



The Consul

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Miramonte Latin Club



Ludi Novembres 2019



On October 26th, Miramonte Latin students attended Ludi Novembres at Menlo School in Atherton! Students had an exciting day, with academic testing, sports, open certamen, and colloquia. The convention started with opening remarks from the CAJCL board including Miramonte's own Athena Davis and Isabelle Krochmal! Students also participated in rallying spirit cheers in a great show of Miramonte pride. Then, students participated in a variety of academic testing from grammar, to mythology, to daily life. There were many wins this year, especially in our Latin I Class!

LUDI RESULTS:

Alex Aoki	3rd place Grammar HS 2
Wyatt Barnes	2nd place Certamen HS 2 and 2nd place Mythology HS1
Ellie Belshaw	3rd place Vocabulary HS 1
Nicole Chai	3rd place Mythology HS 1
Jay Dhillon	3rd place Certamen Advanced
Cara Holden	3rd place Reading Comprehension HS 3
Lilly Horri	3rd place Reading Comprehension HS 2
Marina Kim	2nd place Mythology HS 1
Alex Kohr	2nd place Mythology HS 2
Daniel Litwin	3rd place Mythology HS 2
Seamus McCarthy	1st place Certamen Advanced
Courtney Mercer	2nd place vocabulary HS 1
Ryan Meyers	1st place Vocabulary HS 1
Jessical Milmo	2nd place Certamen HS 1 and 1st place Mythology HS 1
Owen Pan	2nd place Reading Comprehension HS Advanced
Sanjeeta Pannu	3rd place Certamen HS 1
Emi Ross	3rd place Vocabulary HS 1
Anchul Schmidt	3rd place Daily Life HS 1
Aiden Sean Gabriel	3rd place Certamen HS 2
Josh Severson	2nd place Reading Comprehension HS 1
Grace Sjoberg	1st place Mythology HS 3
Edrick Wang	2nd place Certamen Advanced
Aaron Zemelman	3rd place Certamen HS 1



Open Certamen was exciting, and students had a chance to try the Latin trivia game in a low-stakes environment.

“I think certamen is really fun because it’s like Jeopardy and it is fun to learn new stuff in a relaxed way” Mallika Dandamudi, a Latin III, said.



Besides Certamen, students could also participate in things like community service, sports, or jewelry making. This year’s community service project was writing letters to inmates taking Latin.

“There was a great turnout at the project. The adult in the room said the whole project had been great! She estimated that about 30-40 people showed up. There were over 30 letters at the end!” Olivia Eukel said.

Miramonte excelled in sports, winning first place in all the sports offered: basketball, volleyball, and dodgeball. Jewelry making was also a hit, with beautiful beads, and a professional jewelry maker to help teach. “My favorite part of the jewelry making was watching and collaborating with all the creative people around me. I’m grateful to learn a few tips and make new friends,” Naomi Chen said.

To wrap up Ludi, students could pick from seven different Colloquia, or seminars, around the theme of using the classics beyond high school. This year’s selection had some fun treats, including a preview of the upcoming musical “The Song of Achilles,” and a presentation about classical influences in modern-day metal working.

Saturnalia

Saturnalia, like its name may suggest, was an annual ancient Roman festival that took place between the 17th and 23rd of December for the purpose of celebrating the agricultural god Saturnus. According to Roman legend, Saturnus had presided over Italy during its Golden Age as a kind and benevolent king who had taught the people agriculture and given them laws. The Romans celebrated Saturnalia in remembrance of all that Saturnus had gifted them. During this festival, Romans exchanged gifts, performed sacred rituals, and enjoyed banquets and feasts, among other things.

One important location during Saturnalia was the Temple of Saturn, located in the north-western corner of the Forum of Rome, where the Roman people would gather to cut the woolen bonds that bound the feet of the statue of Saturnus as a means of 'liberating' him.

