

PENNSYLVANIA
JUNIOR CLASSICAL LEAGUE



KEYSTONE

EXPLORING ANCIENT CULTURES AND MODERN CONNECTIONS

FALL 2025



Sweetening the deal: Ava and Olivia recruiting the next generation of Latin scholars at Upper Dublin!

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

SILVIA KAUR KANG

MANAGING EDITORS

JOY BECKISH
ANDREW CICALESSE
MAYA GAVRIN
EDEN JOSEPF
AVA MORICONI
ANRUI XU

CONTENT DIRECTOR

TRACI DOUGHERTY

ART DIRECTOR

ARLO DALGARNO PLATT

CONTRIBUTING LEADERSHIP

VERONICA VLADIMIROVA-
CAMBRIA
CHRISTOPHER CHANG
SILVIA KAUR KANG

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

SHAYAN ASKARI
LOGAN BALACKI
GREY DAYLOR
MAYA GAVRIN
JACEN GLASSMAN
LAILA KANE
SILVIA KAUR KANG
MORGAN KEATON
JOHN KLEPONIS
JACOB LUPOTSKY
LILY MATSUURA
OLIVIA MORICONI
JANIYA MYERS
PACEY NERI
MASON STILES

FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Latin Community,

As another season of PAJCL begins, I'm thrilled to share this issue of Keystone. Each edition reminds me how creative and passionate our students are, and this one truly celebrates the many ways the ancient world continues to inspire us.

Inside, you'll find everything from emoji myth challenges and Latin cat mottos to articles exploring Roman hairstyles, ancient medicine, and the timeless story of Prometheus. Our writers also connect Classics to today through pieces on currency, modern music, and even the Latin roots behind Harry Potter spells.

We're proud to feature student creativity, from original Latin to a range of thoughtful student pieces. These works show how Classics invites both scholarship and imagination.

Every contribution in this issue proves that Classical studies remain vibrant and relevant in the hands of today's students. I hope you enjoy reading as much as we enjoyed creating it.

Gratias,

Silvia

SILVIA KANG
PAJCL KEYSTONE EDITOR



Front Cover: Upper Dublin High School

Contributors' Page image: Upper Dublin High School

Editor's Letter image: Harriton High School

Back Cover: Northwest Pennsylvania Collegiate Academy

All roads lead to Latin Club, as Harriton students share their motivation for taking the Latin language.



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FROM THE PRESIDENT



Harriton High School Students take a group photo at Fall Fest showing off their well-earned awards.

Salvete Omnes,

My name is Christopher Chang, the current PAJCL President. I am greatly looking forward to leading the PAJCL student board through the upcoming school year 2025-2026.

Significant progress has already been made in planning state events and preparing for the Convention in May. We plan to hold more PAJCL-sponsored events, such as the Saturnalia and Lupercalia festivals, which have not been held previously, and to host a statewide service project that all members of the PAJCL can participate in.

We have also been exploring ways to increase student inclusion before the Convention through public board meetings and potentially more officer positions in the future.

With a whole cabinet of hardworking student officers and a strong team of executives, and if everyone in the state puts forth their best effort, we can make this the best year for the PAJCL.

Gratias Vobis et Valete,

Chris

CHRISTOPHER CHANG
PAJCL PRESIDENT

Call to Action!

The PAJCL Statewide Service Project is coming! Whether you are in Pittsburgh, Philly, or anywhere in between, we want YOU involved.

What to expect:

- A unified charitable goal for all PAJCL chapters.
- A chance to show that JCL spirit extends beyond the classroom.

Don't miss the launch: Details will be sent out soon.





A modern view of the ancient Forum Romanum viewed from the Capitoline framed by fall foliage.

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Upcoming Events

SEP 22 ETC B2S GAME	OCT 25 PAJCL event	OCT 25_{NJCL} ETYMOLOGY EXAM Competition
OCT 27 NJCL ROMAN CIVILIZATION EXAM	NOV 1 YALE CERTAMEN Competition	NOV 22_{PCS FALL} PROFESSIONAL DAY teachers only
NOV Competition 21-23 teachers only ACTFL CONVENTION	DEC 5 SATURNALIA Regional Event	DEC 12_{SATURNALIA} Regional Event

Salvete,

“The blooming time of the linden tree.... ...is brief.”

For a few days each spring, its fragrance fills the air, bees gather nectar for honey, and foragers dry the blossoms to brew tea that will comfort them in winter. For me, the scent of the lipa has always been a reminder of home in Russia. And yet, in a way I never expected, I found that very same fragrance in one of the most unlikely of places - Penn State University.

The scent is the strongest in the evenings, when walking back from the entertainment show to the dorms, when the air is cooler and the excitement of the day still lingers. In those moments, the linden's scent blends with other memories that will never fade: the rush of the first spirit contest, the first sail in the sea of togas at the Bryce Jordan Center, the first taste of Peachy Paterno ice cream, the pride of a first award. These are the small but unforgettable things that stay with you forever, wherever life carries you.

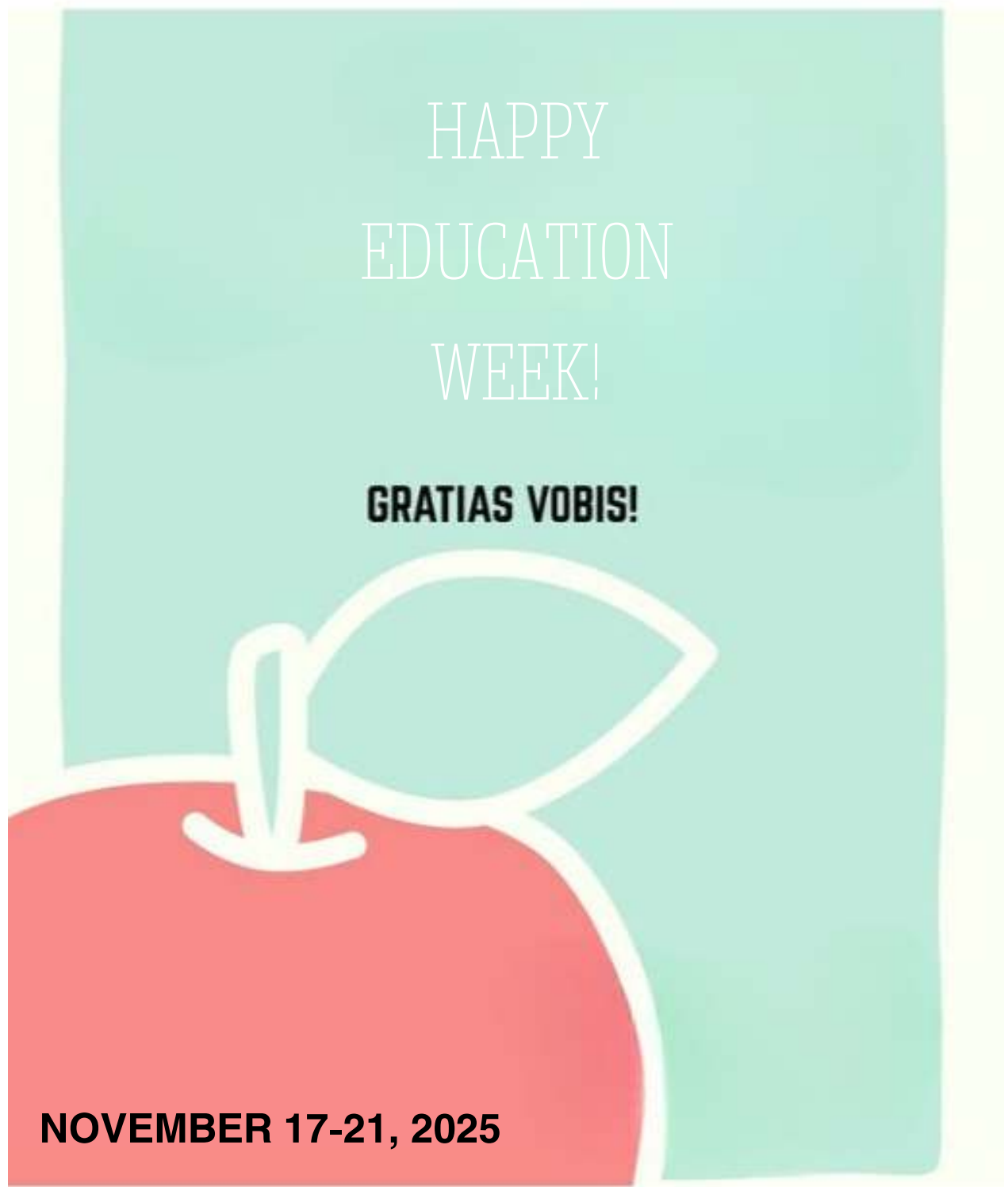
When I first entered the JCL community nearly two decades ago, I was both an outsider and a learner. As a child of the Soviet era and a graduate of Moscow State University, the PAJCL convention at Penn State was my first real experience of American student life. I expected it to resemble the single Hollywood film we were once allowed to see -Legally Blonde. But the reality was different: stark dorms, echoing hallways, common showers. Yet none of that stayed in my memory for long. It all faded quickly in the light of something far more powerful that I discovered instead - the spark of spirit, tradition, and friendship.

