

VOLUME XI, ISSUE I

FALL MMXXIII

# *the* SCRIBE

NEWSLETTER OF THE THOMAS JEFFERSON  
LATIN HONOR SOCIETY



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# Salvete, meae caraे formicae!

Welcome, my dear ants!

Ants? Well, with a new school year comes a new convention theme. This year's theme comes from Livy's *Histories*, and it is a fitting quote for any TJ student:

*Multa, quae impedita natura sunt, consilio expediuntur.*  
"Many things which are naturally difficult are solved by ingenuity."

We are often solving difficult things with ingenuity. So are ants. And, like an army of ants, we will keep marching on.

Whether you're only tangentially involved with TJ Latin or it consumes your entire life, whether you're a freshman trying to keep up with RS1 or a junior burdened by a great load of AP classes, I hope that this idea can bring you solace in the coming year.

And as your new *auctor* (editor), I'm excited to share your stories with the TJ Latin community, which has meant so much to me since my days in Latin 1.

To continued ingenuity,  
Cierra "Sulpicia" Min (2023-2024 LHS Auctor)

Thank you to my junior staff, Sophia Tzvetanov and Sydney Buhler, who have contributed greatly to the making of this issue. Also, thank you to Vivian Xue for her artwork and everyone who has provided images and stories for the Scribe!



## TO WRITERS, ARTISTS, AND ALL DEDICATED LATINERS:

Are YOU interested in contributing to the Scribe? If you'd like to write a guest article or share any specific story in a future issue, reach out to Cierra Min, Sydney Buhler, or Sophia Tzvetanov and we can feature your work in the next newsletter!

# recent and upcoming events iii

**Ice Cream Social & Officer Elections:** The first 8th period event of the year was the Ice Cream Social, where students from different levels could meet, and candidates for officer positions could share their platforms. LHS members voted afterward, and officers were inducted in a special ceremony (in a mysterious dark room).

**Latin Buddies Party & Program:** On October 18th, LHS held a party for newly matched Latin Buddies. Latin Buddies were matched based on common interests, and worked together to solve a scavenger hunt.

**Myth Pumpkins:** On October 25th, students put their creativity to the test to make myth-inspired pumpkins. Decorated pumpkins were judged in many categories, including most creative, most accurate, most comedic, and best-crafted.

**Kickoff Certamen:** The day was unusually warm and pleasant, and TJ Latin students were buzzing like bees. We had an exceptional turnout of students competing at the first Certamen of the season hosted at St. Stephen and St. Agnes Upper School. On October 29th, TJ competed with four advanced teams and eight teams in total, taking home first at the intermediate level and third (along with fourth, fifth, and sixth!) at the advanced level. Our Certamen teams hit the ground running at Kickoff, let's keep that momentum going!

**Convention:** VJCL convention just took place November 19th-20th. Latiners spent two days in Richmond to take tests, compete in graphic arts and creative arts competitions, and represent TJ Latin spirit! Look forward to more about state convention in the next issue!

*Students from all grades and levels celebrate a Classics-themed Halloween with creatively decorated Myth Pumpkins. Go to page viii to see if you can match up the myths and the pumpkins!*



*Above: Shoes fly at the Latin 1 & 2 Ice Cream Social. Truly, a great way to kick start the year!  
Left: Seniors flood the language hallway to get their togas tied by Latin students for Homecoming Week's Class Color Day.*

# iv meet the officers

## Introducing our 2023-2024 Executive Board...

Here are a few of the questions I asked!

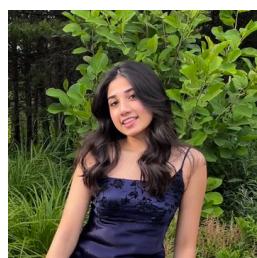
*What's your favorite TJ Latin event?*

*What's your favorite Latin phrase?*

*What's your favorite obscure Latin fact?*

*What's one fun fact about yourself?*

### CONSULES



**Nivika "Sappho" Gandhi, 12, V**

*Vale, puella. Iam Catullus obdurat*  
(Goodbye, girl. Now Catullus is strong)

"Caesar was not born by Caesarean section nor did he eat Caesar salads."

**Laura "Diana" Guo, 12, V**

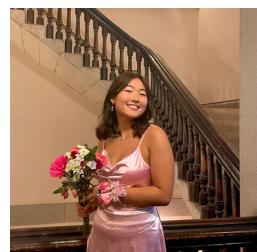
*Alis volat propriis* (she flies with her own wings)

"I've been self-studying French on and off for over a year."

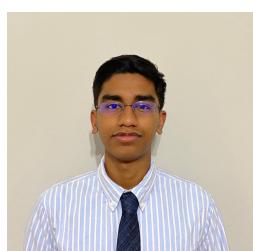


**Avery "Caelia" Park, 12, V**

Death of Caesar Reenactment on the Ides of March  
"The Romans ate peacocks!"



