

THE CONSUL

Open House Issue -- Published: Kalendis Februariis MMXVIII A.D.

The official publication of the
Miramonte Latin Club - Special Edition

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Miramonte Latin Club

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Clockwise from top left: 1. On the quad, the Miramonte Latin Club presents the Chariot to the student body. The club took the chariot to the quad in the first month of school to publicize Latin. 2. Celebrating Augustus's Birthday, Latin IV students act out the death of the Julius Caesar. This is an annual event. 3. With a Roman background, AP Latin students pose for a photo. Ludi was full of fun classical activities.

WELCOME TO MHS LATIN

Article by: Zahra Hasanain

Salvete Amici! Hello, Friends, and welcome to Miramonte Latin! Here, you'll never again think of Latin as a language reserved for cold, dead men. In fact, there's nothing more enlivening than hearing a room full of enthusiastic Latin students reciting "Exegi monumentum aere perennius..." in unison at the start of every class. These ancient lines from Horace remind us of the importance of building "a monument more lasting than bronze," or using our potential for a purpose greater than ourselves. What sets Miramonte Latin apart is our commitment to creating a friendly community to celebrate Ancient Greece and Rome. Every Latin student is also a part of Latin Club. Latin Club is the most active club on campus, and a place where students of different interests and backgrounds congregate once a week to plan or partake in fun activities relating to the ancient world. From Freshmen to Seniors,

everyone offers their opinions in an accepting and open environment. This non-hierarchical spirit means that even from the start of high school, you'll be able to find a community that makes you excited to come to school. Whether we're performing auguries (ancient bird watching) at our annual Saturnalia (Roman Christmas) party, or celebrating Augustus's birthday with a feast, Latin Club makes Latin fun. Latin Club also provides a variety of opportunities for students to nourish their love for Latin. Do you enjoy watching Jeopardy!? Then try your hand at Certamen, or Latin Jeopardy. Are you fond of writing? Then write for our bi-monthly newsletter, The Consul. Do you love making things? Then create art inspired by classical themes or help us improve our chariot for the chariot contest at the California Junior Classical League's annual State Latin Convention. At Latin Convention, students can

showcase their passions as they relate to Latin, whether they like academics, art, athletics, or even socializing. Lastly, Our stellar teachers, Magister Davis and Magistra Mullowney, guide Latin Club and make translating ancient stories more relevant and intriguing with their enthusiasm and passion. Latin Class is not an hour and a half of dry lecturing, but rather a mix of entertaining lecturing and hands-on learning, with a group and individually. If a student is struggling, both teachers are willing to get them caught up outside of class and work with them until they're confident in their abilities. Even in class, the collaborative environment Magister Davis and Magistra Mullowney foster encourages students to help each other as well. Latin is one of Miramonte's most unique, distinguished, and welcoming communities. To find out more, make sure to drop by Room 184!

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LATIN IN LITERATURE

Article by: Brendan McFeeley

"You know that in Latin, 'Festus' means 'happy'? You want us to ride off to save the world on Happy the dragon!?" You might recognize this line if you're a fan of Rick Riordan's 2010 book, *The Lost Hero*. If there's one thing Riordan loves, it's Latin and the Greco-Roman world. In 2005, Rick Riordan published *The Lightning Thief*, expressing the story of Greek mythology through the lens of an eleven-year old American boy's adventures. His books have become wildly successful, spanning since then until at least 2019. With three completed book series and one ongoing, all chronicling the mythology of the Greeks, Egyptians, and Norse, Riordan combines humor, charm, and human character into page-turners for kids and adults alike. With characters like an evil mattress salesman or a salty-sea man at Pier 39, an astute reader might ponder: how much of this material did Riordan come up with? The answer, unsurprising to Latin students who hear the original myths in class daily, is almost none. The ancient Greeks and Romans provided so many different stories, Riordan actually has to cut

many out in his novels. His first series, *Percy Jackson and The Olympians*, tells mainly Greek myths, from the twelve major gods and goddesses to the Titans to the Labyrinth. The sequel series, *The Heroes of Olympus*, delved into Roman stories, as well as their customs and culture. The Roman demigods, or children with one godly parent, are arranged into a legion, with praetors, an augur, and even their own, protected camp within the Berkeley Hills (entered through a secret fifth bore of the Caldecot, of course.) Taking Latin at Miramonte only helps you appreciate these modernized ancient tales even more. Riordan's current series is *The Trials of Apollo*, tells the story of the god of prophecy as he is stripped of his powers and must save the world from a triumvirate of Roman Emperors, while also defeating the five Oracles of antiquity. His stories are consistent best-sellers which tell stories of antiquity while spreading messages of friendship and fellowship, transcending any gap of time—even eons. And perhaps the closest we can get to being protagonists in one of his books is taking Latin.

DAY IN THE LIFE OF LATIN I

Article by: Shannon Lipp

Why did you decide to take Latin?

I decided to take Latin because it sounded like it would be a fun and interesting class. I went to open house as an eighth grader, sort of still deciding whether to take Latin or Spanish. The vibe in the Latin room was super friendly and fun, and everyone was really nice. I also wanted to take Latin because I knew it would help me with a lot of things, like vocabulary.