Since then, geography has carried me through several counties and school districts across Pennsylvania, but I have always found myself returning to that same spark. Learning has been my constant, both as a student and as a teacher. Traditions have anchored me, giving each new year stability and meaning.

Now, as PAJCL Chairperson, **I hope to pass that spark on. I want every student and teacher to find their own “linden moments”**: the fragrance, the taste, the first victory, the lasting memory. Our time together during Convention may be brief, but what we carry from it will remain for years - in our minds, in our hearts, and maybe even in the air around us, softly scented with linden.

VERONICA VLADIMIROVA-CAMBRIA
PAJCL STATE CHAIRPERSON

EDUCATION WEEK AD





CHRISTOPHER CHANG

President

WHY DID YOU TAKE LATIN?

I took Latin because i wanted to get closer to my sister, and i thought it would be more interesting than spanish and french. i continued to take latin because of how great my 7th grade teacher was, and i am very happy that i did.

WHAT'S YOUR TOP MEMORY?

My top memory is from 2025 convention when i was directing the talent show with my fellow OFFICERS. overall, that convention was my favorite memory but i especially enjoyed the talent show.

SOHUM BANDYOPADHYAY

Editor-in-Chief

WHY DID YOU TAKE LATIN?

Ilenjoystudying how language itselfis configured and comes about. This is what drew me to Latin; it is the progenitor of many prevalent modern languages, understanding the mechanics of Latin reveals the inner workings of language itself. The language also interests me because it carries the rich history of the Roman Empire, one of the greatest civilizations the world has ever seen.

WHAT'S YOUR TOP MEMORY?

My favorite memoryfrom PAJCL leadership was managing the pretzel and marshmallow building event at Sandy Run Middle School's fall fest this year.



OFFICER SPOTLIGHT

OLIVIA LEE

Vice President

WHY DID YOU TAKE LATIN?

My old school taught only Latin since 2nd grade, so I decided to continue in high school. I loved mythology, connections to modern society, and the people I met, and couldn't imagine taking another language.

WHAT'S YOUR TOP MEMORY?

Working with PAJCL members from many schools on social media videos! It's so much fun to see the excitement and dedication all of our pajclers have for participating in/hosting fun events, creating educational content, and making sure everyone has a good time. I'm so honored that I get to experience this with pajcl!



ALEENA MARTINO

Vice President

WHY DID YOU TAKE LATIN?

I've been obsessed with history since I started to read in kindergarten, starting with Magic Treehouse books and then Percy Jackson in middle school. When I got to high school and found out Latin was an option for a language, I was so excited to tie in my love of history and mythology.

WHAT'S YOUR TOP MEMORY?

Freshman year school Latin club trip to the Baltimore Aquarium
sophomore year trip to the Penn Museum.



OLIVIA MORICONI

Secretary

WHY DID YOU TAKE LATIN?

I studied Latin because I enjoy learning about ancient Roman/Greek history, and I thought Latin would give me more insight into how the language developed. I also enjoyed the class & the teacher throughout middle school, so I continued to take it! It's also a great base language that I can use to apply to other languages that I may take in the future.

WHAT'S YOUR TOP MEMORY?

Going to all the Latin club meetings & events such as Fall Fest & Saturnalia!



SILVIA KANG

Keystone Editor

WHY DID YOU TAKE LATIN?

With a deep interest in classics and languages, notably Spanish and Latin, I love exploring the overlap of my subjects and aim to connect others to these fields. Studying Latin inspired me to share those voices more widely, through writing, and projects that celebrate stories. Latin isn't just A SUBJECT; it's where my love for words meets history and humanity.

WHAT'S YOUR TOP MEMORY?

The toga-march to the laborer Roman buffet at the state convention.





presented by the [National Junior Classical League](#)

**Registration
has closed!**

We have 371 teams registered for our second season! Good luck, everyone.

What's new?

Here's an overview of changes for the 2025/2026 season.

**Have
questions?**

Our FAQ is here!

**Introducing
Latin League!**

What is Latin League? Who can play? Click here for a quick overview.

**We got some
rules here.**

[Updated!]
Click here for the 2025-2026 rules.

It's a date.

[Updated!]
Click here for the calendar for the 2025-2026 season.

Study, buddy!

[Updated!]
Click here for the topics for each round of play.

Promote us!

Trying to promote Latin League at your school? You can use our logos! Click here.

<https://latinleague.org>

CHAPTER EVENTS

Upper Dublin Brings Classical Culture to Life at Regional Fall Fest



Students making food art sculptures while learning about Equus October.



All attendees sit in the SRMS Cafeteria as they listen to the Opening Ceremonies.



A Roman Centurion and local teacher describes his experience in historical reenactment.

Latin students from ten schools across Pennsylvania came together at Sandy Run Middle School for this year's PAJCL/UDJCL Fall Fest—a full day of fun, learning, and Latin spirit!

Over 100 students attended, including newcomers from Germantown Academy and Harriton High School, who were eager to join in on the tradition.

The event was packed with activities celebrating classical culture and community. Students competed in fast-paced Certamen matches, showcased their creativity in Cupcake Wars (with more than 150 entries!), and even experienced ancient Roman arenas through an Oculus VR simulation that brought history to life.

Upper Dublin students had an incredible showing, taking home 1st place in Advanced Certamen and winning both the People's Choice and Judges' Choice awards in Cupcake Wars, thanks to 8th-grader Tori's winning creation. Teams also placed 1st in Certamen at SRMS and 3rd at UDHS. Morgan K. and Stephen S. joined the winning mythology skit team—another proud achievement for our Latin community. Of course, the day wouldn't be complete without some friendly competition—chariot races and Ultimate Frisbee kept the energy high and the cheers loud all afternoon.

**“The re-enactor
made history feel
real—like I was
actually there.”**

This year's Fall Fest introduced exciting additions and upgrades that made the day even more dynamic:

- **Group Photos:** Captured before & after
- **New Activity Track:** Offered Kahoots
- **Fourth Activity Block:** Added more time
- **First Adult Guest Speaker:** Mr. Castangna shared insights on Roman soldier gear and reenactments.
- **Mini Quizzes:** Quick challenges in Kahoot
- **Certamen Level Split:** Fairer matches
- **More Middle Schools:** Grade 6-8 focus
- **VR Gladiator Arena:** Oculus simulation that placed students inside the arena.
- **Chariot Racing:** A perfect mix of ancient tradition and modern fun.

Student leaders from PAJCL and UDJCL played a significant role in ensuring the day ran smoothly and memorably.

Officers coordinated lunch distribution, kept events on schedule, and energized participants throughout the day. They also served as judges for the mythology skits, blending fairness and fun into one of the festival's most creative events.



Students play ultimate frisbee while basking in Roman environment.



Middle school students dress in Roman attire shields included.



Outdoor Olympics are a hit this year outside on the astro turf field.

CHAPTER EVENTS



Falling into Fall: Upper Dublin Latin club officers celebrate a job well done.

One of the standout moments was the school spirit boost from Clyde the Cardinal's surprise appearance, which set an enthusiastic tone early on. Leaders also helped organize the Cornucopia build for Equus October.

