

PAWS ROMANA

Issue I

Fall 2015



MEET
THE
OFFICERS!!!
pg. III



BLS
AT
NATIONALS
pg. VI

A BLSJCL PUBLICATION

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Dear Reader,
What an exciting and eventful past months! From State Convention to Kickoff, from Certamen to Pumpkin Painting, BLSJCLers have been extremely active, reaping awards, making new friends, and even travelling all the way to Texas! This issue will introduce you the 2015-2016 BLSJCL board, and includes a National Convention report, as well as award-winning artwork from BLSJCLers. What does Catullus have to do with Spongebob? You'll find out here!

-e corde
-Peter Wang, 2015-2016 Publications Editor

WELCOME TO BLSJCL



There's a common saying that "if something's too good to be true, it probably is." I'm here to tell you that the Junior Classical League (JCL) is the exception to that.

Are you interested in conjugating verbs? Declining nouns? Maybe. Maybe not. Well, what about launching catapults and watching (for the daring, even participating in) mock gladiatorial combat? Or spending a weekend on the Cape with friends and fellow JCLers? Or competing in 50+ contests at State and National Conventions and winning ribbons and medals? Now that sounds cool. In short, JCL has something for everyone. There's a reason why BLSJCL is the largest club at BLS and the largest JCL chapter in the universe! If you like art, there are over twenty different art contests you can compete in at the State Convention. If you like athletics, there are all sorts of track events and group sports that you can participate in. If you enjoy writing or performing, there are plenty of oratory and writing contests. This year we are implementing many new community service and publicity events. And of course, if you're proud to be a Latin nerd there are so many academic tests that you can take at convention, as well as Certamen, an extremely fun Latin quiz bowl contest.

JCL, though, is much more than just all the different competitions and events that it hosts. We're a family. A family with all kinds of awesome people from the fanatic spirit enthusiasts, who like screaming out Latin cheers at the top of their lungs, to lovers of community service, to the hardcore Certamen players. Now in my fifth year as a JCLer, I can tell you without doubt that the JCLers I've met from all across the nation have been the funniest, quirkiest, most dedicated, and most supportive people I've ever known. Some of my fondest memories and closest friendships have been made at JCL events.

So I welcome you, prospective member, to join us. Ludi incipiant. Let the games, the excitement, and the memories that you'll cherish for the rest of your life begin.

-Michael Gao (I), a BLSJCL Triumvir



PHOTO CREDITS: Magistra Moguel, Front page: Magistra Moguel

MEET THE OFFICERS

Treasurers




Ashley Chou
1. 9
2. Certamen
3. Ablative Absolute
4. Working with other board members to make the JCL experience more more memorable for everyone

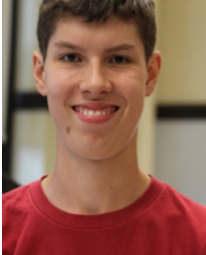


Molly O'Halloran
1. 10
2. State Convention
3. Independent Clauses, let's be real, they're the forgotten, boring heroes of Latin
4. Meeting new people!

Webmasters



Clair Fu
1. 9
2. Certamen
3. Ablative Absolute
4. Working on the website and spreading JCLove to everyone I can!



Oliver Macneely
1. 11
2. Definitely Classics Day!
3. Indirect Statement
4. Classics day and getting to know the board better

Parliamentarian



Randy Chen
1. 11
2. States
3. Ablative Absolute
4. States and hopefully Nationals

Secretary



Tim Liu
1. 9
2. States
3. Subjunctive Result Clause
4. Board Meetings

Community Service Czar



Christina Yee
1. 11
2. Conventions
3. Zeugma
4. Getting JCLers involved in Community Service, and meeting new JCLers!

Publications Editor




Peter Wang
1. 11
2. Certamen, States, Nationals
3. Hysteron Proteron
4. Meeting new people and playing certamen!

