

# THE CONSUL

**Editors:**  
Fatima Hasanain  
Annie Wapniarski

December 2013

[MHSConsul11@gmail.com](mailto:MHSConsul11@gmail.com)

## UPCOMING EVENT:

LATIN CONVENTION: APRIL 4TH AND 5TH

FORMS DUE: JANUARY 17TH

## Venimus, Vidimus, Vicimus

By: Bennett Stehr

On December 8, the Matadors were victorious. Perhaps foretelling their future success at Latin Convention in the spring, Miramonte Latin students Logan Boersma, Will Fuller, Jonathan McDonald, Scott Iqbal, and Ryan Anderson as well as myself helped lead the Miramonte varsity football team to a 41-28 win over number one seed Casa Grande in the Division 2 NCS Championship.

As a team, we went 8-2 in the regular season earning a number three seed in the Division 2 NCS playoffs. After upsetting Clayton Valley, a 12-1 team whose only loss was to perennial state champion De La Salle, on their home field, the stage was set for a dual with undefeated and heavy favorites Casa Grande. After falling behind 21-14 in the third quarter, we scored 27 points in the fourth quarter to complete the championship run.

Miramonte Latin students played a heavy hand in the victory. Logan Boersma started at defensive end and recorded 12 tackles. Jonathan McDonald started at weak side linebacker and recorded a team-high 14 tackles. Both Will Fuller and Ryan Anderson played both ways at safety and receiver. Will caught four passes for 59 yards and a touchdown while recording 7 tackles on defense. Ryan also caught four passes for 124 yards and two touchdowns while making 9 tackles on defense. As for myself, I made 11 tackles while playing on the left side of the offensive line that kept the Casa Grande defensive line sackless for the first time this year.

Nothing today compares more to the gladiatorial contests of the Romans than football. While we perform in front of hundreds rather than tens of thousands, we, like the gladiators, battle man on man for honor and glory, although not to the death. We, like the gladiators, train endlessly for games, although not as slaves. While the ancient Roman contest shares both similarities and differences with football today, one aspect remains identical, that feeling of intense motivation during combat or a game in our case. While we aren't fighting for our lives, football favors those players that play like they are indeed fighting for their lives. We were consistently the smaller team throughout the playoffs averaging 180 pounds on our offensive line often against opponents who averaged 240 pounds on their lines. We played against several players likely to play on Saturdays next year at the college level while during the playoffs, we had not a single player with an offer to play in college. We had to rely on the spirit within ourselves to win, and indeed that is how the underdog was victorious. We truly came, we saw, and we more than conquered.



