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the SCRIBE

NEWSLETTER OF THE THOMAS JEFFERSON
LATIN HONOR SOCIETY



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ii updates

Each year, TJ Latin's artifices (historians) design and create a spirit banner that encompasses the annual theme. This year, the theme was "Many things which are naturally difficult are solved by ingenuity," which presented the artifices with a unique challenge to create a concept that showcases ingenuity. As one of the main designers of the banner and the t-shirt for the past two years, Saranya Gadwala, 12, was particularly proud of this year's banner.

"It feels even more satisfying than last year, because I know we had to put more effort into finding an idea," she explains.

Tragically, the banner was left at the curb as the rest of our convention delegation set off to Richmond. Although we weren't able to display it to the rest of the VJCL, we wanted to honor the LHS artifices briefly (Melissa Brown, Saranya Gadwala, and Vivian Xue) along with their incredible ingenuity and craftsmanship. And with this ingenuity in mind, enjoy the spring issue of the Scribe!

Welcome back, Magistra Donohue!



As many of you may know, Magistra Donohue recently had to miss a lot of school. In her absence, sophomores Anna Kim, Annie Chiu, and Fiona MacGarvey organized a basket for her filled with well wishes from many students.

Anna Kim recalls, "I knew a lot of people were missing her and I just wanted to figure out a way to show her some love."

We're very glad that she has recovered well and that she's now back in the Latin classroom!



Cover: TJ Latin's spirit banner for VJCL Convention
Above: Banner painters pose after an afterschool work session

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!

This issue of the Scribe was created by Cierra Min, Sydney Buhler, and Sophia Tzvetanov. Thank you to all those who contributed their writings, interviews, and photographs.

VJCL Convention: In November, TJ marched its way into convention (Hurrah! Hurrah!). Students received awards for their performances, tests, and art submissions, including many Best-In-Shows and Academic Decathlon cash prizes. We had fun playing street certamen, singing karaoke, struggling to figure out how to make togas out of bed sheets, and of course: kissing the fish statue. And, most notably, the new VJCL president is a member of our very own school!

Holiday Buddy Party & Bake Sale: Latin buddies, old and young, got together for our holiday buddy party, complete with a cookie decorating contest. The bake sale we held between 8th periods was a smashing success, because really who can resist hot chocolate and sugar?

Saturnalia: When it came time to settle down for winter break, we celebrated Saturnalia with gift exchanges (complete with poems) and food!

Lupercalia: We may not have hit people with actual strips of goat hide, but TJ Lupercalia was still a memorable occasion. Students sent mittendimanti (hearts or goats) to each other—complete with a bag of candy—as a sweet way to celebrate friends. The 8th period celebration featured goat-themed versions of the games Mafia and Freeze Tag.

LHS induction: Latin IIIs (and APs who didn't get to do it last year) gathered in a dark room for a super secret induction ceremony into the prestigious Latin Honor Society. Although its rituals cannot be revealed (hence the "secret"), let's just say the ceremony was indeed very super.

Ides of March: In our most cult-ish activity of the year, we marched around the school shouting "Beware the Ides of March!" to commemorate Caesar's assassination, complete with a dramatic reenactment and plenty of candy!

TJ Certamen: On March 16, Latin students from all over came to TJ to compete in our twentieth annual certamen, run by many dedicated student and parent volunteers.

iNite: Whether you are part of iNite or not, get hyped! It will take place on April 6th with two shows. Make sure to get tickets fast and come see the wonderful performances, including TJ Latin's portrayal of Pandora's Box.



Left: Lucy Watts, as Antony, speaks over the body of Caesar, played by Avery Park, in the senior officer reenactment of Caesar's assassination.

Right: Students march through the halls during lunch on the Ides of March.



Right: Students chant passionately during the spirit contest at convention, decked out in ant-ennae, ant glasses, and brightly painted shields.

Below: The entire TJ delegation poses for a group picture after a tasty Roman banquet.



Below: Magistra Donohue and excited Latiners eagerly make the journey to Richmond for state convention.



unassuming: underclassmen make new memories

by Bonna Koo

FORMICOMINO ITER HURRAH! HURRAH!

