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The Torch

Welcome to the
MDJCL State
Convention!
Thank you all
so much for a
wonderful year!

Congratulations
to all the winners
of Lupercalia
Certamen this
past February at
the Gilman
School!
Everybody did
fantastic!



Dido's Storm
by Alondra
Moreno
Santana



The NJCL Convention
will be July 23rd
through July 28th at
Emory University in
Atlanta, Georgia.
REGISTRATION PRICES
INCREASE MAY 1ST!
For more information
go to
<https://www.njcl.org/NJCL-Convention/2023-NJCL-Convention>



For information about
scholarships available
for attending the
convention, visit
<https://www.njcl.org/Students/Convention-Registration-Awards>

MDJCL BOOK DRIVE!



Set up boxes! Create advertisements!

The Latin Club with the most books collected by April 7th will win!

If you have any questions, please contact Alondra at mor830@talbotschools.org or Magistra Kunz at ikunz@talbotschools.org



The Birth of Venus by Sydney Lanier

Our own historian Sloane Wehman has made a website! Calypso Classics was established to help students connect- one website to provide helpful resources and educational information. The Classics community is a wonderfully positive family of teachers and students, but not every student has the same opportunity to study Classics and Latin. Calypso Classics is designed to help students connect with other students who are dedicated to the study of all things of the Ancient world- Greek and Roman culture, Latin and Greek language, Greek mythology- to help navigate their participation in Certamen, the Junior Classical league, help establish a school classical club, to help research the college classics programs and provide links to helpful websites.

Meet the Candidates!

William O'Donnell for President

I want to start a statewide initiative to support and promote classical education. As someone who didn't have access to Latin or Greek programs before high school, I feel like I lost out on the opportunity to engage with classics earlier and want to allow younger students to have the amazing experiences that we all share. I want to talk to district officials, go to local middle schools to promote the MDJCL and high school latin programs, and bring more middle schoolers into events like certamen, tournaments, and special workshops at convention. All of us deserve to have an equal chance to participate in this language that we love.

Fun facts:

Have you ever had someone talk to you about elections? If you have, there's a 95% chance that was me!

I am an avid Frank Ocean and Ice Spice fan

I've been an avid MDJCLer since we restarted events in 2021!

I'm currently a Junior at Easton High School enrolled in AP Latin :^)

I love certamen and my amazing team!

Dawson Cooper for Editor

Salvete Fellow Marylanders! My name is Dawson Cooper and I am pleased to say that I will be running for State Office as Editor for this next term. Now when it comes to our organization and it's news I have several ideas. Ideas such as the website's design, which if you ask me could get a redo, and the Torch. Now traditionally, the Torch has been a bland subject, making our only news source unappealing to read. What I mean by that is that I would like to add graphics to really grab people's attention instead of a block of text. Now, earlier I said that I would like a website redo and as an editor I cannot change that. However, I wish to rise the ranks in this organization in a cursus honorum. You will not be elected Governor till you serve the state senate. Therefore, along with my graphic design skills, I would like to run for editor.

Thanks for reading, Dawson Cooper, your possible editor.

James Howard for President

In February of this year, Gilman hosted a Lupercalia Certamen event for the entirety of the MDJCL. In order to successfully run the event, our Classics Club members were given specific tasks. In the weeks leading up to the event, we spent a lot of time writing questions for the event. I already had experience with answering certamen, but actually crafting clever questions was a valuable experience which made me think deeper about what Certamen – and by extension the MDJCL – is trying to expose Classics students to. On the actual day of the event, I showed all of the schools how to navigate the Gilman halls and ultimately hosted an ice-breaker activity with my classics club Co-President. Ultimately the event ran smoothly, with all teams presenting entertaining and thoughtful skits about various Roman and Greek myths. While I have thoroughly enjoyed the competitive aspect of the MDJCL ever since I joined early last year, this event made me realize its true value: bringing students who share a love for classics – all too rare in the modern day – together. Given my experience running events such as Lupercalia, I believe I would be well positioned to further grow these bonds and bring the MDJCL out of the inactivity brought on by the Covid Pandemic.

Mia Mazzeo for Vice President

One way I feel the MDJCL could be improved upon is by increasing the amount of service that students bring to their schools through the beauty of the classics. I think Latin and volunteering could be better brought together by having members of local MDJCL chapters teach elements of the language and classics to the younger students at their schools. This could be done through an after school program for the younger kids hosted by the members or by the members visiting classrooms during the day when they are allowed to. They can educate the kids on everything from “Salve” and “Vale” to the Olympics and mythology. The material taught can be altered depending on the age of the kids to guarantee they have a fun time learning. Activities like building catapults can be done as well. It would be both a great way to spread the love for the classics and an outlet for kids to become more interested in them. This way more students would enroll in Latin and potentially continue to revel in and share the joy of the language and its culture. I have taught both first and third graders about the classics in a program similar to this, and seeing their excitement over Certamen or Hercules is so heart-warming. I’m sure many other kids would also enjoy this program and it would be a great way for MDJCL members to serve their schools.

Fun Facts:

I like skateboarding, crocheting, volunteering, and watching movies!

I can say the alphabet backward and solve a Rubik’s cube!

My Latin name is Mea, I’m in Latin IV, and I love translating and Roman history!

Van Tran for Historian

The MDJCL has always been a community where members have created memories that can last a lifetime. Currently, we document these memories through the MDJCL Historian's instagram page and a physical scrapbook. Why not combine both though and have a book members can flip through at any time? My idea is to utilize my background in graphic design and scrapbooking to create a virtual scrapbook that will document these incredible moments for easy access. After each event, you will have access to the book via email where you can flip through photos and videos of yourselves engaging in fun activities and games throughout the year. You'll be able to see pages filled with photo collages, certamen fun, Latin club chapter highlights, and so much more! This would be a great opportunity to showcase all the fond memories we've made here and share the laughter and joy for years to come.

Fun Facts:

I enjoy reading, journaling, calligraphy, and amassing a huge stationary collection! I'm in AP Latin and my favorite parts are the mythology and reading the Aeneid (book II is definitely my favorite)!

Grace Bullock for Parliamentarian

As someone who has been in the JCL for a bit over a year and completely fallen in love with it, I have a lot of care for this organization. I have absolutely loved meeting new people and connecting over a love for the classics. With all of this love for the JCL, I also feel that there are always ways that we can improve. I would love to work with the other future officers to fix these problems. One thing I feel we can improve on is diversity and a better relationship between schools. I know that with the other amazing future officers, we can fix this problem. Some ideas that I have to fix this are participating in fundraisers as a state (instead of a school) to have something we could all be apart of without having to travel to each other. This could be selling chocolate bars like other clubs or each school could choose their own way to raise money and it could be a competition to raise the most money. This could be a way to make us feel like we are more united as a state by doing something together. We could use the money raised to pay for organization expenses, the State Convention, and scholarships for more people to be able to participate in the JCL events. I would also like to make an easy, accessible link on the instagram page as well as the MDJCL website to a google form for people to express any grievances or ideas they want to share to fix the constitution and/or the MDJCL in general. I feel this would make students from other schools feel that they have a voice in the MDJCL as most of the officers are from Easton High School. These are just some of the ideas that I have and I am looking forward to running for office.