Officers-At Large



Nicholas Weiske
1. 9
2. Certamen
3. Ablative Absolute
4. Nationals

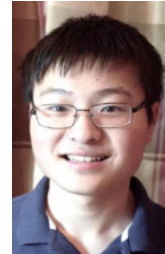


Jairam Rao
1. 9
2. Certamen
3. Subjunctive Result Clause because of the Yo Ma Ma jokes
4. Classics Day

ASKED:

1. Grade
2. Favorite part of JCL
3. Favorite grammatical structure or rhetorical device
4. In JCL next year, I am looking forward to...

Triumvirs

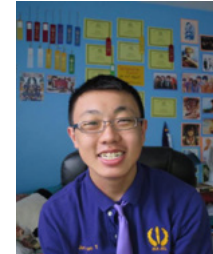


William Gao
1. 12
2. Certamen and Nationals in general
3. Zeugma
4. Meeting the BLJCL board, BLSJCLers, BLSJCL Certamen, Nationals




Michael Gao
1. 12
2. Meeting new people through Certamen and Conventions
3. Acc. of respect aka Synecdochal or Greek
4. implementing more BLSJCL in-school events to all of our amazing JCL members!

Publicity




Jonathan Yuan
1. 10
2. Certamen where I can meet new friends
3. Genitive with Verbs of Remembering and Forgetting
4. Adv. Certamen and Nationals!




Anna Aldins
1. 10
2. The people in JCL
3. Litotes
4. Helping plan events for the biggest chapter in the universe!

Historians




Ada Chai
1. 11
2. States and Nationals
3. Personification
4. Meeting New People!

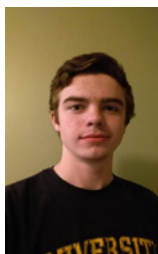


William Burnett
1. 11
2. The people, we're like a big ol' family and I look forward to our awkward family reunions every single year.
3. ablative absolute
4. Scrapbook

Spirit Coordinators



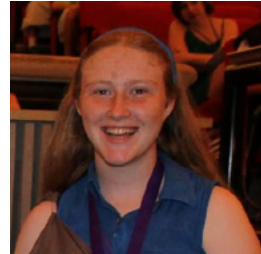
Kayla Riker
1. 11
2. Meeting new people!
3. Chiasmus
4. State Convention



Jamie Doyle
1. 11
2. States!!
3. Ablative Absolute
4. That's Entertainment at States!



Louis Delano
1. 12
I'm very excited for making even more memories this year and I'm confident it will be a blast! And always remember: semper ubi sub ubi



Carina Layfield (Director of Publicity)
1. 9
2. Meeting people
3. Indirect Statement
4. meeting new people and making new friends



Ina Beinborn
1. 10
2. Certamen
3. Future Passive Infinitive
4. Publicity and convincing people to join JCL!

STATE CONVENTION

The bus arrives to its destination and the air is fresh as snow on the ground waiting to be melted by the approaching summer heat. I get off as soon as the bus opened its door with a swing and with a loud resonating "shhh" of sleep deprivation and anticipation. I enter this building with the acoustics of a lounge in Canada. We, however, are not in Canada. We, BLSJCL, are at Sturbridge Hotel, our first ever in such a venue for state convention. I settle into my hotel with my roomies (shout out to Jonathan Yuan (III), Joshua Lomasney (III), and Nestoras Apodiakos (III).) I rush to finish my art projects without any hesitation before starting to register for all the events I plan to compete in. The line is dreadful and seeing the confused faces of people makes the feeling of the hotel more questionable. After getting all the registration out of the way, I take the liberty to wander around since nothing of importance is going on. Then without warning, I am stampeded by a crowd going into the auditorium. I know that GA (General Assembly) is starting. I hastily grab a seat and see other schools come in slowly but certainly. We see the MASSJCL board members in their prime, ready to make a heck of a convention. After GA, academic testing happens in the auditorium, with people lining up hoping to secretly start the test before anyone else. With academic testing finished, I leave the auditorium, to search for new friends and reunite with old ones. Fellowship is next and we meet as a school. Before long, we have to return to our hotel rooms. Day One is complete. I rose out of bed and up again for another long day. Olympika was happening first, and I got right to it. Breakfast was nicely served in a buffet style. Being filled with bacon and tater tots, I proceeded on with the day (mostly wandering but still observing others). I did compete in Certamen as a wild card, finishing up for some fun. Then I proceeded to Open Certamen with great results as well. GA arrives again with fun skits (ILLUMINATI!!!). Afterwards more events happened, with much entertainment and our first day of spirit!!! With that, it was free time and everyone's favorite talent show, That's Entertainment!!! Drawing near the end of Day Two, we had our voting fellowship. The last day started with competitive Certamen finals and awards being announced. Of course what is states without chariots, worm race, and a SECOND spirit day? BLS, after the chariots, worm race, and spirit, assembled itself in the ballroom of the hotel for a final GA, with tears mixed with cheers. Heartfelt farewells and new beginnings arose from the plethora of emotions. Then, the announcements for school awards began. Finally with the very words being said as, "First Place overall...is...BOSTON LATIN SCHOOL!!!" It was marvelous, but I felt an aching feeling. State Convention was over. We all backed up onto the bus. I leaned over the window, seeing the lake and the view of the Sturbridge hotel getting more and more faint as the seconds, then minutes, passed by. It was my second convention, and it has ended.

