



Forum Factorum



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Photo left: An overview of Snowball. Photo top right: JCLers ready to enjoy the night! Photo bottom right: MassJCL Executive Board with Katelin Marchand (Second Vice President) in the center.

A Snowball Soiree

*Allyson Ping
Boston Latin School*

After being postponed once due to the "Nemo" snowstorm, the annual MassJCL Snowball was rescheduled to be on March 2, 2013 at the Harvard Club of Boston. Though the air was chilly outside, many of our very own MassJCLers, SCLers, and chaperones, dressed in their best, arrived around 8:00 for a fun night filled with great food, music, and of course, dancing.

We were greeted by MassJCL 2nd Vice President, Katelin as we signed in. Like always, a cardboard Christmas tree had been propped up for JCLers to sign. Most of the group headed into the dining area first for pizza, soup, and refreshments, a bit reluctant to approach the dance floor. After the first hour the dance floor was completely filled with people dancing in groups and having a great time.

In the middle of all the dancing, the DJ suggested that we make a MassJCL version of the popular 'Harlem Shake.' We all agreed, thinking it would be a fun thing to do. The video, filmed by Ava Violich, the MassJCL historian, started with Jamie Doyle from BLS dancing then everyone else joining in a while after.

While all the dancing was going on, the officers were selling tickets to the annual raffle. This year the prize was a dance with one of the MassJCL officers!

Finally, after much of the excitement, things began to calm down with the start of a slow song, "A Thousand Years" by Christina Perri. Raffle winner Tori Wu started this dance off as she chose Jeffrey Dubuission from the MassJCL executive board to dance with. Then, delegates paired up and started slow dancing. Though things slowed down a bit, it wasn't the end yet. For another hour, delegates showed off their dancing to popular songs, such as "Thrift Shop", "Scream and Shout", and so on. The night slowed down once more to the last slow song, and ended with one of my personal favorites, "Live While We're Young" by One Direction.

All in all, this year's Snowball was an extremely successful event; it was efficient and planned meticulously, as well as being a lot of fun. Snowball occurs annually and is one of my favorite MASSJCL events. It was definitely a great night and I would encourage any reluctant or new delegates to go next year!



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Photo Credit for this Issue:

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Letter from the President



Salvete MassJCLers!

In my last letter, I welcomed this MassJCL year with the theme of the Olympics and so I think it's fitting to also end with that theme. Although the Olympic Games won't return until 2014 in Sochi, we can still keep the spirit of them alive at our 57th annual Massachusetts Junior Classical League State Convention this weekend. Just as athletes spend months training to represent their countries, you too have devoted the past several months preparing for Convention. Whether it was practicing your Dramatic Interpretation, constructing a large model, or filming a promotional video, props to you for all the hard work you have done—you deserve this weekend on the Cape!

The Executive Board has also been working diligently to plan this year's State Convention, and I hope you make the most of it. Based on your feedback from last year, we have improved the meals, rearranged the schedule to better distribute the contests, and added more entertainment events ☺ State Convention has opportunities for everybody to enjoy—academic, creative, artistic, athletic, and social. So, I urge you to challenge yourself to try a new contest, step out of your comfort zone and sing at karaoke, and scream your lungs out during the toga parade! Convention only comes once a year, and you'll never forget the memories you make this weekend.

Corde aperto,
Rahi Punjabi

MassJCL President 2012-2013

Letter from the Editor



Salvete MassJCL,

I would like to welcome you all to the fifth and final issue of the 38th volume of the *Forum Factorum*. This issue will showcase MassJCL's winter event, Snowball. This issue will also feature insight on the last four Certamen tournaments of the year: Boston Latin Academy Certamen, Boston Latin School Certamen, Senior Classical League Certamen, and Harvard Certamen. Look out for a fictional short story on the golden apple as well as the 'Did You Know That' article on SAT words. Lastly, since Convention is Mother's Day weekend, look out for an article about the importance of mothers in ancient Rome compared to now.

As this is my last issue I would like to thank everyone who has written an article or submitted photos for the *Forum Factorum*. I would also like to thank my sponsor Ms. Fillion. Best of luck to the 2013-2014 MassJCL Publications Editor! ☺ Finally, thank you MassJCL, for giving me so many good things to publish this year.

