



Forum Factorum

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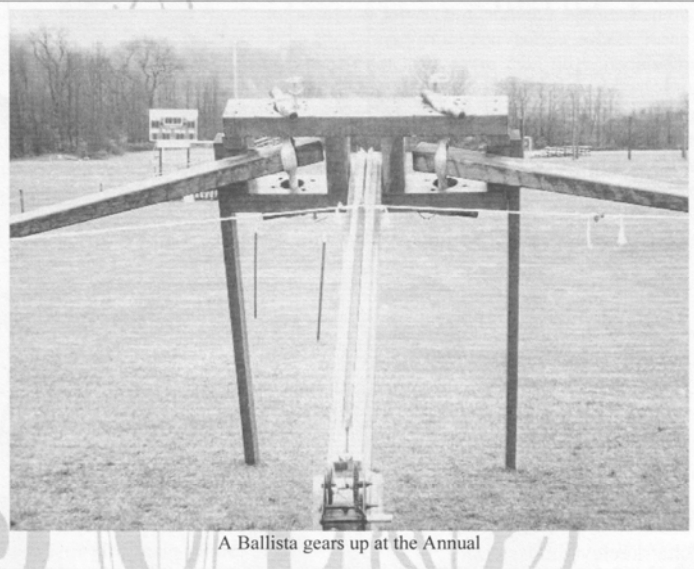
The Catapult Contest

The MassJCL Kick-off event is successful, regardless of rain.

By Emma Leslie
Lunenburg High School

In October, I attended my very first MassJCL Fall Kick-Off Event. But I must admit; I was hesitant at first about the long journey. Waking up in the early hours of the morning, as if it were another school day did not exactly appeal to me when I first heard about the trip. Neither did the idea of spending two and half hours on a yellow school bus to the Berkshires for a Catapult Contest especially since my school didn't even have a catapult to enter. But looking back, I would consider it a Saturday well spent.

When trying to decide whether to attend the catapult contest or not, my Latin-loving side thankfully got the best of me. On the morning of the event, I woke up at six in the morning, and soon found myself on a bus with a few of my fellow Lunenburg Latin



A Ballista gears up at the Annual

lovers as we all excitedly drove nearly halfway across Massachusetts for the Kick-off event. I was excited to visit Mt. Greylock, and my enthusiasm just continued to grow as we began to approach Williamstown.

Ms. Keeley's warm welcome woke me up from a sleepy daze after the long ride, and soon I was ready to get things started. For the rest of the afternoon I watched the marshmallow catapult contest, and caught up with friends from across the state that I do not get to see very often. I even met few new people. I realized in the end that it

didn't really matter that Lunenburg hadn't brought a trebuchet or ballista, because it was fun just to watch everyone else's.

The final competition, the large trebuchet and ballista contest, brought the event to a wonderful end. The drizzly rain and dense fog could not ruin the spectacular show of the catapults.

Soon, it was time for us to make our way back home. With a goodbye from Ms. Keeley, our yellow school bus was on its way home, but you can be sure I'll be back on it next year.

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The *Forum Factorum* is a state-sponsored, quarterly newsletter produced entirely by students of the Massachusetts Junior Classical League. Its mission is to inform members of important happenings, showcase and highlight achievement, and to create a forum for discussion of statewide issues.

This Issue's Staff:
Emma Leslie, LHS
Richard Lapia, BLA
Audane Leger, Parliamentarian
Vanessa Durand, President

How To Create A Prize-Winning Catapult: A Winner Shares His Secrets



Richard Prepares to fire!

By **Richard Lapia**
Boston Latin Academy

My first trip to the MassJCL Catapult Contest was very interesting. This was not only my first trip to the Kick-off Event, but also my first attempt at building a catapult. Truthfully, though, building a catapult did not turn out to be as easy as I expected.

My catapult began as a lot of careful plans. My first step in actually building the catapult was to put together the base. I used pine wood and ordinary screws to create a base with a slight elevation in the front. I then drilled holes for the ropes, and began to experiment.

Through many changes and adjustments I finally found all the right combinations, and I

was amazed at how well my catapult worked. I used rope to provide tension to toss the marshmallow, but finding the right rope and the best arm took a lot of time and testing. But as I spent more time with my catapult, I learned more about it. I even discovered that pulling the arm way back did not work as well as shooting at a low-line trajectory. At times I would feel discouraged when something went wrong, but I soon realized that through trial and error, everything would turn out well.

"I soon realized that through trial and error, everything would turn out well..."

The last thing I did was attempt to make my catapult look presentable. Now I felt that it was ready to be launched. When I first arrived, I was intimidated by all of the other catapults, but in the end I placed first! I had tons of fun building the catapult, and I encourage everyone to enter next year's Catapult Contest.



The boys from Catholic Memorial pose before departing.

A Letter from your MassJCL Parliamentarian:

Audane Leger
Boston Latin Academy

Welcome to a new and exciting Massachusetts Junior Classical League year! My name is Audane Leger, and I am this year's MassJCL Parliamentarian. I believe that it is just the right time to be thinking about running for a 2007 - 2008 MassJCL Office. It's the best time for anyone who has even a glimmer of hope of becoming a State Officer to begin to take initiative. This is the time to start getting familiar with what each office requires and deciding which is best for you. Becoming a MassJCL officer is a glorious opportunity to give back to the wonderful world of classics and help plan an amazing year for your fellow JCLers. Board meetings take place almost every month, and each meeting gives you the chance to let your voice be heard and make an impact I strongly encourage anyone who is thinking about running for office to attend a few board meetings. Just contact me or any MassJCL Officer if you are planning to attend a meeting. We welcome all newcomers with open arms.