What is your favorite memory from your time in Latin?



So far, my favorite memory was Ludi in November because I made so many new friends and learned a lot of interesting history and fun facts. I also really liked it because it didn't matter what school you were from, or how old you were, everyone was so welcoming and friendly. It felt like everyone was just immediately friends there.

What do you think is the best academic benefit gained from taking Latin?

I think the best academic benefit gained from taking Latin is vocabulary. Ever since I started taking Latin, I am recognizing roots and stems that come from Latin. I can also speculate what certain words mean that I didn't know before, because of my Latin knowledge.

What is your favorite thing that you've learned about in class?

My favorite thing I have learned about is mythology. I love hearing all the stories, and it is really interesting to learn about different gods and heroes.

What is your favorite Latin Club tradition?

I love Latin pasta feeds! They are so much fun, and it is great to see everyone together, just hanging out. The environment is always so friendly and happy.

ALUMNI

Madeleine
Becker (Class of
2015):

"I am minoring
in classics (at
USC)! MHS
Latin 100%
inspired me to
do this because
it was one of
the best parts of
my high school
experience."

LATIN II

Article by: Matthew Carrington

What is your favorite memory from your time in Latin?

My favorite memory from Latin is the first Ludi Novembres convention I took part in. At first I was a bit unsure how I would like the convention, but I was pleasantly surprised by how much fun I had in a single day. There were so many activities, games, events, sports, contests, and more, and I was able to meet other Latin students from different schools in the area. It was such a great first Latin event, and my convention experiences only keep getting better.

What do you think is the best academic benefit gained from taking Latin?

Through studying Latin, I have learned even more about the English language. Understanding how words of a Latin translation fit together have helped me immensely with grammar in English class, and learning Latin vocabulary has

definitely improved my ability to infer the meaning of unknown English words based on their Latin derivatives. Learning a language that English is so closely related to has proven to be greatly beneficial to my success in all subjects.

What is your favorite thing that you've learned about in class?

While I love almost every part of Latin, my favorite thing I have learned was from the Roman material culture lab Magistra put together earlier this year. In one of the chemistry classrooms, there were several stations, all set up with different interactive lessons relating to Roman countryside life, economy, and agriculture. While learning about the diet of rural Romans, I was surprised to learn that Spain has been the world's top producer of olive oil since Roman times.

What can you say about Magister Davis and Magistra Mallowney?

Magister Davis and Magistra

Mallowney truly bring the heart and soul to the Latin program here at Miramonte. Extremely knowledgeable, energetic, and passionate, their instruction makes Latin an amazing course, not just a class. Magister and Magistra's engaging teaching styles create a fun and comfortable environment, and from them I have learned more about Latin and Roman culture than I ever thought I would.

What is your favorite Latin Club tradition?

With so many fun events and celebrations, it is so hard to choose! Personally, my favorite Latin Club tradition is Augustus's birthday celebration. Complete with a historically accurate (and quite comical) Roman ritual, skit reenactment, costumes, and good food, this event never fails to entertain. The winter festivities of Saturnalia, however, are a close second.

LATIN III

Article by: Elena Cohen & Paul Legallet

Why did you decide to take Latin?

I decided to take Latin 1 because my sister had recommended the class to me. She told me that Magister Davis was a wonderful teacher and that I would have a blast in the class.

What is your favorite memory from your time in Latin?

When I was in my first year of Latin, I went to the annual convention. At first I was very intimidated by the fact that it was so far away from home and since I did not know a lot of Latin students, I was nervous. When I left Convention, I had made an impactful bond with my class and had so much fun running around playing games.

What do you think is the best academic benefit gained from taking Latin?

Learning different cases in Latin can easily improve my English grammar and makes writing school papers a lot easier.

What is your favorite thing that you've learned about in class?

My favorite thing that I have learned about in class are all of the Roman myths.

What is a misconception that people have that Miramonte Latin has proved wrong?

A common misconception that people have about Latin is that it's not a useful language. When you become a junior and take the SAT, having a background of Latin roots helps a long way.

What can you say about Magister Davis and Magistra Mallowney?

From my very first day of meeting Mr. Davis, he has been one of the most kind people I have ever met. He manages to make every class a complete joy, and is always entertaining. Magistra Mallowney is an amazing teacher, and a super sweet person.

What is your favorite Latin Club tradition?

Augustus' birthday is my favorite Latin Club tradition. Every year we celebrate his birthday with fun activities, such as sacrificing our class cow.



LATIN IV

Article by: Zachary Weiner

Why did you decide to take Latin?

My main cause for taking Latin was that I wanted to keep in line with an academic tradition in my family. For generations, students in my family took Latin in college for the same reason I do now: it's cool. Latin isn't just a language; it is a civics course, a history class, and a community.

What do you think is the best academic benefit gained from taking Latin?

Latin has given me a better understanding of the principles that guide our modern society than any history class. By viewing current events through a historical lens, I have gained a new perspective on our culture which has guided my views on politics, government, and philosophy. Understanding where the traditions of our society come from has been instrumental in developing my sense of civic duty and cultural awareness.

