


THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE



Music and Lyrics by
William Finn

Book by
Rachel Sheinkin

Conceived by
Rebecca Feldman

Originally Directed on Broadway by James Lapine

Presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).
All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.

www.mtishows.com



RONA LISA PERETTI

Keely Ackerman is a Junior participating in her fifth show with Grand Ledge Musical Theatre. Her favorite role so far was Wendy Jo in Footloose! She is a member of NHS and ITS and would like to thank her family!



SPOTLIGHT OPERATOR

Emily Armstrong is a Sophomore participating in her second show with Grand Ledge Musical Theatre. Her favorite show so far was Footloose. Emily can play bass!



MITCH MAHONEY

Joshua Batterham is a Sophomore participating in his fourth show with Grand Ledge Musical Theatre. His favorite role so far was Ren McCormack in Footloose! In addition to musical theatre, playing high school/travel baseball is his next favorite activity. He's a member of the GLHS National Technical Honor Society, Student Council, and Concert Choir. He enjoys watching movies, laughing, playing Madden 26, dancing, and hanging with family and friends. Ukai is his favorite restaurant and he enjoys Reese's peanut butter cups and cookie dough ice cream. He would like to thank his family and friends for their love and support throughout every chapter of his life. He loves you very much!



OLIVE OSTROVSKY

Bailea Benjamin is a Senior participating in her fifth show with Grand Ledge Musical Theatre. Her favorite role was Cady Heron in Mean Girls. She is a competitive dancer with The Hive Dance Team, a member of Madrigals, and is Secretary of ITS troupe #8943. Bailea would like to thank her parents and family for their endless support, and the entire cast for becoming her second family and some of her best friends!



MITCH MAHONEY

Jay Boulter is a Senior participating in his fifth show with Grand Ledge Musical Theatre. His favorite role was Willard Hewitt in Footloose! Jay is in Madrigals, and in his spare time, writes songs and choreographs different things. He would like to thank Mrs. P and Ms. Clark for making him the performer he is today.



LOGAINNE SCHWATZANDGRUBENIERRE

Sandra Bratschi is a Junior participating in her fifth show with Grand Ledge Musical Theatre. Her favorite role so far was Maleficent in Descendants. Sandy also does theater at AllofUsExpress and writes her own music in her free time. She is a member of NHS and Art Club! Sandy would like to thank her two gay moms, who have been so supportive in all of her musical endeavors! And the rest of her family, who always show up no matter what crazy musical she's a part of next.



LEAF CONEYBEAR

Andrew Burm is a Freshman participating in his first show with Grand Ledge Musical Theatre. His favorite show at Grand Ledge was Mamma Mia. He likes to swim and play the trumpet.



CHIP TOLENTINO

Niklas Carlson is a Senior participating in his fifth show with Grand Ledge Musical Theatre. His favorite role was Willard in Footloose! He loves to hang out with friends and people that have the same interests as him, like singing. He would like to thank our director Ms. Clark for being the best director he could ask for and putting up with him and his friends. He'd also like to thank Mrs. Marsh for the costumes and Mr. Everly for helping him be successful in his singing.



DANCER

Lucy Clark is a Sophomore participating in her seventh show with Grand Ledge Musical Theatre. Her favorite role so far was as a dancer in Mean Girls.



DANCER

Lissie Dennis is a Junior and is a dancer in the 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee.



DANCER

Addison Dowker is a Sophomore and dancing in her third production with Grand Ledge Musical Theatre.



WILLIAM BARFEE

David Escojido is a Sophomore participating in his fourth show with Grand Ledge Musical Theatre. His favorite role so far has been playing William Barfee. He participates in dance, choir, and acapella. David would like to thank his parents for all the time, money, and support they put into helping him to be better at singing and dancing. He would also like to thank his friends for constantly cheering him on from the sidelines.



MIDGE MAHONEY

Ashlyn Gee is a Senior participating in her sixth show with Grand Ledge Musical Theatre. Every show she's been in has been a blessing! They've all been so different but she has to say that having the opportunity to play Audrey in Descendants was her favorite!. Along with musicals, Ashlyn is also a member of Color Guard in marching band, winter guard, and she has a part time job. She would love to thank all her family members but especially her older brother Sage.



SOUND BOARD OPERATOR

Anna Goucher is a Junior and is a sound operator in the 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee.



