

# PAWS ROMANA

Issue II

Winter 2016

## IN THIS ISSUE

- Classics Day
- Yale and BLA Certamen
- Invitation to Lupercalia
- Upcoming Events
- Classics Themed Crossword

A BLSJCL PUBLICATION

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Editor's Note	I
Classics Day	II
Classics Day Workshops	III-IV
Classics Day Behind the Scenes	V
Yale Certamen	VI
BLA Certamen	VII
Invitation to Lupercalia	VIII
Art Showcase	IX
Classics Crossword	X
Upcoming Events	XI

## Editor's Note

Dear Reader,

Over the past few months, BLSJCLers have been very active in their enthusiasm of the classics. At no event was this more apparent than Classics Day. In their thirst for competition, BLSJCLers have also competed in Yale and BLA Certamen, earning many awards. This Winter issue covers not only a description about Classics Day as a whole, but also workshop reviews and an exclusive, Behind the Scenes article from Allyson Ping, MassJCL 1st VP. There are also accounts of the two Certamen competitions, as well as an invitation to the upcoming BLSJCL event, Lupercalia. We hope that you will enjoy this issue of the *Paws Romana*.

-e corde,

Peter Wang, 2015-2016 Publications Editor, and the 2015-2016 Publications Committee

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Christy Jestin

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# CLASSICS DAY 2015

## "Panem and Circenses"

Often times, it is difficult to observe the evolution of culture without first examining the history of our ancestors. However, at this MassJCL event, we are able to do exactly that. Annually held at the George Sherman Union, Classics Day is definitely one of JCL's most memorable events, packed with a variety of workshops, yummy lunches, and entertainment put on by the attendees themselves.

This year was no exception, with workshops regarding topics such as the ancient stance on medicine, an account detailing the Roman bath experience, and social networking in the form of the patron-client system. Having attended Harvard professor Richard Thomas' presentation on the poet Horace and Boston University alumnus' Peter Blandino workshop on disability in the ancient world, I can attest to the quality and effort placed into these lectures by their developers. Lunch, following, is always enjoyable, with chips, cookies, and beverages, paired with a sandwich of your choice. And what better way to enjoy food than with entertainment? Without a doubt, the skit contest

is one of the most anticipated portions of the day. Loaded with parodies and references to current events such as the 2016 presidential election, movie classics like "Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day," and our favorite game show event, Jeopardy, in combination with Roman history and Greek mythology, students spend weeks in advance preparing for a 2-minute performance (or a 12-minute one, if you're a MassJCL officer), which definitely pays off during this time.

Regardless of whether you enjoy learning about the history of beauty routines or the intricacies of Horace poetry, reveling in the day off from school, or tallying the number of wall references made this year, you can always be sure that you will discover something new at Classics Day.

Ada Chai (II)



# CLASSICS DAY WORKSHOPS

## A Novel Classics Day Experience

The world is advancing forward at unprecedented rates, bringing along with it various great advancements in technologies, cultures, ideas, and new patterns of living and interacting. And yet, look at it now; it also has a lot of shortcomings.

At Classics Day this year, my second workshop focused on these shortcomings and the world today, despite the workshop originally being titled Islamic Civilizations' contribution to World Architecture. The presenter, Dr. Ronald White, decided the day before to change his presentation entirely; nonetheless I found myself glad that he did. Dr. White communicated a message to the seven of us which more people in this world could use, in a very engaging fashion. Everybody introduced themselves, including their religious/spiritual beliefs as he asked, and he aimed for the workshop to be more relaxed, where anybody could pop in and personally contribute.

His focal point was the whole idea of fundamentalism as a reaction to modernity leaving some feeling unincorporated; he went on to describe fundamentalism itself and its forms, examples of it throughout history, and commonalities between them. To include Islam, He introduced ISIS into the conversation, and how the "militant fundamentalist Islamist" group is currently reacting to the modern world, and it led to a broader question: how is the Muslim world as a whole reacting to modernism, and will it act?

It definitely wasn't the usual Classics Day experience, but it belonged in Classics Day. The workshop was interactive the whole way through, and it worked effectively as a medium for Dr. White's deeper message. He emphasized the importance of understanding perspective and bias within the world and one's self. The subjective relationship with the matter helps shape understanding, and we should take advantage of that to guide the world and to incorporate those who feel left behind.