-Ting Wei Li (III)

STATES 2015



States Certamen

I remember walking into States with my game face on, ready for the competition. I also might have been quite annoyed, considering I had to come to States late, due to a band concert, but we can move on from that. I was very excited to play in competitive Certamen in the intermediate division. I met up with my team, and we got ready to crush the competition!

Our preliminary rounds went fairly well. Our team worked really well together, and we all worked our hardest to get as many questions as we could. We got 1st seat, and made our way into finals. The final was a very exciting round. Even though we had to write on cardboard, I enjoyed the round we played against AMSA and Rising Tide. In the end, we came out victorious, and got first place in the intermediate division! I remember feeling very excited for coming out on top, but also for the intense preparation for competition at Nationals! All in all, states Certamen was a great experience!

-Jonathan Yuan (III)

PHOTO CREDITS: Magistra Moguel and BLSJCL Historians

BLS GOES TO NATIONALS

FIRST-TIMER AT NATIONALS

Often we expect things to go badly when they actually turn out to be great because we didn't really know much about them. This is the experience I had with JCL until States and more importantly Nationals at Trinity University.

As a sixie, I felt ready and prepared to fulfill my (parents') dreams of getting into MIT and Harvard. I started staying after school every day and attending several different clubs. But I shuttered when I heard the letters "J-C-L": that weird club of Latin geek cheerleaders that Ms. Moguel was so obsessed with. And so, I avoided JCL until I was finally talked into going to State Convention by my friends and Ms. Moguel.

I was immersed in JCLove at State Convention. I felt like a valuable part of a winning, functioning unit. Most of all, I discovered how much I really liked Latin and that there was more to JCL than cheering and losing your voice. And so, the week after States, I decided to go to Nationals. Through the incredibly kind efforts of Ms. Hausey, I was able to secure a spot at the NJCL convention.

There I was, a rising fivesie, walking right out of 7th grade and into an intensive Latin camp. Many don't know but MassJCL and, particularly BLS JCL, takes preparation for Nationals very seriously. Whether it is academics or spirit, MassJCL has a plan. For a full month we trained until our fingers were equally skilled at buzzing and showing spirit.

At long last, we arrived in San Antonio, Texas. We moved into our one week dorms at Trinity University on July 26. Getting a glimpse of the dorm life is another useful thing at Nationals. The next day we went registered our art projects, and signed up for creative arts and olympika. Then the testing began. Everyday we were allowed to take as many as we desired of the 4 tests offered that day. Then, leading into the general assemblies, we cheered and participated in spirit. During the later halves of each day, we would compete in creative arts competitions such as Dramatic Interpretation. Additionally olympika and ludi were sprinkled in throughout the day. However the finest part of Nationals, at least for me, was Certamen. Certamen was played by almost every devout JCLer that came to Nationals. I personally played as a wildcard. I enjoyed the experience of playing hands on instead of just hearing the legends of the greats such as Nick and Nestoras.

