



Lorica Nostra: Happy Holidays!



Save the Date!

Tuesday, December 11:

JCL Saturnalia Party

Thursday, December 13:

Christmas Party at the
Redwood Family House

January

The Metamorphoses at
Berkeley Rep.

Saturday, February 23:

Carcer at Acalanes High
School

March 29-30:

State Convention at
Miramonte High School

July 25-30:

National Convention at
North Dakota State
University

First Semester Wrapped Up

By: Magis

As we approach the holiday season and look forward to a long break filled with rest, family, and fun, I want to thank all of you for the amazing contributions you have made to Menlo JCL and beyond. Our officers are the very best ever under Natalie and Naomi's leadership! You are all doing your jobs and then some. On the national level, we have won both a first place and an honorable mention in Club-of-the-Month so far and a first in Publicity as well, thanks to Victoria and Sophie R. Natalie J. also placed third in the first national meme contest. We've never even entered any of these contests before. And now Sophie S. has published her third *Lorica Nostra* (the sum of our publications for the whole of last year), and it is only December. Our constitution and new by-laws are up and running thanks to Ethan, and our money is in excellent hands with Morgan, in spite of the implications of his chosen Latin name – *Pīrāta*! Our website is ever-changing, and Ahna has submitted it faithfully to nationals for currency points. Anna has kept excellent minutes so it is easy to look up what we promised to do, and Sonya, Ava, and Maddie are way ahead on the scrapbook. I am so proud of all of you!

In addition, we have become an important part of the work at the Redwood City Shelter. At our Halloween party in October, the LifeMoves organization sent one of their chief executives to the party just to meet us and thank us for our work. Now we are about to head off for our Christmas Party. Thanks mainly to Victoria's work, we have the 10 artificial trees and the Build-a-Bears and the ornaments and the supplies to make new ones and we have ordered Buca for the families as they requested. Both waffle sales have been successful and, thanks to the \$500 donation from Azy Hariri (mother of Sanaz Hariri, Class of '95), we do not have to worry about having enough money for the party.

It is strange not to be giving finals this month, but at least we have a chance to celebrate Saturnalia for the first time in many years. Can't wait to exchange candles and maybe sing some carols in



2018-19 Menlo JCL Officers:

Presidents:

Natalie Hilderbrand,
Naomi Rubin

1st VP:

Sophie Reynolds

2nd VP:

Victoria Wat

Parliamentarian:

Ethan Yan

Treasurer:

Morgan Wyatt

Secretary:

Anna Guiragossian

Webmaster:

Ahna Kim

Historians:

Sonia Agarwal, Ava Ford,
Madeline Levin

Sports Commissioner:

Jack Pimlott

***Lorica Nostra* Editor:**

Sophie Scola

Latin while we make ornaments for our beautiful Saturnalia tree that Jack cut down for us.

Finally, it looks as though we will be starting the *Aequora* program in January with nine 5th graders from Peninsula Bridge. Natalie H. will be leading that endeavor, and you will be hearing more about it as soon as we return.

So...have a fabulous break, and come back rested and ready for second semester.



State Convention Heads-Up

Salvete, omnes!

I and my fellow Menlo JCL leaders are so excited to announce that the best JCL event of the year is coming up: state convention! This year, state convention will be held at Miramonte high school in Orinda on March 29th and 30th. Menlo JCL will be driving up together on Friday afternoon, staying in a hotel in Orinda, and driving back Saturday night. This year, it is Menlo's time to shine! Last year, we won first place in our category despite the majority of our students working hard to host the convention and run activities. This year, all of us can be focused on competing, so with all of your help, Menlo can hopefully perform very well.

The Miramonte JCL has a plethora of fun events waiting for us, including escape rooms, casino, stargazing, food trucks and much more. Those of you who have been to state conventions before can also look forward to all the classic convention events including certamen, olympika, ludi games, banquet, and many more. If you are coming for the first time, make sure to take advantage of as



Visit the Menlo JCL Website!

Visit this link below to learn more about our upcoming events and find weekly summaries of JCL meetings. On our website you can also see pictures from the year and past editions of *Lorica Nostra*!