For attendees, Fall Fest was packed with experiences that brought classical learning to life. Mr. Castanga's Roman soldier demonstration was a fan favorite, offering a hands-on look at authentic armor and the daily life of Roman soldiers. Outside, Olympic-style relays and chariot races filled the field with cheers and laughter, turning Sandy Run's campus into a modern-day arena. Inside, the cafeteria buzzed with energy as students from across Pennsylvania connected, shared stories, and made new friends.

Many enjoyed crafting and taking photos during the Cornucopia build, which provided a creative, relaxed break between competitions. Together, these moments captured what Fall Fest is all about—community, curiosity, and the joy of learning Latin in action.

The Upper Dublin Latin program is already looking forward to next year's festival, eager for another unforgettable day of friendship and spiritus Latinus!

By the Numbers

- 10 schools
- 100+ attendees
- 150+ cupcakes
- 4 activity blocks
- 1 guest speaker

Olivia Moriconi (12th grade, AP Latin) is a student at Upper Dublin High School. Inside of school, Olivia participates in various clubs (and holds officer positions), including Latin Club, Investments Club, Dance Club, and Key Club.

Jacen Glassman is an 11th grade student at Upper Dublin High School. They are the Latin Club secretary. They are also a member of their High School Thespian troop. Outside of school they enjoy reading and fencing.

Pennsylvania Junior Classical League

PAJCL **STATE CONVENTION**

SAVE THE DATE:
PENN STATE MAIN
CAMPUS
MAY 23-24, 2026

WHAT TO EXPECT:

- MEET NEW PEOPLE
- CERTAMEN
- TOGA PARTY
- CREATIVE & DRAMATIC ARTS
- TALENT SHOW
- ACADEMIC COMPETITIONS
- AND SO MUCH MORE!

A graphic of a torch with a yellow flame, set within a circular frame with a laurel wreath. The letters 'PAJCL' are superimposed on the torch. This emblem is positioned atop a white classical column with a decorative capital.

GAME: EMOJI CHALLENGE

Think you can read myths in a modern way? In this puzzle, five little pictures hide some of the greatest names from Greek and Roman legend. Each row of emojis tells the story of a different hero — their trials, symbols, or most famous adventures — but without using a single word. Your challenge is to decode which figure each set of emojis represents.

Answer key next page.

Logan Balacki is a 9th grader at Upper Dublin High School. He is a Latin 2 student and participates in Latin Club. Outside of school, he likes to sleep more than necessary and read, play video games, listen to music, and play basketball.



MEME: LATIN MOTTOS

We've all been there: staring at an assignment, trying to psych ourselves up for a study session, or getting up for that 7 a.m. practice. What do we tell ourselves? Luckily, our dedicated Classics students know the answer to true motivation. If you really want to achieve greatness, you need to channel the spirit of an empire!



Janiya Mayers is a 9th grade student at Upper Dublin High school. She is in Latin II. Outside of school she is a passionate dancer who also loves to swim.

WORDSEARCH: FOUNDING OF ROME

Long before Caesar and emperors, the greatest city in the ancient world began with a basket, a wolf, and a fatal quarrel between twin brothers. Step back to 753 B.C. and relive the legendary origin story of Rome!

Directions:

The words in the puzzle may be hidden horizontally, vertically, diagonally, forward, or backward.

Circle discovered words and cross them off the list when you've found them.



Lily Matsuura is a 9th grade student at Upper Dublin High School. She is a Latin II student and participates in Latin Club. Outside of school, she is active in two orchestras, a junior black belt in karate, an avid reader and writer, and adores her two cats.

ROMULUS	PALATINE	LATIN	NUMITOR
REMUS	AVENTINE	AUGURY	WOLF
LUPA	SHEA SILVIA	TWELVE	TIBER
FRATERNUS	ALBA LONGA	SIX	MARS
ROME	AENEAS	AMULIUS	KING

Emoji Challenge Answer Key

1. **Aeneas** - The clues refer to the fall of Troy (Fire/Temple), Aeneas's duty (*pietas*), and his destiny to found the royal line in Italy. The father-son clue is crucial.
2. **Hercules** - The clues focus on specific, less-obvious elements of his story: the **Madness** (Hera's curse) and the **Cretan Bull** (one of the Twelve Labors).
3. **Odysseus** - The clues highlight his famous encounters and deceptions: turning men into **Swine** (Circe), the **Underworld Sacrifice** to talk to the dead, and the **Sirens** (the hearing clue).
4. **Perses** - The clues reference the **Divine Gifts** (Cap of invisibility, flying sandals) and his reward, the **Royal Marriage** to Andromeda, moving beyond just Medusa's head.
5. **Persephone** - The clues describe her myth: the **Flower** she was picking when abducted, the **Pomegranate Seeds** she ate, and her role as the **Queen of the Dead** in the Underworld.

WordSearch Solution



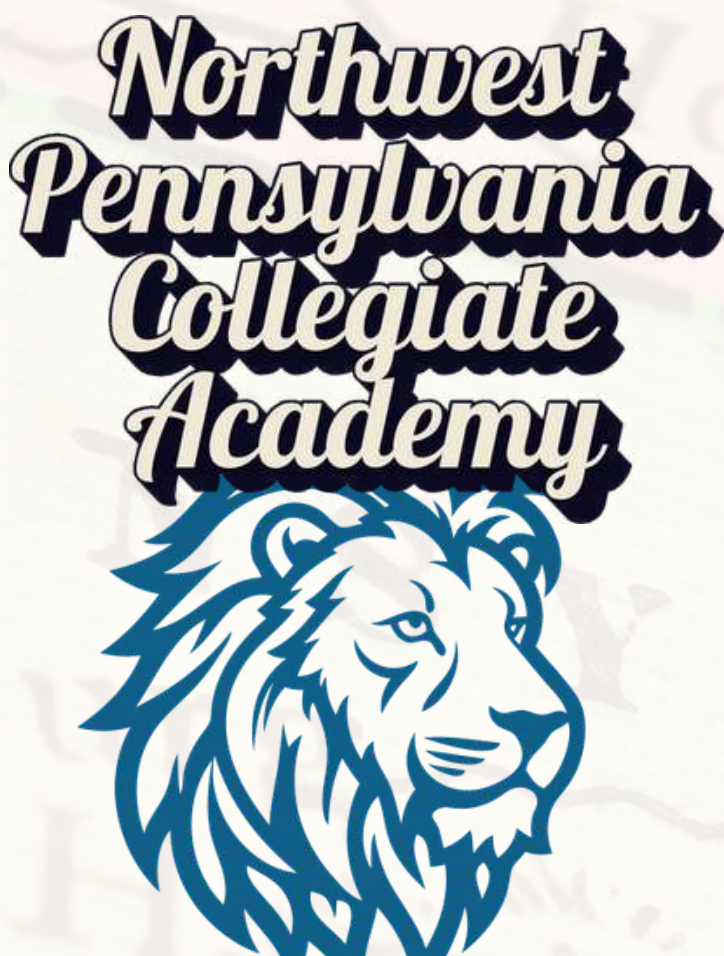
The Plymouth-Whitemarsh JCL brought autumn spirit to their chapter meeting with a pumpkin-decorating activity that blended creativity and camaraderie.

to their chapter meeting with a pumpkin-decorating activity that

ACROSS THE STATE

As autumn leaves fall, PAJCL chapters across the state have been bustling with creativity, camaraderie, and festive spirit. These fall festivities highlight the joy, imagination, and enduring community that make classical studies come alive in modern student life.

KEYSTONE



Sandy Run Middle School had an incredible start to the fall, focusing on fun, community, and classical culture. Our calendar was packed with engaging events designed to build chapter spirit!

We kicked things off with a fantastic **Club Ice Cream Social meeting**, where new and returning members mingled, made new friends, and debated their favorite Greek gods over scoops of ice cream. Next, everyone showed amazing school and club pride with our successful **Latin Club T-shirt Fundraiser**. Members didn't just get great spirit wear—they got to personalize their shirts with custom iron decals celebrating the events they attended throughout the year! Finally, as the weather cooled, our artists shone during the festive **Club Pumpkin Painting meeting**, channeling the creativity of ancient Roman mosaic art.

