

Vox Latina Jan-Feb 2013

Editor: Emily Haussler of Summit CDS

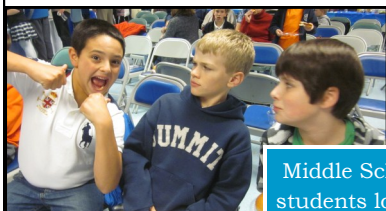
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Celebration of The Classics

The Summit Country Day Latin club celebrated the 17th annual Celebration of the Classics Friday, November 3rd. The focus this year was on Homer's Iliad. The much-anticipated event started with project-viewing. Parents and students alike came to see the many projects lining the walls of Knight's Hall, with projects ranging from 3-D posters to dolls to models and more! We all enjoyed a delicious bounty with Latin-themed food, and then sat down for the show to begin. First, the crowd enjoyed presentations of monologues taken from passages of the Iliad by students such as Inessa Chandra, Kevin Boyce, and Jesse Campbell. taken from passages of the Iliad. Next, we saw multimedia videos from this year, and then favorites from years past. While this was going on, students participated in an academic contest where they tested their knowledge of Homer's Iliad. Finally, the evening ended with Certamen, or "the buzzer game" for you younger students, with brackets based on Latin level. To me, this was the best part of the evening, especially since I was on a team with two members of the Upper Level state Certamen team. Those who won were rewarded with ribbons and sugar-filled substances, and the group left for the night, hopefully with huge smiles, stomachs full of delicious, classically themed treats, and brain packed with a little more knowledge on Homer's Iliad than before.

-Kelly McBride: 2nd VP



Middle School students loving Celebration!



Inessa Chandra delivering a dramatic interpretation

Halloween at Marjorie P. Lee

For the third year, the Summit Latin Club went to help out Marjorie P. Lee, a local retirement community, with their annual Halloween festivities. The children of residents and staff members alike came to enjoy a magic show, Halloween themed crafts and cookies, and of course trick-or-treating! Among the trick-or-treaters were Mario and Luigi, several princesses, and some adorable pumpkins. The Latin club decided to wear togas this year in order to promote the classics, and almost 40 toga-clad Summit students from both the Middle and Upper School volunteered. They helped direct families around the building, passed out punch and cookies, sat with residents, and helped with the cleanup afterwards. It was a fun event, and all who participated had a great time! -Regina Merrill: President

Service Events

Matthew: 25 Ministries is an international nonprofit organization that serves as a humanitarian and disaster relief organization. Matthew: 25 serves regions locally, throughout the country, and around the globe. This organization pledges help regardless of ethnicity, religion, or culture. Matthew: 25 recycles and reuses materials from large corporations and manufacturers. It is able then to easily provide basic necessities such as food, education supplies, and medical aid to those who lack these items.

The work that Summit Latin students perform at Matthew: 25 is usually in the form of assembly line work, sorting various items, and placing them in larger bins. Although the work you do does not directly feel like you are coming in contact with the people you end up helping, it is still rewarding. The volunteers at Matthew: 25 first show the Summit students an interesting video presentation about the people they serve and the impact their donations can have. This movie allows us to understand the greatness of our service. The volunteers then lead us through creating a large box that is supposed to represent a year's worth of supplies for one family, which certainly does not seem big enough. As we walk toward our destination of assembly, we pass through displays of what a person in poverty's home would resemble. There are small shacks built up that seem barely large enough to stand in. However, some people must live in these their entire lives.

Volunteering at Matthew: 25 Ministries is a fun and rewarding experience to have with fellow Latin classmates, and leaves each participant feeling as if he has made a difference.