# Roman Christmas

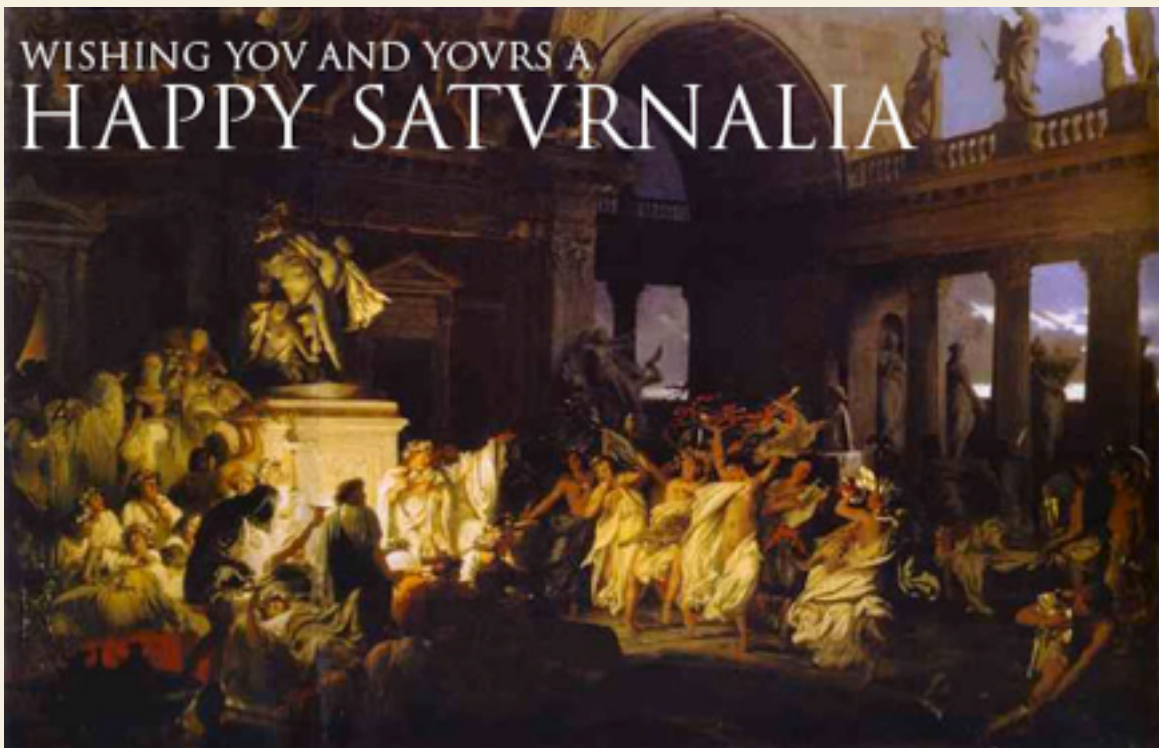
By: Brittany Phizacklea

Now that the holiday season has rolled around, I'm sure we've all wondered how the ancient Romans celebrated the winter season. Saturnalia is an ancient Roman festival which was held in honor of Saturn on December 17 of the Julian calendar. It was later lengthened to extend through December 23 in order to include more festivities. As Christmas or Hanukkah are favorite holidays today, the poet Catullus called Saturnalia "the best of days" and with good reason.

The celebration began with a sacrifice at the Temple of Saturn in the Roman Forum where a public banquet was held. This was a public holiday, which meant that schools were closed and courts were not in session, which allowed the Romans to get their party on. In the private homes of Romans, there was gift-giving, more partying, and gambling was allowed. Masters also reversed roles with their slaves, serving them banquets. (Although the slaves still prepared the food... Come on people. Rome was built by slaves.)

Sigillaria, on December 23, was the day of gift-giving. The Romans often gave pottery or wax figurines, or "gag gifts" (it is said that Augustus particularly enjoyed these). In addition, similar to our modern day greeting cards, presents were given with verses. The Romans were very festive in celebrating Saturnalia. They would decorate their homes with greenery and hang garlands and wreaths of gold and blue, similar to our Christmas lights. Unlike us, however, the Romans provided Saturn with dead gladiators as offerings, as a form of human sacrifice.

On a happier note, Saturnalia is the Festival of Light before the Winter Solstice, the celebration for the quest of knowledge, which is why it is often associated with Christmas. Later in Roman history, the renewal of light and new year was celebrated on December 25 as the Dies Natalis of Sol Invictus, or the "Birthday of the Unconquerable Sun." The holiday continued to be celebrated into the 3rd and 4th centuries AD, until the Roman Empire became Christian. So Happy Holidays! Io Saturnalia!





# To Convention or Not to Convention?

By Madeleine Becker

That is not a question. Participating in state convention is one of the most sacred traditions of Miramonte Latin Club, and not without reason. I experienced my first convention as a lowly and untested eighth grader, disillusioned by a semi-mediocre Ludi Octobres. I didn't have a "Latin Club" at my middle school; I didn't even like the language! I shudder now in contempt of that thought, but it was true. However, Latin convention changed my opinions forever.