Ave atque vale,
Joana Jankulla

MassJCL Publications Editor 2012-2013

See You All At National Convention!

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Certamen Madness!

Boston Latin Academy Certamen Forum

*Taylor Mckinnon
Boston Latin Academy*

On January 12th, Boston Latin Academy hosted its annual Certamen Forum. The event was run by Joana Jankulla. It featured schools from all over Massachusetts who were ready for a Certamen-filled day! I, along with my Certamen teammates, had prepped for this tournament all year. As we walked into Boston Latin Academy that morning, we felt a sense of excitement. This tournament featured four rounds of twelve questions (which was different from the usual three rounds). The way I thought of this was: the more Certamen the better!



Photo: BLA Advanced Certamen Team during prelims

During Finals round we faced AMSA and BLS, two very strong competitors of ours, and by toss up 20 we were all 5 or 10 points away from each other. Thus, the last question began! In a rather obscure manner, mind you. AMSA ended up correctly answering the question with 'Cybele.' BLA happily took our second place plaque, received cheers from our observing peers, and of course took pictures. Next year, when my team is on the brink of success without me, I'll happily remember this year's BLA tournament as well as laugh and eat cupcakes with them about it.

Boston Latin School Certamen Tournament

*Henry Tsang
Boston Latin School*

It is without a doubt that all Certameners have attended and participated in many, many Certamen tournaments and competitions, but not all Certameners can say that they have organized a tournament themselves. Having competed in multiple Certamen tournaments throughout the past few years, I finally got my first taste of organizing one—the Third Annual Boston Latin School Certamen Tournament on Saturday, February 2nd, 2013.

After drafting countless emails to all of the MassJCL sponsors, writing pages upon pages of grammar, history, mythology, and literature questions, having long meetings about logistics, and staying at

school until 8 PM the day before the tournament with a cohort of dedicated volunteers, I was ready to collapse. But, I knew that it was all worth the effort, and when I saw all of the smiling faces of eager Certameners travelling across the state to compete on a cold Saturday morning, I was overjoyed and happy to have spent my time organizing such an event. With the help of many BLSJCL volunteers, the tournament ran smoothly and efficiently, from the preliminary rounds, to lunch, and then to the final rounds. Indeed, it was a little stressful, but the enthusiasm exuded by all of the Certamen players was enough to keep me going. At the end of the day, I was exhausted, but I knew that I had successfully hosted my first Certamen tournament, after having competed in so many.

Of course, organizing a Certamen tournament isn't easy, but when you have an extremely helpful delegation, the most supportive sponsors (Ms. Hausey!), and an enormous number of volunteers to help keep the tournament running smoothly, I can definitely say that it does get a little easier. Congratulations to all of the talented and dedicated Certamen players from all over the state—job well done. I hope you enjoyed the tournament and come back next year!



*Photo: Henry Tsang poses with JCLer
Katherine Kerr*

Senior Classical League Certamen Tournament

*Jeffrey Dubuisson
Boston Latin Academy*

On March 2nd, 2013, the Senior Classical League hosted its annual Certamen Tournament. Schools from all over Massachusetts came to attend. I, along with my teammates Georgie Contreras, Taylor Mckinnon and Joana Jankulla, were excited to face the day's festivities.

In the preliminary rounds we faced Lexington, Lynn English and BLS. Each of our rounds went well; this is true because by the end of prelims we held the first seed. I was nervous heading into the later rounds that it would be harder to keep up with the questions. However those fears were allayed when I put the buzzer into my hand and did my part to help my team win each round. Playing Certamen for me has become much bigger than just a game. It's through this game I have made invaluable friendships and gain so much in

terms of knowledge that helps me in my everyday life. So I look forward to each and every tournament and I relish each chance I get to pick up the buzzer.



Photo: BLA Certamen team with their first place trophy.

Harvard University Certamen Tournament

*Meghana Vagwala
Advanced Math and Science Academy*

Harvard Certamen is annually one of the most well-attended, professionally run, and competitive tournaments of the JCL year, second only to the national championships. Teams that haven't yet been infected with OCD (Obsessive Certamen Disorder) – symptoms include a reluctance to do anything unrelated to the classics and a propensity for absentmindedly clicking pens – and schools that may not even be part of JCL often attend. The enthusiasm is at an all time high as hundreds of Latin loving students pour into Sever Hall to match wits and duke it out for the first place trophy.