### PRAETOR MAXIMUS



**Rishabh "Brutus" Kumaran, 11, AP**

Rome's Birthday Celebration

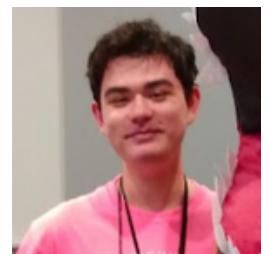
"Less than a fourth of the Roman emperors died of natural causes."

### PRAETORES MAGNI

**Rex "Rex" Allard, 12, AP**

*Castigat ridendo mores* (one corrects customs by laughing at them)

"I love the Teumessian fox."



**James "Spartacus" Kennedy, 12, AP**

*Memento mori* (remember you will die)

"I can do an amazing car impression."

### CENSOR

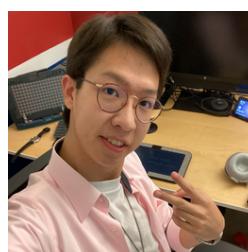
**Shaurya "Fabius" Jain, 11, V**

*Vox clamantis in deserto* (a voice of one crying in the wilderness)

"I am from Savage, Minnesota."



### TRIBUNUS



**Darren "Clemens" Kao, 12, V**

Saturnalia

"*Garum*, the Roman fermented fish sauce, was even added to dessert recipes, which must have made for some wild desserts."

### DOMINUS TELAE

**Anish "Pluto" Paspuleti, 12, V**

*Mens sana in corpore sano* (sound mind in a sound body)

"I can bite popsicles with my teeth!"



## How often do our officers think about the Roman Empire?

"All day everyday, it's always on my mind..."

- Vivian Xue

"Every second of every minute of every hour of every day. This is my Roman Empire."

- Nivika Gandhi

"A few times per week, always when I need to focus on something else."

- Darren Kao

"Once a week for thirty minutes when Marius is lecturing."

- Phillip Cho

"8"

- Nina Garces

# meet the officers



## REGES ET REGINA CERTAMINIS

**Alex "Marius" Bakalov, 11, AP**

*Acta est fabula, plaudite* (the play is over, applaud!)

"Gaius Marius was really great."



**Ojas "Sulla" Chaudhary, 12, V**

*Atque in perpetuum, frater, ave atque vale* (and forever, brother, hail and farewell)

"Come to Certamen and Lunch Lectures! Trust me, you'll find all of it fun no matter how into Latin you are."

**Lucy "Thalia" Watts, 12, VI**

*Non nobis solum nati sumus* (we are not born for ourselves alone)

"Rome had sacred chickens."



## ARTIFICES

**Melissa "Iris" Brown, 12, AP**

Convention

"I hate ketchup. Anyone who uses it on fries are disgracing the fries. Same goes for any other food. Shame on you!"



Introducing our junior staff, who will carry on the torch for future years!

## IUNIORES AUCTORES

**Sydney "Nausicaa" Buhler, 10, AP**

*Parit enim conversatio contemptum; raritas conciliat admirationem* (familiarity breeds contempt, but privacy gains admiration)



**Sophia "Eris" Tzvetanov, 10, III**  
"Fun Fact: I send out a fun fact every week to a group of "subscribers" through email."



**Saranya "Selene" Gadwala, 12, V**

*Audentes fortuna iuvat* (fortune favors the bold)

"Lorem ipsum dolor is not real latin!"



**Vivian "Delia" Xue, 11, AP**

"If you had a nickel for every time a pair of good buds snuck into enemy territory at night to steal a statue in mythology, you'd have two nickels, which isn't a lot, but it's weird that it's happened twice."

## AUCTOR

**Cierra "Sulpicia" Min, 12, AP**

*Edamus, bibamus, gaudeamus* (let us eat, let us drink, let us be merry)

"The Batrachomyomachia, or Battle of Frogs and Mice, is an ancient Greek parody of the Iliad."



## PROCONSUL

**Nina "Maia" Garces, 12, V**

Myth Pumpkins

"Orators are just so impressive. Like how do they just know entire bodies of text? I could never."



## MAGISTER ET MAGISTRA CERTAMINIS

**Philip "Philippus" Cho, 11, AP**

"I learned English when I lived in London 14 years ago so I picked up a British accent very early on."



**Sarah "Iris" Trainer, 10, III**

*Non est ad astra mollis e terris via* (there is no easy way from the earth to the stars)

## IUNIOR DOMINUS TELAE

**Sthavir "Cincinnatus" Vinjamuri, 10, III**

*Vincit qui se vincit* (he conquers who conquers himself)



# AESTATE!

even in the summertime,  
eager TJ Latiners continue to participate  
in the Latin community. here, we dive into two  
of the hottest happenings over the summer...