OLIVE OSTROVSKY

Avery Grostefon is a Freshman participating in her second show with Grand Ledge Musical Theatre. Her favorite show at Grand Ledge was Mamma Mia. Avery has a job at Independence Village that she loves and has also been a dancer for 11 years. She would like to thank Ms. Clark for her hard work on making these musicals happen and making us have the great opportunity in being in these shows - she works so hard. Thank you.



DAN DAD

Logan Hansbarger is a Junior participating in his fourth show with Grand Ledge Musical Theatre. His favorite role so far was Carlos in Descendants. Logan has been in choir for 3 years and enjoys spending time with friends and family. He is the president of Psychology Club and is planning on attending MSU for Biology with a focus in Pre-Med to become a Pediatric Oncologist. He would like to thank Ms. Clark for having faith in him and allowing him to express his passion for music and dance. He'd also like to thank Mr. Everly, Ms. Hengesbach, Mrs. Sanchez, Mrs. Marsh, and all the parent volunteers that have helped him throughout his high school experience.



RONA LISA PERETTI

Sabrina Harvey-Cronk is a Senior participating in her fifth show with Grand Ledge Musical Theatre. Her favorite role was Janis in Mean Girls. Music is her passion. Outside of GL Musicals, Sabrina has played Elsa in Frozen and Ursula in Little Mermaid Jr. She plans to study Music Education with a minor in Theater at Indiana Wesleyan University this fall, which leaves the door open to performing professionally after college. Sabrina would like to thank Clark for the opportunities she has been given in this program.



WILLIAM BARFEE

Ty Herald is a Junior participating in his fifth show with Grand Ledge Musical Theatre. His favorite show so far was Mean Girls. This is his first lead in a musical and he's very excited to perform. He would like to thank his parents, and his brothers Kameron, Karson, and Dominic for their support.



PROP MASTER

Izzy Holmes is a Sophomore and is the Prop Master for The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee.



SPOT LIGHT OPERATOR

Roman Howard is a Senior and working as a spot light operator in the 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee.



OLIVE'S MOM

Izzy Hurth is a Sophomore participating in her fourth show with Grand Ledge Musical Theatre. Her favorite shows so far are Mean Girls and Footloose. Izzy is a member of NTHS and loves playing songs on her guitar. She would like to thank her dad and brother - they're definitely her biggest supporters.



MARCY PARK

Haley Kunc is a Senior participating in her sixth show with Grand Ledge Musical Theatre. Her favorite role was Rusty in Footloose! She loves reading, hanging out with her friends, and creating cute sewing projects in her free time. Haley would like to thank her incredibly supportive mom, dad, and sister for always being there for her.



LEAF CONEYBEAR

Daniel Landers is a Junior participating in his first show with Grand Ledge Musical Theatre and is performing as Leaf Coneybear. He's new to theatre and is beyond excited, but also nervous, to be part of a show here at GL. Outside of theatre, Daniel does track in the spring and cross country in the fall. He takes the Game Design & Programming class at DU as part of the Eaton RESA CPC program. He would like to thank the GL Musical Theatre Program as a whole, as that's really what inspired him to go into theatre. Daniel remembers seeing the Little Mermaid in 2023, along with other theatre productions in and out of GL, and says they've helped him grow a great interest in the arts.



DANCER

Sidney Leonard is a Freshman dancing in her second production with Grand Ledge Musical Theatre.



CHIP TOLENTINO

Xander Lieb is a Senior participating in his fifth show with Grand Ledge Musical Theatre. His favorite role is Chip Tolentino in The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee. He has been in the Madrigals for 3 years and is a varsity lacrosse player. He would like to thank his dad for pushing him to do the shows, his mom for supporting him, Clark for literally everything, and Patty for helping him dance better.



MARCY PARK

Alleena Mabis is a Freshman participating in her first show with Grand Ledge Musical Theatre. Her favorite role so far is Marcy Park in The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee. She loves music, art, shopping, and is a 3rd degree black belt in karate! Aleena would like to thank her friends and family for their unwavering support and love! (Special shout out to her mom and dad for being by her side, always! You're the best!)



CHIP TOLENTINO

Jameson Marsh is a Freshman participating in his fourth show with Grand Ledge Musical Theatre. His favorite role so far is Chip Tolentino in The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee. Jameson would like to thank his mom and dad.



