



# South Pacific Brings a Wave of Reviews

By Bridget Kelly '26



On March 14, the students in 5th, 6th and 7th grades hopped on a bus and went to see Archbishop Curley's spring performance of *South Pacific*. *South Pacific* is an old-fashioned, Rodgers and Hammerstein musical, telling of a fictional island in the South Pacific during World War II. Yes, *South Pacific* is a classic musical, beloved by many generations. But what did IHM students have to say about it? I interviewed one student from each grade who saw the show. Olivia Reyes in 7th grade said, "I thought it was a good play. However, most people didn't understand the historical context."

Avery Hayes in 6th grade commented, "I loved the songs. The play wasn't my favorite, but the overall performance was great." Of course, one of the buses was delayed, so some of the students missed the first part of the show, which could have led to biased opinions.

I asked Elena Watts, a fifth grader who was actually in *South Pacific* as Ngana, about her experience while being a cast member in the musical. "It was super fun," she said. "The cast and

director were really nice. Acting is so fun. I didn't have a big part, so memorizing was easy." Elena was also a member of the Children's Choir in Curley's *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* in March of 2023, as was I.

I also talked to some staff who saw *South Pacific*. "The music in the performance was very impressive," one faculty member noted. "The voices of the students were incredible. I liked the balance between history and comedy in the show."

And, of course, I talked to the teacher who put the entire field trip together- Mrs. Noppinger. I asked her about the experience that the students had while at South Pacific: "South Pacific was a great opportunity for our students to explore another Catholic high school, but also get exposure to theater, while connecting it to history," Mrs. Noppinger said.

So all in all, South Pacific received a lot of positive reviews from students and teachers alike.

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## IXL Did Some Excelling

By Mackenzie Sparwasser '26

This is Mackenzie here. I just wanted to inform you about the new and improved IXL. First of all, not a while back in the second trimester, a couple of teachers went to a meeting about IXL and the students' experience while using the program. They learned that while students thought it was a good tool to help them learn, they were displeased about the ease of using the IXL.

I talked to Jazzy in 6M about the new IXL and here are some things she said "I think the leaderboard is too consistent and should be twice a month". She also said "The leaderboard is not always accurate because it does not count all the things we do". Jazzy also said that "there is sometimes the same topic to the leaderboard, I think the topics should change to be new topics."

The next person I interviewed was Audrey in 6M. Audrey commented "The leaderboard is way too consistent and should be twice a month or maybe three times. She also said "there should be a prize

system for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place because yes it is for learning but the students work to get up to those places."

All together, both Jazzy and Audrey agree by saying "it is unfair how sometimes it is how many answers are correct. This is particularly unfair to the people that try to get the answer correctly and the students keep getting them wrong so they feel like giving up". Both of them also agree that if they had to pick a topic, there would be a number of answers so everyone can get a chance to be on top and the leaderboard topic should last a longer period of time. Finally, they agree that the person in first place should not be in first place more than two weeks in a row.

After receiving feedback and interviewing my classmates I can see where the students feedback is important and can improve IXL in further years. I know that even though IXL is for learning, it also can make learning more fun.

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## Take and ReLax and Listen

By Oliver Addison '25

It's spring sports season, and Maryland has a new professional sport: lacrosse. The Professional Lacrosse League (PLL) is the first established professional lacrosse league of its kind. In previous years there were 14 weeks of action that took place in 12 cities. By comparison, this year has 8 teams that travel to 8 different cities to play each week. Maryland was one of the lucky states that got a team: the Maryland Whipsnakes. The team is one of the original teams in the PLL and they have

have 10 University of Maryland Alumni on their squad. They have won two championships back to back in (2019) and in (2020). The head coach of the team is Jim Stagnitta who is also the general manager of the team. The team colors are black, gold, and red. That is everything there is to know about the Maryland Whipsnakes and the PLL. As the first week approaches on June 1st, interested fans can stream PLL games on ESPN and ESPN+.