Every Saturnalia, each household would elect a Saturnalicus princeps - a 'leader of the Saturnalia' - who was chosen to take charge of that year's festivities. Sometimes called the 'Leader of Misrule,' this jolly figure was most often taken from amongst the least authoritative figures in the house and was given temporary authority to lead the family and commit light-hearted pranks. This air of mirth and hilarity carried throughout the festival; in general, Saturnalia was regarded as one of the most joyful holy days to be celebrated by the Roman people.

What made this festival so popular? For one, normal societal conventions were suspended for the duration of the festival -- more than just relaxing them, the Romans would completely flip the order of the social hierarchy. Slaves enjoyed, for a time, the same privileges as a citizen, while slaveowners donned a pilleus -- a hat worn by freed-slaves -- and waited on their slaves at dinner. Everyone wore more informal clothes, called synthesis, and partook in dancing, singing, gambling, feasting, and general merry-making instead of working.

On the last day of the festival, during the Sigillaria, Romans would buy candles, treats, and special terracotta figurines called sigilla (for which this day is named) to give to their loved ones -- a practice which has had a direct influence on the Christian celebration of Christmas.

Indeed, the general merriment and freedoms allowed by the celebration of Saturnalia helped to make it one of the most loved festivals celebrated by the Roman people; the very "best of times," according to poet Catullus.

Attention all Latin students!

Miramonte Latin Club will be celebrating Saturnalia Friday, December 20, after the last final. Come join us in Magister Davis' room for a modern spin on this classic Roman festival! There will be pizza, gambling (with many chocolate coins to be won), holiday card making, auguries, and much, much more. We hope to see you there!

Siblings in Miramonte Latin Club



Nico (Latin I) & Max (Latin III) Grinold

Why did you want to take Latin?

Nico: Because I want to make new friends and learn about language, and myself on the way.

Max: I heard great things about it from friends and people who had taken the class in the past. It looked really fun and interesting so I decided to take the class.

What is your favorite part about Latin?

Nico: My favorite part about Latin is going into class knowing I have a teacher and people that really care about me.

Max: Saturnalia is always really fun, it's a great tradition and there is always good food.

What is your favorite story that you have studied in Latin class?

Nico: The Io story was fascinating because Io turned into vacca.

Max: Phaethon, because he basically stole his dad's "car" and crashed it, which I think is a pretty funny story.

What is your favorite Latin quote:

Nico: "Meus saccus est domi"

Max: "Sic Senex" which translates to "Ok Boomer" - Magister Davis

What is your favorite part about having a sibling in Latin Club?

Nico: How much closer and how our relationship has grown since we have been taking the language together.

Max: It's great because I know that he's going to have great teachers and lots of great opportunities to meet new people and get involved in the community.



Ricky (Latin I) & Athena (Latin IV) Davis

Why did you want to take Latin?

Ricky: I wanted to take Latin because it is a really cool language and it has a very deep history.

Athena: I wanted to take Latin after being raised in the MHS Latin Club community! I couldn't imagine my high school experience without it.

What is your favorite part about Latin?

Ricky: My favorite part of Latin is when we learn new Sermons that have funny phrases in them.

Athena: My favorite part about Latin is connecting with people across the bridge of time to understand that we all share similar thoughts, feelings, and goals.

What is your favorite story that you have studied in Latin class?

Ricky: My favorite story that we have learned is the Io story because it is such a classic with Zeus cheating on Juno with a nymph.

Athena: So far, Catullus's poems have been my favorite works to translate.

What is your favorite Latin quote:

Ricky: My favorite Latin quote is "Dulces Calcei canis".

Athena: "Vale, puella" - Catullus

What is your favorite part about having a sibling in Latin Club?

Ricky: My favorite part about having an older sister in Latin club is that if I ever need help I know I can always ask her.

Athena: It's fun to watch my brother, Ricky, work through the same translations as I did, and see how he views the ancient world.

Latin Alumnus: Zahra Hasanain



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- ~ Zahra graduated in 2018 and is a former Latin Club Caesar!
- ~ She is continuing her History and Classics studies at UC Berkeley.