In order to guide your continuing journey in JCL, here are some tips so you can have the best convention memories possible:

1. Be ready for the long bus ride. Convention is taking place at University High School this year in Southern California. Last year it took almost 10 hours to get there, so make sure to bring movies, games, and study materials!
2. Bring your loudest voice. In previous years we have been shamed in spirit competitions by tiny schools and annoying rivals. Let's not continue this disgrace! Make sure to practice at spirit meetings and to yell like you mean it. (Pro tip: always visibly do hand motions above your head so the judges can see.)
3. Not studying doesn't make you cool. It just makes you lose. You would be surprised how little preparation it takes to succeed in academic tests. No preparation means no success, but just a little bit of effort in the lower levels can catapult you into ribbon territory. Also, don't take myth unless you actually know it: no Percy Jackson.
4. "But Madeleine, how do I study?" Latin Club's got you covered. Specialists have volunteered to set up workshops for all 11 of the academic competitions to make testing easier. A calendar of workshops will be posted shortly so you can see what tests fit with your schedule. Also, the failsafe method for studying is reading- but make

sure to look at the right books. We've just purchased about 30 books in all subjects that the tests are directly taken from, so check out the books lining the classroom!

5. Artistry encouraged! One of the most important parts of convention is the vast extent of art competitions. Definitely check out the white booklet (ask Magister) to get a full list of all the art you could be doing. (Pro-tip: One artistic project is already required from everyone before going to convention, so make it count!)

6. Bring a toga. It's way too much of a hassle borrowing your bed sheet from the hotel room. Trust me. I know.

7. Make sure all of your friends are going. No matter how awesome a convention or its food is, the best part of JCL has always been the people. Latin convention group bonding is the best form of friendship. Also, bring cards- it's a convention tradition.

8. Be a classy classicist. Follow the theme and dress nicely for the banquet. It makes everything more fun.

9. Make new friends! I'm not joking when I say I've made amazing friends for life in other schools through the JCL, and you should too. We have a huge delegation, so it may seem unnecessary, but get to know some people! Who knows, maybe you could even find JCLove.

Mostly, make sure to have a fantastic time and win Miramonte some honor and glory. And if you ever hesitate about going to convention, remember these three ultimate reasons to participate:

1. Everyone receives full Magis if we win.
2. The banquet's going to be at Knott's Berry Farm and we get to spend time in the park.
3. We're hosting next year, and we need you to become experts this year so you can help put on a great convention next time!



*Don't forget to sign up for Latin Convention by January 17! Forms will be distributed after break!*



# Ludi Through the Eyes of a Freshmen

By Yassamin Emadi

Basically everyone in Latin Club who had been to Ludi told me that it would be extremely fun, so I had pretty high expectations when it finally came around — and I wasn't disappointed. I'd say the only bad part of my day was waking up so early — 7 AM, really? Half asleep, my friends and I boarded the bus, excited for our day. Getting to Menlo School was a bit of a shock. I had heard it was big, but the place was HUGE! If we didn't have maps, I swear I would've gotten lost every time I wanted to get somewhere. The opening assembly was okay. The speaker didn't seem too enthusiastic, but that was just another thing for us to laugh about. And all the random "Go Mats" heard throughout our school's section of the audience, while confusing at first, became a favorite of mine.

Whoever said Derivatives was an easy test didn't know what they were talking about because I'm pretty sure I failed that one... Embarrassing, I know. "It's just matching words with roots I've probably seen before. How hard could it be?" Let's just say that the only thing I know I guessed right was that the root 'celer' does not mean celery, which actually was one of the answers, no joke. Mythology, however, was a test everyone said I would fail but was not all that tough. "You're making a mistake; it's harder than you think! Just reading Percy Jackson isn't enough," they warned. I felt pretty proud of myself when I won Honorable Mention in the category so, of course, I had to rub it in the faces of those who said that it wouldn't happen. But I didn't even think I'd won anything throughout the rest of Ludi because, by the time lunch came around, I realized that I had written my Miramonte Student ID instead of my Ludi ID on both of my tests \*facepalm.\* And I didn't really know what was happening when I told Magister because he just laughed and gave me a high five so I went the rest of the day feeling dumb AND confused.

