RONA

Ladies and Gentleman, all the children you see on stage are here because of their extraordinary ability and love of language-- but only one of them can go on to compete in the National Spelling bee! And this year, to celebrate our silver anniversary, our local sponsors, the Putnam Optometrists, are offering today's winner a two hundred dollar savings bond toward his or her future education.

~~*kids respond*~~

RONA

But remember, to get here each child had to wi~~n–~~

CONEYBEAR

~~*oh but I*~~

RONA

or place-- in their own district bee- so each of them is *already* a winner.

BARFEE

~~Already a winner~~

RONA

Hello, I'm Rona Lisa Peretti, and I'm pleased to be back for my 9th consecutive year as your host. Unfortunately, our long-time word pronouncer, Superintendent Spriggs has fallen ill, so please join me in welcoming back Vice Principal Douglas Panch from Lake Hemingway-Dos Passos Junior High- who's been kind enough to step in, and save the bee.

END

~~*VICE PRINCIPAL PANCH enters.*~~

PANCH

Thank you, and I would like to say as to the incident 5 years ago, I'm in a much better place now. It's amazing what a change of diet can do for a man.

Schwarzy applauds

PANCH

Thank you.

RONA

Wonderful.

PANCH

And may I add, Ms. Peretti here is not only one of the top realtors in our county, she's also a former spelling champion herself.

RONA

Third annual.