

VOLUME X, ISSUE II WINTER MMXXIII

the SCRIBE

NEWSLETTER OF THE THOMAS JEFFERSON
LATIN HONOR SOCIETY



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Salvete, Latiners!

In our last issue, I expressed my hope that, throughout many different seas--in keeping with this year's Virginia Junior Classical League Convention theme--we will always remain the same people who have loved Latin and Classics.

In this issue, I have documented many of our experiences, including Certamen tournaments, State Convention, and bonding with Latin Buddies. The common trait of these experiences is that they are shared. Teams are formed; bonds are built. Even when we must approach tasks such as test-taking alone, we approach them knowing that our companions are, too, each individual building upon each other to make a whole. When an individual succeeds, the whole succeeds, and we can all celebrate each other.

The activities enjoyed outside our classrooms have grown our community. We have seen so much together, and there are still more sights to come.

Signing off,

Ellie "Chloe" Chen, 2022-23 LHS auctor



Pictured: friends and companions gather at Convention (see story, p. vi) and Convention Roundup (top left)

TJ Conquers Certamen Tournaments

After opening up the year with Kickoff Certamen, TJ students have only continued to flourish in Certamen tournaments. Certamen, a competition similar to Quiz Bowl but focused on Latin and Classics, has been a source of community through lunch lectures and weekend tournaments.

On December 10th, 2022, TJ students enjoyed the Hayfield Street Certamen tournament, hosted at Hayfield Secondary School. "Street Certamen" is an excellent way to break into the Certamen scene, being directed toward less experienced players and featuring fun questions related to pop culture.

On January 7th, 2023, TJ students excelled in the Certamen tournament at Flint Hill School. At the intermediate level, TJ's A team, consisting of Philip Cho, Sarah Trainer, Sthavir Vinjamuri, and Ethan O'Hara, crusaded their way to the final round, which they won. At the advanced level, TJ's A team, consisting of Gabriel Ascoli, Amit Sai Erraguntla, Alex Balakov, and Conan Ugaz, also won first place.

TJ's very own Certamen is coming up soon, bringing opportunities to volunteer and play! Every year, we host and run our own Certamen, the questions for which are written by TJ students themselves, here in this building. And every year, Latin lovers from all over the state come to participate. Mark your calendars for February 25th---this year's TJ Certamen is sure to be another splashing success. Stay tuned for more information!



TJ's Intermediate A team proudly bears the gift cards bestowed upon them for winning first place at the intermediate level.

Flint Hill Placings Compilation

Novice:

A - 4th

Intermediate:

A - 1st

B - 3rd

Advanced:

A - 1st

B - 4th

C - 3rd

Congratulations to all!



TJ students pose proudly at Flint Hill School after the Flint Hill Certamen Tournament.

New Latin Buddies Program Creates Connections

For many years, TJ's BigSibs/LittleSibs program has helped underclassmen and upperclassmen alike. In the fall of 2022, the TJ Latin Buddies Program was established to help students in the TJ Latin community meet people, form connections, and have fun!

Similar to how the BigSibs/LittleSibs program operates, co-organizers Grace Ko and Ellie Chen pair up "Big Buddies" (older Latin students) and "Little Buddies" (younger Latin students). Matches are made based on factors such as common academic interests, shared hobbies, and what the participants wish to gain from the program.

On December 9th, 2022, during 8th period, many pairs of buddies met each other in person for the first time at the Latin Buddies holiday party. Ellie Chen, Grace Ko, and Isha Satapathy planned a Greco-Roman mythology-themed cookie decorating activity. At the party, program participants used icing and candies to create art on sugar cookies while sipping lemonade and conversing with new friends.

The young program has already been a success. Below is an interview with Grace "Marcella" Ko, who shares some of her thoughts as a co-organizer.

How do you think the Latin Buddies Program is going so far?

I think the pairings are working out well so far! In fact, I overheard one of our members telling Ms. Lister how much he enjoyed meeting his buddy during the holiday party. Everyone seems open and comfortable to communicate with each other.

What has been your personal experience with your buddy?

When I met her, I could sense that she was a really involved TJ student. At the holiday party, I could see that she was a humorous person and it was really comfortable getting to know her. The party had a very camaraderie-inducing atmosphere.

Why were you interested in organizing the Latin Buddies Program?

I feel that this program is reflective of the TJ Latin community spirit: older students help younger students enter the exciting and wonderful world of TJ Latin. Working with such a close friend of mine is very nice as well. In giving back to my community, I have also learned a lot about organization and leadership. Even though it's a smaller program, I hope people are able to create long-lasting friendships.



Grace Ko

To sign up for the Latin Buddies Program, contact Grace Ko or Ellie Chen!

event updates

V

Time for an update on some recent events in the TJ Latin community!

Saturnalia. Right before winter break, every Latin class participated in the annual TJ Latin tradition of celebrating Saturnalia! Students brought in food and drinks for a Roman banquet and exchanged gifts among themselves. Latin Honor Society officers also prepared “Saturnalia bags” with treats and cards for teachers.