The Latin Club at **Northwest Pennsylvania Collegiate Academy** is building a vibrant and enduring chapter. Guided by co-presidents Silvia and Ellie, and officially 'winged' just last year, the club continues to grow through engaging meetings and creative outreach. The **Ancient Roman Cheesecake Social** brought students together and set the tone for the year. The club hosted its first **Fall Festival**, celebrating the Classics with togas, pumpkin painting, a Kahoot, and an Ancient Roman word-search. Students had a fantastic time, and the event was a wonderful success, thanks to everyone who joined in!



WHEN ANCIENT JEWELRY WENT “DUPE MODE”

In the ancient worlds of Egypt and Rome, turquoise was a highly prized gemstone associated with protection, status, and spiritual significance. However, genuine turquoise was rare and expensive, especially in Egypt, where natural deposits were largely confined to remote areas far from the Nile and largely populated areas.

In response to this scarcity and the high demand for the stone, both Egyptians and Romans developed various methods to create imitation turquoise. These imitations allowed broader access to the gemstone’s desirable appearance without the cost or difficulty of obtaining the real material. The Egyptians were especially skilled in the creation of faience, a glazed earthenware, clay or earth glossed and fired with polished glass, made by combining crushed quartz, clay, or sand with alkaline salts, dyes, and oxidized copper powder. When fired and melted together, this mixture produced a glossy, blue-green surface that closely resembled real turquoise.

Faience was used extensively for beads, amulets, and decorative objects, offering both beauty and symbolic meaning. In Ancient Rome, artisans used glass and ceramics to craft convincing fakes. They could be tinted with mineral pigments, shaped, and polished to match the look and color of turquoise. Additionally, the mineral howlite, a naturally white, porous stone, has long been used as a turquoise substitute due to its ability to absorb dyes, making it ideal for achieving the turquoise aesthetic at a much lower cost.



DID YOU KNOW?

- Egyptian faience is sometimes called the world's first synthetic material, as it predates glass by centuries. Not only was it used to imitate turquoise, but it was also used to imitate stones such as lapis and malachite.
- In Egypt, turquoise was associated with the goddess of love, Hathor. For example, amulets of real turquoise or faience imitations were believed to grant divine protection, especially in childbirth and the afterlife.



Ancient Egyptian jewelry featuring a scarab beetle motif carved out of the turquoise gemstone.

The widespread use of imitation turquoise not only made the gemstone's visual appeal more accessible but also reflected the ingenuity of ancient artisans in overcoming material limitations that plagued their time.

Today, geologists use various methods to differentiate genuine turquoise from its imitations, including examining surface texture, color consistency, internal structure, and chemical composition. Genuine turquoise typically has a pale blue color with natural veining, while imitations from ancient times tend to show uniform coloring and may exhibit granular texture, slight transparency in certain areas, or an artificial appearance under magnification or examination.

The creation of imitation turquoise in antiquity highlights the enduring human desire for beauty and symbolism, as well as early advancements in material technology that allowed ancient cultures to replicate nature with remarkable skill.

***Jacob Lupotsky**, is a sophomore in Latin III. He is a proud Latin student of Owen J. Roberts High School. He serves as class treasurer in addition to being a member of his local PA senatorial student advisory committee. Outside of school, he is a prolific drawer and artist.*

KEYSTONE
"Scarce and prized, turquoise in Egypt and Rome was of ten imitated through skilled techniques like faience, giving many access to its beauty and symbolism."

HAIRSTYLES THROUGH THE AGES: ROMAN BRAIDS VS. TIKTOK TRENDS

Hairstyles have always been more than looks; they are a reflection of culture, identity, and even rebellion. From the intricate braids of ancient Romans to the viral styles blowing up on TikTok, the way we wear our hair tells a story about who we are and the times we live in. Exploring these trends reveals how fashion evolves and how history continues to influence what is trending today.

Ancient Hairstyles

In ancient Rome and Greece, hairstyles were a symbol of social status and wealth. Elaborate braids and curls were worn by noblewomen, often styled by slaves or hairdressers. Hairstyles also reflected cultural values. Greek styles emphasize natural beauty, while Roman styles lean toward more elegant updos.

On the other hand, Roman men kept their hair short and neat. They visited barbers daily to maintain their look.

“Across history, hairstyles have reflected human expression and identity.”



A modern recreation of a hairstyle possibly worn in Ancient Rome. When TikTok meets the toga: bringing ancient Rome's braiding brilliance into the digital age

Medieval & Renaissance Styles

During the medieval period, women often covered their hair with veils or wimples, which reflected modesty and religious values. In contrast, the Renaissance saw a return to elaborate styles. Women used wigs, hairpieces, and accessories such as pearls and ribbons to enhance their appearance. Hairstyles became more artistic, with curls, waves, and height symbolizing wealth and sophistication.

Victorian Era

Victorian women wore their hair in tight buns or braids. Hair was expected to be neat and controlled. The Victorian era introduced more volume as the “Gibson Girl” styles became popular. On the contrary, men favored short, slicked-back looks.

20th Century Styles

The flapper era embraced short bobs as a symbol of rebellion and maturity. In the 1950s, Hollywood influenced hairstyles like Marilyn Monroe's curls and Elvis Presley's pompadour.



Ancient hairstyles reimagined — from Vestal Virgin braids to Cleopatra chic, proving good hair never goes out of style.

DID YOU KNOW?

Believe it or not, many modern styles are inspired by the past. For example, **curtain bangs and shag cuts echo 1970s vibes**, while slick buns date back to the Victorian era

From the 60s to the 80s, hair became a canvas for self-expression as hippies wore their long, straight hair with bangs. As the 80s went on, punk mohawks, perms, and hairspray became popular.

Modern Day TikTok Trends & Global Influence

Platforms like TikTok and Instagram have made hair trends go viral overnight. Hairstyles like curtain bangs, wolf cuts, and slicked back buns are the new go-to-looks. Thousands of tutorials and influencers have empowered people to experiment with Styles at home. Today's trends celebrate cultural heritage, differing gender identities, and sexual orientations. This has made hair a powerful form of personal expression.

From ancient Roman braids to TikTok's ever-changing trends, hairstyles have always reflected the spirit of their times and are constantly emerging. By looking at how hair has evolved, we can better understand how fashion, identity, and culture are constantly shifting.

Olivia Moriconi, 12th grader and studying AP Latin, is a student at Upper Dublin High School. She participates in various clubs and holds officer positions, including Latin Club, Investments Club, Dance Club, and Key Club. Outside of school, Olivia volunteers at Mitzvah Circle & has participated in two week-long Business programs: at Yale University and Georgetown University.

THE TALE OF PROMETHEUS

In Chapter 12 of Suburani, the Myth of Prometheus, who is a Titan known for defying the Olympic Gods. The myth tells of a Titan who defied the gods to help humanity. Prometheus fought for Zeus throughout the war of the Titans versus the Gods. In time, he infuriated Zeus by stealing fire from the heavens, the gift of knowledge and civilized humanity.

Zeus punished Prometheus by chaining him to a rock and inviting an eagle to dine on his liver forever—an agony Prometheus had endured until Herakles rescued him. The Prometheus myth celebrated Prometheus as a paragon of courage (*virtus*), sacrifice, and quest for knowledge.

"Prometheus's myth endures as a reminder that meaningful change demands courage, sacrifice, and defiance of oppression."

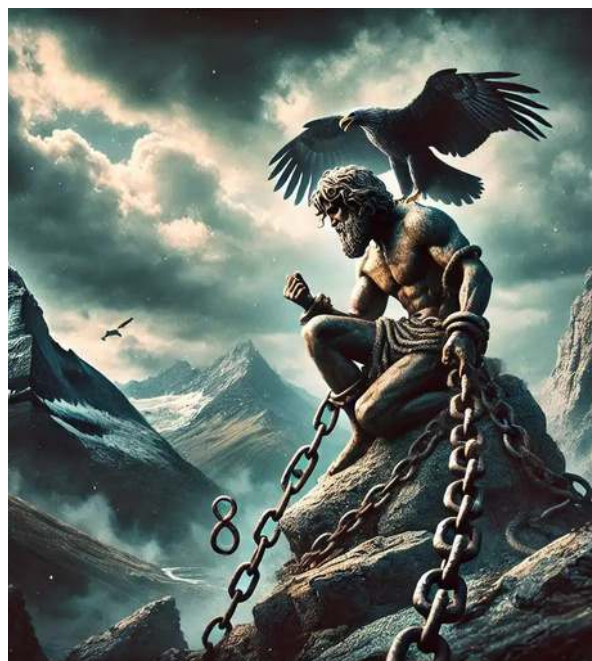


Jan Cossier's painting of Prometheus holding fire based on the famous myth.

