



# The Ohio Torch

February 2013 Issue

Regina Merrill, Editor

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Salvete omnes,

I hope everyone enjoyed their holiday break and is thoroughly revitalized for the final sprint to the 2013 OJCL Convention. The Exec Board has been hard at work to ensure that this will be a convention to remember.

It is important to keep in mind that the OJCL is a year-round enterprise, existing not just on one

weekend in early March. On Martin Luther King Jr. Day, JCLers from Columbus Academy, Brookwood, and Wellington met to make blankets for underprivileged children through Project Linus. This was a great opportunity to spend a day dedicated to a visionary leader by helping out the community and building friendships across the JCL. In the afternoon we played a few rounds of wild-card Certamen, mixing teams up across schools and Latin levels to create an eclectic mix of Latin enthusiasts.

Some JCLers will remember the Project Linus service event from last year's convention, which was trailblazing in that it was the first on-site service event we had ever sponsored at an OJCL convention. I am happy to report that, using the blankets and supplies we prepared on MLK Day, we will be continuing this trend by again hosting a Project Linus service event on Saturday at convention. We had such an enthusiastic response to the event last time that we finished the work early and overflowed into multiple rooms. This year we'll expand, and we'll need all the help we can get. There will be more details to come, but be on the lookout for this event on Saturday afternoon. It'll be a great chance to help out the community while meeting other JCLers and enjoying your time at convention. I hope to see you there!

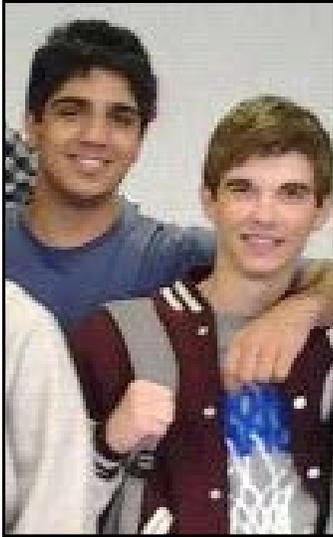


The Project Linus volunteers

~Nick Grewal, First VP



## Spirit at Convention



Mohammed and  
Bobby

Alright Convention's coming up, and I'm excited. I'm expecting a lot this year from you in spirit. I hope you really go over the top this year. I want to see everyone cheer and shout and dress up crazy. I want to see pirates and painted faces. I want to hear cheers and spirited voices. I really hope you guys give it your fullest this year and want to see some creative ideas. Maybe some original costumes or new cheers. It's really up to you. But, hey, don't forget to abide by the rules because I don't want to have to take points off. Just remember, no noise making devices, no carrying people, and most definitely no rough behavior. I do want to see some competitiveness, but don't bash other schools because we are all in fact JCLers. Be ready for a great convention this year! I hope to see you all this and always remember "nulla tenaci in via est via."

~Mohammed Patel, Treasurer

## Run for Office

Salvete omnes!

I am your Second Vice-President from Granville High School, Alex Might. I am writing today to describe my experience on the OJCL board and how you could witness the same. If any of this seems to interest you, don't hesitate to prefile and run for office!

I decided to run for the position at the NJCL convention at Eastern Kentucky University back in 2011. At the time, I was the only delegate representing Granville at the convention. That same year, I met some pretty amazing delegates who have since become my best friends. From then on, I decided that I wanted to immerse myself in this community as much as I could.

Running for office at the state convention the next year was one of the most nerve-wracking things I have ever done. Having the opportunity to speak to the Ohio delegation as a whole was such a rewarding experience. On top of an amazing convention, the people with whom I work are some of the most brilliant and unique people I have had the pleasure of knowing.

