



8001 West Belmont Avenue
River Grove, IL 60171-1096
Phone 708.453.6233
Fax 708.453.6296
www.guerinprep.org

MEDIA CONTACT

Sr. Dawn Tomaszewski, SP
Director of Communications & Public Relations
708-453-6233, Ext. 4708

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE—Feb. 16, 2010

Guerin Prep Hosts National Players for Fine Arts Day

In keeping with its mission as a college-prep school with a fine arts emphasis, Guerin Prep High School hosted the National Players on Thursday, Feb. 18 for a special performance of Shakespeare's "Much Ado About Nothing" and a series of hands-on workshops aimed to lead all students to a greater appreciation of the arts.

Ms. Kristen Mackie, Guerin Prep's theatre teacher and director, was instrumental in bringing the National Players to Guerin Prep, who are considered America's longest running touring company. "The goal of the touring company is to stimulate young people's higher thinking skills and imaginations and that was a great way for us to spend a day," explained Mackie.

The National Players was founded in 1949 by Father Gilbert Hartke, a prominent arts educator and then head of the drama department of The Catholic University of America.

The day began with the performance of "Much Ado About Nothing." The National Players brings its own sets, costumes and sound.

Following the performance, the students participated in four workshops: **PowerPlay**— a playwriting workshop that introduces the basics of dramatic structure and involves students in the creative process; **Shakespeare: The Actor's Journey**— a workshop that illuminates how to bring Shakespeare's words to life; **Acting & Improvisation**—exercise and improvisational games to warm-up the body, voice, imagination and intellect; **Stage Combat**—a workshop in the basics of illusion and the methods of creating believable, safe stage fighting.

The professional actors and actresses of the company conducted a question and answer session with the entire student body once the workshops were completed.

###