-Ellie Cooney: Treasurer

Matthew: 25 Ministries



The Roman Christmas: Saturnalia

In light of the excitement of the past holiday season, I began to wonder what it would be like to be a boy in Ancient Rome joyfully awaiting the next holiday. I thought that the Roman Holiday that was closest to Christmas was Saturnalia; however, there is a frequent festival, named Agonalia, which occurred often, including in the month of December. Agonalia was a celebration for the God of beginnings and ends Janus, and it usually involved the sacrifice of a ram and was performed on the Quirinal Hill. However, Saturnalia is the more widely known major Roman holiday that occurs at this time of year. It is also the largest Roman holiday, and is celebrated on December 17th. Saturnalia is associated with Christmas because of the many similarities that exist between the two holidays, such as the decorations, which consisted of boughs of laurel and evergreen trees as well as plenty of candles and lamps to represent light. Some traditions were also similar between the two holidays. For instance, Romans exchanged gifts called Sigillaria, which were typically symbolic candles and dolls; this practice is of course analogous to our giving and receiving of presents on Christmas morning. Perhaps the most unique aspect of Saturnalia is that slaves were exempted from all punishment on the holiday; in fact, their masters waited on them at dinner. A die was rolled to determine the Saturnalian king, the Saturnalian king determined what everyone at dinner had to do, i.e. singing, dancing, or any other embarrassing thing. It is even said that Nero rigged the die so he could be Saturnalian king and humiliate Claudius's son Britannicus by making him sing in front of everyone. Saturnalia was also a time of relaxation from the rigor of an elite Roman's life. The laws of gambling were relaxed throughout the course of the whole festival so that everyone had an opportunity to enjoy some gambling. Romans even slipped off the formal toga for a more comfortable unisex garment, the synthesis. Overall, Saturnalia was a unique and interesting Roman holiday that shares many unexpected parallels with the Christian celebration of Christmas. -Jesse Campbell: Parliamentarian

The Latin Club Rap

It's Latin club, You know what's up
 I'm here to tell you what we get done
 First things first we volunteer
 In the summer, in the fall, anytime of the year
 You can find us at Marjorie P. Lee
 Helping with the Easter egg hunt
 Or helping on Halloween
 And at Matthew 25 we also volunteer
 When they want help with anything
 Summit's Latin club is near
 And on make a difference day
 At the California nature preserve
 We removed honeysuckle and raked
 We helped clean up our earth
 In addition to service, we also play Certamen
 It's a fun Latin game, with a lot of team involvement
 We also hold social events, so everyone can get together
 We watch movies, eat, play at the park, and do whatever
 As long as it's fun, and safe, and has something to do with Latin
 It's Summit's Latin club, and now you know what's happenin
 -Morgan Hughes: Treasurer



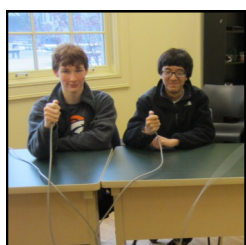
Trick or Treat!



Certamen Victors



Bowling Drama



Ready your buzzers!



Halloween Fun



MADD volunteers at the ready



Receiving sugar filled prizes at Celebration

Goats and Taxicabs

Tobler's first law states that "Everything is related to everything else." So the question should be asked: how are goats and taxicabs even remotely related? Let's start off with the fact that goats do a lot of weird things. One of the more interesting actions that goats perform is their vibrant jumping. Go on YouTube. I can assure you that there are tons of videos that depict goats just jumping around. I know in one video, one particularly energetic goat is jumping around and after a rather high vertical leap, lands on one of its fellow goats, bounces off of it, and does a flip. It's pretty cool; but enough about goats and their springiness. The point is, goats jump a lot. Now take the word "taxicab". It can be broken down into the two words "taxi" and "cab". Using your nearest English dictionary, you can find out that "taxi" comes from the Latin word *taxa*, meaning "tax" or "charge". Taxi is derived from this Latin word because of the fact that taxicabs *charge* fares for taking people across certain distances. But that has nothing to do with goats. On the other hand, "cab" has *everything* to do with goats. "Cab" is actually short for "cabriolet", a fancy French word for a light, two-wheeled carriage driven by a single horse. Well, studies show that a horse isn't a goat. Where is the connection? "Cabriolet" is actually derived from the Latin word "caper", which means "goat". Well, that may be the case, but how did we go from a goat to a carriage? If we look at the word "cabriolet" from a different point of view, in the 19th century, more rudimentary cabriolets would pop up and down if there were bumps in the road. It wasn't fun for the riders of the carriage, but onlookers thought this springing and jumping movement appeared playful and entertaining to watch. And who else is playful, entertaining, and tends to jump a lot? Goats.