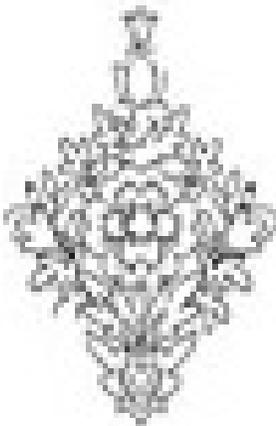
Having the opportunity to see fellow officers at the planning and changeover meetings is an awesome way to stay up-to-date with all of the friends you make at convention. I have even traveled to other schools for their JCL events, such as Ursuline Academy's Saturnalia party! Joining the board means broadening your network of friends all over the state. It is truly a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

I strongly encourage anyone who has a passion for the arts and this community to run for office. The work you do and the people you meet along the way create such a rewarding experience. The friends I have met and things I have done on the board will stay with me for a lifetime.

~Alex Might, Second VP



Tino, Narayan, and Alex  
after the winter planning  
meeting



# Southeast MADD

E Pluribus Unum. From the many schools of the Central Belt, one united band of providers of good descended on the Broad Street Presbyterian Church Food Pantry (BSFP) to distribute much needed Thanksgiving foodstuff to those less fortunate. The result? Twenty students from Columbus Academy, Granville, and BCLC gathered at 7:50 am on November 17, 2012 prepared to do whatever necessary to assist the BSFP and its patrons. The need was obvious as we witnessed a line that stretched around the city block, teeming with people from all walks of life braving the frigid cold, many having arrived as early as 5:00 am.

The Latinists of the Central Belt carried boxes, helped patrons, sorted several thousand variations of cranberry sauce, and handled over 5,000 pounds of surprisingly wet produce. Ultimately, it was a beneficial endeavor for all. Some 1,000 hungry citizens of the Columbus area were able to return to their homes laden with goods for delicious and healthy Thanksgiving dinners. And that says nothing about the worthwhile experience for us. It was fantastic to be able to interact with people outside of our daily routine, and it gave us a new perspective on what we had to be thankful for during that time of year. After all, in the wise words of the preeminent classicist Goethe, "he who does nothing for others does nothing for himself."



Latinists help a patron

~Will Emery, Southeast Gubernator

# Southwest MADD

The OJCL, putting sharp objects into the hands of kids since 2012. Now, it's not as dangerous as it sounds. This past October 55 students from the Southwest region of the OJCL volunteered at the California Woods Nature Preserve to help clean the park in preparation for the coming winter. The students, armed with various weapons, made their trek into the trail and raked, chopped, and threw greenery to their hearts' desire. After a long day of work, they unwound with cookies and some good times with friends.

~Lauren Salem, Southwest Gubernator



Volunteers with their weapons...er....hedge clippers

# Northern Ohio MADD

On October 21st, twenty dedicated OJCL members took part in an adventure all its own. That adventure was the Northern Ohio Make a Difference Day. Those twenty brave OJCLers journeyed into the woods at Cleveland's Edgewater Park for a trash clean up. Four hours, seventeen bags of trash, and many car parts later the group had finished. After completely overflowing the dumpster with the trash the group took several pictures and parted ways, ending a very successful MADD. To all those brave souls, Narayan and I would like to say thank you once again for all your hard work. Without all of you that day would not have been as successful and fun as it was!

~Ryan Thaxton, Northeast Gubernator

# Reminders and Amendment Updates

Salvete Omnes!

As you may (or may not) know, each year new amendments to the OJCL constitution are put up for vote to the committee of voting delegates. This year is no different, and the executive board has recommended two different amendments to the constitution.

The first amendment is to Section 5.02 Eligibility B. The article currently states “There will be no more than two candidates for elected office from the same school.” We would like to expand that amendment to this: “There will be no more than two candidates for elected office from the same school, and each school may only nominate one candidate for each appointed office.” There was a lot of confusion after convention this past year about how many people could apply for appointed office, so this amendment will make the rules about candidacy a lot clearer.

The second amendment we are recommending is an amendment to Article 5.02 Eligibility E. The amendment currently states “The office of President, First Vice President, and Second Vice President must have attended at least one prior OJCL Convention.” The board has decided to amend this article to include all the elected offices. Thus, the amendment will (if passed) now read: “The candidates for the offices of President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Parliamentarian must have attended at least one prior OJCL convention.” The reasoning behind this amendment is to make sure that only experienced JCLers who know how convention works and what it’s all about are able to run for elected office.