-Eyad Alghool (II)



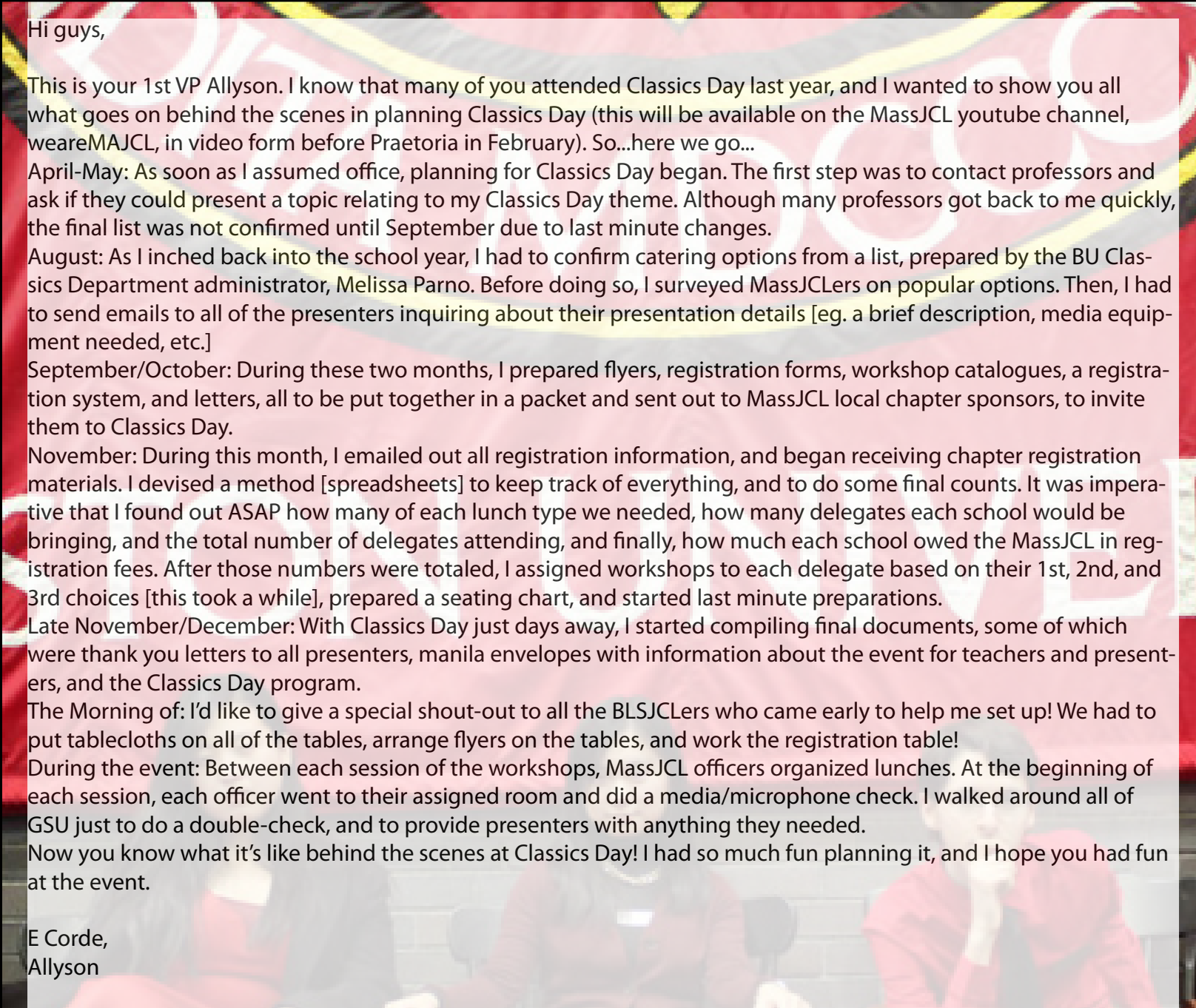
## Roman History at Classics Day

As a history buff, Classics day is one of my favorite JCL activities all year, as one gets to attend college level lectures, given by real professors! In line with this year's theme of daily life, I went to a lecture about what emperors would do in their free time, and another about adolescence in ancient Rome. The former lecture was not only entertaining and engaging but also insightful, as Ms. Zsuzsanna Varhelyi (Associate professor, Boston University) presented a wonderful powerpoint and a funny questionnaire at the end, as to whether you were a "bonus" or "malus" emperor! (The two choices (A and B) for each of the 5 questions spelled out malus and bonus when all strung together).