Although Prometheus warned of the cost of going against those in power, his story celebrated those who put themselves at risk for their fellow citizens. Prometheus had a place in Roman writing from philosophic works to literature, where he symbolized the cause of humanity versus the price of rebellion.

The myth also plays into Suburani Chapter 12 because it connects to the characters facing difficult ethical decisions, those fighting against tyranny, and those suffering for truth, like Prometheus did for humanity. The themes of rebellion, suffering, and costs of knowledge travel throughout the Chapter, reminding the reader the struggle for meaningful change typically requires courage and pain. Today, Prometheus teaches us that challenging oppressive regimes, and disseminating knowledge, are often fearful acts of heroic defiance.

His myth teaches us that standing for others, even when faced with consequences, is one of the greatest things a man can do. (Crash Course Mythology, Episode 9).



An artistic representation Prometheus's punishment by Zeus based on the famous myth.

DID YOU KNOW?

Some versions of the myth involve Prometheus tricking Zeus twice.

First, by giving him the less desirable portion of a sacrificial ox (bones covered with fat), while keeping the valuable meat for humans. Humans got the best part to eat, while the gods only got unedible bits in sacrifices. Then, Prometheus stole fire.

Laila Kane, 12th grader, is a former Latin student at Harriton High School. She is an animal protection advocate and organizes bake sales/campaigns to support local shelters. She is a native Greek speaker, and currently studies Mandarin.

KEEPING THINGS LIGHT!

EVEN THE GODS NEEDED COMEDIC RELIEF



Every great story has one thing in common: a hero...

But that's not what I'm here to talk about. Every hero has something much better that motivates them to be a hero, and that is comedic relief, and Greek and Roman mythology is no exception to this. The most famous time this appeared, actually, was a hero, his name... Bellerophon. His birth name was Hipponous, but was later changed to Bellerophon because he overcame and slayed an enemy named Belleros... Oh wait... Nope, he accidentally murdered him while throwing knives? Oh yeah... This story is off to a great start.

Every great story has one thing in common: a hero... But that's not what I'm here to talk about. Every hero has something much better that motivates them to be a hero, and that is comedic relief, and Greek and Roman mythology is no exception to this. The most famous time this appeared, actually, was a hero, his name... Bellerophon.

... Oh wait... Nope, he accidentally murdered him while throwing knives?

Oh yeah... This story is off to a great start.

Hold on, though, it gets better. Bellerophon was the first mortal to be able to ride the immortal pegasus! So cool... Right... He definitely didn't let that get to his head... Oh, but wait, he did.

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that Pegasus wasn't originally Bellerophon's companion, but was born from Medusa's neck when Perseus cut off her head?

Did you know that after all his heroic successes, Bellerophon tried to fly Pegasus up to Olympus, only for Zeus to send a gadfly that knocked him off?

HISTORY AND MYTHOLOGY

“HEY, WORSE THINGS DEFINITELY HAPPEN THAN THAT!”

After mounting Pegasus, he decided he was going to fly all the way to Olympus. Why? Well, he thought he was a god, and on the way up, he got smited, but hey, at least we can all look back and laugh at him. Now we travel to the darkest part of the underworld, where literal darkness resides, to see the terrifying child it brings forth... Death!

But this isn't about him... I'm here to focus on his brother, Hypnos, the God of Sleep. His story isn't the most impressive, but he gave birth to dreams, and that's pretty cool, right?

He spent most of his day sleeping on a couch in a dark cave with his sons, the bringers of dreams of animals, men, and inanimate objects.



Even the gods need a nap—Hypnos resting while mythology unfolds around him.

He did, however, decide to be important once. It was the wake of the Trojan war, and violence broke out... even among the Gods.

Hera needed to get an advantage over Zeus, so she decided to have Hypnos lull him to sleep so she could intercept. Hypnos did as he was told and was gifted a wife. Hey, that's not as bad as our arguably worst failure, the god of cheesemaking and beekeeping, starting off great here. Orpheus's wife Eurydice was off on a date with her husband, but – Aristaeus, whose actions indirectly caused Eurydice's death – got jealous, so he decided he was going to shoot Orpheus...

What made him think that? I don't know, but he decided that shooting him would work, but he was a horrible shot. He managed to accidentally kill Orpheus's wife, because beekeeping, honey, and archery clearly do not mix."

Orpheus eventually made his way to the underworld, almost saved his wife, but failed on his last step, all because of cheese boy having worse aim than the actual bees. So what did we learn through these stories? The answer, no matter where you are or when you are... If you feel like you are unimportant in the story... You may just be comedic relief...

Pacey L.A. Neri, 10th grader and studying Latin 3, is a dedicated Latin student at Owen J Roberts high school. He is a member of the school's JCL chapter. He was the only student to take every national exam offered in his freshmen year last year. Other than Mythology and Latin, Pacey loves music.

STUDENT WORK

CARMEN LATINUM

This story is about a Spartan slave who doesn't play by the book in his daily life. It features historical terms and events from both ancient Greek and Roman daily life, and it also shows how perseverance and faith can overcome even the harshest conditions in the ancient world. My goal with this story was to make it informative and inspirational through memorable historical events, such as the ancient Spartan drinking ritual for helots, while showing how one should trust their instincts to overcome adversity.

CARMEN LATINUM

1. Olim erat servus Lacedaemonius qui semper somniabat doctrinam habere.
2. Infeliciter servus coquere et emundare oikō quod eum pertaesum erat.
3. Ubi dominus eius aberat et ibat ad agoram, domina eius erat occupata, et liberi domi aberant ad grammatisterion servus abdebat post fictilia et legebat libros liberorum.
4. Servus callidissimus erat itaque mox docuit se ipsum quomodo legere.
5. Ingenium eius oriebatur ut sol super arcem Capitolinam et unumquodque verbum ut lumen liberatis.
6. Autem servus nolebat manere reliquam vitae suae coquere et emundare oikos.
7. Servus non nolebat manere reliquam vitae suae in Spartā!
8. Servus non nolebat manere reliquam vitae suae in Graeciā!
9. Dum libros liberorum legebat didicit de Romā ubi servi quondam libertatem suam poterant merere et ubi nulla Krypteia erat.

ENGLISH TRANSLATION

1. Once upon a time there was a Spartan slave (otherwise known as a helot) who always dreamed of having an education.
2. Unfortunately, the slave had to cook and clean the oikos, which was very tiring.
3. Whenever his master was away at the agora, his mistress was busy, and his master's kids were away at the grammatistērion, the helot hid behind pottery and read the kids' books.
4. The helot was very clever, and so he soon taught himself how to read.
5. His mind rose like the rising sun over the Capitoline Hill, each word a beam of freedom.
6. However, the helot did not want to spend the rest of his life cooking and cleaning the oikos.
7. The helot did not want to spend the rest of his life in Sparta!
8. The helot did not want to spend the rest of his life in Greece!
9. While reading the kids' books, he learned of Rome, where former slaves could earn their freedom and where there was no Krypteia (secret police that killed helots).

10. Fortunate dominus servi Syssitium in oikō habebat ubi servi coacti solebant nimis ebrii et agere incondite in comoedia.
11. Dominus tenebat molliter mani liberorum suorum et eos ad spectaculum comediae apud Syssitium ducebat.
12. Servi in statum ebreitatis coacti comedias agere debebant.
13. Liberi cachinnabant dum ebrios spectabant.
14. "Pater nolō futurus esse temulentus cum adultus erō."
15. Dum spectabat alios servos, servus callidus non accepit unus sorbitum sed simulabat esse embrius.
16. Dum Lacedaemonii servos ebrios apud Syssitium deridebant, servus callidus ex oikō et ex Graeciā fugit.
17. Servus callidus per artem lectionis Romam invenit et tandem libertatem suam in imperio crescente meruit.
18. Hic via manumissionis existebat ubi merebat lauream libertatis et e servitute liberi hominis iura oriebat.
19. Iam libri non diutius erant bannium.