OLIVE OSTROVSKY

Isla Morris is a Junior participating in her fifth show with Grand Ledge Musical Theatre. Her favorite role so far was Wendy Jo in Footloose! Isla rides horses and also volunteers regularly at an animal rescue by fostering dogs and cats. She would like to thank her family for supporting her, especially her mom for helping everything go smoothly in hair and makeup and her dad for always cheering her on.



VICE PRINCIPAL DOUG PANCH

Logan Olivier is a Senior participating in his second show with Grand Ledge Musical Theatre. His favorite role has been Vice Principal Panch in The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee. He wishes he had started musicals way earlier, and regrets not starting until his senior year. Logan would like to thank his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, along with his Mom and Dad, siblings, and girlfriend, Reann.



VICE PRINCIPAL DOUG PANCH

AJ Parseghian is a Senior participating in his eighth show with Grand Ledge Musical Theatre. His favorite role was Ben in Descendants. He's also in the Madrigals choir and plays baseball. He would like to thank Clark for giving him the opportunity to shine on stage and for taking a chance on a little 5th grader, Mrs. Petersen for teaching him how to sing even though he was very young, Mrs. Rodeck for teaching him all he knows about music and what it means to be a musician, Bailea his amazing girlfriend for being his number one supporter and best friend, his mom for always encouraging him and talking him through every little trouble in his life, and his dad for being the greatest role model he could ask for and helping him strive to become a better person each day.



SOUND BOARD OPERATOR

Bella Perez is a Senior participating in her sixth show with Grand Ledge Musical Theatre. Her favorite show was Mamma Mia. Bella plays softball, is a member of the GLHS marching band, and plays in Wind Symphony, is a member of NHS, and likes to draw and read.



WILLIAM BARFEE

Henry Polley is a Freshman participating in his first show with Grand Ledge Musical Theatre. His favorite role so far is William Barfee in The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee. Henry is in the state TTB honors choir and would like to thank his mom and dad.



MARIGOLD CONEYBEAR

Jensen Price is a Senior participating in her eighth show with Grand Ledge Musical Theatre. Her favorite role has been stage manager and student director! She works as the auditorium assistant in her spare time, so you'll see her occasionally at other events! Jensen would like to say thank you to the cast and crew as well as all those who have supported her! She is forever grateful.



LOGAINNE SCHWARZANDGRUBENIERRE

Lillian Robertson is a Senior participating in her sixth show with Grand Ledge Musical Theatre. Her favorite role was Rusty in Footloose! Lillian is also in Madrigals, ITS, and LINKS.



RONA LISA PERETTI

Jadyn Ross is a Freshman participating in her second show with Grand Ledge Musical Theatre. Her favorite show so far has been Footloose! She likes reading, tennis, singing (obviously) and baking! She'd like to thank her mom for being so supportive and for driving her everywhere.



DANCER

Joss Sanchez is a Sophomore participating in her seventh show with Grand Ledge Musical Theatre. Her favorite role so far was as a dancer in Mean Girls. Joss has been dancing for 14 years, and loves sharing her love of dance with others. She plays soccer, is a part of the LINKS program at GLHS, is a member of the International Thespian Society, and loves working at the musical theater workshop. Joss would like to thank her mom, dad, family, and friends.



LEAF CONEYBEAR

Kaiden Schulze is a Senior performing as Leaf Coneybear in his fifth production with Grand Ledge Musical Theatre.



JESUS/THE VOICE/LEAF'S DAD

Jackson Shaltry is a Senior participating in his second show with Grand Ledge Musical Theatre. His favorite role is Jesus in The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee. Next year, Jackson will be an MSU athlete. He would like to thank Jake Up.



LIGHT BOARD OPERATOR

Lillian Smith is a Senior participating in their sixth show with Grand Ledge Musical Theatre. Their favorite part of working in the musicals so far has been Lighting Design. Lillian is very involved in Wind Symphony, Marching Band, Spartan Youth Wind Symphony, and art class through Kendall College of Art and Design. They would like to thank their parents and brother.



LOGAINNE SCHWARTZANDGRUBENIERRE

Jillian Spiegel is a Junior participating in her fifth show with Grand Ledge Musical Theatre. Her favorite show she has been a part of at GL was Mean Girls. She loves exploring new places, and reading and writing poetry. Jillian would like to thank her cast mates for being so supportive and dedicating their time to create fabulous shows! She would also like to thank Mr. Everly and her voice teacher Jackie Conlon for helping her strengthen her overall vocal talent and give her confidence as a performer. Lastly, she would like to thank Ms. Clark for dedicating so much time and careful thought into all her productions. She hopes you all enjoy the show!