Of course, there was only one emperor at a time, so learning about the growth and challenges facing the average child in ancient Rome is also interesting as important, and this information was readily supplied at Mr Colin Pang's The Life of a Teenager in Ancient Rome and Greece. Also with an engaging lesson with handouts, Mr Pang explained to us the ins and outs of daily life, ranging all the way from sports to togas and gods!

Although many students think the Classics day lunches are a bit sub par (You obviously never tasted the Bella Mozzarella) I think Classics day is one of the best events MassJCL has to offer, which is why I plan on going next year, too. Will you?

-Nick Weiske, (IV)



Hi guys,

This is your 1st VP Allyson. I know that many of you attended Classics Day last year, and I wanted to show you all what goes on behind the scenes in planning Classics Day (this will be available on the MassJCL youtube channel, weareMAJCL, in video form before Praetoria in February). So...here we go...

April-May: As soon as I assumed office, planning for Classics Day began. The first step was to contact professors and ask if they could present a topic relating to my Classics Day theme. Although many professors got back to me quickly, the final list was not confirmed until September due to last minute changes.

August: As I inched back into the school year, I had to confirm catering options from a list, prepared by the BU Classics Department administrator, Melissa Parno. Before doing so, I surveyed MassJCLers on popular options. Then, I had to send emails to all of the presenters inquiring about their presentation details [eg. a brief description, media equipment needed, etc.]

September/October: During these two months, I prepared flyers, registration forms, workshop catalogues, a registration system, and letters, all to be put together in a packet and sent out to MassJCL local chapter sponsors, to invite them to Classics Day.

November: During this month, I emailed out all registration information, and began receiving chapter registration materials. I devised a method [spreadsheets] to keep track of everything, and to do some final counts. It was imperative that I found out ASAP how many of each lunch type we needed, how many delegates each school would be bringing, and the total number of delegates attending, and finally, how much each school owed the MassJCL in registration fees. After those numbers were totaled, I assigned workshops to each delegate based on their 1st, 2nd, and 3rd choices [this took a while], prepared a seating chart, and started last minute preparations.

Late November/December: With Classics Day just days away, I started compiling final documents, some of which were thank you letters to all presenters, manila envelopes with information about the event for teachers and presenters, and the Classics Day program.

The Morning of: I'd like to give a special shout-out to all the BLSJCLers who came early to help me set up! We had to put tablecloths on all of the tables, arrange flyers on the tables, and work the registration table!

During the event: Between each session of the workshops, MassJCL officers organized lunches. At the beginning of each session, each officer went to their assigned room and did a media/microphone check. I walked around all of GSU just to do a double-check, and to provide presenters with anything they needed.

Now you know what it's like behind the scenes at Classics Day! I had so much fun planning it, and I hope you had fun at the event.

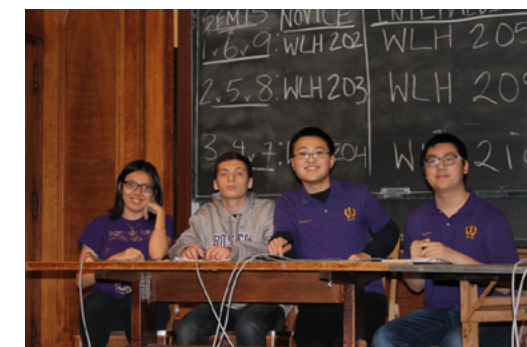
E Corde,  
Allyson

# CLASSICS DAY BEHIND THE SCENES

Cred: BLSJCL Historians



Novices At Finals



Advanced At Finals

# YALE CERTAMEN

This year was my first time at Yale Certamen, and I enjoyed it immensely. I had been preparing for weeks, studying everything I had. As my teammates Krishan, Tran, and Nick can attest, I was having quite a nervous breakdown upon my arrival at the Yale campus.