What is your favorite thing that you've learned about in class?

Speech has always been important to me, but nothing has inspired me to pursue communications studies more than reading Cicero's speech to the Senate in *The Conspiracy of Cataline*. The fact that I was still moved by Cicero's words thousands of years after he said them is a testament to the timelessness of the lessons he teaches. In a time where political leadership is lacking, going back in history and studying the political legends in the likes of Cicero is not only useful, but necessary.

What is a misconception that people have that Miramonte Latin has proved wrong?

The one thing that every Latin student

has heard is 'What use is it to take a dead language?' And every Latin student can tell you that the only people asking that question are those who don't take Latin. Sure, you probably won't find your Latin speaking to be necessarily useful in everyday life, but the same can be said of Calculus or Chemistry. The value Latin brings is not in utility, but in historical awareness and personal fulfillment. No poetry you read in Spanish class will speak to you like Catullus will, and no lesson in French will teach you as much about human nature as Vergil will.

What can you say about Magister Davis and Magistra Mallowney?

Magister Davis has truly been the most important teacher in my life. He embodies a trait that I strive for everyday: do what you love because you love it. No other teacher has made me as excited to show up to school everyday as Magister Davis, and he has played a critical role in shaping the person that I am today. He is wise beyond his years, truly dedicated to his students, and I promise he will teach you more about yourself than any teacher on campus.

What is your favorite Latin Club tradition?

My favorite Latin Club tradition has to be the collective effort that the club puts in around the time of convention. It is inspiring to see hundreds of High School students eager to win glory for their Latin club. A class that might seem nerdy to some is really a chance for you to be part of something bigger, a res publica.

WANT
TO GET
INVOLVED
WITH MHS
LATIN CLUB?

Contact Magister
Davis, Magistra
Mallowney, or
Zahra Hasanain
for more
information:

mdavis@
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jmallowney@
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auhsdschools.org

WANT TO BE
FEATURED
IN THE
CONSUL?

Contact Izzy
Gravano and
Caroline Ricksen
at:
Miramonteconsul
@gmail.com

THE 5 BEST LATIN EVENTS

1. PASTA FEED

To start off the year, MHS Latin Club hosts an annual pasta feed to show Latin spirit. This is the first event of the year and all members of MHS Latin Club are welcome. Over 90% of members come and enjoy the provided lasagna, salad, cookies, other dessert goods, and drinks. On the day of the Pasta Feed, one can find the lawn outside of the Latin Room filled with Latin students conversing about their summers and excitement for the new year.

2. AUGUSTUS'S BIRTHDAY

An in-class event, Augustus's birthday is a favorite event for many students. On this day, all Latin students walk into their respective periods greeted with streamers, balloons, cookies, and togas. To celebrate the birthday of the first Roman emperor, MHS Latin performs a play in class, sings songs, and eats plenty of treats.

3. LUDI

One of two day-long Latin events in the school year, Ludi is a smaller and less competitive version of the annual spring Latin Convention. Normally held in October or November, Ludi is an excellent opportunity for students to get involved. Literally translating to "game", Ludi is a day filled with sports, academic tests, Certamen, costume contests, and crafts for all Latin levels. Being one day shorter than the spring convention, Ludi is a fantastic time for students to get a taste for what Latin conventions are all about. The most recent venues have included St. Francis HS in Sacramento, Stanford University, and our very own domus, Miramonte!

4. CONVENTION

The most coveted and exciting weekend of the school year for MHS Latin students is definitely Convention. Almost all of our students attend this two-day event where we compete in spirit contests, sports, chariot races, academic tests, Certamen, talent shows, art contests, and so much more! With schools from all over the state, it is truly so much fun to meet other Latin students and show the glory of the MHS Latin Club. Fun Fact: Miramonte Latin Club is the reigning State Champion for the fifth year in a row!

5. END OF THE YEAR BANQUET

Typically held at the end of May, the End of the Year Banquet is everyone's favorite. With unique themes (such as Rome on the Range), and catered food, families of the MHS Latin community come together to celebrate and thank those who made the year special. Awards are presented to takers of the National Latin Exam, initiation occurs for the new Latin Club officers for the next year, seniors are commemorated, and we even have live music played by Latin students!

WHAT DO LATIN ALUMNI HAVE TO SAY?

CATHERINE DE LUNA

“I am double majoring in Classics and Cinema and Media Studies at the University of Pennsylvania, so Latin has so far been an integral part of my college education. Many universities have a fairly small Classics department, and thus are able to provide their students with a lot of unique classes and opportunities. Miramonte fostered my love of Latin and prepared me incredibly successfully to be able to take Latin at the college level, I highly recommend students continue their study of Latin.”

FATIMA HASANAIN

“In college, no matter what your major is, you have to write. The grammar you learn in Latin enhances your English skills and sets you apart from your peers. I am also a history major, and no matter what I am studying - Latin American, US, or Armenian - there are direct references to Ancient Roman literature and culture that we studied in Latin class at Miramonte.”