Shouting the memorable chant written by Praetor Magnus, Rex Allard, TJ students burst into the convention hall with spirit and triumph galore. Among these enthusiastic folk were newcomers to the convention process, witnessing its glory and chaos for the very first time. The event welcomed beginners with open arms and activities aplenty.

Jacob Wolfsthal, 9, states, "I was surprised at how much freedom you're given, I thought it would be much more group-oriented, where we all stay together. It was more the opposite, where you could go wherever and see whatever with your friends."

Even those who had been before with other schools were new to the TJ-specific experience.

"I've been to convention twice and I really liked it before so I decided to do it this year. It was definitely different, especially the chants, because this time it was a much bigger group," says Grace Yuan, 9.

First-time convention-goers also got to experience their first VJCL exams, filling up endless rows of seats and the concrete floor. Ranging from grammar to classical art, the tests challenged students without being too stressful.

"It was more relaxed than I thought it'd be," Clara Jarvis, 9, says. Another exciting part of convention for beginners was its many contests.

"When we went to convention, I really liked doing the competitions," says Mark Johnson, 9.

Un



Latin IIs (plus Grace Yuan, 9) gather after a long day of diving into the Classics.

Convention was truly an unforgettable experience, from staying up until midnight with newly-bonded Latin friends to exploring every nook and cranny of the convention center, and if there's one thing new-comers knew for sure, they knew they'd return next year.

As Anna Park, 10, puts it, "What I remember most is just having fun with my friends."

unafraid: performers display their unique talents

One of the last (but one of the best) events at each state convention is the annual talent show, That's Entertainment. Students from across Virginia, including two students from TJ's delegation, stepped up to showcase their talents, from singing, to playing the saxophone, to even performing diabolo tricks, like our very own Darren Kao, 12, who won the grand cash prize for his show-stopping performance.

Diabolo isn't the most well-known of hobbies, but Kao explains, "Diabolo, also known as Chinese yo-yo, is an Asian performance art where you balance this large yo-yo-like object on a string and then you



Darren Kao, 12, juggles two spinning diabolos at once in his winning performance.

hold sticks attached to either end of the string and you can do tricks like that."

He began his diabolo journey in second grade through Chinese school, and it stuck. Now, although he can execute clean tosses and crazy tricks in front of amazed

audiences, the most difficult part of performing is waiting for his turn.

"My act was one of the last," he explains, "so standing behind the stage and hearing everybody cheer was *terrifying*. Hands were shaking; I was pacing. Once I got on the stage, I saw everybody cheering and I was like, okay, I can do this."

And he did. As the audience held its breath and closely watched the spinning diabolos, Kao performed a stunning series of spins, flips, and throws to upbeat music. When he finished with a flourish, the audience erupted into a standing ovation and the judges ultimately awarded him with a well-deserved first-place finish.

Conventional

TJ students bridge old and new at this year's VJCL Convention

unparalleled: a peek into the presidential agenda



Vivian Xue, 11, is an AP Latin student, TJ LHS artifex, and this year's VJCL president! Here, she gives us an inside look at what she's been up to since being elected at convention:

So, what are you working on right now?

I just passed two major proposals, and the outcome was that we're going to be changing up the way that our communications works, so that it's more accessible to students directly from the source, if you will. And we might do new stuff on the [VJCL] website, so look out for that!

What legacy do you hope to leave behind?

To be completely honest, one of the things I really want to do is get rid of the 'TJ stigma'. Because TJ is such a majority, I get where that's

founded, and I do want to perpetuate more of an equal contribution [from different schools] in terms of the VJCL, but I also really want people to think of TJ as less of the 'smart school' and more as people who are leaders too.

And finally, is there anything else you want to tell TJ Latin?

Thank you for supporting me in my campaign. I know it was a while ago, but everyone was really, really supportive and I don't think I could have done it without every single person.

Read the full interview in the digital edition!

A Joyous Occasion

What Roman ceremony involves a procession of people throwing nuts, a utensil boy, and a rad updo? Why, a wedding of course (obviously)! Before winter break, the Latin III's had the opportunity to re-enact a Roman wedding, complete with costumes, props, and delicious food.