First round, we we faced two of our rivals: Illinois and Washington D.C., both of whom we had beaten at Nationals that summer. We could see the determination in their eyes. But they could also see ours. About halfway through the round, we were ahead of Illinois by a substantial margin, but we were behind D.C. In the end, we lost. Luckily, we had made it into the semifinal round.

We ate a hearty lunch at Nick's second home of Panera Bread. Entering the room, we recognized the D.C. team. My heart dropped. This the round that would decide the medalist. I sat down and prayed. "Toss-up Number 1."

My hands shake when I recall the score at the halfway mark: a tie. Suddenly, something awoke in my teammates and I. We blasted through the next ten questions, taking seven for ourselves and leaving just one to our opponent. On to Finals.

Intermediates At Finals

This was our chance at taking the National title that we had fumbled over the summer. We were up against Illinois and Florida. We knew Florida would be a tough adversary. As we sped through the questions, we realized that we were falling behind them. We were on the last question, down by five points. This question would decide whether we would tie... or lose. When I delivered the answer that I myself had suggested, the words hit me like a bus: "I'm sorry, that's incorrect." We had lost.

On the bus home, I tore myself apart over my mistake. After too much self-pity, I looked up to see my teammates, Nick, Tran, Krishan, Ashley, Carina, Clair, and all the rest, talking and laughing as if nothing had happened. Cupping my silver medal in my hands, I realized that the trip to Yale had not been about defeating other teams. It had been about something much, much bigger.

-Jairam Rao, (IV)



Cred: Ms. Moguel

# BLA CERTAMEN

BLS competitors competed in the BLA Certamen event on January 23, 2016, and competitors played three rounds of Certamen with twenty questions each against competitors from other schools such as BLA. In the morning, competitors reviewed their materials and socialized with each other as teachers registered the teams for competition. After registration, each team went to the rooms that they were assigned to and began to compete. In my personal experience, the teams buzzed with lightning fast speed on every question, and my team had a draw against Needham High School with an 80-80. The tension and peer-pressure were great in force, but despite that, BLS competitors tried their best, and did well in the competition. The pressure was as heavy as if a mountain pressing down on me, because I wanted to do my part to achieve victory for the team against formidable foes. There were moments where buzzes was 0.1 second to being yours, but there were also times that teams performed wondrously. On the third match, my team played against fellow BLS competitors, and Needham again. The other BLS competitors won with 145 points,

**“The tension and peer-pressure were great in force, but despite that, BLS competitors tried their best, and did well in the competition.”**

with great performances and effort from other teams After each match, Ms. Moguel, my team’s coach, would give my fellow competitors and me advice so that we can improve in the following rounds. According to Charles Ma, a fellow competitor in the BLS Certamen team, “BLS performed pretty well with two of their three teams finishing in the top three in the novice division.” In conclusion, the BLA Certamen event was one to be remembered, and one that let brought the team closer.

-Xiangan He, (VI)



Cred: Google Images

Do you like running up and down the streets of Ancient Rome naked? Probably not, but believe it or not, it was quite common to see between the 13th and 15th of February in Ancient Rome during the Lupercalia Festival. Unfortunately, for some reason, people no longer seem to follow that particular tradition when celebrating Lupercalia. So what is Lupercalia then besides a time of year for people to drop everything they’re doing and wearing to run down the streets? Lupercalia was the Ancient Roman Festival for fertility and purifying the city. As students of the classics it is important to not only learn the language of the Romans and Greeks, but it is also important to make sure that their traditions live on in the 21st century.



The second annual BLS JCL Lupercalia Bash will be held Thursday, February 11th after school in the Dining Hall to celebrate Lupercalia in our own unique tradition. We welcome all students whether members or not to celebrate with us. The Lupercalia bash will be centered around an open mic talent show, with plenty of side stations as well. Some of these stations include trivia, making pinwheels for Syrian refugees, and board games. The trivia will be centered around pop culture, wolves, the classics, and general knowledge. Let the fun begin!