OLIVE'S DAD

Owen Teran is a Sophomore participating in his third show with Grand Ledge Musical Theatre. His favorite show so far was Footloose!!! He loved playing Lyle and being able to screw around. Owen is a member of Orion's Belt and would like to thank Ms. Clark, Mr. Everly, and Max Watruba. He'd like to shout out Mr. Bedwell for getting him into musicals.



MARCY PARK

Reann Thelen is a Junior participating in her fifth show with Grand Ledge Musical Theatre. Her favorite role so far was Ariel Moore in Footloose! She is a dancer at Ring Star and likes to try all different kinds of sports. Reann is a member of the GLHS Madrigals, ITS and NHS. She'd like to thank her mom and dad, sisters, Logan, friends, and the rest of her family for always supporting her.



LIGHT BOARD OPERATOR

Paige Waterman is a Sophomore and is the light board operator for The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee.



JESUS/THE VOICE/LEAF'S DAD

Jacob Whisler is a Senior performing as Jesus/The Voice/Leaf's Dad in his second production with Grand Ledge Musical Theatre.



CARL DAD

Max Wotruba is a Sophomore participating in his third show with Grand Ledge Musical Theatre. His favorite role was playing Travis in Footloose! He plays baseball and football for Grand Ledge and is a member of the Grand Ledge Madrigals. He would like to thank his parents for enabling him to do musicals and his sister for getting him into choir and musicals in the first place.



VICE PRINCIPAL DOUG PANCH

Levi Yeah Jr is a Junior participating in his fourth show with Grand Ledge Musical Theatre. His favorite role so far was Kevin G in Mean Girls. He loves running track and would like to thank his mama, dad and sister.

PRODUCTION TEAM

Choreographer/Director/Tech Director..... Tracy Clark
Costumer..... Erin Marsh
Production Assistant..... Patty Sanchez
Production Manager..... Katie Westen
Set Building..... Joel Sanchez
Student Director..... Jensen Price
Vocal Director..... Zach Everly

SPECIAL THANKS

We couldn't have done it without you!

Mike Arnold	Aaron Hatter
Karen Carlson	Aidyn Lieb
Mark Darling - Crimson Lizard	Caelan Marsh
Lindsay Grostefon	Colleen Price
Marv Hall - Studio M Photography	Dan Rodeck

A huge thank you to all the awesome parents who built and painted our set!!

UPCOMING EVENTS



SHOW SYNOPSIS

In a high school gym, long time hostess, Rona Lisa Peretti, finalizes the preparations for the annual county spelling bee, reminiscing about her own spelling bee victory, many years prior. The current crop of spelling contenders arrives ("The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee"). The contestants include last year's champ, Chip (a boy scout), Schwarzy (the youngest and most politically aware contestant), Coneybear (the somewhat wide-eyed offspring of hippie parents), Barfee (an allergy-plagued student), Marcy (an over-achieving Asian-American) and Olive (a tentative newcomer).

Rona also calls on four volunteers from the audience to join the competition (these are real audience members who have been selected through an interview process before the show).

It is revealed that Olive has failed to pay her \$25 entrance fee, but Rona assures her that it will be worked out later. Barfee rudely fends off Olive's attempts to befriend him. Rona introduces Vice Principal Douglas Panch, a last-minute substitute word pronouncer, and Mitch Mahoney, a menacing ex-con who is serving as "Comfort Counselor" as a part of his community service sentence. Panch, Rona and the spellers review the contest's elimination-style rules ("The Rules").

The contest begins. As the students are individually called upon, Rona provides color commentary, revealing background info about each of them. A flashback reveals that Coneybear only made in into this contest because his school's winner and first runner-up were unable to attend due to a Bar Mitzvah. He appears to have no hope of spelling words correctly, but snaps into abrupt trances, during which he performs perfectly.

Olive reflects on a lonely childhood, where her main source of companionship (and spelling excellence) was a dictionary ("My Friend the Dictionary"). The audience volunteers are also called upon to participate. Volunteers who answer incorrectly are eliminated ("Goodbye #1"). Barfee uses a bizarre "magic foot" technique to spell his words.