<http://jcl.menloschool.org>

much as you possibly can. The more you do, the more fun you will have! There is something at convention for everyone: sports such as dodgeball, swimming, basketball and volleyball, creative arts contests including Latin and English oratory and essay, graphic arts contests for which you may enter any type of classics-related art, academic contests including tests and certamen where you can work on your Latin skills, and, of course, inspiring lectures given by classicists at nearby universities including Stanford, Davis, and UC Berkeley. Convention is a great experience and I want to encourage all of you to attend. I hope to see you there!

E corde,

Natalie Hilderbrand

Menlo JCL Co-Consul 2018-2019

NJCL Communications Coordinator 2018-2019

Io Saturnalia!

By: Morgan Wyatt

As we enter the holiday season, now is a great time to learn about how the Romans celebrated during this magical time of year. Saturnalia was the ancient Roman pagan celebration of Saturn, the Roman God of agriculture and time. It was derived from the older Roman farmers' ritual of offering sacrifices and gifts to their gods in mid-winter. Saturnalia, Rome's most popular holiday, was held in mid-December. It began as a one-day celebration in which all work and business ceased and all courts and schools closed. Romans gambled and feasted and sang their hearts out. They gave each other gifts, the most common of which being a wax candle called a *cerei*. Slaves did not work on Saturnalia either; in fact, some slaves got to act as the master for the day, eating at the head of the table, while the master would take the slave's role in feeding the new master of the day.

The celebration grew more and more popular, and by the 2nd century BCE, Saturnalia had expanded into a weeklong celebration.



Latin Classes Offered at Menlo:

Latin I

Latin II

Latin II Accelerated

Latin III

Latin III Honors

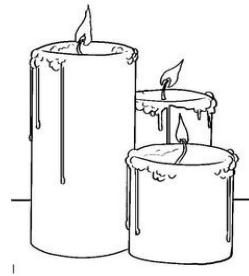
Latin IV

Latin V

AP Latin

Post AP Honors

It became even more jolly and riotous than before. Roman poet Catullus described Saturnalia as "the best of times," whereas Roman author Pliny was so frustrated with the noise that he built a soundproof room so that he could work in quiet during the celebrations. Lacking that Saturnalia spirit, Pliny sounds a lot like Ebenezer Scrooge from Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*. But the similarities with Christmas do not end there. Christmas borrowed heavily from Saturnalia. If you're decorating your house with greenery, exchanging gifts, lighting (or eating!) a yule log, remember that you have Saturnalia to thank.



Ludi and Awards Won

By: Ethan Yan



On November 10th, four Upper School students, three Middle School students, and two teachers boarded a bus on a chilly Saturday morning to head to *Ludi Novembres*. When we arrived at St. Ignatius College Preparatory (SI) in San Francisco, we could feel a buzz of energy in the air. Helpful students were guiding us to the check-in desk and loudly encouraging us to sign up for basketball and open certamen, while we reconnected with friends from past JCL events.

Soon after we arrived, we were ushered into the gymnasium for General Assembly 1. Our own Menlo consul Natalie Hilderbrand was introduced as the NJCL Communications Coordinator. SI Principal Patrick Ruff gave an impassioned speech welcoming us to the school and extolling the virtues of studying the Latin language and Roman culture. After the traditional recitation of the JCL Creed and singing of the JCL Song, we all went to complete our academic testing. Treasurer Morgan Wyatt and First Vice



Upcoming Dates from Ancient Rome!

December 15:

Consualia: the winter rites of Consus when horses were adorned with flowers and mules raced in the Circus Maximus.

December 17:

Saturnalia: the festival of Saturn which typically lasted 3-7 days and included a public sacrifice, feast, and gift-giving.

December 19: *Opalia*: a festival for Ops or Plenty, the wife of Saturn.

December 30: Titus, eldest son of Vespasian, is born. Ruled as emperor of Rome from 79 A.D. until he died in 81 A.D.

President Sophie Reynolds won 2nd and 3rd places, respectively, for Vocabulary in the HS-Adv. division.

Afterwards, we all participated in a myriad of fun activities that SI had organized. Some audacious Menlo students tried their hand at jumpy jousting, while others enjoyed tamer activities such as the obstacle course, jelly bean mosaics, and connect four. Despite the fact that most of us had very little experience in basketball, we signed up to participate in the competition anyway. The Menlo team made a valiant effort, pushing the opposing team—composed of five very clearly experienced players—to overtime, before finally suffering defeat. With extra time due to our early loss, some of us participated in the mythology spelling bee, while others competed in Open Certamen. Sophie's certamen team ended up winning 1st place!