Those two amendments will be considered at OJCL Convention and will be voted upon after the Meet the Candidates meeting on Saturday night. Sponsors need to pick two students to represent your delegation as voting delegates, who will vote for the candidates your delegation selects in the elections and will also be voting on the amendments and next year’s convention theme.

~Bobby McDonald, Parliamentarian

## Trivia Question

Who boasted that her daughter was more beautiful than the Nereids, causing Poseidon to send a sea-monster to ravage the land of Ethiopia?

Send your answer to [editor@ojcl.org](mailto:editor@ojcl.org) and your name will be entered into a drawing for a \$5 Starbucks giftcard!



Want to see your article in the next issue of The Torch? Send it to [editor@ojcl.org](mailto:editor@ojcl.org)

# Learning Greek

When you walk into Mr. Sebastian's Latin room during lunch, you're never quite sure what you're going to find. It could be Level I practicing Certamen, people working on the club banner, or even the occasional board meeting. Once a week though, there isn't any Latin in the Latin room, and Greek is scrawled across the board instead. It is here that three dedicated eighth graders are trying to learn how to read, write, and even speak ancient Greek. It started a year ago with the most simple of beginnings: the Greek alphabet, which, of course, is vital to understanding.

Long months later they have all come very far. From being unable to distinguish between rho and nu, they can now pronounce words and sentences like experts. They've begun learning declensions and have moved on to simple sentences. Their vocabulary is constantly expanding, just as Mr. Sebastian's stack of notecards, and they have even learned about the many different articles. I am reminded of how fortunate I am to be safely immersed in Latin and far from the horrors of translating "a" and "the". However, as I watch the lessons from the back of the classroom, I see the merit and dedication in what they are doing. As eighth graders, they have embarked on a journey to learn a second ancient language right alongside Latin, a language not just with different words and grammar, but with an entirely separate alphabet. When they succeed, they will have an impressive head-start when it comes to understanding not only ancient Greek texts, but Latin and English ones as well.

~John Rowe, Seven Hills

## The Testimonial of a Latin Student

Hi, my name is Kyle and I am a Latin nerd. Hi, Kyle. I go to Latin convention; I spend free time trying to translate little bits of Latin and Greek that I find; and for a while, I was actually planning on majoring in Latin in college so that I could become a teacher. Now, I'm not completely crazy. I've changed my mind and I am now majoring in Political Science, but in no way at all does that mean I will never touch Latin again. I've invested 5 years of my life to studying Latin. I am planning on taking the AP Latin test for college credit in May. Latin has had a massive impact on my life.

I guess I should start at the beginning: I took Latin I in eighth grade, way back when it was required. I was dreading it. I mean, an entirely new language, and a dead one at that? I was planning on getting out as soon as possible but they sucked me in. Latin came naturally to me, as I have a very pragmatic and systematic way of doing things, and case endings fit that description for me. So, that ninth bell class wasn't that bad after all. However, it was not until high school that the real fun began. I went to my first certamen (a sort-of Jeopardy-style game where the content is composed entirely of Latin grammar, which is my specialty; as well as mythology; Roman history; and, at higher levels, literature) when I was about a month into Latin II, and I never looked back from there. I was very successful: I had a decent buzzer-finger, I got very good at Latin, and I just loved the fact that I could compete against other schools. Along with those at Latin Convention, my fondest memories occurred at certamina. I will never forget the time when my team and I placed third at the state level. Over a matter of two or three months, I made more friends through the common interest of a dead language than I have in the past year.

