

Lingua Latina est vita!

# THE CONSUL

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October 2012

Issue No. Four

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## My Trip to Rome

by Margot Mai

Despite the complications a foreign language can pose, not to mention the swarms of motorini scooters that make crossing a street a Herculean task of daring and agility, Rome is rightly named the eternal city- a place unlike any other in the world. Nowhere else is modern culture so seamlessly blended with ancient ruins and remains; sprinkled throughout this cosmopolitan city are dazzling fountains, ancient Egyptian obelisks, century-old pines, and Romanesque churches. Around every corner is another spectacular testament to humanity's historical achievements- a short walk to the drogheria (grocery store) might take one past a crumbling Roman bridge or awe-inspiring aqueduct. I was fortunate enough this past summer to travel with my family to Italy and stay at my grandparents' apartment in Rome for several weeks. My trip provided me with the opportunity to visit Italian relatives, practice Latin (it's ubiquitous- every church, monument, and manhole cover is inscribed in Latin!), and immerse myself in the language and culture of Italy. Having only ever read in books about places such as the Roman Forum or Tiber, to actually see these locations in person was a remarkable experience (and will be indelibly marked in my memory by the accompanying temperatures of a searing 104° F). It was truly incredible to

“Labor omnia  
vincit”-  
Labor  
conquers all



*continued from page I*

finally stand and gaze at the graceful arches of the Basilica and to smell the sweet air of the Vestal Virgins' courtyard, fragrant with sprays of climbing roses. Others sites, such as the Coliseum, were more unsettling than pleasurable to behold- though the interior of the Coliseum is now filled with steady foreign chatter rather than the anguished screams of expiring gladiators, the arena still maintains a sense of solemnity and sobriety. Excluding the cruelty of gladiator fights, modern Romans continue to live in a manner similar to that of their ancestors: Juvenal's old adage of "panem et circenses" is still applicable to a society largely satiated by the diversions of gastronomy, calcio (soccer), and fashion. When the sardine packed buses, primeval air-conditioning, and family tension become too much, there is always the incompetent government to blame, a stance many spray-paint wielding anarchists take. Rome is far from perfect, and its manifold issues will not be ameliorated in a day. However its Latin heritage, characteristic energy and youth, and timeless beauty make it an unforgettable destination.

"Panem et circenses"

-Juvenal



## My Surprise Encounter with Latin

By James Edward McFeely V

I sometimes watch X-Factor with my mommy. It's not that bad a show, and after one episode in particular I have a new respect for it. During the auditions lightning started to hit the building where we were, as a string of horrible performers came on. To add weight and power to the drama, the director of X-Factor decided to put O Fortuna, a latin song, in the background. O Fortuna is one of the most epic songs of all time, written as a poem in the 13th Century. It was likely written by a student of Latin to go into a collection called the Carmina Burana. It was set to music by Carl Orff in 1935-36, and its popularity soared. O Fortuna is the most played classical song in the UK for the past 75 years. This song sets the scene for disasters or catalytic events, and its use on X-Factor shows its widespread popularity.

"I sometimes watch the X-Factor with my mommy."  
-James Edward McFeely V



# National Latin Convention 2012

by Madeleine Becker

In late July, four Miramonte students made the journey to National Latin Convention in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Having been to both Ludi Octobres and State Convention twice, I thought I knew what would be in store for me at my first Nationals. However, the insanity and excitement we all love at the standard conventions was magnified ad maximum in NJCL's five days of spirit competitions, academic testing, Olympika and Ludi, that's entertainment, workshops, dances, art, and Certamen. And did I mention sleep deprivation? A typical NJCLer's day often started with early morning sporting events or academic contests, and went until the 11 PM fellowships and lights out past midnight. Taking naps in general assembly was common in order to make up for the deficit.

Before the naps, minute-reading, and speeches at general assembly, there were the spirit competitions. Unlike the singular bout for ultimate glory at state convention, four differently themed spirit competitions took place: "My Better Half", "You Have the 'Wright' To Remain Purple and Gold", "JCLers are the Kreme of the Krop", and "Live Life in the Past Lane". Unfortunately, the California delegation, with less than thirty members, never ranked. Despite this, we definitely won the unofficial (non-existent) post-spirit competition, in which CAJCL kept cheering with our usual "dynamite" and "Cali beat", as well as breaking out into unprepared renditions of Queen songs. The other states jealously watched our superior spirit while we chanted "estis lupae" at them.