Rona reveals that Marcy placed high in the ranking for last year's national spelling bee, impressing all of the contestants. One of the audience volunteers is asked to spell "cow," prompting outrage from the contestants. The contest swings into high gear ("Pandemonium") as Panch requests spellings for words that vary enormously in their level of difficulty.

A flashback reveals Schwarzy, drilling for the contest with her two overbearing gay dads. Coneybear, for the second consecutive time, is asked to spell a word related to South American rodents. He confesses that his family does not consider him to be particularly intelligent ("I'm Not That Smart").

Barfee calls upon his magic foot technique to help him spell the word, "hasenpfeffer" ("Magic Foot"). By this point in the contest, all but one of the audience volunteers have probably been eliminated. Chip is eliminated after getting distracted by seeing Coneybear's attractive sister, Marigold, in the audience ("Pandemonium – Reprise"). Mitch escorts him from the stage ("Chip Goodbye").

Rona is excited by the unexpected early elimination of last year's champ ("Rona Moment #2").

The final audience volunteer is eliminated when asked to spell a ridiculously difficult word. Mitch consoles the loser ("Prayer of the Comfort Counselor").

During a snack break, Chip distributes free candy to the audience and laments the fact that his sexual arousal cost him a victory in the spelling bee ("My Unfortunate Erection"). Chip bickers with Barfee and terrorizes him with a packet of peanut M&Ms before being ejected. Olive comforts Barfee.

As the break ends and the bee resumes, Schwarzy reflects on the tremendous pressure placed on her by her dads ("Woe Is Me"). A lightning-fast blaze of spelling ensues, and Coneybear is eliminated when he fails to spell chinchilla correctly ("I'm Not That Smart – Reprise").

Rona reveals that Marcy speaks six languages. Marcy is exasperated at always being thought of as superior in every way ("I Speak Six Languages"). She is asked to spell the word, "camouflage," whereupon she rhetorically exclaims "Dear Jesus, can't you come up with a harder word than that?" Much to her astonishment, Jesus Christ immediately appears and reveals that He doesn't care who wins this contest. Marcy, relieved, deliberately misspells her word, joyfully eliminating herself.

Only Schwarzy, Olive and Barfee remain. Olive receives a phone call from her dad. Taking advantage of the pause, Schwarzy seizes the microphone and makes a political statement. One of Schwarzy's dads attempts to sabotage Barfee by pouring a can of Coke onto the stage, hoping the stickiness will immobilize Barfee's magic foot. It is implied that Olive's father is unwilling to pay her \$25 entrance fee.

Olive is given the word "chimerical," which means "wildly fanciful and highly unrealistic." This prompts her to fantasize about her neglectful parents ("The I Love You Song").

Barfee's magic foot is foiled by the spilled Coke, but he manages to spell "crepuscule" correctly anyway. Schwarzy is eliminated ("Woe is Me – Reprise"). Only two spellers remain, and Rona is breathless with excitement ("Rona Moment #3").

After a volley of correctly spelled words, Olive misspells a word ("Second, Part One") and Barfee hesitates before claiming victory, sensitive to Olive's feelings. Olive reassures him, and he claims the victory. Panch, taking pity on Olive, invents a \$25 prize for "runner up," which he produces out of his own pocket to cover Olive's entrance fee. Rona is moved by Panch's kind gesture. Olive and Barfee warmly congratulate each other.

A series of epilogues reveal the future fates of the characters and explains how their experiences during the spelling bee shaped each of their lives ("Finale").

*Thank You to Our
Spring 2026 Sponsors*

Benefactor

The Sanchez Family

Sponsor

The Deschaine Family

Thank you for supporting the arts in Grand Ledge!

THE
FITNESS
LAB



FITNESS & DANCE STUDIO

Ashlyn - we are so proud of the wonderful performer you have grown to be! We have loved watching you perform on stage over the years! Break a leg, "Grace!"

