

English Language Arts Curriculum Comes to Life

By Terri Hutsell

It was much ado about Shakespeare on April 23rd as the 'Bard of Avon' turned 450. Culminating their study of the works of William Shakespeare and in tribute to this anniversary, the Norwood-Fontbonne Academy eighth grade hosted a Renaissance-themed street festival on campus. William Shakespeare himself greeted sixth and seventh grade fair goers, helping them to navigate the 14 festival offerings that ranged from whimsical to informative. First stop, exchanging U.S. currency for shillings!

Prior to the outdoor festival, the eighth graders read and studied Romeo and Juliet and attended the Philadelphia Shakespeare Theatre production of the

famous love story. "There they witnessed some of the finer details of the play, which cannot be gleaned from a book," explained English language arts teacher, Mrs. Judy Riviezzo. "The performance truly inspired their creativity and authentic presentation of their festival events."

Interactive games such as "Pall Mall" (croquet) and "To Juggle or Not to Juggle", delighted fair goers just as much as "Mime-Time" or the "Fantastical Magical Puppet Theatre" that featured a modern comedic twist on the battle of the Montagues vs. the Capulets. Ladies and gentlemen could make their own Renaissance-fashioned hats, have an old time photo taken at the photo booth and take a virtual tour around the Globe (Theatre). Eliza-



The 'Bard' himself (center, played by Christopher Maloney-Fort Washington) joins a few of the street festival ladies, mime performers, and jugglers. Pictured here are the mimes played by Owen Williamson-Fort Washington (left) and Alex Moon-Mt. Airy (right), Juliet Capulet (left) played by Aileen Mansfield-Chestnut Hill, Juggler played by Thomas Woolley-Fort Washington, and ladies-in-waiting (far right) played by Lilly Gilmore-Plymouth Mtg. and Abby Schwenger-Plymouth Mtg.

bethan food fare included the "William Milk-Shakespeare" booth, "Got

Glogg?," and Shakespearian mini cakes.