Did I mention that there was a 2 hour buffet for each meal? The food came in a variety of different forms from salads with every ingredient to the classic burgers of Americana. In addition, there were several opportunities to mingle and have fun with JCLers from other states like dances or the Roman Murder Mystery. All in all, Nationals was a great experience albeit the great dilemma we faced in coming back from Texas. But that is another story and there is nothing I looking more forward to than Indiana 2016. Go JCL!

-Christy Jestin (V)



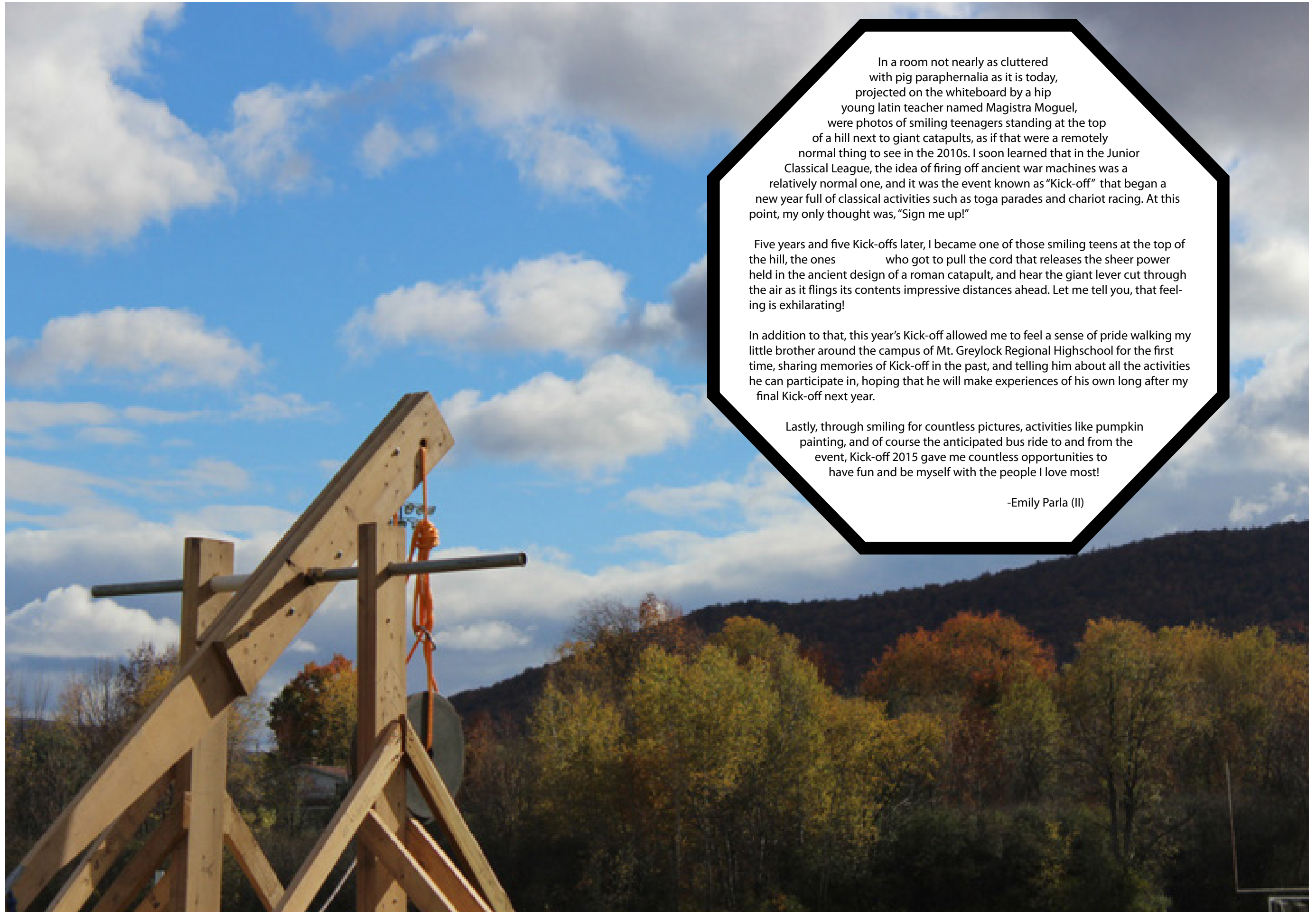
NOVICE CERTAMEN

In July, I attended the National Junior Classical League Convention ready to compete with my teammates for the chance to become national champions in certamen. Ashley Chou, Nick Weiske, Clair Fu, and Jairam Rao are the best teammates I could've asked for. We entered round one nervous, but we emerged pleased with our play against two strong teams from Arizona and Ohio. In round two we faced a very competitive team from Illinois, and a wild card team. Once again we ended up on top. In round three, we faced an old rival, DC. Jairam, Nick, Ashley, and Clair, however, managed to beat them. Our team's efforts in prelims put us in the third spot going into semis. We were pitted against Illinois and Tennessee. At the end of five questions we were behind Illinois, but it was only by 25 points. It was still anyone's game. At the end of ten we were still down by 25. It felt less like anyone's game. Our team was beginning to fight an uphill battle. After 15 questions we were down by a scary 55 points. It was beginning to seem like our hopes at making finals were gone. But then, nobody got question 16. On 17, I buzzed in and said "accusative as the subject of an indirect statement," it was correct! We then got questions 18 and 19. Going into 19, we were up by five, but the coach from Illinois made a challenge. We sat there for what felt like forever waiting to see the result of the challenge. Illinois ended up getting ten points, so suddenly they were up by five instead of down. Going into the last tossup, we knew the topic would be history. We had to get it right to advance to the finals. With baited breath, I listened to the question, waiting, hoping, that Nick knew the answer and would buzz