-Dad, Carly, Sage, and Grayson

Cugino's Italian Restaurant

*Monday through Thursday
4-8 pm*

*Friday and Saturday
4-9 pm*

Sunday-Closed



*306 S. Bridge Street
Grand Ledge, MI 48837
(517) 627-4048*



Jameson,

From your musical debut
to your first lead role, we
have enjoyed watching
every minute of it.
Break a Leg - Love,
Mom and Dad



Bailea-

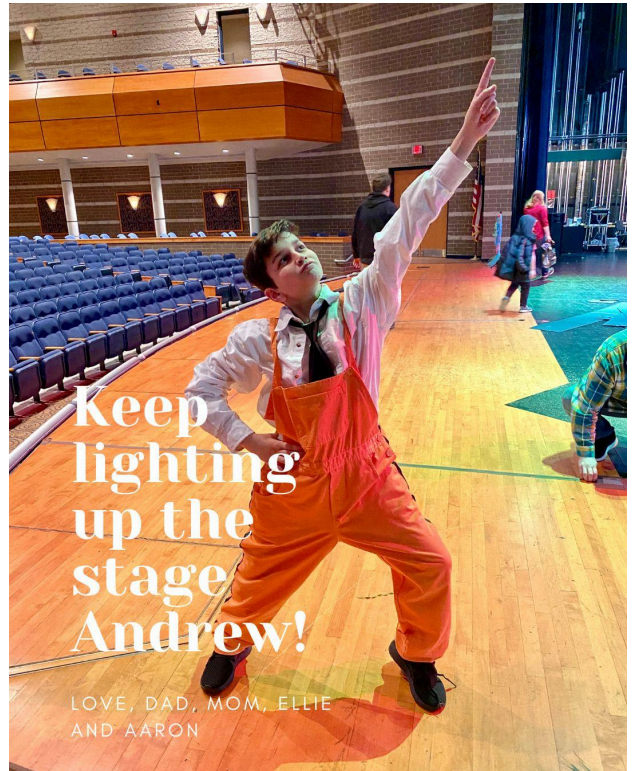
We cannot believe this is your last high school musical! Watching you go from a maid in *The Little Mermaid*, to Cady in *Mean Girls*; and then onto Mal in *Descendants* and Ariel in *Footloose* has been such a fun journey. Ending with Olive, your favorite role yet, seems like a great way to end this chapter. Sissy, we are so proud of you and can't wait to see where you go in life. We will always be your biggest supporters! Enjoy your final bow, Bailea.

We love you!

Dad, Mom and Ryder



Dear Joss,
We can't wait
to watch you
shine on stage!
Enjoy it!
Love,
Mom, Dad,
JJ, Sam, & Mia



Keep
lighting
up the
stage
Andrew!