Like last year, at each station you will have the opportunity to earn stamps which you can trade in for prizes. There will also be a concession stand, so remember to bring money for drinks and food.

I hope to see you there!

-Carina Layfield, (IV), Publicity Director

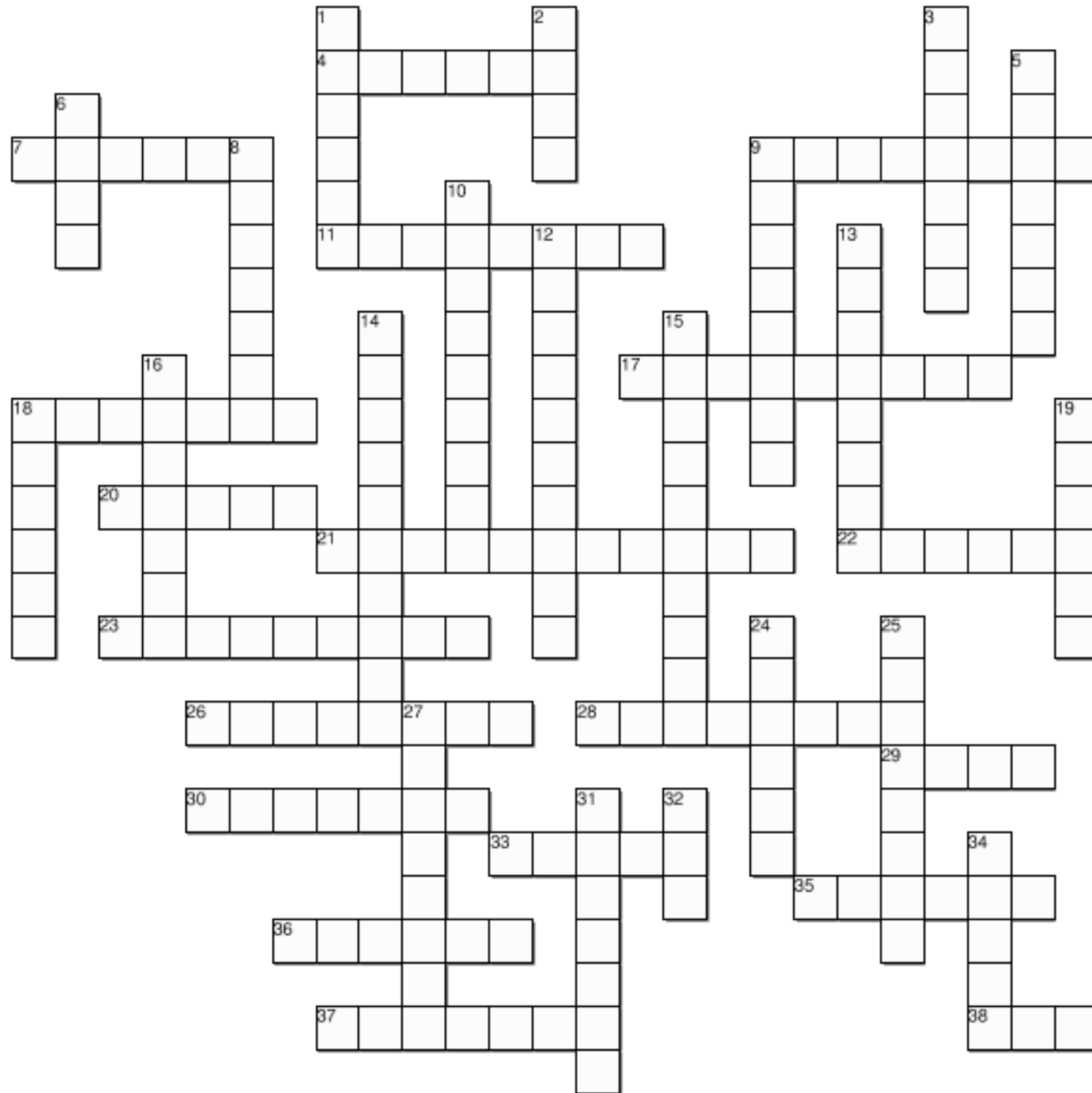
# INVITATION TO LUPERCALIA



Artwork Cred: Ada Chai

# CROSSWORD

Complete the crossword below

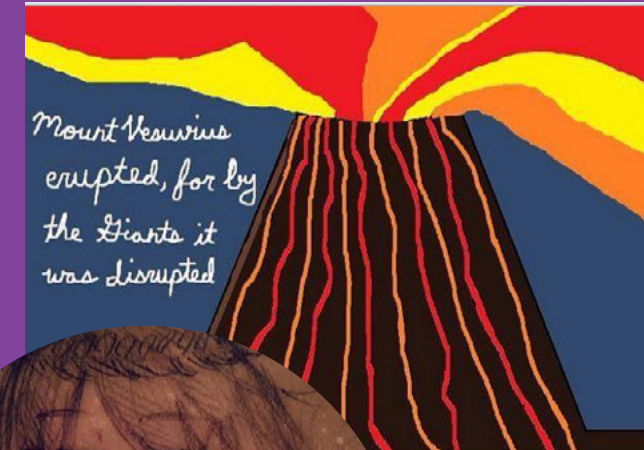


Created on [TheTeachersCorner.net](http://TheTeachersCorner.net) Crossword Maker

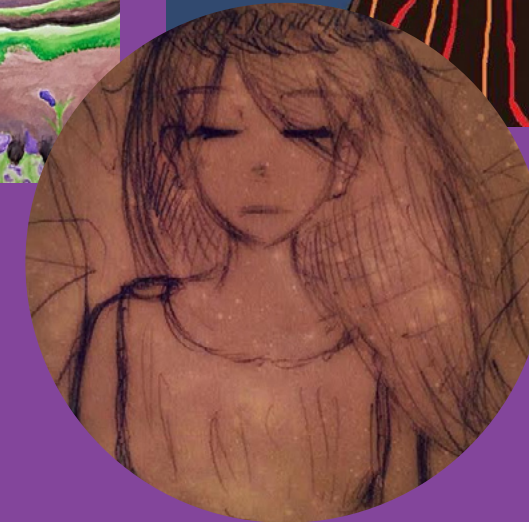
# ART SHOWCASE



Christina Yee, (II)



Lily Yang, (IV)



Ina Beinborn, (III)

## Across

4. Daughter of King Eurystheus
7. Ridget in Latin, type of cloud in English
9. Aeneas's paternal grandmother
11. send, third person singular active pluperfect subjunctive
17. Man who commanded a trireme
18. Breakfast, as a verb
20. annoying insect
21. name of the first and last Byzantine emperor
22. Pseudonym of Catullus's lady friend
23. Emperor who said 'Vae, puto deus fio'
26. How old sixies are
28. fatal flaw
29. Volcano in Sicily
30. goose, in the genitive
33. State whose motto is 'Esta perpetua'
