



THE CONSUL

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The official publication of the
Miramonte Latin Club

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Clockwise from top left: 1. At Ludi, the Miramonte Latin Club takes a photo together. The club traveled to St. Francis High School to compete. 2. Sporting the Latin Club t-shirt, a student shows proudly represents MHS at Ludi. This shirt was designed by Cecily Bartsch.. 3. With a Roman background, AP Latin students pose for a photo. Ludi was full of fun classical activities.

MIRAMONTE LATIN ATTENDS LUDI 2017.

Article by: Kiana Hu (Latin III)

What a day at St. Francis High School in Sacramento! Even though Ludi was the Saturday before Thanksgiving break, our Latin Club had a spectacular turnout of 120 Matadors. Fortunately, neither of the two buses broke down on the two-hour trip the way there or back - is this the end of the MHS Latin bus curse? Many hope so! After a spirited opening assembly by the CAJCL board members, all the Miramonte students stayed in the gym for academic testing. The Matadors took home awards in six different test categories: Grammar, Vocabulary,

Derivatives, Daily Life, Mythology, and Reading Comprehension. A full list of results can be found on the next page.

The rest of Ludi was filled with fun activities, sports, Open Certamen, and colloquia sessions. One colloquia session in particular caught many people's attention: the interpretation of Caesar's accounts of the Gallic Wars to mean that the Germans were zombies. Impossible? I think not, if you heard the multitude of evidence the knowledgeable lecturers provided. Shoutout to our Latin 1 players in Open Certamen, who did amazing. Each

of the three teams in the finals had a Matador member. Open Certamen rounds featured different themed rounds, including questions about friendship and Halloween. For those of you who enjoyed Ludi, definitely get excited for State Convention in April. It's basically a bigger, better version of Ludi. You can check out the preliminary schedule of events at <http://jcl.menloschool.org/convention/>.

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LUDI 2017 RESULTS

Joseph Berck: Reading Comp HS 3 (2nd Place)

Logan Canada Johnson: Derivatives HS Adv (3rd Place)

Natalie Chu: Vocabulary HS 1 (3rd Place)

Jasraj Dhillon: Certamen HS 1 (3rd Place), Grammar HS 1 (3rd Place)

Juliann Hall: Reading Comp HS 1 (2nd Place), Daily Life HS 1 (3rd Place)

Theo Herring: Mythology HS Adv (3rd Place)

Kiana Hu: Mythology HS 3 (1st Place), Vocabulary HS 3 (3rd Place), Derivatives HS 3 (1st Place)

Julia Jungbluth: Daily Life HS 1 (2nd Place)

Isabelle Krochmal: Reading Comp HS 2 (2nd Place)

Spencer Lang: Derivatives HS Adv (2nd Place)

Garrett Louie: Derivatives HS 3 (2nd Place), Certamen HS Adv (3rd Place), Daily Life HS 3 (1st Place), Grammar HS 3 (1st Place)

Owen Pan: Reading Comp HS 2 (3rd Place)

Allison Petek: Certamen HS 1 (1st Place)

Luke Phillips: Derivatives HS Adv (3rd Place)

Robert Rieser: Daily Life HS 1 (2nd Place)

Grace Sjoberg: Certamen HS 1 (2nd Place)

Chinmai Srinivas: Derivatives HS 2 (3rd Place), Certamen HS 2 (2nd Place)

Kate Tommey: Derivatives HS 1 (2nd Place)

Adam Warren: Daily Life HS Adv (3rd Place), Certamen HS Adv (1st Place)

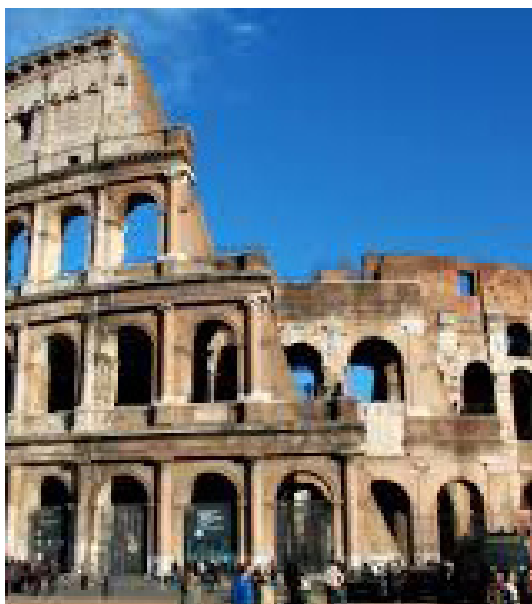
ROMANCE LANGUAGES

Article by: Gil Peled (Latin III)