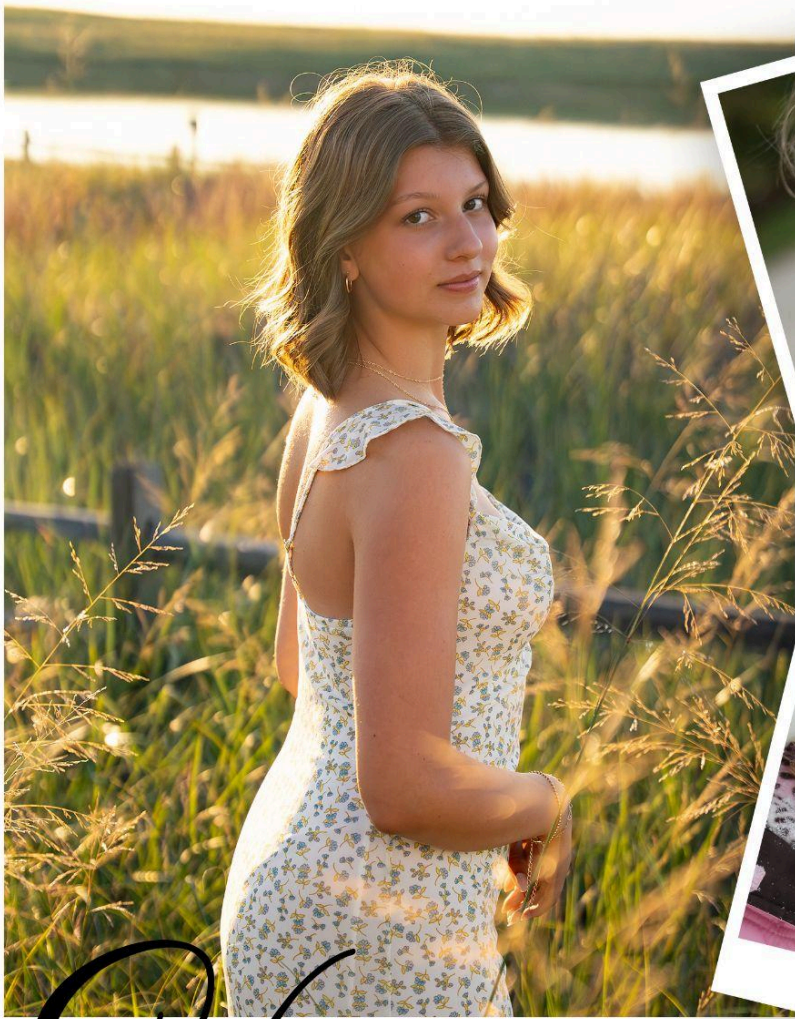
LOVE, DAD, MOM, ELLIE
AND AARON



May you always have as much
confidence as Mitch. Break a Leg!
Love Mom, Dad, and Kaleb



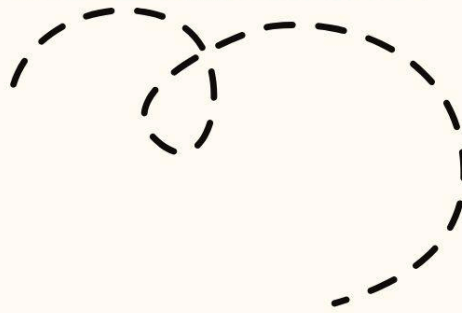
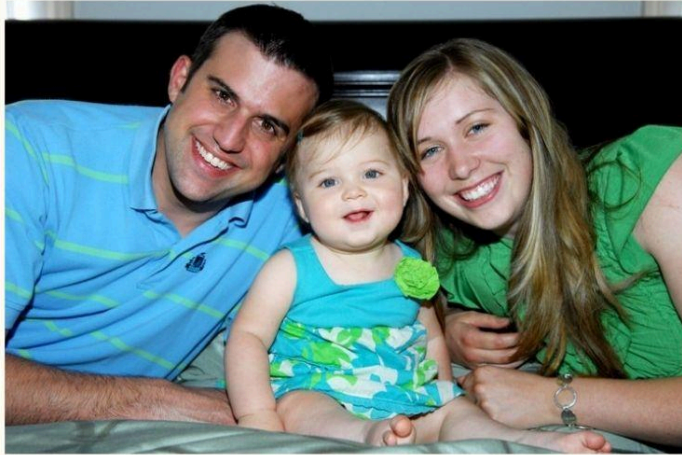
AJ,
One last ride, son! Words cannot express how much joy
you've brought to our lives. Behave yourself up there!
Love,
Mom, Dad, and **CASHY!**



Saley

It has been the joy of our lives to watch you grow into the amazing performer that you are. Your courage to keep on going and to do what you love is inspiring. You will always have our love and support, and we can't wait to watch you soar! Keep being yourself, keep working hard, and there's no end to where you will land.

Love,
Mom, Dad and Hannah



Isla,
We always knew
you were a winner.
We couldn't be
prouder.
I love everything
about you, dear.
Love, Mom & Dad
(Annalise, Azalea &
Zinnia too)

PS -We will be your chaperones
in Washington anytime



AFTER HAVING DIRECTED 24 MUSICALS AT GRAND LEDGE HIGH SCHOOL, TRACY CLARK WILL TAKE HER FINAL DIRECTORIAL BOW AT THE CONCLUSION OF *THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE*.

ON BEHALF OF ALL OF THE STUDENTS, BOTH PAST AND PRESENT, WHOSE LIVES WERE TOUCHED BY TAKING PART IN HER MUSICALS, WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK MS. CLARK FOR THE COUNTLESS NUMBER OF THINGS SHE'S DONE FOR GRAND LEDGE MUSICAL THEATRE. SHE IS THE HEART OF THE PROGRAM, THE CAPTAIN OF THE SHIP, THE GLUE THAT HOLDS EVERYTHING TOGETHER, AND THE QUEEN OF OUR WHARTON WEST CASTLE. THE UNFATHOMABLE NUMBER OF HOURS SHE'S PUT INTO ALL OF HER SHOWS, HER ENDLESS CREATIVITY, AND HER EYE FOR DETAIL WILL NEVER BE FORGOTTEN. YOU'RE TRULY ONE OF A KIND, TRACY! CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR RETIREMENT AND BEST OF LUCK IN YOUR NEXT ACT!

WITH SINCEREST APPRECIATION,
THE GRAND LEDGE MUSICAL THEATRE PROGRAM