Maybe we didn't achieve all of our hopes in the spirit competitions, but California clearly dominated in publicity and academics despite our small size (states like Texas, Virginia, and Ohio had hundreds of delegates attending the convention). Miramonte received a trophy for first in publicity, while Woodbridge High School took second place.

Our very own Caesar, Clark Pang, was awarded first in academics, third in academic decathlon (which had a monetary prize attached), and sixth in the overall sweepstakes. His other accolades include seven first places, two second places, one fourth place, and one fifth place on the varied list of Latin/Rome related tests. Also, along with three other Latin geniuses, Clark competed in Certamen, where the team ranked eighth in the advanced division. As for the other Miramonte students, sophomores Rajeev Oak and Thomas Bianchini were both on the state novice Certamen team, which was only ten points away from the semifinals. I received 10th place in Creative Arts, having placed in Modern Myth and Costume, and ranked in dolls and the MQA test.

The awards, while very satisfying, weren't nearly as gratifying as the overall phenomenon that is National Latin Convention. I don't think I've ever had such a simultaneously fantastic, exhausting, nerdy, exhilarating, friend-making, crazy, educational, and amazing experience, especially wrapped up in a week revolving around a supposedly dead language. Next year, the convention will be hosted in Las Vegas, and there's no way I'm missing it.



*Wait Chapel, where General Assembly and testing took place.*



Carp learning Gangnam Style on Augustus's glorious birthday.



## Augustus's Birthday Celebration!

by Clark Pang

The sense of excitement in the air was familiar to the Latin IV students, who were going into Magister Davis's classroom for the fourth year of celebrating Augustus's birthday. The day was a new sensation for the Latin I's, who had probably heard it was a class party with lots of food. Aside from Mr. Carpenter learning the dance to Gangnam Style, an overload of baked goods, and a short dance party, let us go into the very reasons why we celebrate Augustus's birthday.

Augustus was the glorious founder of the Roman Empire. Having lived from 63 BC to 14 AD, Augustus is known for saving the Roman state from its demise. Through political cunning, he learned to outmaneuver his opposing statesmen, including Marcus Antonius and the conspirators Brutus and Cassius, using his birthright to claim the heir to Rome. His personal motto was "Festina Lente" which means "hurry slowly." This encapsulates his poised demeanor and his deliberate decision making for the good of the whole

state. We celebrate Augustus because without him, the world would be an entirely different story. Rome's power most likely would have disintegrated if it weren't for his careful guidance, and we owe our knowledge and love of Latin to the great emperor. One of the most famous depictions of Augustus is the Prima Porta statue. At first glance, the Cupid next to him may seem like a simple embellishment, but it really represents Augustus' connection to Aeneas, the founder of Rome. The Julian family traces its blood to Iulus, the son of Aeneas. Aeneas himself was the son of Venus, so the Cupid connects Augustus to divine blood. Also, he stands barefoot which symbolizes peace, and his cuirass depicts the return of the Roman eagles that were lost by Crassus in Parthia. Augustus left many legacies for the Roman people. Most importantly he established the Pax Romana, the golden era of Roman peace. And so he said, "I found Rome a city of bricks and left it a city of marble."

**Mark your  
calenders!**

**October 26**  
Bake sale

**November 4**  
Movie Night:  
6:30pm at Rheem

**November 17**  
Ludi

## Meet Your Latin Officers!



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Favorite Myth: Narcissus and Echo



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Quote: "Caelum certe patet: illuc ibimus" -Ovid



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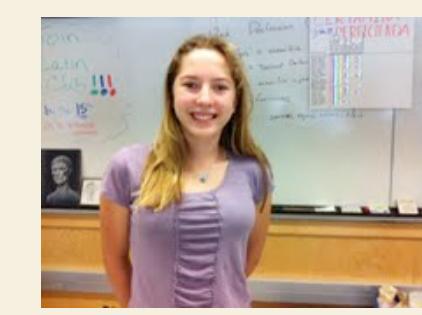
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