## Virginia Governor's Latin Academy

Two TJ seniors, Rex Allard and Melissa Brown, attended the Virginia Governor's Latin Academy (known as "Gov School") this past summer, which was held at Randolph-Macon College in Ashland, Virginia. They had the opportunity to immerse themselves in the Classics for three weeks, starting in June, filling their days with an assortment of classes, activities, and games.

While we learn a lot about Roman culture here at TJ Latin, Gov School offers its students a unique chance to learn about Ancient Greece as well, with daily classes that alternate between Latin and Greek. In particular, Allard recalls, "I had a class on cults and things they did in these cults in the ancient times. That [class] focused more on the Greek side, [including] the hero cults and Eleusinian Mysteries."

The students are sorted into

different groups based on Roman provinces, including Italia, Aegyptus, and Gallia, and a big part of the experience included meeting all sorts of people from all over Virginia.

Brown remembers, "There was this one guy whose real name was Octavian, and he was a wrestler."

And often, after living and learning together, these friendships form lasting bonds.

"I definitely made a fairly large group of friends that I'm still in contact with," Allard says. "I'm actually bringing one of my friends from Gov School to state convention with our [TJ] delegation."

The three-week program included July 4th celebrations and culminated with an elaborate banquet.

"The potatoes were really good there. We counted; They had 20 different types of potatoes," Brown says enthusiastically. She



lists off a few, including curly fries, hash browns, tater tots, and sweet potato fries.

Both attendees strongly recommend the program, and assure TJ Latin students that the program is not at all overwhelming, rather, TJ students tend to be overprepared, especially in grammar, even if they might sometimes struggle in class. Still, there's plenty to learn, and lots of fun to be had.

If you're an underclassman with any level of interest in Latin and a couple weeks to spare at the beginning of summer break, consider applying for Gov School!

# NJCL Convention



TJ delegates pose with Gunhee, an international student from South Korea who participated in the NJCL convention.

In late July, TJ Latin students spent a week at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia to take part in the 2023 National Junior Classical League (NJCL) Convention, often referred to as simply "Nats." As part of Virginia's delegation, they participated in a wide range of activities, including art contests, Certamen, spirit, and lectures called Colloquia. There was even a Greek-style agora, which is an open-air market that sold different trinkets, food, and books.

"It's like state convention, but on mega-steroids," Alex Bakalov, 11, explains. "Spirit is so much more, for more days. The tests—The projects—The amount of people that are there—Seeing the Virginia delegation as just one of these massive delegations, and not being the largest, is very different from the TJ feeling [at state convention] of totally dominating. It was a very good experience."

Even with strong competition, the Virginia delegation performed exceptionally well, placing first in spirit, and consistently placing at the top of the various academic tests and Certamen events.

"We had a lot of spirit, so we ended up getting first and we got a little kiddie pool for the entire state team. I think it's actually going to be at the VJCL convention this year," Bakalov says.

Among the convention-goers was James Kennedy, 12. Nats was the first time he has attended any Latin convention, at the state or national level, and it left such a good impression that he decided to run for Praetor Magnus, the spirit coordinator of LHS. When asked about his favorite activity, he says, "We did the Olympika, [which were] basically sport events."

The TJ delegates had a blast staying at Emory, and have plenty more to share with anyone interested in attending next summer.