in. I heard the buzz. It was Nick! He said, "Massinissa," and we all froze, waiting for the moderator to say "sorry," or "that is correct." When she spoke and told us that Nick was right I let out the breath; I hadn't realized I'd been holding it. The round between Illinois and Tennessee was intense, fun, and exciting, everything a good certamen round should be. We had done it, we had made the national finals. The next morning, I was ready. I had faith in myself and my teammates, I wanted to win. I didn't think I was nervous, but once the questions started being read I began to doubt myself. Going into the 19th question, once again any team could win. A player from Virginia buzzed in, and got it correct, sealing the victory for VA. Massachusetts ended up getting third, and Florida second. At first, I was super sad, but after talking to Ms. Moguel, Mr. Howard, my teammates, and a super nice girl from Florida I began to feel better, plus it's not like 3rd in the nation is a bad thing. I don't know what will happen next summer, but I know that it will be extremely fun. Without any of my teammates and the fantastic coaches, especially Mr. Bartoloma and Ms. Moguel, we wouldn't have gotten as far as we did, and I am so happy to have had the chance to participate in certamen at such a high level.

-Carina Layfield (IV)



KICKOFF



In a room not nearly as cluttered with pig paraphernalia as it is today, projected on the whiteboard by a hip young latin teacher named Magistra Moguel, were photos of smiling teenagers standing at the top of a hill next to giant catapults, as if that were a remotely normal thing to see in the 2010s. I soon learned that in the Junior Classical League, the idea of firing off ancient war machines was a relatively normal one, and it was the event known as "Kick-off" that began a new year full of classical activities such as toga parades and chariot racing. At this point, my only thought was, "Sign me up!"

Five years and five Kick-offs later, I became one of those smiling teens at the top of the hill, the ones who got to pull the cord that releases the sheer power held in the ancient design of a roman catapult, and hear the giant lever cut through the air as it flings its contents impressive distances ahead. Let me tell you, that feeling is exhilarating!