10. Fortunately, the helot's master hosted a Syssitia in his oikos, during which helots were forced to become very drunk and perform crudely for comedy.
11. The master gently held his children's hands and led them to a comedy show at the Syssitia.
12. The helots, in a drunk state, were forced to do a comedy show.
13. The children watched the drunken clowns and burst into laughter.
14. "Daddy, I don't want to become a drunkard when I grow up!"
15. While watching other helots, the clever helot did not take a single sip, but instead just pretended to play drunk.
16. While the Spartans at the Syssitia were giggling at the drunk helots, the clever helot escaped the oika and ran away from Greece.
17. The clever helot used his reading skills to locate Rome, and eventually earned his freedom in the growing Roman empire.
18. Here lay the path of manumissio, where he earned the laurel of liberty and rose from bondage to the rights of a free man.
19. Now, books were no longer a ban.



Spartan Helots, the slaves/indentured servants kept by the Spartans, doing various tasks displayed in a mosaic.

Silvia Kang is a Junior at Northwest Pennsylvania Collegiate Academy with a deep interest in classics and languages, notably Spanish and Latin. She serves as Co-President of the Latin Club, Editor-in-Chief of her school News Magazine, and Keystone Editor.

A SYNOPSIS OF DE MEDICINA, BOOKS I-III

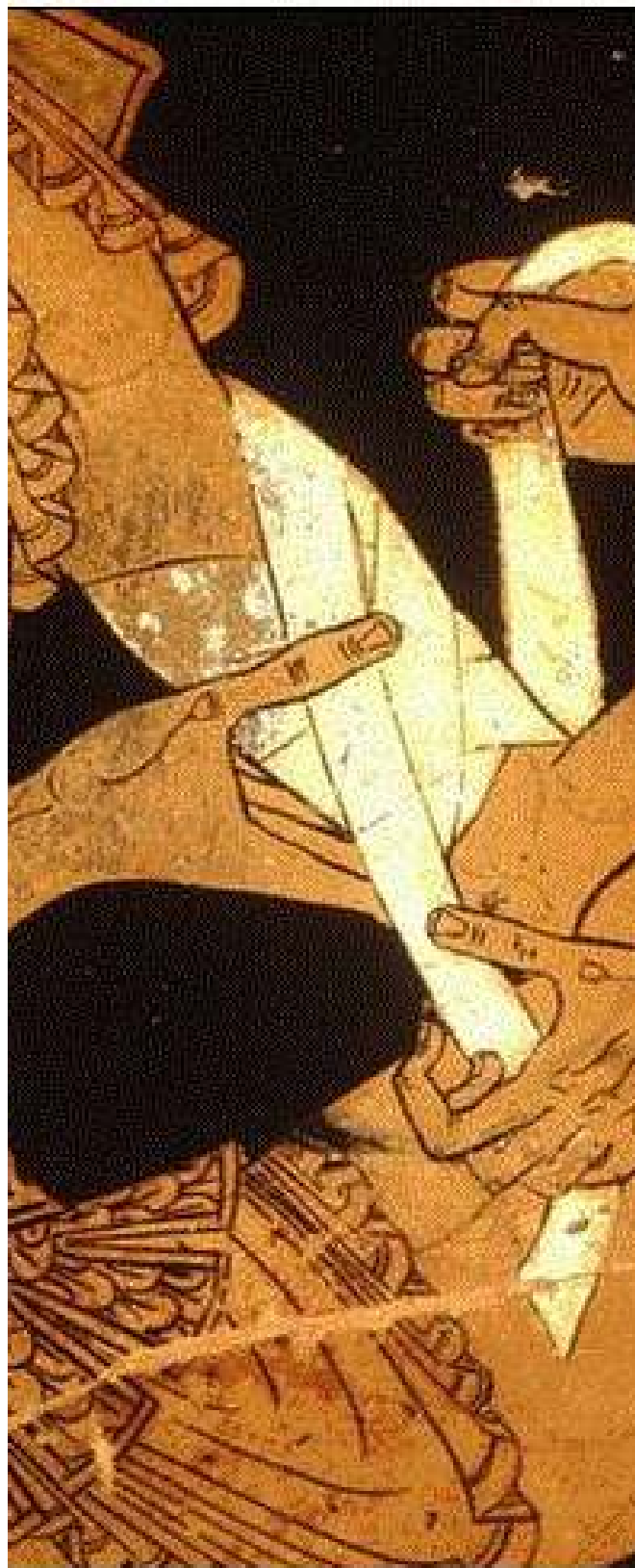
“THOUGH DEMEDICINA
CONTAINS MANY
MISCONCEPTIONS, IT SHOWS
HOW SCIENCE HAS GROWN
STRONGER BY LEARNING FROM
THE PAST.”

De Medicina is one of the earliest medical encyclopedias, compiling the best Alexandrian medical knowledge at the time.

Written by Aulus Cornelius Celsus in the first century, it covers the structure of organs to the causes of disease. All the books focus on a different subject; Book I is about diet and exercise, changing between every volume.

Book I is a collection of knowledge for staying healthy. There are many misconceptions in this volume, such as the belief that bathing in cold water causes disease and the avoidance of the morning wind chill, a reminder of how far we have come. Celsus gets some ideas right; he explains the importance of exercise, running, walking, and handball. He explains that regular exercise helps digestion, which is correct, exercise increases blood flow to the gut allowing faster peristalsis, reducing constipation.

KEYSTONE



A Greek vase showing Achilles tending to Patroclus' wounds.



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Book II focuses on the causes of diseases, the signs, and their treatment. Starting off with the most common misconception of the time, the seasons and winds can cause disease, with the southern wind being the worst for health and the northern wind the best.

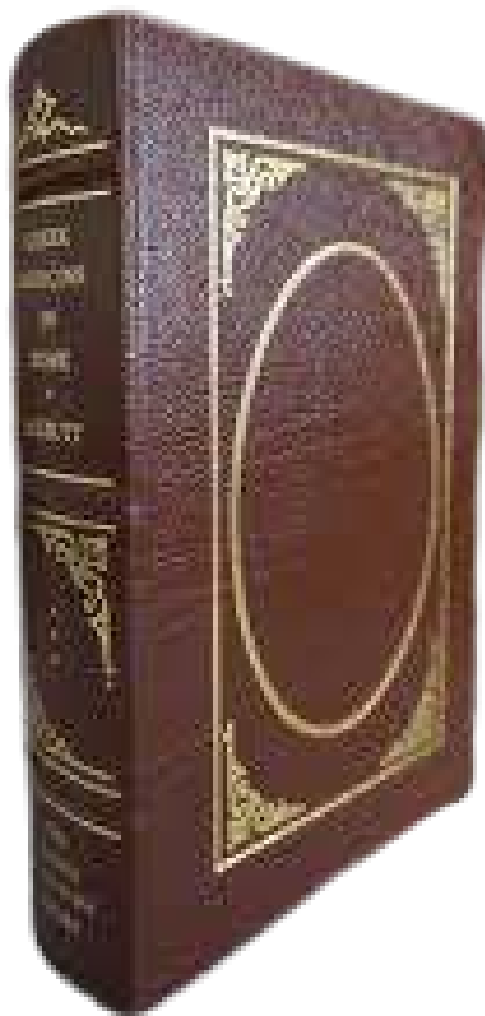
Spring is the safest season, as it is neither too hot nor too cold, while autumn is the most dangerous; ideas like these plagued the world until the Renaissance.

There are many signs of severe disease, according to Celsus: continuous pain, forced breathing, shivering, pus, sticky humor, an inflamed abdomen, tensing more on the right (because most people are right-handed), and blood vessels forcibly throbbing.

