



NORTHRIDGE PREPARATORY SCHOOL

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Northridge Prep's Middle School Performs *The Sword in the Stone*

NILES—Middle School students at Northridge Prep gained an appreciation for T.H. White's well known book, *The Sword in the Stone* by acting it out on stage using an original screenplay written by Northridge teachers, Mr. Peter Searby and Mr. Dan Janeiro.

The play featured battles and sword fights that took the audience's attention around the theater. Confrontations even occasionally took the form of dialogue filled with logical patterns and riddles that forced the audience to be alert. Despite initial perceptions, the audience quickly learned that the protagonist was not the heroic squire, but rather his young assistant Arthur, whose virtues develop until the climax of the story, when he is the only one able to pull the Sword from its stone and is thereby identified as the rightful king of England.

One of the major challenges for the two directors was finding a play that would be both interesting and didactic to students at an all male school such as Northridge. *The Sword in the Stone* proved to be a successful combination of both, owing to its active conflicts as well as its personification of virtue in the young Arthur, played by Jack Wernet, Class of 2017. "One of the best learning experiences for the young is working hard to achieve a common endeavor and witnessing its fruition," mused Searby. The boys, a mixture of sixth, seventh and eighth grade students, achieved both and also learned the themes of the story through their diligent study and rehearsal throughout the months preceding their opening night.

**Northridge Preparatory School is an independent college preparatory school for young men in grades 6–12 in Niles, Illinois. A Top Ten School in Chicago [Chicago Sun-Times], Northridge was also named a Top 96 School in America [US News & World Report].*

To learn more about Northridge Preparatory School or to schedule a preview day for your son, contact the Marketing & Communications Coordinator, Vu Nguyen at marketing@northridgeprep.org.

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Arthur [Jack Wernet '17] watches as Sir Ector [Connor Sterling '15] makes a futile attempt to pull the famous sword out of its stone, thereby identifying himself as proper King of England.