NJCL exams. The National Junior Classical League (NJCL) offers an assortment of examinations each year. On December 7th, 2022, during 8th period, we administered the NJCL Etymology Exam and the NJCL Roman Civilization Exam to various students. High scorers on these NJCL exams won gold, silver, and bronze medals. More opportunities are on the horizon--NJCL exams in Vocabulary and Hellenic Civilization are coming up this spring!



TJ students raise their "spirit props" (surfboards) at the spirit event at this year's Virginia Junior Classical League Convention (story p. vi).

Buddies connect at the Latin Buddies Program Holiday Party (story p. iv).

Some upcoming TJ Latin events to keep an eye out for include:

Latin iNite! Every year for iNite, Latin Club’s act tells a mythological story. This year’s myth is Hades and Persephone (or their Roman forms, Pluto and Proserpina). Latin iNite practices take place every Wednesday A block, and the performance will be in March alongside all the other iNite acts. It’s not too late to join!

TJ Certamen! As mentioned before (p. iii), TJ’s very own Certamen will be held Saturday, February 25th! We will need volunteers to moderate and scorekeep as well as players, so look out for announcements regarding that soon!

Lupercalia! Lupercalia is the ancient Roman equivalent of Valentine’s Day. Every year, TJ Latin hosts a celebration during 8th period—make sure to sign up!

Ides of March! This fun annual TJ Latin tradition typically consists of a reenactment of the death of Caesar and a parade around the school!

vi convention recap!

Fall of 2022: TJ Students Excel, Enjoy, and Experience

Pack your bags, shove in your projects, clamber onto the bus to Richmond! We're headed to the annual Virginia Junior Classical League (VJCL) Convention ("Convention"), an experience with something to offer for every Latin student in the state.

Every year, Convention kicks off with a spirit contest. Thanks to the hard work of our *praetores magni*, Alex "Aegeus" Yung and Rex "Rex" Allard, among the extra-large delegations, TJ won first place in spirit with a Latin-themed rendition of "Surfin' USA."

Regarding their general experience at Convention, Sam "Dolorellus" Payne, Sarah "Iris" Trainer, and Anna "Psyche" Kim all agree that their favorite part was being around cool "Latin nerds" from all across the state. About the activities, Sam says, "There are so many things you can do at Convention to show your love of Classics." Those include various creative and graphic arts contests. The "Modern Myth" contest invites students to write a modern version of an ancient Classical myth. Sarah, who won first place in her level for her mythological interpretation of the death of Vine, says, "It's fun to let loose and write something crazy. You never know what will happen!"

Contrasting the writing of Modern Myth is the very public performance of Dramatic Interpretation (DI), in which participants act out a Latin passage. Daniel "Spartacus" Kim, who has "always enjoyed acting" and aptly won Best In Show for DI, says, "I think DI is a form of artistic expression. I try my best to connect with all the characters in my piece and tie it back to events in my life. In doing that, it helps me appreciate the Latin language even more and keeps me engaged in what we do in class." Daniel also notes, "It's really hard to memorize lines in a different language."



Top: TJ students give their all in the spirit contest.

Right: The incomparable Daniel Kim acts out Horatius guarding a bridge onstage.

convention recap! (cont.) vii

Another contest involving public speaking is Storytelling. To Daphne “Daphne” Feigin, who won Best In Show for Storytelling, it is “being able to take a story that people may or may not know and present it to a very mixed group of people in a way that is engaging to each and every one of them and is fun for yourself.” Anna also has plans to try out Storytelling in the future by voice-acting it.

In the graphic arts, Vivian “Delia” Xue won Best In Show in one of the categories. Chuckling, Vivian says that “they said it was my painting, but then they put my watercolor in the best-in-show slideshow.” For those who wish to try out graphic arts, Vivian advises, “Start planning ahead of time and don’t rush.”

Arts aside, tests are an important component of Convention that can still be fun! Sam offers, “You can choose your favorite parts of Classics to take the tests on.” To do well on tests, Anna, who placed first or second on multiple exams in her grade, suggests to “pay attention in class and soak in the information and know it well.”