In addition to that, this year's Kick-off allowed me to feel a sense of pride walking my little brother around the campus of Mt. Greylock Regional Highschool for the first time, sharing memories of Kick-off in the past, and telling him about all the activities he can participate in, hoping that he will make experiences of his own long after my final Kick-off next year.

Lastly, through smiling for countless pictures, activities like pumpkin painting, and of course the anticipated bus ride to and from the event, Kick-off 2015 gave me countless opportunities to have fun and be myself with the people I love most!

-Emily Parla (II)



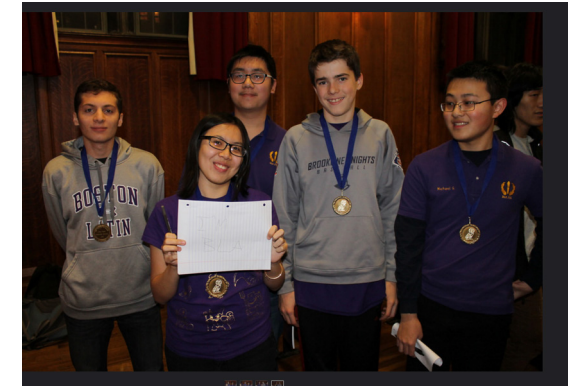
PUMPKIN PAINTING

Photo Credits: BLSJCL Historians, Opposite: Magistra Moguel

CERTAMEN



Intermediate Team at States



Advanced Team (BLS 2) Wins Yale

BLSJCLers on the Novice Nationals Team



Advanced Team at States



CATULLUS AND SPONGEBOB



?

FISH IN CLOTHES



Fish in clothes, while a commonplace sight in the nautically nonsensical world of SpongeBob SquarePants, is actually an image that dates back two millennia. We owe the creation of this idea to the Roman author, Gaius Valerius Catullus (84-54 BC). Although Catullus is well known for his risqué humor, his ribaldry is limited to only a handful of poems, and his obscenities to even fewer. In reality, Catullus was a great contributor to the Roman literary canon and was so astute to the qualities of good writing that many of his poems are, in fact, about writing. One such poem is Catullus 95, a short poem praising the brilliance of Catullus' friend Cinna, who had recently published a great book that had taken him 9 years to write. For you Shakespearean scholars, this is the same Cinna who was mistakenly and tragically killed by the mob in Julius Caesar. Both Cinna and Catullus were Neoterics, an exclusive class of 1st century BC Roman poets who created a new, revolutionary form of poetry built on their values of succinctness, cleverness, and subtle wit. In the process of exalting Cinna, he lambastes another writer named Volusius, an historian poet, whose writing is so dull and long-winded that Catullus deems it *cacata charta*, or papyrus expelled as excrement, in Catullus 36. Wonderful image. And there are several amusingly alliterative translations to match Catullus' own alliterative scatological phrase, *cacata charta*. (Use your imagination.) Catullus considers Volusius to be the worst of all poets and his *Annales* to be his worst work. Volusius' vile volumes of verbal vomit verify Volusius as virtually a villain, voluntarily verbose, whose voluble, vacuous, valueless verses evoke the vociferous, vituperative, volcanic vitriol of Catullus via virtuous valediction to Volusius' voice. It defies everything Catullus stands for because it is unsophisticated, boring, and longwinded.

So what does this have to do with clothed fish? Well, Volusius' *Annales* is such trash that it doesn't live on in literary history, it is not preserved, and it not read beyond Volusius' city. Unlike Cinna's work that will travel to new lands, Volusius' will be thrown out and die in the nearby river, where it will be used as "tunics" for the fish that swim by. Volusius' writing is so worthless that the fish will cloth themselves in it, since it was so readily dumped into the river. And this image highlights another interpretation of Catullus' *cacata charta* phrase: that papyrus itself was not expelled, but is instead used to wipe oneself and then thrown as waste into the river along with actual feces. Volusius' work is toilet paper. Now you may be thinking that the Romans didn't use toilet paper, and for you Roman culture buffs, you're probably thinking the toilet paper reference is impossible because the Romans used the *xylopongium*, a sponge attached to a stick, to wipe themselves. But fear not, excavations have revealed that sometimes, in the absence of a *xylopongium*, pieces of cloth and even shredded papyrus were, in fact, used in lieu of the sponge! And so, it would be accurate to follow either interpretation of *cacata charta*, but the second clearly complements the fishes' tunics better.

