

Forum BLArum

Boston Latin Academy Classics Club January 2018



Kickoff 2017

The start of the JCL season is Kickoff. This year it was held on October 23, 2017 at Lanesborough Elementary in the Berkshires. We all merged at Boston Latin



BLACC at Kickoff 2017

Academy bright and early, excitedly awaiting the three hour bus ride and action packed day ahead of us. As soon as we got to the school we started General Assembly (GA), which reminded me of how amazing nationals was. During GA our MassJCL officers stood up and told us a little about how the JCL year was going to look. In the middle of GA a wonderful group of dramatic majors from Williams College came on and involved all of us in their stand up comedy performances. I participated in Street Certamen throughout the day, and had a blast meeting people from other schools. Not until moments before the event, was I aware that Street Certamen is a modern form of Certamen, with pop culture trivia, adding both hilarity and seriousness to the questions. Although I was doing Street Certamen other events were going on such as pumpkin painting and some workshops held by our MassJCL officers. After our first round of Street Certamen we all went to the cafeteria for lunch. Outside, pumpkin carving was finishing up, so I went outside to take a peek and saw some friends from BLS, since they had a camera we took many photos of us being goofy. After lunch we had our second round of Street Certamen, which my team and I won! Later, I went back outside to the field where MassJCL officers, Jacob Hane and Vikiana Petit-Homme

were teaching other students how to do the worm, a fun team building exercise. As this was happening, all Certamen rounds were finishing up and gradually every student gathered outside. This is when they started Capture the Flag! They

counted off in 4's, each team receiving a different jersey color and one team on each corner of the field. Although there were way too many people it was fun talking and trying to intimidate the other players. Once this game finished they called our last GA meeting for the day, the first topic was coin wars. Coin Wars is a



BLACC president, Malika, showing off her pumpkin design

competition, where each JCL year our state officers collect dollars and coins for an organization donation of their choice. We were supposed to have our large catapults rather than simply small catapults and marshmallow catapults, but sadly we weren't allowed to bring them to this school so events were cut

short even though it was still such a blast. We said goodbye to everyone, then took a picture outside with BLACC before we left to take the bus back to BLA. We arrived back at school around 7:30pm. (by Lia Van der Linde, gr.8)

Classics Day

Classics Day is an event held by the Massachusetts Junior Classical League (MassJCL) at the George Sherman Union of Boston University. This year it was held on December 7, 2017 from 9 to 2:30 pm. A whopping 700 students divided into 23 schools, participated in 19 workshops in two sessions. Our own Vikiana Petit-Homme is a state officer (treasurer) who represented us at the event.



BLA attendees of Classics Day

Thomas Demasi and John Earley

-Workshop 6 was about chariot racing. There were four factions; red, blue, white, and green, usually you rooted for a faction based on your social status (blue or green for the upper class). Fans would go as far as engraving their tombstones with their team's name. The races were held in the Circus Maximus, occupying a maximum of about 400,000 people, and since it was in Rome, the king or emperor would usually attend. One emperor, would like to eat lunch during the races, and when he grew too impatient for the event to start, he would throw his napkin on the track. This became mistaken for a start signal. A race was several laps and was counted by dolphins and eggs. It was thought that since Neptune, the god of horses, was born from an egg in the sea, and dolphins are the horses of the sea, this would only make sense.

John Earley and Amin Mohammed -

Workshop 14 was about political comedy, both past and present. Comedies were very popular in Roman and Greek culture; they were used to publicly embarrass politicians. We learned about a comedian who wrote a play about the leader,

Cleon, revealing all of his scandals and corrupt actions. The play, *Knights*, portrayed Cleon as a slave and his masters were all of the times he had deceived the public and hid in his powershell. He is forced by his master to compete with a fellow slave, until he has lost everything. We discussed how this is very similar to the television show, *Saturday Night Live*. Actor, Alec Baldwin plays the role of President Donald Trump, both SNL and historical comedy, are blatantly mocking the politician's actions. I left wondering... could *Saturday Night Live* be based off old Roman culture?