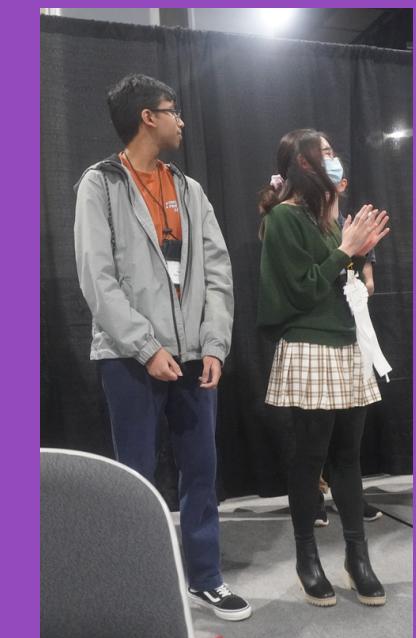
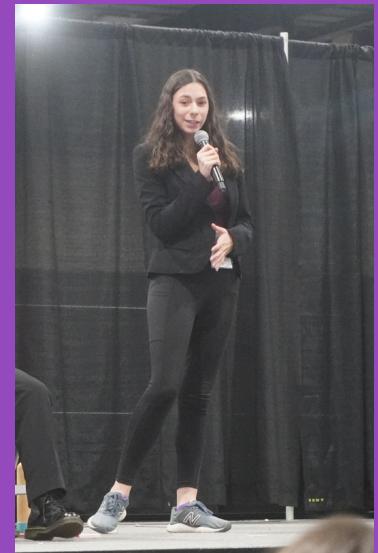
The most rigorous test is the Academic Decathlon, a contest for the most accomplished Latin students that covers ten disciplines in Latin and Classics more broadly. Ellie “Chloe” Chen, who placed fifth, describes taking this test as “a grueling but fruitful experience in which you learn a lot about yourself.” Indeed, when Amit “Catilina” Erraguntla found out he placed second, he “felt really excited to be on the stage in front of everyone.”

Another significant distinction is the Hughlings H. Himwich Award for Academics, given annually at Convention to the student with the best academic performance on tests. This was won by our very own Conan “Antonius” Ugaz! About his academic achievement, Conan says, “I was pleasantly surprised when I heard my name called for the award. I felt very satisfied that my decision to take the prose and poetry tests back to back paid off.”

Convention also includes its own Certamen tournament; our team from TJ did very well!

Outside of tests and contests, another significant aspect of Convention is the election of the new VJCL board of officers. From TJ, two students ran for office: Laura “Diana” Guo for first vice president and Nivika “Sappho” Gandhi for second vice president. Although neither won, they both expressed their passion for and dutifully represented the TJ Latin community.

Yearning for next year’s VJCL Convention already? Missed out this time? No need to fear—the NJCL (National) Convention will be hosted this summer at Emory University in Atlanta! Mark your calendars for July 23-28!



Top to bottom: Daphne delivers her Storytelling performance; Ellie and Amit receive Academic Decathlon distinction; Laura and Nivika deliver campaign speeches.

viii personality quiz

1. Out of the following, which is your favorite subject?

- a. Math
- b. English
- c. History
- d. Art/music
- e. Science
- f. Latin

2. Which science is your favorite?

- a. Computer science
- b. Chemistry
- c. Biology
- d. Geology
- e. Physics
- f. In my heart there is only Latin

3. Which of the following values do you consider the *most* important?

- a. Structure, predictability
- b. Courage, righteousness
- c. Freedom, liberty
- d. Individuality, expression
- e. Consistency, stability
- f. The learning of Latin

4. What do you usually look forward to on a school day?

- a. Engaging in my favorite class
- b. Answering questions and sharing ideas
- c. Leaving
- d. Lunch!
- e. Passing periods
- f. Latin class

5. Which of the following traits do you value most in a friend?

- a. Integrity. I can trust my friend to be honest and do the right thing.
- b. Humor. I know I can have a good time with my friend.
- c. Daring. I can count on my friend to encourage me to try new things.
- d. Tolerance. I can trust my friend to not judge me.
- e. Reliability. I know my friend is always there for me.
- f. The ability to converse in Latin.

6. Pick a color, any color (out of the following)!

- a. Red
- b. Blue
- c. Green
- d. Yellow
- e. Orange
- f. Purple, for Latin

7. Last one! What is your favorite part of Latin class?

- a. Translating, translating, translating
- b. Completing quarterly and in-class projects
- c. Learning about ancient Roman history and geography
- d. VSFs
- e. Class discussions
- f. Every glorious minute spent sitting in the Latin classroom fills me with the purest form of joy

Which Latin Verb Conjugation Are You?

RESULTS

Mostly A's → first conjugation. You are likely an organized person. The emphasized “a” sound in each -are booms deeply with a tone of intelligence and honesty, traits you likely embody and admire. First conjugation verbs include amare and dare.

Mostly B's → second conjugation. It's easy to tell your thoughts and opinions and views apart from others'. You are likely a creative thinker with much to share about this world. Second conjugation verbs include vidēre and habēre.

Mostly C's → third conjugation. There is variation in your personality and daily life. You are likely an explorer, someone who enjoys dabbling in new things while learning about important matters along the way. Third conjugation verbs include vincere and agere.

Mostly D's → third-io conjugation. You're a unique one! Whether it's your fashion sense or personality or general vibe, you stand out no matter which crowd you're in. You are likely opinionated and bright. Third-io conjugation verbs include iacere and capere.

Mostly E's → fourth conjugation. The “i” sound in -ire adds a little bit of tange, a little bit of spice. You are likely a problem solver as well as an idea-finder, and you have a sense of mystery about you that others can't quite grasp. Fourth conjugation verbs include invenire and dormire.

Mostly F's → the Latin conjugation. You really like Latin, don't you? Well, congratulations! You've unlocked the elusive Latin conjugation, the ultimate conjugation to end all conjugations. Keep on Latining!