

New School Montessori Students Perform Macbeth around Cincinnati *by Ann Baumgardner*

Shakespeare is credited with adding thousands of words to the English language that we use daily like: champion, frugal, tranquil and hurried. Although understanding the language of Shakespeare has its challenges, New School Montessori 4th, 5th and 6th graders were not daunted by the language or the themes of Macbeth. Students read the play in its entirety with their after-school Shakespeare club leaders: TNSM assistant director Jeff Groh and TNSM teacher Laura Slanker. They had many discussions about the dangers of blind ambition and Macbeth's and other characters' crises of conscience.

In previous years of Shakespeare Club, students have performed Romeo and Juliet, and A Midsummer Night's Dream to the TNSM community. This year, due to a generous donation from Lib Stone, the Shakespeare Club has great costumes, an impressive set, and has scheduled multiple appearances throughout the city of their 45-minute version of Macbeth.

Students begin each performance with a recitation of common words and phrases from Shakespeare's works and declare in unison over and over again, "You are quoting Shakespeare!" If you'd like to see their 2-minute intro, click this link: <http://youtu.be/OaoTQpWe-Xw>