When these symptoms are apparent, Celsus states, there “is [not] any other hope of life in grave illnesses”. He continues with treatments for specific symptoms; many of Celsus' treatments seem “too simple”, he explains. To get rid of ardent fever, sudden shivering is required. While the causes of disease and their treatments are wrong, the diagnostic process is similar to modern medicine and again shows how far medicine has come.

Book III continues on diseases, discussing their treatment. Celsus' treatment for insanity involves prolonged exposure to either the dark or the light. He reasons that a trial is made of each, seeing if either worked, then using exposure to heal the madness, then shaving the head, putting oil, and an herb.

Afterward, patients should be consulted, allowing them to read books if they enjoy literature, and more.



A contemporary volume representing Celsus' *De Medicina*, a foundational text preserving the medical knowledge of the early Roman Empire.

It was supposed to gently divert the mind from insanity, and the oils were supposed to help calm the spirit within the head. Celsus writes that the treatment for wasting disease, or cachexia, is a fast, then slowly increasing the amount of food until a proper level is reached, and baths after meals.

Anything stressful should be avoided; limited exercise, bland food, and some blood letting may be necessary.

SCIENCES AND EDUCATION

Treatment also recommends multiple small-calorie meals throughout the day instead of three large meals; modern medicine says nothing about changing the air.

While *De Medicina* contains many medical misconceptions, it is an excellent example of how physicians and scientists thought at the time. Celsus may have been wrong on many topics, but science has only grown stronger through lessons learned from the past.

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DID YOU KNOW?

Modern medicine does not have any cure for cachexia, but it does have some treatments similar to Celsus; light exercise can help build muscle and reduce wasting.



A stack of aged medical texts, echoing the centuries-old tradition of recording and preserving medical knowledge

Mason Stiles is a senior at Owen J Roberts High School. He took Latin to learn about medical roots, as well, Latin's place in medical terminology inspired him to write his articles. He is also a member of the concert band and marching band, in which he is a section leader.

SURGERY AND AMPUTATION IN THE ANCIENT WORLD

In the ancient world, medicine was far less advanced than today; however, the Greeks and Romans still made substantial progress in the practice of surgery. Greek doctors, especially Hippocrates, tried to approach medicine as a science rather than magic or a matter of the gods' will.

Greek surgeons used scalpels, knives, probes, and forceps to examine and treat a wide range of wounds. Surgeries were done to remove things from the body, such as tumors, arrows, shrapnel, kidney stones, and even cataracts from a person's eyes. Sometimes, a ruthless surgery, such as an amputation, is required to remove an infected or severely damaged limb. To stop heavy bleeding, they tied blood vessels or used cauterization, burning the wound shut with heated metal.



Relief of a wounded figure from the ancient world.

“EVEN THOUGH GREEK AND ROMAN SURGERY WAS LIMITED, IT LAID AN IMPORTANT FOUNDATION FOR LATER MEDICINE AND TREATMENT.”

Though painful and very risky, these methods sometimes worked and gave patients a chance to survive. Most amputations were usually done with a sharp knife or a small saw made of bronze or iron. The surgeon would cut through the flesh with the knife, then use the saw to get through the bone. In emergencies, especially on the battlefield, a heavy blade or axe could also be used, but saws and knives offered greater control and were preferred when available.

The practice of tying blood vessels and cauterization was a very advanced methodology at the time. Though painful and risky without anesthesia, a procedure could sometimes save a patient's life.



Roman architectural ruins, reflecting a culture whose early surgical methods influenced future medicine.

Doctors in the ancient world sometimes gave patients a piece of wood, leather, or heavy cloth to bite down on during surgery. Both Greek and Roman doctors often cleaned their tools with wine or vinegar, since these liquids helped wash away dirt and reduce infection. Doctors would also sometimes heat instruments over a fire or boil them in hot water to sterilize them before and after surgery.

The Romans built on Greek knowledge and improved it, especially during wars. Romans would clean wounds with boiling water, clean wool to absorb blood, and use vinegar, all as methods of cleaning wounds. These methods reduced infection, even though doctors did not yet understand germs or the mechanisms of infection.

Without anesthesia, surgery was extremely painful, and several patients would be in so much pain that they could die from the shock and high heart rate induced by the pain. Still, some lived, which shows how skilled these doctors could be.

Jacob Lupotsky, 10th grader and studying Latin 3, is a proud Latin student of Owen J. Roberts High School. He serves as class treasurer in addition to being a member of his local PA senatorial student advisory committee. Outside of school he is a prolific drawer and artist.

Another similarity is that both doctors sometimes used opium from poppy plants to dull pain during surgery. These acted as early forms of anesthesia, though they were not strong enough to block pain completely. Doctors also used alcohol to make patients drowsy, helping them endure complex operations like amputations. Since there was no proper anesthesia, this helped patients survive the intense pain and kept them from injuring their tongue or breaking teeth while the operation was happening.

Second-century Roman physician Galen wrote detailed notes about surgery, surgical practices, and standard methods of the time, preserving medical knowledge that influenced Europe for centuries. Their courage to attempt amputations, combined with careful observation and practical tools, marked a step toward the safer, more advanced surgery we know today.

KEYSTONE AWARDS

The Keystone Awards are a testament to the creativity and talent of our members throughout the year. The process begins with our publications: the Fall, Winter, and Spring issues. Nominees are carefully selected from the published pieces within each section of the publication.

From that group of nominees, the editors then select the top three finalists. These winners are announced at the Awards Assembly during the State Convention, where their achievements are celebrated in front of the entire community.

Congratulations to last year's Winners and nominees!

2025-2026 Keystone Submission Points Convention Issue

1. Conrad Weiser - 125 points
2. Harriton High School - 125 points
3. Owen J. Roberts High School - 125 points
4. Upper Dublin High School - 125 points



AD ASTRA ANALYSIS

AdAstrais a song by American rock and metal band Starset, from their 2025 album, Silos. The band is often known for its space-themed lyrics and imagery, as well as its futuristic sound. This song exemplifies those themes, with the title translating to “To the stars.”

Lyricaly, the song is about accepting change and loss (and likely death). Second-person writing indicates that it is addressed to a loved one and wishes them well. The usage of the unknown of space and all the scientific terms, such as “To the stars where we come from,” and “Into the emptiness the infinite,” is representative of what’s beyond the loss.

The words convey a sense of uncertainty that one might experience after a loss. However, lines like “Fare thee well, broken heart. I hope you find love,” convey a sense of hope that they will find a kind of peace on the other side.

DID YOU KNOW?

Ad astra per aspera is a motto that means towards the stars or heavens through aspiration.

“THEBAND IS OFTEN KNOWN FOR THEIR SPACE-THEMED LYRICS AND IMAGERY, AS WELL AS THEIR FUTURISTIC SOUND.”



Starset performing live during their Ad Astra era.

Grey Daylor, in 10th grade and studying Latin 2, is a student at Phoenixville Area High School. He loves music, especially alternative metal, alternative rock, industrial metal, hard rock, rap metal, nu-metal, piano rock, metalcore, melodic metalcore, art rock, and easycore. He likes playing Skyrim too.

ROMAN CURRENCY: FROM DENARII TO THE DOLLAR

As the idiom says, “nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes.” And while death has been a part of life since the beginning of time, taxes are a relatively new concept. In fact, the first sales taxes can be traced back to Julius Caesar, not Caesar Augustus, or Octavian. Octavian established the *centesima rerum venalium*, which was a tax on all things auctioned at a market. But how would the Roman people pay for this tax? With their currency, the denarii.

The Denarius was the official currency of Rome and was first minted after the Second Punic War. The denarii were initially made of silver. It was the only currency at the time until Julius Caesar invented the gold *aureus*. Both of these coins lasted until the reign of Emperor Constantine in 377 AD.

The Roman Denarii had a massive impact on the history of Rome as a whole. During the Roman Kingdom and the Roman Republic, Denarii had a consistent silver content. However, as the Roman Empire expanded, its budget had to grow accordingly. For this reason, many emperors established a denarii debasement, which removed a certain percentage of silver from each denarius, allowing for more denarii to be created.

As the amount of silver in each denarius lessened, the anger of the people grew, and riots started to form. Eventually, the denarii and the aureus were substituted by the gold Solidus when Constantine the Great took power.



