## The Awesome



## Eagle

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## The Air We Share

by Charlize Reyes and Sami Roscoe (6<sup>th</sup> grade)



On Wednesday, December 5<sup>th</sup> the sixth, seventh, and eighth graders watched a performance by Duende Drama and Literature called *The Air We Share*. This play was written by Rick Foster and featured Thomas McGuire as Joseph Priestly (scientist, 1733-1804) and Susannah Holland as stage manager. Priestly had discovered oxygen in the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century. Priestly's research of oxygen, which he called dephlogisticated air, began by capturing the gas which formed over the fermenting mash at a brewery. Priestly had a life of amazing experiments. He realized that any living thing would die without fresh air. Priestly discovered how to isolate pure oxygen by heating the ash of burned mercury. Sadly, a French scientist named Antoine Lavoisier tried to steal the credit for this discovery. *The Air We Share* was a fascinating play and had a big impact on the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> graders.



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