Some schools are considering cutting their Latin program. They say that it is useless, unnecessary. To that, I simply say: "No." I refuse to believe it. I'm not going into medicine, I'm not becoming a lawyer, but I am a student. Taking Latin helped me in too many ways to count. I had a new appreciation for history. I learned about a new, interesting culture very different, yet still similar to ours. Taking Latin even brought my English grade up because I finally understood grammar. Now, if there is a word or concept that I do not understand, I sit there and break apart into its roots. I have become an infinitely better student because of Latin class; I have countless friends who have been affected in the same way. Yet schools still think that Latin is useless? Why not just cut math? We don't directly use that in the real world. We don't use history in the real world. I don't know about you, but I sure don't use biology or chemistry in the real world. If it were up to this logic, we would all be taking basic classes that taught the bare minimal information required to function in life. Latin is just as, if not more important than other classes, and it should be treated as such. Call me biased, tell me my head's in the clouds. Say what you want, but I still feel like schools are telling us what we need to do without thinking through the ramifications and consequences first.

If there is anybody out there who doesn't understand why Latin is so important to me, get this: It's practical, it made me and countless other students better at school. It is even calming at times. It has a very rhythmic pace and once you get that pace down, it's not hard to understand, as it builds on itself. For me, it is the one thing that has order in life at times. So there you have it. From the first days in Latin I as Agathus, I have grown intellectually, socially, and developmentally. Of course, there are other factors, but one thing has remained constant in that growth: my study of Latin, and that's what I have to thank for my success today.

~Kyle Matz, Mariemont

# Spotlight Schools

## Shaker Heights High School

Shaker is a school in the OJCL that exemplifies the motto known as “YOLO.” Led by the great consuls Clara “Babeh Clarez” Kao and Isabel “Shawty Izz” Robertson (comparable to Minerva and Diana) and guided by the graceful hand of Magistra “Murphdawg” Murphy and Magister “Err” White, Shaker is sure to have an amazing year at convention. Some foolish muggles may question Shaker Latin Club’s passion for the classics; however, they are ignorant of the truth. What is the truth, you ask?

The truth lies in our weekly Wednesday meetings with 30+ passionate people having a particular proclivity for the classics. The truth lies in our creativity, in our academics, and in our SPIRIT. The truth lies in our participation in school activities such as the Homecoming parade, in which we earned second place. The truth lies in our participation in OJCL activities such as Make A Difference Day and certamen events. In our school of 1800, some 300 students take the immortal language that is Latin. 30 of these carry of the torch proudly on their shoulders--illuminating their love for this magnificent organization. That, my friends, Romans, and countrymen, sums up Shaker Heights’ Latin community. Be safe, be respectful, and be responsible. Extra Credit: Can you find the tricolon crescens?

~Heather Smith, President



The Shaker Heights Delegation at their Homecoming Parade

## Westlake High School



The pile of gifts after the successful giftwrap!

On December 8th, OJCLers from Saint Edward High School and Shaker Heights (including our esteemed president Heather Smith) ventured through the cold to the wonderful place known as the Westlake High School Latin room. Board games, books, stuffed animals, and cookies were in no short supply. Amid the clamor of gift wrapping, food munching, and wrapping paper sword fights, many people chose to play a round of Certamen across the hall. Students from different schools were thrown together on teams and engaged in ferocious battles of classical-themed wit.

By the end of the day, the pile of wrapped gifts was enormous, taller than your average-sized hobbit and nearly as wide as the room. It was a fun-filled day for all who attended, but the best part was knowing that the impoverished children at St. Augustine’s church in downtown Cleveland were not going to go empty-handed for the holidays.

~Becky Steffen, Historian

## What Your Favorite Latin Phrase Says About You

**Puella sub arbore sedet:** Well, no surprises here; looks like you're the typical Latin I student (or just really love the exploits of Flavia and Cornelia). You're new to the world of the Romans and will soon balk at the future tense. You might also be a stressed/sentimental AP Vergil kid who wishes their coursework still had punctuation. Ah, those were the days. Either way, no one wants to be you. Your lucky color is grey – yawn.

**Raeda est in fossa:** So you're done with the red book – big deal. You're the pretentious Latin II who scoffs at the vocab your younger peers are learning but would rather not fill out those pesky verb synopses for semi-deponents. Your lucky color is green (green with envy of those who've mastered the subjunctive).