At the Novice level, the formidable BLS Novice team blew its competitors – AMSA and Classical Cottage – out of the water to seize first place, scoring on several difficult translation questions. In the Intermediate finals, a strong AMSA team faced equally tough BLS and Texas teams but the former pulled out victorious thanks to skillful knowledge on questions about the Aetolian War and the funeral games of Anchises. The Advanced finals were nail-bitingly intense, with three teams comprised of NJCL test winners and national players facing off – Classical Cottage, BLS, and AMSA. In a round where the scores were always within 20 points of each other's, AMSA took the game thanks to crisp buzzes on questions about heteroclitites and a question about genealogy of Thebes.

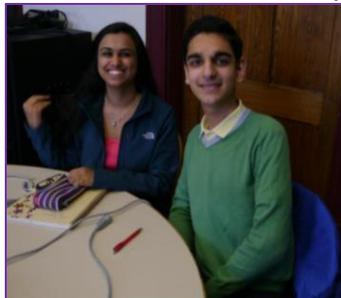


Photo: AMSA Advanced is ready for action!

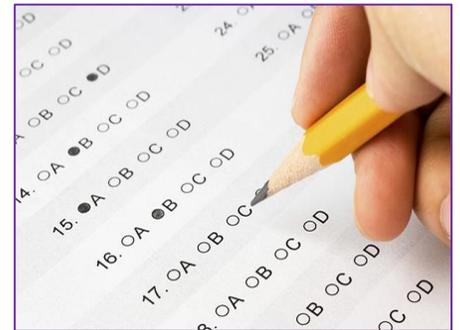
This year, Massachusetts should be especially proud because the first place team and MVP (Novice – Peter Wang, Intermediate – Amol Punjabi, Advanced – Rahi Punjabi) for every level was a MassJCLer! Furthermore, in each level's final round, there were at least two Massachusetts teams. What does this mean for

you, apart from being a spectacular accomplishment for our state? That each State Convention final round is bound to be thrilling, fast-paced, and mirabile visu. So don't forget to come by and cheer on your favorite teams and players (including several MA National players and state board officers) at states Certamen!

Did You Know That?

*Georgie Contreras
Boston Latin Academy*

As we all know by now, the influence of ancient civilization, especially that of the Romans, can be seen in nearly every aspect of contemporary life- from architecture to political systems to art. But no greater example is found in the modern English language. You ask, what can the average person benefit from Latin roots of English words, other than the occasional derivative question in a Certamen round? In fact, in the daunting English sections of the all-important SAT.



Ever encounter words- especially on the SAT- and simply have no clue as to the definition? Let's try words such as "acerbic" and "inimical." Latin would tell us that the root of "acerbic" would be the adjective acerbus, meaning "bitter, sharp, harsh." The definition of "acerbic": "sour or astringent in taste; harsh or severe, as of temper or expression." Next, the stem of inimical would be inimicus, as an adjective meaning "unfriendly, hostile" or as noun, "enemy." The definition of "inimical": "adverse in tendency or effect, unfavorable, harmful; unfriendly, hostile." Keep in mind that these words are real SAT words!

A Mother's Importance

*Jason Rowley
Lunenburg High School*

Since State Convention this year is on Mother's Day weekend, here is an article describing the importance of mothers in Ancient Rome and now.

Although there are some differences between the role that mothers had in Roman times and the role that mothers have in modern times, they have retained the same cultural importance to society. In Roman times, mothers were expected to pass on cultural values to their children in order to ensure the future of the Roman civilization. This has been true throughout human existence and can still be observed today.

Roman mothers were expected to give birth to around ten children and to plan their children's education. Most mothers today are not expected to give birth to ten children because there is a much higher survival rate. Both mothers and fathers today plan their child's educational path together and have an equal impact on their children's future.