Volusius is the not the only one to suffer Catullus' wrath. Arrius adds so many h's to his words (called "rough breathing," an attempt to sound Greek) that he strengthens the winds and causes tidal waves. Sestius, an orator, writes such dull and frigid speeches that he gave Catullus a cold. But Volusius is the only one to be diagnosed with such an extreme case of logorrhea that Catullus' prognosis for his work is a swift death on a river embankment. In retrospect, we should thank Volusius for writing his *Annales*. Without this work of vomited words poured over papyrus expelled as excrement, we would never have been graced with the clothed fish image. We can credit Rome with so much – architecture, engineering, language, and government – the foundation of Western civilization. But now we can add a new bullet to the list of contributions: the ancient forerunner of the entire modern day cult of anthropomorphic fish in clothes led by SpongeBob.

-Daniel Sherman (I)

ART SHOWCASE

TROY

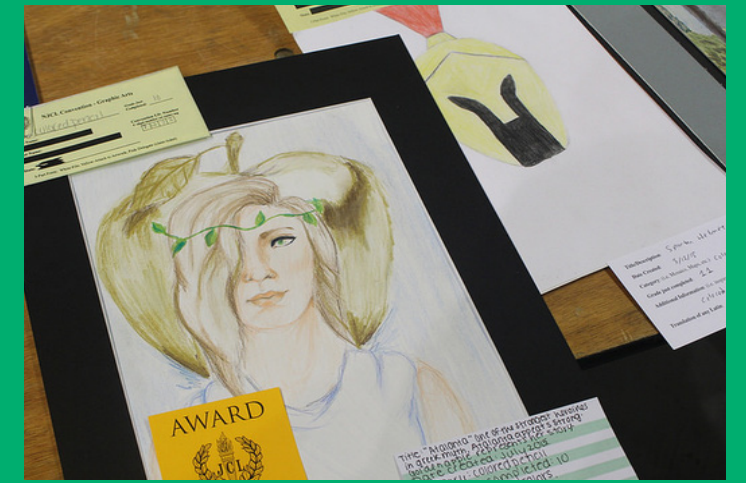
She bowed her head
In pious fervor,
Surrendered to her wretched gift,
Cupped her ears
To whispered warnings.
To which they did not listen.

One day, the whispers stopped.
Under Night's shroud
The infection spread.

Fields full of dust.
The night twinkled,
Lit by crimson flame.
Sword and shield met
With a bitter resonance
That echoed the unheard cries
For an end.

And those who held
their palms to their ears,
blocking the deafening silence,
Embarked on a quest,
Left those ruins,
If only
To hear those whispers once again.

-Christina Yee, (II)



WILL BURNETT (II)



PHOTO CREDITS (opposite):
Google Images

SUBMIT TO THE PAWS ROMANA!

Classically-themed artwork,
photography, writing
Photos from JCL events
Articles about JCL events

Please email to
pw0521@gmail.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

Classics Day- 12/3/15
BLA Certamen-TBA
Board Meeting- 12/10/15
Bake Sale- 12/16/15
Saturnalia- 12/17/15
BLS Certamen- 2/6/15

Take the first letter of the Greek version of the Roman deity that hates Aeneas
Take the first letter of the Roman hero that defeated the Aequi in 16 days
Take the last letter of the term for a Roman exercise room
Take the 4th letter of the Latin verb from which "gist" is derived
Take the 3rd letter of the Roman emperor who was also a stoic philosopher
Take the first letter of Boston's Motto
Take the first letter of the Roman author who supposedly died from a love potion
Take the 2nd to last letter of the river god that tries to drown Achilles in the Trojan war

Unscramble the letters to find out the name
of a mythological hero!