Parker Falke - The first class I took was Workshop 9, a comparison of Roman Comedy to modern day sitcoms. I learned that prologues were and still are very important in introducing the concept of a play or show. This reminded me of the prologue for "*Natasha Pierre and the Great Comet of 1812*". I also learned that sitcoms have been funny for a very long time. Lastly, I thought it was good that the teacher gave us examples of how they are the same, for example, Roman comedies were set in front of three homes. We discussed the similarities and differences between Ancient Roman and modern day "sitcoms". My second class, Workshop 19, was interesting. I learned that gladiators used to sell their sweat as perfume, and that it was "normal" for there to be a huge age gap in love affairs. I also learned that people would commit crimes, just so they could become a gladiator. A huge part of the reason we have so much knowledge about Roman events, is because people would paint graffiti on the walls of the Colosseum.

Kelvin Arias-Gomez - When I went to Workshop #4 I was shocked to find there was **that** much nudity in Ancient Greece, the paintings, the statues, etc. I learned about the actors in Ancient Rome and how it was all comedy and tragedy. It would all be funny, but sad at the same time, the actors would mirror your pain so you got pulled into the play, to then eventually realize it was all just a play. The last workshop I went to was Workshop 17. This workshop spoke about titans, gods, goddesses, magical creatures, etc. I learned about the intensity of relationships and the seriousness of

affairs in Olympia, e.g. the crazy love affair between Hippolytus and Aphrodite. When she discovered that he did not truly love her, she got his stepmother to fall in love with him, to show her seriousness, she then let the stepmother feel guilty and ashamed enough to kill herself. My first time at Classics Day went very well. I learned that not only is the Boston Latin Academy Classics Club (BLACC), not just a BLA thing, but also many other schools have a Classics Club too.



Seventh graders designing mosaics

Sixie Saturnalia

My name is Hayden Moir Chernow and I am in the 7th grade. I attended the Sixie Saturnalia, where I participated in many games and activities. First I did some mosaics where I made a rainbow design using the different colors of paper we had. My friends and I made some cards with designs using the mosaics to make holiday gifts for friends and family. Using the pieces of paper it felt as if we were in the olden days when Romans would make mosaics out of clay, pottery, and glass. I also took part in the costumes. My friends and I reenacted what we thought a Roman wedding might be like, acting as different gods and goddesses. I was the bride and my friends acted as the priest, the groom, and even a person coming into object the wedding. It was really fun to act out the parts of people from Ancient Rome because it let us get a glimpse of their lives. I also participated in the catapulting contest and it was cool to see who could make their object go the farthest. Even though I really enjoyed everything, my favorite activity was definitely the mosaics because along with being fun we created cool pieces of artwork.

BLACC OFFICERS

- President: Malika Cruickshank
- 1st Vice President: Vikiana Petit-Homme
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- Editor: Georgia Kogut
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- Secretary: Jessica Dai
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- Webmasters: Dio Dziban and Vikiana Petit- Homme
- Historians: Amina Aitnouri and Sara Rhouate

BLACC Website:

<http://www.blacc.majcl.org/>

Boston Latin Academy Classics Club **Events 2017-2018**

- ★ BLA Certamen Contest - Sat, Jan. 27, 2018
- ★ Mini BLA Convention - Mon, Jan. 29, 2018
- ★ Tea with the Professor - Tues, Feb. 13, 2018
- ★ State Convention - April 27-29, 2018
- ★ National Convention - July 23-28, 2018



BLACC members, Teddy and Anthony working on their catapults

Sixies enjoying various activities at Sixie Saturnalia



Vikiana teaching step classes at Kickoff



Julia and her excellent catapult



Actors in the skit and their award for "Most Political"



Anthony, Teddy, and Owen working on their group catapult