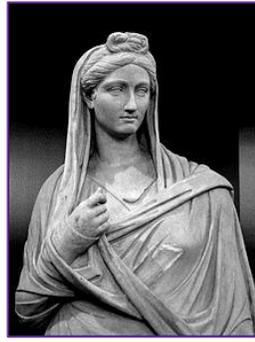


Photo: A bust of a mother in ancient Rome

In general, Roman women were not allowed to run for public offices or to participate in politics; they were, however, allowed to run their family's business in their husband's absence. Today women can do these things and can even establish their own businesses.



Photo: Jason Rowley and his mother!

Mothers and women were definitely underappreciated and limited then, but are much more appreciated and free today. Mothers are at the heart of all nations and humanity. Mothers have always been and always will be significant and crucial to each and every one of our lives.

The Golden Apple: What Really Happened

Hanna Seriac

Advanced Math and Science Academy

In the spirit of the State Convention festivities, here is a fictional short story that was submitted last year into the Creative Writing Contest

Time and time again, Latin students have been taught that the three goddesses Aphrodite, Hera, and Athena fought over the Apple of Discord and then Paris chose who would get it. However, that story has been altered. What really happened is much more interesting.

One bright sunny day, Aphrodite was walking home from her modeling job and she was tired. There was a nice little Panera café on the way home so she stopped there. As Aphrodite collapsed, exhausted, into the plush white seat, Hera and Athena quickly hurried over.

"Long day at work?" questioned Athena with her usual sense of self confidence.

"As usual." Aphrodite responded whipping out her Droid phone to check her email. At the same moment Hera and Athena pulled out their matching Droid phones.

"I wish I could have an upgrade" complained Hera as she hit her phone against the table.

As the room grew quiet, she whipped her head around furiously scanning the room wondering where everyone had gone.

"What was that?" Aphrodite said shaking as she clutched her purple purse tight to her chest.

"I don't know but I will find out." Athena exclaimed boldly.

Then, a fashion model strutted in. He had long brown hair, tan skin and a "Derek Zoolander" like aura. Hip hop music was blaring as he walked down to the table. He smoothly pulled out a chair, turned it around, and sat in it. The three goddesses that were gaping at his beauty, quickly recovered.

"Ladies, ladies, ladies. When I heard that you were at this joint, I couldn't resist." He flirted effortlessly. Aphrodite moved closer to him and replied "Your eyes are like the ocean."

Everyone laughed at this except Aphrodite who blushed.

"I'm Paris. Now let me lay the deal down. There is a new type of phone out and the most beautiful of you three señoritas will get this lovely device." As he held up a solid gold Apple iPhone.

"You might as well go home, Hera and Aphrodite. I'm obviously the most beautiful."

"Well I'm the goddess of...umm... being good looking!!!!" Aphrodite argued.

"There's a reason why you aren't the goddess of intelligence." Hera said sarcastically.

"Whoa, whoa, whoa. Let's cool the fire in this red hot room. The most beautiful of you girls will be decided based off a programming test." Paris informed the three goddesses.

"What will we be programming?" inquired Athena as she pulled out her laptop.

"An application. You have two weeks. Now go." Ordered Paris.

Over the course of the next two weeks, the goddesses were busy each programming a different application until the four met again at Starbucks. Hera



presented her application; it was a "Greek New Daily" updater to keep her updated on the news. Athena presented her application; it was "Genetic Decoding on the Go". Every second it turned the code for twenty thousand codons into

the code for a protein. Finally, Aphrodite presented her application. It was called "Mirror Mirror".

"Ah we will use Aphrodite's application to choose the fairest of them of all." Decided Paris.

"Mirror Mirror on the Droid who is the fairest of them all."

The application responded "Aphrodite, no doubt". So, Paris presented Aphrodite with the Golden iPhone, and the other goddesses got jealous. As a reward for Paris choosing Aphrodite, Aphrodite told Paris to go find Helen.

Now the story of old, it finally truthfully retold.

Thebes with Friends!

*Taylor Mckinnon
Boston Latin Academy*

In the spirit of the State Convention festivities, here is a non-fiction short story that was submitted last year into the Creative Writing Contest

"Did you know Hercules was from Thebes?" My friend Matt turns his head in Pre-Calc class and asks Tyra, and in Spanish class he asks Bob. I watch his overly content expression as he speaks alien words to the confused people beside him. It catches my attention. He's usually met with a blank stare or a "You mean the Greek guy with the muscles and stuff?" They just don't understand the importance of Hercules. What's more, they don't understand the importance of Thebes.

