finds himself thrust into a world of monsters and gods, all from the ancient Greek myths. Rick Riordan has also written companion books: *Percy Jackson's Greek Gods* and *Percy Jackson's Greek Heroes*, which are narrated by the dyslexic main character of the bestselling series, and dive further into the myths.

I highly recommend reading *Percy Jackson* to anyone who likes adventure, a little bit of romance, mythology, and much, much more. But that isn't the point of this article. After reading *Percy Jackson*, I, like many others, got further into the world of mythologies, and started researching many Greek gods and learning the stories behind so much more than just what was in the book series. In fact, this year, about two to three years after I first read Riordan's hit series, I read *The Iliad*. This brings me to the subject of this article, which is why you should read *The Iliad* after reading *Percy Jackson*. Even though it is a long and strenuous read, anyone who has read and enjoyed *Percy Jackson* will enjoy the classic for its educational value, controversial romances, and thrill of the story coming together.

The Iliad is an epic poem about the rage of a famous hero known to many as Achilles. He fought and died in the famous Trojan War, but the focus of the epic isn't on his death at all, or even how he becomes this great hero. *The Iliad*, for all its volume, only takes up the space of a few weeks during the last year of the war, and instead focuses on the rage of Achilles, starting with Agamemnon, a leading general of the Greeks, who insults Achilles's pride. The story ends with Achilles letting go of the anger he has been building up the entire book. Achilles is vengeful and quick tempered, like a storm on the sea, coming fast and unrelenting, giant waves crashing entire ships under its force, and lasting for days. It is a story of human nature and the consequences of your actions.

Not only does *The Iliad* give further insight into the famous Greek gods and goddesses from *Percy Jackson*, but it also provides a perception of what life and customs were like back when this story was created (what people ate, what they believed in, etc.). The story explores what it means to be human and the different aspects of war. We might not fight with spears or bows anymore, but the emotions involved with war are timeless. So is the death involved, the repercussions, and the family that is left at home. *The Iliad* has it all, and so much more; and it is all important to understand. As a side note, I would

"Anyone who has read and enjoyed Percy Jackson will enjoy the classic for its educational value, controversial romances, and the thrill of the story coming together."

not recommend *The Iliad* if you are younger than eight to nine years old, or at least the edition translated by Robert Fagles. If you are around ten to 12 years old, depending on your reading level, you might want to get someone to read it to you.

The relationship between Patroclus and Achilles is another reason for reading *The Iliad*. This is a controversial topic, since the book never explicitly says the two are lovers, though it is implied. I personally choose to view the two of them this way, and I think that makes the story so much better. I love romantic side plots, and the story of Achilles and Patroclus is probably one of the saddest but best romantic side plots ever. I will not tell any spoilers, but if you enjoy romances, romantic subplots, and/or LGBTQ+ romances, then you will love this. Achilles is the greatest warrior of his time, and half god; his "friend" Patroclus is a banished prince. The two spend all of their time together, and near the end of the book, this becomes more clear. Although some people might just say they were really good friends, I think not.

Many of the good qualities of *The Iliad* are overlooked because of the sheer size of the epic, and because of the shorter story of *The Odyssey*. This story, which is probably better known, happens after *The Iliad*, and follows the adventures of the hero Odysseus trying to get back home from the Trojan War. I have heard many people say that they like *The Odyssey* better, and it certainly is faster paced due to each chapter having its own storyline with monsters and challenges.

The Odyssey is a great book, but I personally enjoyed *The Iliad* much more. Although the epic is longer, and has a lot less meat to the story, everything comes together at the end, and all that (seemingly) nothingness that fills most of the first half of the story becomes worth it. It builds up the plot and the tension, showing the war, how the gods interact, and the major consequences of Achilles's stubborn decision. Achilles doesn't even show up consistently in the book until over halfway through, but reading *The Iliad* is like an archeological dig. There is all this dirt and nothingness. After digging through all that rock and finding nothing, you start to find little pieces of bone or marble. After a while you find more, and more, and by the end, you have found almost an entire dinosaur skeleton, or evidence of a sophisticated civilization. At last the story has come together. The best things in life take a little bit of work to get to, and I think *The Iliad* is worth it.

Reading *The Iliad* is hard, and you probably won't enjoy it if you don't know anything about Greek mythology beforehand, but *Percy Jackson* is a great way to get familiar with the gods. So next time you have some free time and don't know what to read, try picking up *The Iliad* and getting through a few pages. It might take months, but for all you Greek mythology lovers out there, the reward is most definitely worth the patience needed.

Headlight Staff 2020-2021

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: Sophie Hauck

ASSISTANT EDITORS: Miranda Connolly, Sophia Piper

OPINION EDITOR: Kate Gardner

SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR: Olivia Spell

REPORTERS: Sydney Armini, Nora Bekkai, Ila Bumajjn, Benny Burns, Alison Buxbaum, Saylor Caruso, Katherine Cronin, Alexis Earp, Olivia Gardner, Zoe Gast, Mona Gelfgatt, Julia Greenway, Martha Heffernan, Katherine Jenkins, Caroline Johnson, Sean McLean, Madeleine Molinari, Evangelia Nickolas, Muriel Owen, Talia Schwartz, Katherine Simcoe, Evelina Thibodeaux

FACULTY ADVISOR: Thomas Higgins

Last Week's Meeting!