**Semper ubi sub ubi:** Ah, we've found the jokester. You realize that this butchering of the Latin language is in no way grammatically correct, but who cares? There's a 72% chance that you've advocated for this saying to be printed on the back of your club T-shirt. Your teacher said no. Your lucky color is a headache-inducing orange (for that jester hat you tried to wear in class).

**Et tu, Brute?:** You're consumed with a poetic love of Caesar and all of his works, even when his descriptions of ancient geography wax for pages on end. You know that this quote isn't really accurate, but appreciate Shakespeare's sentiment for the classics anyway. You often hold philosophical debates in class using flowery language and the passive voice. There's one downside, however; history always repeats itself. You should probably check your back for the errant knife. Your (un)lucky color is red – interpret that however you wish.

**Carpe diem:** You're a hipster who looks at your "YOLO"-screaming friends with disdain, claiming that's exactly what you've been saying all along before it was so popular. You've just been saying it in Latin instead. You can be heard recklessly quoting Horace before your Roman history test while everyone else frantically tries to cram the accomplishments of the first fifteen emperors. Your lucky color is yellow (for those giant non-prescription glasses you don't really need).

~Rachel Koize, McAuley



## Mythology or History?

Remember that one time when Dionysus was raised by completely child-friendly animals, like lions and tigers? Or how about that time when Phrixus and Helle were rescued by your typical, run-of-the-mill flying ram?

Greek mythology is full of these mundane moments that make total sense. In fact, Ovid's *Metamorphoses* was recently determined by cracked.com to be unarguably historical fact, especially the part where people are transformed into rocks. In addition, videos on YouTube show Hercules in action, negotiating with the Amazonians, picking up Cerberus from the Underworld, and playing baseball, America's favorite pastime. Like Cicero always says, if it's on YouTube, then for sure it's real.

Scientists in Japan further proved that various "mythological" stories, such as Homer's *Odyssey*, are true by showing how Apple Maps can get you lost at sea for 10 years.

And there was also that article in *The Enquirer* with an interview of Ganymede, the local Trojan prince who was kidnapped by a large bird. He reported, "This bird just came out of nowhere and was like 'Let's go hombre. Time to fly.' And I was like 'Okay, chill, let me get my jacket.' But he never let me get my jacket." Of course, many of us have had some of the same aforementioned experiences, so clearly Greek "mythology" is an egregiously embarrassing misnomer.

~Tino Delamerced, Secretary



Ganymede, clearly jacketless

## OJCL Service Updates

### McAuley Food Drive an Outstanding Success

Throughout the end of January 2013, all 95 of McAuley's Latin students could be spotted arriving early to class to drop off canned goods and other food in a mass collection for CAIN's food pantry. CAIN, Churches Active in Northside, provides necessities like personal care items and groceries for families who need them the most while addressing the underlying causes of local poverty. Donations piled up around overflowing bins as each Latin class strove to bring in the most food, and club members certainly weren't disappointed by the results. In all, 6 Latin classes brought in 950 food items for the pantry – enough to fill 7 donation bins with some left over! This kind of turnout not only raises Latin Club spirit, but raises awareness in the bigger community about how much Latin students really care. ~Rachel Koize, McAuley



McAuley student Mary Dickman helps count donations for local food pantry.

### Wellington School: Samaritan's Purse

The Wellington School's OJCL chapter hit the ground running with its service program, a drive for an organization called Samaritan's Purse. One of its main functions is to distribute shoeboxes full of school supplies, toys, and hygiene items to impoverished children around the world. We provided over two dozen children with these life-changing gifts, allowing them to attend school and clean themselves for the first time. To augment the donations we received with during our drive, we offered the Middle and Upper School students a chance to wear something other than the school uniform for a day, provided that they donated a dollar or an item for the boxes. We also mobilized our family, friends, and, in one case, a church community, to help us with the process, with even greater community involvement on the way next year. ~Natalie Twitchell, Wellington School