Why learn Latin? Simple. So one can learn and appreciate other languages. Many say Latin is a good foundation in linguistics because it gives a solid base of other European languages – well, what are these languages? There are 5 major ‘romance’ languages: Spanish, French, Italian, Portuguese, and Romanian. In addition, there are dozens of smaller, more obscure Romance languages: Occitan, Catalan, Corsican, and Sardinian. There are clear reasons to learn French and Spanish, but one might

be scratching their head for reasons to learn Romanian or Occitan, which are spoken in parts of southern France. Deus Davis cannot give anyone this answer, but taking Latin gives can give one a strong foundation and a path to fluency in any one of those languages someone wishes to master.

Many of the Romance Languages that developed formed from the dialect that was spoken by the common people of Ancient Rome: Vulgar Latin. This Latin differed from the refined Classical Latin that was used by scholars around the turn of the millennium. Vulgar Latin speakers had little desire to maintain the purity of their language, allowing local dialects of Latin to evolve. This eventually led to the formation of languages like Spanish. Romanian stands as a unique exception. Romania was located in the Eastern Roman Empire, a heavily Greek influenced region. Because of its proximity to Greece and a general disconnect from old Rome, most of the Latin in the old empire was crushed. Though as the sole exception Romanian survived as a Romance language. The Latin we study today allows students to seek any of these languages, but whether we wish to do so depends on us.



JOKE
OF THE
ISSUE
Latin is
the only
language
where you
can say to
another
student:
“Your
skill is
declining.”

FULVIA IN THE CHARIOT

Article by: Zahra Hasanain (Latin IV)

Roman Women are usually characterized as either unbelievably conniving or extremely docile. But Perhaps the best way to begin telling the stories of Roman women truthfully is to tell the story of Fulvia, one of the greatest Romans of all.

Born of a noble Plebeian family, Fulvia was quickly married off to Publius Clodius Pulcher, an influential popularis. She ran a collegia during this time, which means she was definitely prominent in Roman society and somewhat educated. After Clodius Pulcher was murdered, Fulvia dragged his corpse through the street in an act of mourning, stirring the blood of his supporters and rallying their anger. His assassins were eventually exiled, in large part because of Fulvia's efforts to make a martyr of her husband. Her methods are strikingly similar to Antony's after Caesar died, but Antony is the only one whose emotional plea was immortalized. Fulvia probably gave tragic speeches, maybe laced with some underlying political motives, but nonetheless powerful. Yet there were no catchy Shakespearian phrases written for her.

Somehow, even after her husband's death, Fulvia managed to keep his political gangs loyal to her, a feat that even 1920s New York gangsters struggled with. In fact, she used her new position as an eminent popularis to convince her second husband, Curio, a former optimate, to become a popularis. She managed to flip the stereotype of women switching their politics to that of their husbands after marriage completely on its head. It's unfortunate that the stages of Fulvia's life are usually outlined by her three different marriages, but nonetheless, the 3rd stage, her marriage to Mark Antony, was when she was most active.

Fulvia again took the reins in her relationship with Antony. When Cicero attacked her husband, Fulvia threw sharp words back at him. Legend has it that when Cicero died, Fulvia stuck her golden hairpins through his tongue, to silence him once and for all. That was the crazed part of Fulvia, but her insanity was most definitely exaggerated by her enemies.

As Octavian and Antony fought Julius Caesar's killers, two consuls were elected back in Rome. But according to historian Cassius Dio, they were just figureheads. It was really "Fulvia...in the chariot", becoming not only the most powerful woman, but the most powerful politician in Rome. She oversaw business, condemned inefficiency, and quietly obtained power. The state needed a competent leader, and she needed an opportunity to show her calculated astuteness. After all, she wasn't a benevolent dictator, but she wasn't an inept leader,

either. Her mind was not feeble, her drive was not weak, and her purpose was not passive. Even the unfortunate circumstance of being a Roman woman didn't crush her spirit, though it's simultaneously amazing and sorrowful to think of how far her greatness might've stretched if there was no gendered limit on her power, and no sexist disregard for her achievements.