The reason Matt so often inquires about Hercules' origins is that I have officially burned knowledge of Thebes into his brain. As often as we are alone, waiting for others to show up to our lunch table, I am spewing copious knowledge of the greatest Greek city I can think of, Thebes. "Everything has to do with Thebes, Matt!" I say with my squeaky excited voice. "Without Thebes Rome wouldn't exist!" I take him through the history of Hercules' attack on Troy, after Laomedon refused to give him Hesione like promised, and his putting of Podarces, better known as Priam, on the throne. And from the fall of Priam's most prosperous nation came Aeneas' journey to found a city in Italy. Which eventually makes Rome. All because of Thebes! I share with him the beauty of the founding of Thebes in chemistry class. My favorite element, cadmium, is named for Cadmus, the founder of Thebes. And all about the Seven Against Thebes in order to remember the chemical symbol for antimony, Sb (Sounds like Antigone, the sister of one of the Seven against Thebes). So many times have I gone on and on about Thebes that he can name at least two of the Seven. He knows all about Cadmus, and he knows who Hercules is.

What's especially great about Matt is that he actually listens. All about Thebes, no matter how many times I bother him about it, he pays attention to my

rants. I like to think that I have imparted very important information to a reluctant pupil. But, I shall make him my protégée. He shall know all about Thebes, and all about the Seven Against Thebes, and the Epigoni, and the Trojan War, and the Aeneid. When I'm through with mythology I'll teach him the three emperors I know and all the MAQs and anything about Vergil. Though he may not be so excited to be learning, I see it on his face that he's happy to make me happy. That's why Matt is my favorite, and what's more, in the future, people will know that Hercules is from Thebes and why that matters.

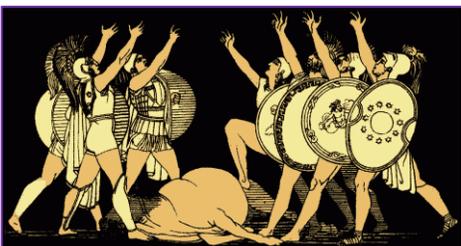


Ask Pythia



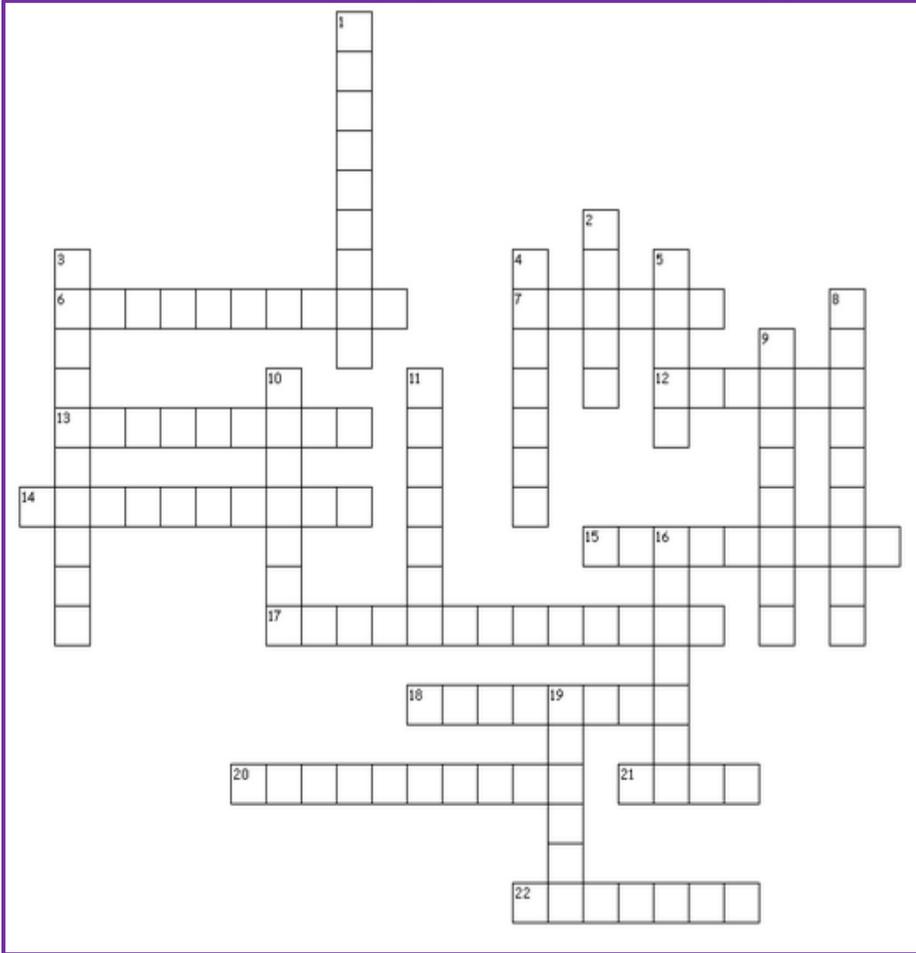
Pythia, this is my first time attending State Convention. What activities would help me make the most of my weekend?