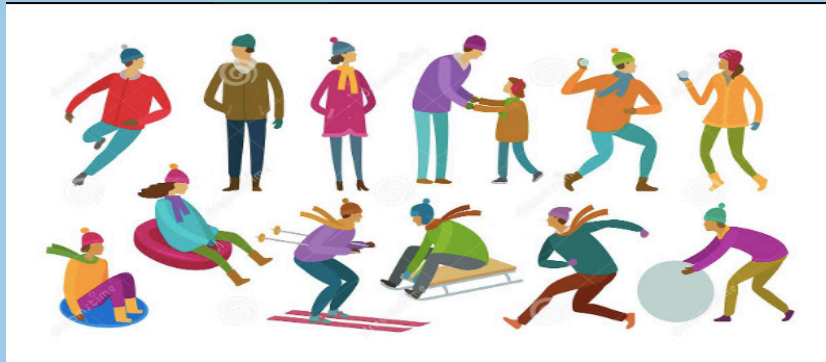
“I think sometimes people think Latin is either very utilitarian (boosts SAT scores, improves vocabulary and grammar skills) or unnecessarily high-brow and ancient. I would try to shed such assumptions by trying to figure out how Latin relates to your own life even beyond academics. Otherwise, you might lose interest quickly or find yourself parroting simplified propaganda about Latin’s relationship to “Western civilization” or its supposed superiority to other languages.

In terms of learning the actual language, I think it’s important to keep in mind that everyone learns languages differently. You’ll have to memorize grammar and vocab no matter what, but taking Latin is also an opportunity to discover and develop what sorts of learning methods work for you.”

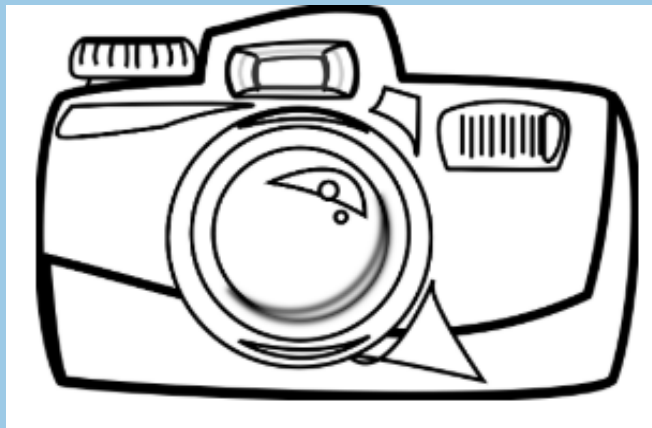
MAGIS OPPORTUNITY OVER BREAK!

Although 1st Semester ends before the holiday break this year, here's a way to get a head start on 2nd Semester's Magis while sharing your holiday fun with your fellow Miramonte Latin Clubbers:

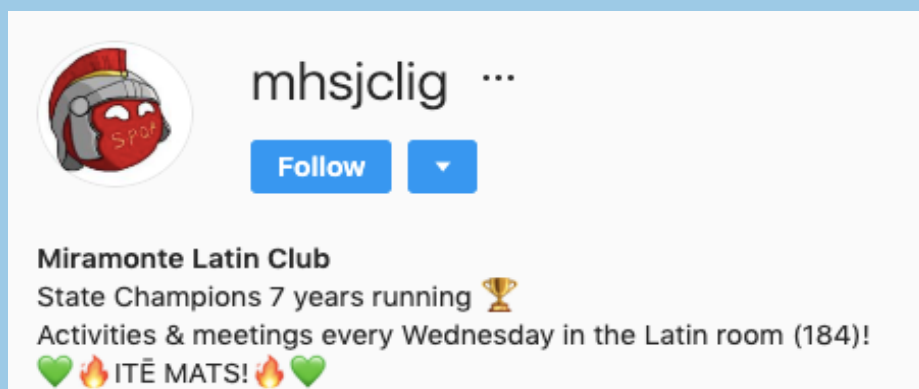
1. Have an adventure over your holiday break!



2. Take a picture or video to document your adventure



3. Share your picture or video on Instagram with @MHSjcl



Do you want to have one of your pictures, articles, or quotes featured in the next Consul edition?

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