Fulvia, whose husband was said to be stronger and smarter, was exercising her own political agenda. Yet she was never depicted in the same sort of regal tunic as Julius Caesar. She was never credited with overseeing the Roman empire in times of civil turmoil the same way that Augustus was. But her influence was undeniable, even when civil discord intensified with the falling out between Octavian and Antony.

This was a woman who had no legal right to political power, but whose zeal gave her the will to command. Though slandered by her contemporaries, Fulvia embodied Roman values more than many statesmen of her time. If Roman women were supposed to embody pietas, then Fulvia was the most exemplary Roman woman of all. By fighting for Antony, Fulvia proved to be loyal to her husband in an unconventional yet unwavering manner. But her fortitude was still intimidating because it wasn't appropriate or acceptable. In fact, despite Fulvia's courage, Marc Antony wasn't quite so loyal to her. After Fulvia surrendered and eventually died, Antony and Octavian blamed their rivalry on her supposed treachery. In this sense, her efforts amounted to nothing, and her story ended tragically. But the truth is, her story doesn't have to end there.

Even her death and ultimate failure don't change the fact that Fulvia Was In The Chariot. Perhaps the reason her ride was rarely ever regarded by historians as relevant is because her challenging of traditional notions of Roman womanhood were too uncomfortable. Her passion and commitment to her homeland was as great as Antony's, yet somehow her audacity wasn't worthy of acknowledgment. A society that valued *facta non verba* proved to be hypocritical when evaluating Fulvia's proactive, no-nonsense contributions to the Roman state. But now is the time to celebrate her narrative and acknowledge her ambitious influence through the same light that we're accustomed to celebrate the deeds of a few powerful men, who could've easily been forgotten if it hadn't been for one powerful woman. To refer to Fulvia only as the wife of some prominent Roman statesmen is to simplify her identity, to demean her legacy, and to deprive her of her humanity.



THE AESCULAPIAN HERB

Article by: Garrett Louie (Latin III)

“Brassica est quae omnibus holeribus antistat.” It is the cabbage which surpasses all other vegetables. Those of you who read my previous piece on our favorite leafy garden staple will know that the cabbage, *brassica oleracea*, is of so extraordinary a class that the august Augustus Diocletian abdicated the throne in 305 CE to devote the remainder of his days to the sublime pursuits of a humble (not really, he lived in a private castle) farmer. However, such reverence for the cabbage can trace its roots in Roman culture to far before even Caesar’s age. The prophetic words above launch the 156th chapter of Cato Sapiens’ *De Agricultura*, the oldest surviving work of Latin literature, dated to 160 BCE. 160 BCE! Even before the great dual comets heralded the birth of the King of Kings Mithridates VI Eupator Dionysus of Pontus, liberator of Greece (ironically Cato was a vehement anti-Hellenic), this immortal statesman held

the cabbage in paramount esteem. He recommends it as a general healthy choice but also prescribes specific treatments, with cabbage of course, for those suffering from digestive problems, colic, or strangury. Cato classifies cabbages into three types: the large, smooth-leaved variety, incredibly effective; the curly “Parsely cabbage” which boasts even greater effects; and finally the mild, small-stalked, and tender variety, most pungent and peerlessly potent. This “wild cabbage” he endorses for pretty much any medicinal purpose, especially as a poultice which can be applied to nearly any malady for a significant effect. In fact, “*eadem vulnera putida canceresque purgabit sanosque faciet, quod aliud medicamentum facere non potest* -” that is, the cabbage will cleanse suppurating wounds and tumours, and heal them, a thing which no other medicine can do. It can help cure headache (actually any

bodily ache, even for internal organs), dislocated limbs, joint problems, polyps, all manner of ulcers (“*In ea vulnera huiusce modi teras brassicam, sanum faciet; optima est ad huiusce modi vulnus* -” If you macerate cabbage it will cure all such sores; it is their best remedy), deafness, diseased female genitalia, and uncountable other chronic and temporary trauma. Cato leaves no doubt about which is the premium vegetable for any dietary or medical needs. “*Sed quae vocantur septem bona in conmixtura, natura omnia haec habet brassica* -” the cabbage has naturally all the virtues of the so-called “Seven Blessings” mixture. Pythagoras would have approved. Perhaps even, we can attribute his seminal advances in ancient mathematics to his diet of cabbage. Hot, cold, moist, dry, sweet, bitter, and sour, the *brassica* boasts it best.