-Tino Delamerced: 1st VP

George Washington: An American Romulus

The figure known to history as Romulus is more myth than history. He was born a child of Mars, raised by a wolf, founded Rome, created virtually every aspect of Roman government, founded several dozen priesthoods, organized the military, and became a god. However, he was treated by the Romans as a real, historical figure. This may seem absurd to modern observers. How could they actually believe that he was raised by a wolf, or that he became a god? And how could they actually believe that he was responsible for virtually every aspect of Roman government, religion, military, and culture? However, let us consider a more recent example from American history. George Washington was arguably an important figure in American history. However, for many people, Washington has become a figure very much like Romulus. He has overshadowed all the other founding fathers. When people think of an event that happened at the dawn of our country, they typically attribute it to Washington. Many Americans would attribute the Constitution, the Declaration of Independence, the Bill of Rights, and the entire Revolutionary War solely to Washington. How different is this from the Romans' beliefs about Romulus? Washington Irving, named after the first president, has written legends about Washington's upbringing little more reasonable than Romulus being raised by a wolf. A legend about Washington cutting down his father's cherry tree, and later admitting it because he "cannot tell a lie" has become a historical fact in the minds of many. Some may respond that Washington was never declared a god; however, what is the painting on the dome of the capitol building, one of the oldest and best known symbols of American government? It's the apotheosis of Washington, a painting of Washington literally becoming a god. If Washington can attain such a legendary status in a mere two-hundred years, why should it be surprising that Romulus is a legendary figure after two-thousand? And Washington is hardly alone in becoming a legendary figure. Will historians one day look back and wonder how we could possibly believe that Lincoln hunted vampires? As a society, we prefer not to learn the facts of history, but interesting stories and good propaganda. Romulus and Washington both demonstrate this fact.