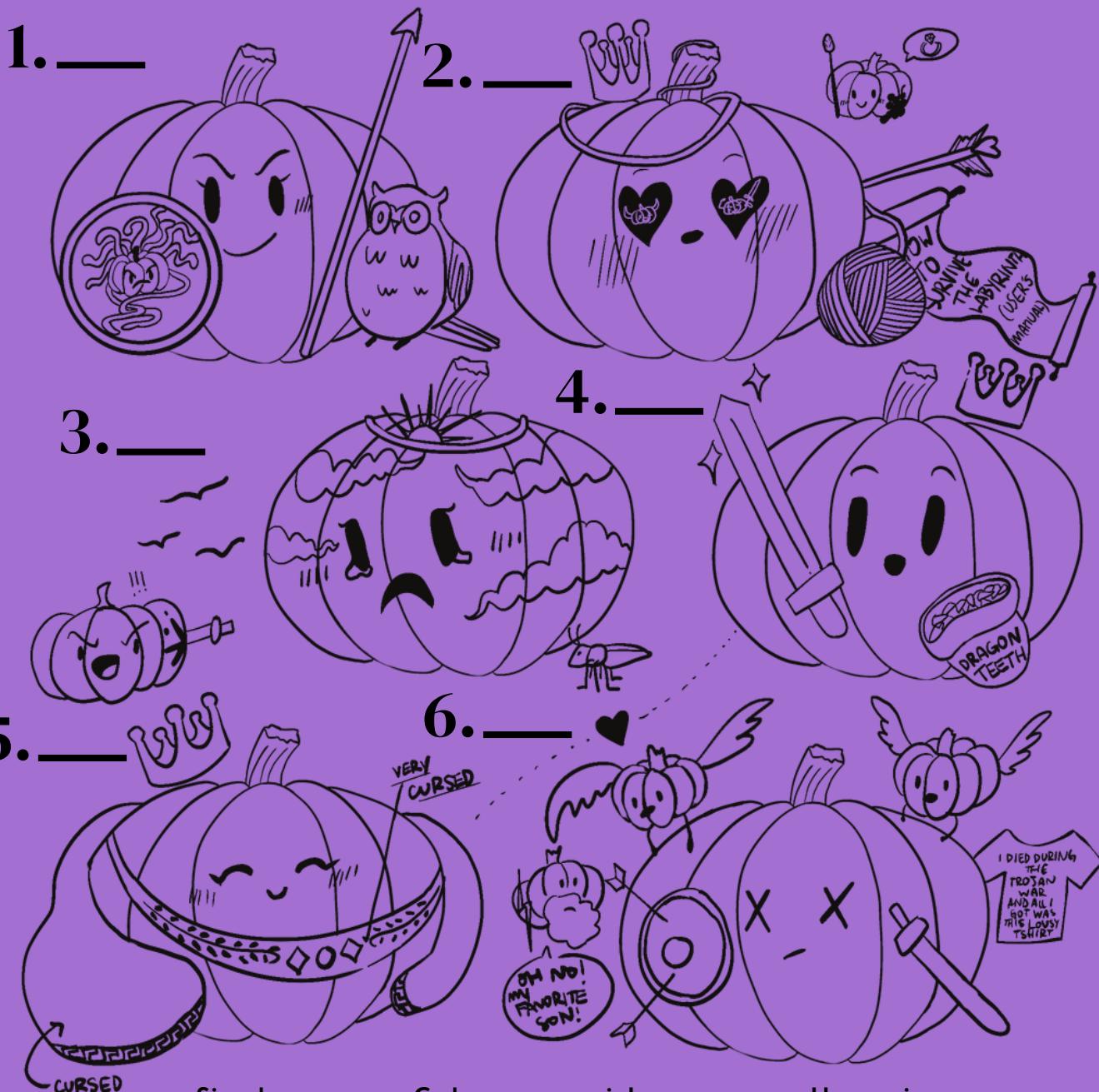
"It's a good opportunity to meet a ton of new people and become closer with Latin kids," says Ellen Zeng, 12. She really enjoyed her week at Nats, and recommends it for other Latin students.

The 2024 NJCL Convention will be in Knoxville, Tennessee. Look out for more details later this year!



viii match the myths and pumpkins

# WHICH PUMPKIN CORRESPONDS TO WHICH MYTHOLOGICAL CHARACTER?

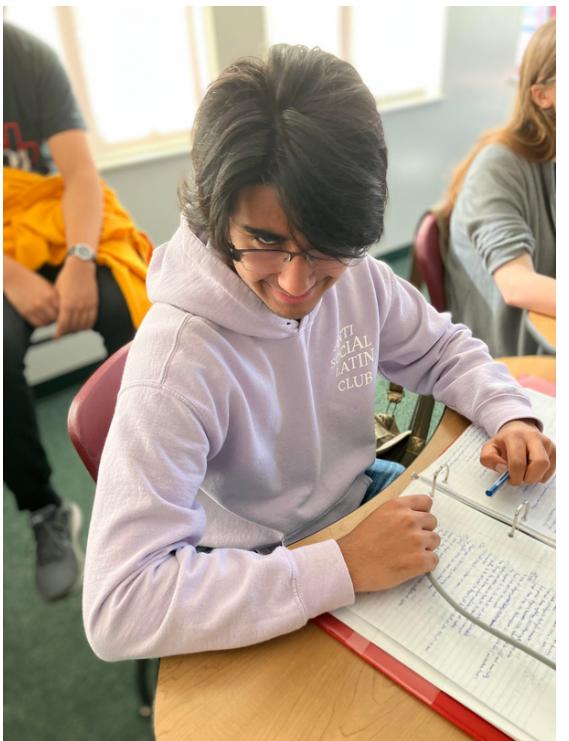


- a. Sisyphus  
c. Sarpedon  
d. Diomedes

- e. Cadmus  
f. Ariadne  
g. Endymion

- i. Jason  
j. Eos  
k. Midas

- m. Harmonia  
n. Aphrodite  
p. Athena



# Photo Dump: Kickoff Certamen





# Photo Dump: Myth Pumpkins