35. Genus saffron is in; young man turned into a flower
36. Woman who wrote in Aeolic
37. race of all-women warriors
38. Number of feet in the meter of the Odyssey

## Down

1. Finally!
2. The land divided into three parts
3. State where Nationals is being held in 2016
5. This puzzle is not bad
6. Common fifth declension noun that uses two genders
8. Where Pliny the Elder died
9. Day the Ides of June falls on
10. King of Bithynia when Caesar was there
12. Man who rediscovered Troy
13. Mother of the last king of Rome
14. Hill the Temple of Jupiter was on
15. City where the Via Appia ends
16. Where plebians lived
18. Latin elective for seniors
19. Land where Spartacus was born
24. Place the Romans thought peaches came from
25. first official rank in the Cursus Honorum
27. literal meaning of Cicero
31. This year's costume character, for girls
32. rosy-fingered goddess
34. Gladiatorial school

# UPCOMING EVENTS

- BLS Certamen **2/6/16**
- Lupercalia **2/11/16**
- BLSJCL That's Entertainment! **2/11/16**
- MassJCL Praetoria **2/27/16**
- MassJCL Midnight Masquerade **3/12/16**



Enter the Raffle at the annual BLSJCL Certamen! Win special Star Wars themed prizes like BB-8! Tickets are \$1 each, and 7 for \$5!