A scene showing the exchanges and bartering of an ancient Roman marketplace in action

**“IN THE BOOK OF REVELATIONS, THE
THIRD SEAL, THE BLACK HORSE OF
FAMINE DESCRIBES A TIME WHEN
ONE FAMILY COULD ONLY EARN
ENOUGH DENARII TO FEED ONE
PERSON.”**

Compared to the denarii, the dollar bill is much stronger. Given the large amount of land the Romans had to maintain, the dollar is strong because of the United States' influence. Meaning that even though we also heavily increase the amount of dollars, they lose their value more slowly. Though the American dollar also has flaws. The value of silver backed the denarii, but the US dollar is not supported by anything, meaning it could collapse altogether.

Although the United States is in a much better economic position than the Roman Empire, that does not mean history is meaningless.

People need to understand the lessons of history so they don't fall into the same patterns. Even though change is inevitable for every society, we can still work to guide that change in a positive direction.



A view down Trajan's Marketplace in the Roman Forum.



**“AT THE HEIGHT OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE, 1
PINT OF WINE COST $\frac{1}{8}$ OF A DENARIUS. IN 300
AD, IT COST 8.”**

Shayan Askari, 10th grader and studying Latin 3, is a student at Upper Dublin High School. He plans to go all the way up to AP Latin: Virgil. He is a member of multiple clubs, such as chemistry, and history. Outside of school, you could find him at home, engaging with his architectural creations.

SUBMISSION DATES:

AUTUMN - OCT 6

WINTER - DEC 15

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CONVENTION - JUN 2

KEYSTONE



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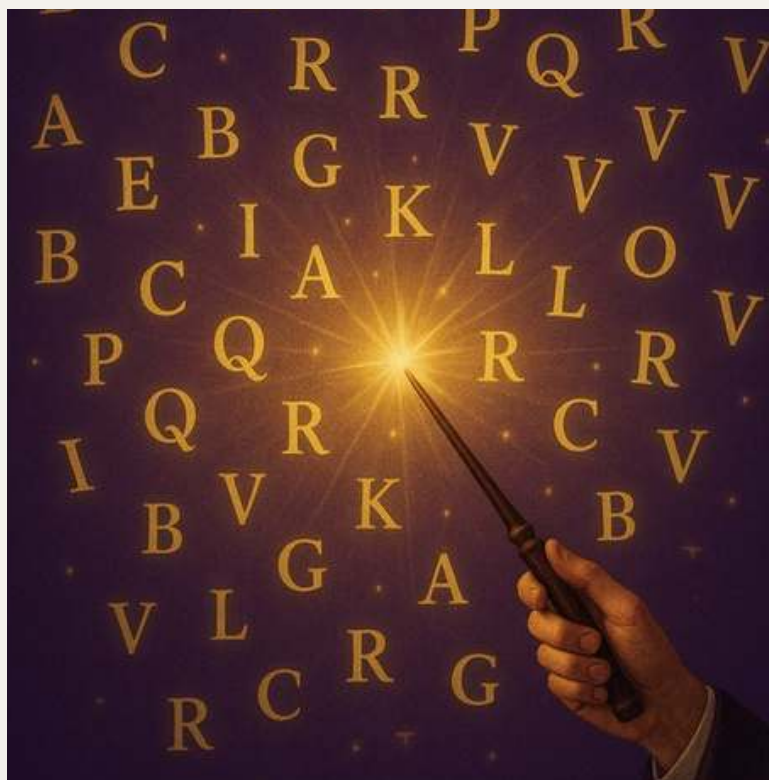
A GUIDETO SPELL NAMES IN HARRY POTTER

J.K. Rowling's beloved seven-book saga, Harry Potter, is an iconic glimpse into a magical world of witches, wizards, wands, and creatures that surpass the reader's imagination. However, J.K. Rowling didn't just scribble some words onto a page and call them spells. So, where did she come up with the spell names? There is, of course, only one answer: The Latin Language!

M a x i m a !

Latin, along with Greek, accounts for almost 60% of the English language. Most of the words you know have been derived from Latin. The meanings of the words Rowling used in her spells are often the purpose of the spells. For example, in the very beginning of Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban, the first words spoken are "Lumos Maxima", and we see a light at the tip of our protagonist's wand.

Lumos, of course, means light, and maxima means the greatest. The word maxima is added to the end of a spell to maximize the effect of said spell. In Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix, Professor Umbridge discovers Dumbledore's Army and she recites "Bombarda Maxima."



Much of J.K. Rowling's spell phrases come from Latin origins.

Afterwards, she gains access to the Room of Requirement as the wall explodes. Bombarda means "to attack."

Defensive Spells

Multiple defensive spells in the Harry Potter series are also derived from Latin. They include Expecto Patronum, meaning "I await a guardian." The spell is used when a character needs protection.

Petrificus Totalus, used by Hermione in Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone, means "to fully petrify." Harry Potter's signature spell, Expelliarmus, means "to drive out the weapon".

A classic defense spell, *Protego*, or I protect, is used to create a force field around the spellcaster. Latin, along with Greek, is responsible for almost sixty percent of the English language

C h a r m s

There are also several spells used in daily life in the Wizarding World, such as *Accio*, meaning "I summon." The charm is used to summon an object toward you. As the name suggests, *Reparo*, the repairing charm, means "I fix" or "I repair." Of course, you can't write an article about Harry Potter spells without mentioning the (debateably) most iconic spell of them all: *Wingardium Leviosa* (not *levioSAR*). The English meaning of the incantation is "to lift something high."

U n f o r g i v a b l e C u r s e s

Finally, the Unforgivable Curses. Most commonly used by Death Eaters, these spells are the trinity of evil. Using them can land you a hefty Azkaban sentence (Life in Azkaban). These spells, in order from least to most severe, include *Imperio*, meaning "I control."

DID YOU KNOW?

Victoria Street, located in Edinburgh, gave J.K. Rowling the inspiration she needed for Diagon Alley as she sat in a coffee shop on the street.



From Wingardium Leviosa to Avada Kedavra: the magic, the meaning, and the mythology behind the words.

The spell causes the victim to fall under complete control of the spellcaster. *Avada Kedavra*, the killing curse, results in the victim's immediate death. However, the word does not actually derive from Latin; it is instead a variation of the phrase "*Abracadabra*," which is considered gibberish. Finally, the worst of them all, *Crucio*. Also known as the *cruciatus* curse, the meaning of the spell is "I torture." It causes the victim to fall under the most severe, immense pain imaginable. The reason *Crucio* is worse than *Avada Kedavra* is that, while the latter causes death, the death is instant.

C o n c l u s i o n

In conclusion, *Harry Potter* would not be the way it is without Latin. The language provided Rowling with some extra building blocks to make the series truly special, giving us the iconic books and movies that have been adored and will continue to be adored for generations to come.

Morgan Keaton is an enthusiastic student with a passion for humanities and a desire to pursue Early Elementary Education and Musical Theatre. Active in extracurricular activities, including serving as a Latin Club officer. Committed to academic excellence and community involvement.

NATIONAL CONVENTION



73rd Annual National Junior Classical League Convention

July 21-26, 2026 | Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana

*Concordia parvae res crescunt.
In harmony, small things grow.
Sallust, Bellum Iugurthinum 10.6*

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KEYSTONE

is the official publication of the Pennsylvania Junior Classical League (PAJCL). It serves as a platform for informing, inspiring, and connecting members through engaging content that celebrates the study of Latin, Greek, and classical civilizations.

Featuring chapter news, event recaps, contest results, and student submissions, including educational articles, artwork, and more. The Keystone highlights the achievements and voices of PAJCL members while fostering a shared love for the classics.



WHY JOIN?

Joining the Pennsylvania Junior Classical League (PAJCL) offers students a wealth of opportunities to engage with Latin, Greek, and classical civilizations in meaningful and exciting ways.

Through leadership roles, service projects, and participation in events like the annual PAJCL Convention, members develop valuable skills in teamwork, communication, and organization. Our vibrant community of like-minded peers allows students to build friendships and connections across the state.

For those who seek to deepen their passion for the classics, PAJCL offers a keystone to learning, leadership, and lifelong inspiration.