First, we dressed the bride in the tunica recta (white tunic), nodus Herculaneus (Herculean knot) reticulum (yellow hairnet), and flammeum (orange veil), and braided her lovely locks into six parts, which were then pinned up in a hairstyle called sex crines. The bride and groom's hands were tied together (dextras iungere) to represent their new bond. We checked the omens with the help of an augur (bird-watching omen taker) and a haruspex (organ-reading omen taker), and headed outside to smear olive oil on the railings of the Nobel courtyard amphitheater, as one does. Kevin Boakye, who played the role of the haruspex, thinks the best part was performing the omen-taking, which he says "would have been better with real sacrifices."

Sarah Trainer, who played the role of the groom in her class, says, "I thought it was really, really fun." When asked what her favorite part was, she says: "Probably the food afterward." Some other wedding traditions performed were carrying the bride over the threshold, throwing nuces (nuts), and having ten witnesses of the wedding sign the tabulae nuptiales (contract of marriage). Overall, the wedding ceremony was an exciting way to deep-dive into Roman customs, and not only were our brains blessed with knowledge, but our stomachs were blessed with food (which always seems to be a crowd favorite).



Twentieth Annual TJ Certamen

It was the second time that week Latin students were wearing their red shirts, and the ant symbolism on the front was holding true. If one were a poet, one might even compare the school at the time to an ant hill. TJ Certamen happened during an already busy week for Latin, but that didn't mean it was treated with any less enthusiasm. In the face of tiredness and the second to last week of the quarter, parent and student volunteers ran the event smoothly and things went off without a hitch.

Our Certamen featured 43 teams from 21 schools. These teams ranged from middle school students to high school seniors, Latin I's to V's, and were either in for the competition or just for the fun. Some came for the thrill of buzzing in at the exact right time, some for the medals when they won, and some for the food. All were united by one thing: a love of Latin and the Classics.

Many TJ Latin students united as well by volunteering for the event. Some served on filler teams hailing from schools such as the "Culinary Institute of America (CIA)" to balance the competition while others kept score and manned the buzzer-machines. Did I mention that all questions asked were written by our very own students? It truly was heart-warming to see the

word on the street

Did you know that "Buffalo buffalo Buffalo buffalo buffalo buffalo Buffalo buffalo" is a grammatically correct English sentence? Well, Sarah "Iris" Trainer certainly did when she wrote a question including it for VJCL Street Certamen, a more playful version of the usual competition. The Buffalo question asked players to name any word and its meaning in a similarly odd Latin sentence, "*Malō mālō mālō mālō*" (see answers at the bottom of the page).

Sarah wasn't the only TJ student to contribute questions to the competition, however. Various other certamen players wrote questions including topics ranging from **Genshin Impact** to **trigonometric functions** to **Civilization VI**. Teams from across the state answered many of these questions during VJCL convention in November, and Sarah's question was asked during finals!



number of students both volunteering and visiting for the sole purpose of doing extra Latin. Here's to next year's Certamen, and the dedicated members of the TJ Latin community.

viii latin madlibs: an eventful trip to rome

Whether or not you were able to join Magistra Lister (et al.) on TJ Latin's spring break excursion, grab a friend to fill out these Madlibs and get transported right to Rome!

You and your *amici/ae* have decided to tour the _____ city of Rome. One *amicus* brings along his _____ to _____ during the trip, but airport security confiscates it! It's time to tour the city and see the _____, but unfortunately without a way to _____.

After visiting the _____ in Rome and _____ through the city, you discover a/n _____ shop that has a sign reading "*Machinae Temporis et Omina* _____." How _____! You and an *amica* _____ (into) the shop and manage to find _____, but the _____ doesn't know any English! They ask, "*Quid emere volumus?*" You are _____ at the Latin and reply, "*Tu loqueris linguam Latinam? _____!* _____ *emere volo! Gratias!*"

They look at you _____ when you hand them _____, but you leave _____. Now with the _____ secured you give it to your *amicus* and he gives you a/n _____ hug in thanks. He _____ with you and your *amici/ae* at the _____ and buys you some gelato. The trip was a success! Next time, you'll remember to be wary of _____.