I'm not too sure how I felt about the workshops. The first one I went to was funny and all, but it was VERY strange. I never thought I'd be listening to an old woman talk about Julius Caesar's sex life, but I guess there's a first time for everything. It ended up being great due to the jokes my friends and I would make throughout. The second workshop though... if someone asks you if you want to know what Roman weddings were like, SAY NO. I listened to the lecture for about 10 minutes until I just couldn't take it anymore. I could actually feel myself falling asleep more and more with every word the man said. I guess the topic could be cool if you presented it right, but the lecture was so dry and boring that my friend and I had to leave in the middle. It took me another 5 minutes to gather the courage to get up and leave the poor man's lecture though because I felt like he would find it offensive (I'm only human).

After lunch, I thought I'd test my art skills in Impromptu Art. It seemed like the simplest activity provided, so I thought I should just try it out. I learned something that day. Arts and Crafts are NOT my thing. And some middle school art prodigies decided to show up, which made it even worse for me. I left early to find some of my friends before the closing assembly. The cheers at the assembly were amazing, might I add. I'm pretty sure that all of the other schools think that we're obnoxious and loud, but at that point I didn't care. Plus, seeing Magister get all into the cheers made it 100x better.

So, all in all, Ludi fulfilled my expectations, maybe even exceeded them. From listening to a creepy old woman give a hilarious lecture to spending time with my friends, Ludi was probably the highlight of my year so far. And having heard that Convention is way more fun than Ludi, I'm more excited than ever.



# Shakespeare's Caesar

By: Anita Levin

William Shakespeare, renowned worldwide as one of the greatest playwrights of all time, was fascinated by history. He wrote a number of histories centered around previous kings of England, but it is for his tragedies, which he is best known. Shakespearean tragedies manage to convey more than a simple plot line, and their study of life and death make for Shakespeare's most acclaimed works. From Hamlet to Romeo and Juliet, Shakespeare's classic plays concerning the painful and painfully beautiful moments of life are arguably his best. Julius Caesar is no exception.

The real Julius Caesar was a man of great benevolence and power. Above all, he wanted to see Rome prosper. After a successful battle against the armies of Pompey he was able to gain control of the city of Rome. He immediately introduced changes instigated to help better the lives of the Roman people, and quickly became beloved by his citizens. Unfortunately, his kindhearted core misled him, and he befriended a former ally of Pompey's named Marcus Brutus. Caesar put Brutus in a number of powerful positions within the Republic, and trusted the man greatly. Brutus soon began planning the assassination of Caesar with another holder of high office named Cassius. Despite some reservations, Brutus was a large factor in the success of the assassination, and was soon an enemy of Rome, which found new leadership in the adopted son of Caesar, Octavius. Before Brutus and Cassius were found by Octavius, however, they committed suicide.

Despite some historical imprecisions, historians profess that Shakespeare managed to remain mostly accurate in his depiction of the final murder. Some of the things in which Shakespeare changed were the character of Brutus, whom he changed from brazen schemer to misguided hero of the people, the dates in

between the presenting of the crown twisted with Loyal to Caesar from Mark Antony, and the cause of Brutus' hesitation in participating in the murder. Shakespeare portrays Brutus' hesitation as a result of his insecurity as to whether the murder will help the Roman people or not. In reality, according to the history of Caesar written by Plutarch, Brutus did not instantly join the conspiracy because he was worried about his own life. He hesitated one because he was deciding whether or not the murder would lead him to power or death.

Regardless of the changes Shakespeare made, the play Julius Caesar remains a beautifully written play that provides a mostly accurate view into the final days of Caesar. heard that Convention is way more fun than Ludi, I'm more excited than ever.