The MassJCL wants candidates to be committed to whatever job they pursue and try their hardest to fulfill



MassJCL Officers pose at the Catapult Contest.

duties of the job well. Candidate applications will be enclosed in the January state convention packet. Keep in mind that you may not have more than three people from the same school running for office, and candidates also may not run for an office which was held by someone in their school the previous year. If anyone feels that they just might be the right person to run for an office, please contact me and I'll keep you posted. Remember to strive for the best and reach for the stars because you never know if one day you will become a Massachusetts Junior Classical League officer.

Yours Truly,

Audane Leger

2006-2007 MassJCL Parliamentarian

MassJCL Tidbits

Lunenburg High School had five Latin students attend the Catapult Contest this year, and all had an amazing time even without a catapult to compete with.

Members of the Pierce Middle School chapter of the JCL have been attending certamen practices every Wednesday after school, and on Thursdays students have Latin Club meetings, where they usually watch classical movies. PMS JCLers recently finished watching *The Emperor's Club*, and are now starting a Latin Homework Club. And of course everyone is getting ready to go to Classics Day.

The Boston Latin Academy Classics Club has been hard at work on volunteer and fund-raising projects. In October, forty BLACC members mailed over 250 packages of books to prisoners all over the country at the Prison Book

Program, in addition to publishing two editions of their newsletter, the Forum BLARum.

At the Westford Academy chapter of the MassJCL, members are enthusiastic about Latin and are trying to find new and different ways to reach out to their community. For the past three years they have been the reigning champions of the JCL catapult contest, ballista division. Every year the Westford Academy welcomes new members with a night of mythology themed activities and food. We are currently planning for our annual Caesar Wrap stand at the Holiday Bazaar this December. At the end of every year we hold competition for the t-shirt design that will be on next year's Latin Club t-shirts. Throughout the year we wear these t-shirts with pride on designated days to display our enthusiasm for Latin. We also host movie nights with Classical themed movies such as *Gladiator* and *Ben-Hur*.

Catapult Contest Winners

Ballistae:

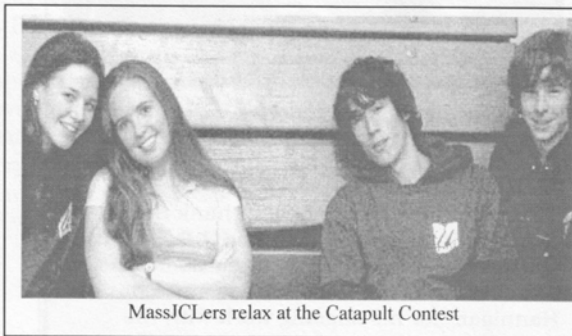
- 1) Westford Academy
- 2) Pittsfield High School
- 3) Turkey Hill Middle School

Catapultae:

- 1) Boston Latin School

Marshmallow Division:

- 1) Richard Lapia, *BLA*
- 2) David Rosenthal, *MTG*
- 3) Anthony Downs, *CM*



MassJCLers relax at the Catapult Contest

2006-2007

MassJCL Chapters

Abby Kelley Foster Charter Public School
Austin Preparatory School
Bancroft School
Barnstable High School
Boston Latin Academy
Boston Latin School
Brockton HS
Brookline High School
Buckingham, Browne and Nichols
Cambridge Rindge and Latin
Catholic Memorial
Coyle & Cassidy
Franklin High School
Lunenburg High School
Lynn English High School
Lynnfield High School
Mansfield High School
Milton High School
Mt. Greylock Regional School
Nashoba Brooks School
North Attleborough High School
North Middlesex Regional High School
Notre Dame Academy
Pierce Middle School
Pittsfield High School
South Hadley High School
St. John's Preparatory
Tewkesbury Memorial High School
Turkey Hill Middle School
Wachusett Regional High School
Walpole High School
West Middle School
Westford Academy



MassJCLers smile outside Mt. Greylock Regional School

Thank You!

Recently, the MassJCL has had several generous benefactors donate to our club. This month, we would like to thank **Schell Printing** in Jamaica Plain, and **J.B. Edwards Uniforms** in Roslindale for their donations, and **Merrimax Web Mechanics** and Charles Hannigan for his ongoing work with the MassJCL.



Delegates from LHS smile during a break in the rain at the Catapult Contest

A Note from your President:

By **Vanessa Durand**
Boston Latin Academy

Hello fellow JCLers. My name is Vanessa Durand and I am the current president of the MassJCL. Throughout these months, I have had such fun leading this organization and making it bigger and better. It's been tough, but it is definitely worth it. I am writing this to you because our biggest event, our annual State Convention, is coming up. This year, State Convention will be on April 27-29.

Yes, that's right: It is three days and two nights. The Convention will be held at Barnstable High School in Hyannis, with our hotel accommodations at the Sheraton Hotel.

This is a brand new endeavor for us. New events such as a sundae party, outdoor movie, open certamen and a longer dance are just a few of the things we have planned for you. Even some old favorites have a new twist, such as ludi sudoku and ludi water balloon freeze tag. All of these additions and changes have been made so that you can have the best possible time at States. This convention is for you, and if you have any good ideas of what you would like to see at States, whether it be a favorite song you want played at the dance, or another cool ludi event, don't hesitate to contact any one of the officers. I want you to have a great time, and to always hold the memories of this convention dear to you.



MassJCLers relax and watch the Marshmallow Contest