Salve! If you are a person who likes speaking, I recommend the sight reading contest. You don't have to prepare ahead of time, you are given time to read over the Latin passage before you present. If like sports, try Olympika on Saturday. Among the events there are swimming and track. If you like using your imagination, attend a session of impromptu art. You get to make something from scratch. One thing to keep in mind is socialize with delegates not just from your school, but other schools. JCLers are some of the friendliest people in the world. Bonam Fortunam!



State Convention Crossword Puzzle

Think you know State Convention? Try your luck with this puzzle!



Across

- 6. Changes or additions made in the MassJCL constitution
- 7. Deity you should channel if you want to run fast in Olympika
- 12. Deity you should channel if you want to do well on your Academic Testing
- 13. The contest judged by the Historian
- 14. People running for MassJCL office
- 15. _____ art is a contest that gives you the opportunity to let your imagination go wild
- 17. That's _____!
- 18. An event including running and swimming
- 20. The contest judged by the Publications Editor
- 21. Number of MassJCL Board officers
- 22. The contest judged by the Second Vice President

Down

- 1. The contest judged by the First Vice President
- 2. The second word of the event taking place on Saturday in which you can ask questions to candidates running for office
- 3. Name of school that welcomes us to Convention
- 4. Schools get to build and race these Sunday morning
- 5. Where National Convention will be held this year
- 8. Event held in the Astro Park
- 9. A Latin jeopardy game played at State Convention
- 10. Contest that involves you dressing up
- 11. The teacher(s) that bring you to Convention
- 16. The last name of this year's MassJCL President
- 19. The main event on Sunday afternoon

Roman Sudoku Puzzles

For anyone who needs a good challenge, try your luck with these puzzles!

II		IX	III	V	IV	I	VI	
								IV
VI		IV		I			II	III
		VI	IX					V
I	VII	V				II	IX	
III					VII	IV		VIII
	III				II	V		
		VIII			V	VI	III	IX
	VI				IX	VII	VIII	

			VII		VI			IX
	VI	VII	II	V				III
	I	II						
II							I	III
				III		V		VII
VII	III		V	IV				
	II		III			IV		
III			I		VIII			V
I			IV	VI	VII			

Snowball, Snowball, Snowball



Photo: BLA JCLers posing!



Photo: Francesca and Ava enjoying snowball!



Photo: Dancing the night away!



Photo: Rahi and Jeffrey love Snowball!



Photo: BLS JCLers are all smiles!



Photo: Kayla and Maddie too!



Photo: The night is far from over!



Photo: BLS JCLers posing for a picture!



Photo: Rahi signing the cardboard Christmas tree!



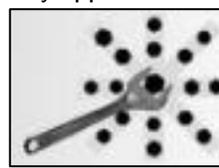
Photo: Snowball fun!

Gratias Vobis Ago!

On behalf of the MassJCL, thank you for providing your services and resources to this organization. We greatly appreciate it!



Schell Printing in Jamaica Plain for their generous work with JCL and this issue!



Mr. Hannigan at Merrimax Web Mechanics for the donation of the state and many local websites.



Fenton, Pinsonnault & Quinn, PC for their work with us in filing taxes. Ms. Keeley especially thanks you!

Upcoming Events

July 22-27 – National Convention