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## Book Review

By Savannah Krupey '25

*Percy Jackson and the Olympians* is a series of five fantasy books best suited for 4th grade through middle school. In each book, the main character, Percy (the demigod son of Poseidon), goes on a different adventure. Percy goes to a camp for demigods like him, called Camp Half Blood. "Half blood" means half Greek god, half human. In the first book, Percy arrives at Camp Half Blood and meets a satyr (A half goat half human) named Grover, and the demigod daughter of Athena (Annabeth). These three characters will wind up facing a lot of hardships throughout the books combined with a whole lot of character development. Ultimately, it is revealed that Percy is the child of a prophecy that was given over 70 years ago and has to go save the world and may very well die in the process. In the final book Percy fights the Titan Lord Kronos, with his friends at his side.

Currently the IHM book club is reading the first Percy Jackson book *The Lightning Thief*. The sixth grade also happens to be doing a project on Greek/Roman gods, and although it doesn't directly have anything to do with Percy Jackson the topic of the project is what the book series is based around. It's actually pretty surprising how much Greek mythology you can learn from this book series and how fun the author makes it to read. This series has two other follow up series, "The Heroes Of Olympus" and "Trials of Apollo." All in all, I give Percy Jackson a 4.5/5. I really enjoyed reading it, it was a lot of fun and I really bonded with the characters, but there were some parts that were hard to get through. I feel like anyone can get into these books but the main audience would be people who are into action/fantasy books.

Book Names (In Order): *The Lightning Thief*; *The Sea of Monsters*; *The Titan's Curse*; *The Battle of the Labyrinth*; *The Last Olympian*

## Movie Review

By Josh Schneider '24



Welcome back to Movie Review! In today's Movie Review we are going to be talking about "IF" the movie starring Ryan Reynolds. This movie is not yet rated but in my opinion, based on the trailers, this would probably be rated PG for ages 3 and older. "IF" is about a young girl who goes through a difficult experience and begins to see everyone's imaginary friends who have been left behind as their real-life friends have grown up. Based on the trailers this movie seems really funny and good. I would highly recommend this movie because it is a great movie to sit down and watch with your whole family.







**Student Spotlight**

By Maggie Jennings '26

You have heard of double trouble but have you heard of triple trouble? Meet the Kopera triplets!

First, let's cover the basics: Lou is the oldest by two minutes, Rose is in the middle by one minute, and Frank is the youngest. They all root for the Ravens and Orioles, and they all play soccer for I.H.M. At home, Lou and Frank share a room, but Rose has her own. When it comes to confrontation, they say that they get along pretty well and fight occasionally. In other words, none of them want to be an only child if they have a choice. Now let's get into what they like individually.

Rose works on the stage crew, plays golf, and sings in our choir. Her favorite subject is Social Studies



and she is in love with dumbo octopuses. After finishing her homework, she likes to draw and read. Finally, her favorite food is spaghetti.

Frank's favorite subject is math and he likes to eat bananas and burgers. His favorite animal is a golden retriever. After he finishes his homework, he likes to play soccer with Lou in the backyard.

Lou's favorite school subject is P.E. and his favorite food is burritos. After finishing his homework, he likes to play soccer with Frank in the backyard.

**Ask An 8<sup>th</sup> Grader**  
With Emily McNulty '24

The IHM class of 2024 is more than excited to represent their high school after the big acceptance day. We decided to talk to Ella H. '24 about what she is most excited for in her upcoming years: "I'm most excited to branch out in a new environment. After nine years at IHM I think I'm about ready for a change." I also can't wait to make new friends and teammates on and off the soccer field." She will be attending the Catholic High School of Baltimore for her next four years.

We also had the chance to talk to a few boys about what they are most excited about for the upcoming school year. Many of them told us that they were excited to meet new people through sports, band, and other extracurricular activities. Jesse M. '24 also highlighted his excitement about being able to meet new teachers and the overall new experience that is to come. He will be attending Mount Saint Joseph High School next year. Good luck Class of 2024!

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