MEET THE HISTORIANS

Article by: Izzy Gravano and Caroline Ricksen (Latin IV)



SARAH COUFAL (LATIN IV)

Sarah Coufal is a Latin IV this year and is a Senior at Miramonte. She really likes to translate because she thinks that it is fun to read what the Ancient Romans were reading at the time. Sarah also thinks it cool to understand why the authors wrote what they did.

ISABELLE KROCHMAL (LATIN II)

Isabelle Krochmal is Latin II this year as a Sophomore, and she is so excited to be a Historian this year. She enjoys sleeping and playing with her dog, Pancake. At Miramonte, Isabelle loves participating in Latin Club, and she takes Public Speaking as her elective. So far this year, she has loved all of the events that Latin Club has put on, especially Ludi. Isabelle's favorite part was the demon lecture! If you have any questions about the scrapbook, let Isabelle know!

LOLA RODRIGUES (LATIN III)

Lola Rodrigues is a Junior Latin III student. Along with her work in Latin Club, Lola goes to tournaments with Miramonte Public Speaking. Outside of school, she loves to read, play tennis, and hang out with her friends. Lola loves all conventions in JCL, and her favorite part of Ludi this year was the jelly bean mosaics!



THE GRACCHI BROTHERS

Article by: Brendan McFeeley (Latin III)

The Gracchi were two of the most important politicians in ancient Rome. Tiberius and Gaius were grandsons of Scipio Africanus, the hero of the Second Punic War. Their mother was Cornelia, a woman deserving of her own article. Ultimately, the reforms the brothers attempted and failed to pass had deadly repercussions, leading to the fall of the republic.

Tiberius Sempronius Gracchus was born c. 165 BC. He quickly became a military tribune working for his brother-in-law Scipio Aemilianus. He became a war hero after saving the lives of his army by signing a peace treaty. When he returned to Rome he was elected Tribune of the Plebs and noticed a terrible problem: all the soldiers were bankrupt. To be a Roman soldier required land, so the citizen army fought for Rome; but when they were all gone in Carthage fighting, their land was taken. Plus, the conquests of Rome caused slaves to flood in, meaning the rich gobbled took the land and had the slaves work it. Tiberius Gracchus saw this truth and worked to fix it. He announced new reforms which would confiscate lands from the rich and distribute it back to the landless—only to have conservatives veto it. As a result, Gracchus spent every single day vetoing any legislation until the other tribune was removed from office. He passed the law with no support from the Senate. In 133 BC, the king of Pergamum died and left his entire fortune (not to

mention kingdom) to Rome. Tiberius immediately used his powers to allocate the fortune to fund the new commission. The Senators thought he was trying to become king, so they attacked him with clubs; Tiberius was killed and thrown in the river Tiber.

If Tiberius was a populist reformer, his brother Gaius was a demagogue. Elected as Tribune ten years after his brother's assassination, he was determined to succeed where his brother had failed: ensuring that landless Italians would be accepted fully into Rome. His reforms were seen by the Senate as a deadly callback to his brother's fateful years in office and were determined to stymie him whenever they could. Eventually, Gaius took to bringing with him armed gangs of supporters as protection. This, however, was his downfall, as his supporters killed a political opponent. The Senate seized the opportunity and authorized his murder for the state. He, like his brother, was killed and thrown in the Tiber.

Ultimately, the political violence legitimized by the Gracchi only escalated, until thirty-odd Senators murdered Julius Caesar and brought the end of the Roman Republic. If the Senate had only been more receptive to the Gracchan reforms, the republic might have survived even longer.

WANT
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INVOLVED
WITH MHS
LATIN CLUB?

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