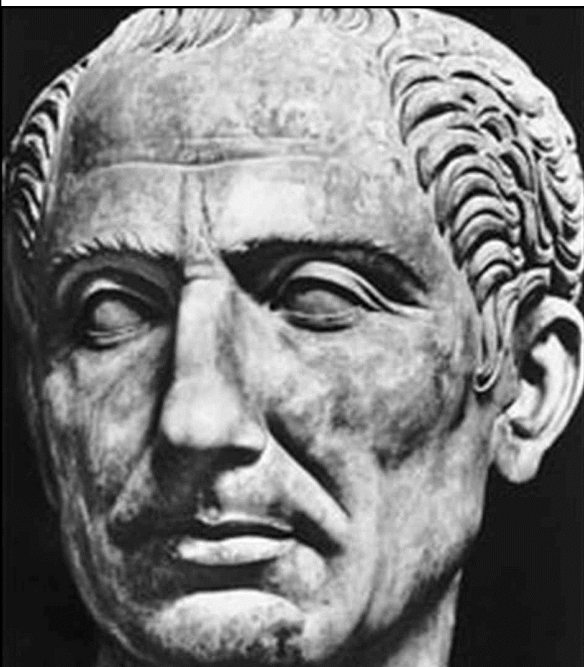
-Carter Hall: Publicity Coordinator

Mr. Dean's Undeniable Teaching Skills

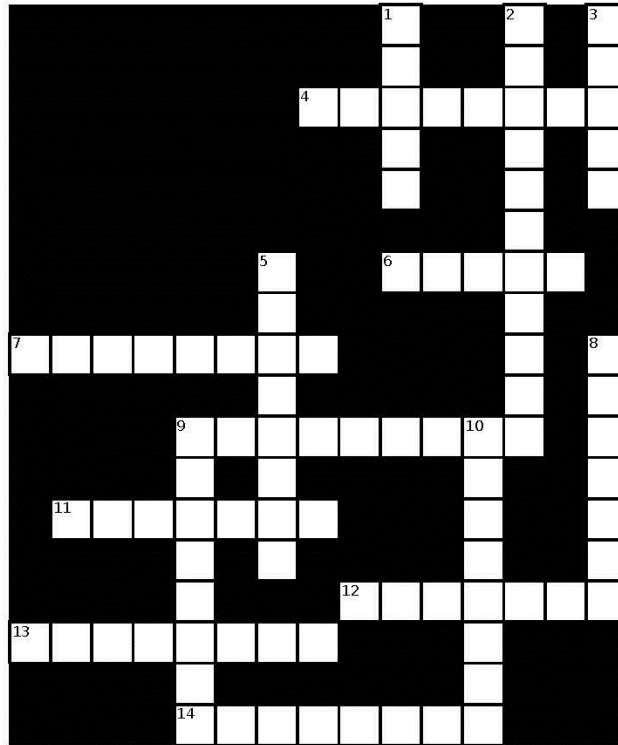
Mr. Dean is one of two Latin teachers at the Summit Country Day. Along with Mrs. Ashcraft, they teach students ranging from 6th grade all the way to 12th grade. Mr. Dean's enthusiasm for the Latin language and the classics make him one of the best, most unique teachers in the entire school. Aside from just teaching material, Mr. Dean adds a fun twist to class with his silly behavior and entertaining off-topic discussions. This makes his class quite entertaining and occasionally causes my classmates and I to burst out laughing. Mr. Dean's silly behavior is derived from a combination of strange voices, unique hand gestures, and random emphasis on words. This year, and in past years, Mr. Dean's hilarious voices, which include impersonating a Roman soldier, Darth Vader, and an individual from Virginia with a thick accent, accompanied by an array of hand motions have put a smile on my face and turned my day around multiple times. Honestly, I never know what to expect when I walk into his room for class. Like his entertaining behavior, off-topic discussions which often occur throughout class are usually completely random. I can remember times when we were talking about the major ports in Italy and suddenly we were talking about sharks, or when we went from talking about Julius Caesar and his lineage to Luke Skywalker and light-sabers. This is yet another aspect of Mr. Dean that makes him an awesome teacher. Aside from the entertaining aspects of Mr. Dean, he is a wonderful teacher who goes out of his way to make sure his students learn the material

he teaches and are not just memorizing it and "vomiting" it onto the page of a quiz or test. I could not ask for a better Latin/Greek teacher.

-Christian Lipa: Secretary



Name That Mortal!



Across

- 4 Don't feed your kids to the gods.
- 6 Spinning spinning all around on a burning wheel... forever.
- 7 Great at fighting monsters, not so great with the whole family aspect, Hera was the real problem.
- 9 This guy is a jerk. Why can't Achilles just keep his stupid war prize?
- 11 This guy should really be on American Idol.. well as long as the Maenads aren't judging
- 12 Reflections are everything. In a way he's the father of Pegasus.
- 13 this guys knows how to pick a wife! while she may have been the beauty she also left him for 10 years.
- 14 You can only cheat death for so long, eventually it will make you rolls giant rocks up hills.

Down

- 1 He fed people to the Minotaur, and yet he's still a judge in the underworld?
- 2 This guy has not only an awesome ride, but he also slew the Chimera.
- 3 Like golden things, sorceresses and ships.
- 5 This guy had a thing for mazes and flying.
- 8 Didn't like mazes or bulls, but had a thing for princesses.
- 9 Darn that heel!
- 10 Who would ever just have the idea "O I should build a giant wooden horse and put people inside it"?

Word Bank

Heracles	Minos	Perseus
Daedalus	Tantalus	Sisyphus
Achilles	Ixion	Theseus
Orpheus	Agamemnon	Jason
Menelaus	Odysseus	Bellerophon

-Rachel Argo: Historian

Make A Difference Day (MADD)

One of the gatherings I look forward to most every year is MADD, or Make a Difference Day. For the past two years, I have greatly enjoyed going to the California Woods Nature Preserve to rake the trails free of leaves, or to be a proud member of the honeysuckle “death squad”, ridding the preserve of the overpowering plant. Students spend hours raking while another group follows close behind with a wheelbarrow, spreading more mulch upon the newly cleared path, and more are scooping pitchforks full of mulch into those wheelbarrows. Others go through the large nature preserve with clippers, removing the honeysuckle wherever needed. This takes a surprising amount of teamwork to accomplish, and it is great to see everyone from many different schools working together to accomplish this task. MADD is a great way to make a difference in the community as well as to meet new people. Through many events such as these, I have grown close to fellow officers, students, and lovers of Latin.

-Marie Cossins: Gubernator



Crossword Answers

Across

4. Tantalus
6. Ixion
7. Heracles
9. Agamemnon
11. Orpheus
12. Perseus
13. Menelaus
14. Sisyphus

Down

1. Minos
2. Bellerophon
3. Jason
5. Daedalus
8. Theseus
9. Achilles
10. Odysseus