Before heading home, we attended several workshops. Magistra Kelly led a discussion on how Plato's writings are applicable to today's technology-dominated society, while we also had the opportunity to attend talks on Hannibal's battle tactics, Roman moral standards, and the naming of organisms, to name a few. Exhausted after a long but exciting day, we returned to the gymnasium for General Assembly 2 before boarding the bus and heading back to Menlo.

Overall, *Ludi Novembres* was a terrific success. We all had an enjoyable experience and are very grateful to SI for hosting and organizing such a fantastic event. It was great for Menlo Upper and Middle School Latin students to attend together, and we look forward to more joint events in the future. Given our terrific experience, we hope that everyone will consider attending the State Convention in March!



(From left) Morgan, Sophie, Anna, Ethan, and middle schoolers enjoy the fun activities at Ludi at Saint Ignatius High School.



Club of the Month and Honorable Mention

By: Victoria Wat

For the first time, Menlo JCL has entered the NJCL contest for Club of the Month, highlighting community service events and other JCL related activities. This year, Menlo JCL collectively decided it was time to showcase all the dedication our students have been putting into service projects like our annual zoo trip, Halloween and Christmas parties for the Redwood Family House as well as our other activities like progressive supper and theater events.

Every month, schools from all over the United States submit an online application describing what their chapter has accomplished. In our September submission, I wrote a paragraph describing each of our events including the ice cream socials for facilities and the middle school, waffle sales, Caesar Maximus, progressive supper, and the membership drive. In addition, I made a powerpoint with all the pictures from the events and stated the duration and number of people who attended. Weeks later after the applications were



reviewed, Menlo was excited to hear that we received first place for the month of September!

For the month of October, I talked about our Halloween party for the The Redwood Family House, a new edition of the *Lorica Nostra*, and the JCL themed stickers, and we received an honorable mention. We entered the Club of the Month contest not expecting much, but we are ecstatic with the success we have achieved thus far. Menlo JCL has proven to astound me in all that we can accomplish in such a short period of time, and I continue to look forward to submitting these applications so we can share with the world what we have done for ourselves and for our community.

Ava runs a waffle sale with the help of other Latin students to raise money for the Redwood Family House



Naomi and Sophie help children at the Redwood Family House design their pumpkins at the Menlo JCL hosted Halloween Party





Poetry!

Translate these for extra credit! Scan them if you can (elegiac couplets)!

#1) *de Catullo*

*vixit in Italia sollers clarusque poeta
carmina multa canens - turpia saepe nimis.
ex domina calida cupit oscula mille Catullus.
milia participum velle puella solet.*

a Magistra

#2) *de vita*

*saepe mihi malim quid posthac quaerit amicus
omnia malebam; fata dedere nihil.*

ab Elisa

#3) *de Saturnalia*

*quo dominus servus fit, Saturnalia tempus;
munera dat sociis condecoratque domum
hebdomades festas merita requiete fruaris
munera concipias multa; remitte nihil.*

a Noemi





Poetry (pt 2)!

Translate these for extra credit! Scan them if you can (elegiac couplets)!

#4) *de Saturnalia quoque*

*nunc est, discipuli, celebrandum tempore sancto
quo Dominus natus (mox cruciandus) erat;
nunc est vivendum sine ludis et sine ludo:
non labor efficitur; quisque magister abest.
sed magis invenies iterum tibi dulce cubile;
gaudia tot surgunt: somnia, somnus, amor.
forsitan accipies epulas et munera lauta,
forte putans laetum te (nisi pinguis eris).
munera cur optas carissima, inania, plura?
quot currus, vestes sunt satis usque tibi?
rebus eges paucis: hoc pondus habere memento:
iam iam sumpsisti dona superba duo:
carpe facultatem scribendi artemque legendi:
munera non possunt his meliora dari.
si vis scire tuam linguam, cognosce Latinam:
cum legis hos versus, lingua Latina valet.*

A Magistro Brodie





Games!

SUDOKU

nota bene: turn these in to Magis or Mr. Morris for extra credit!

Facile

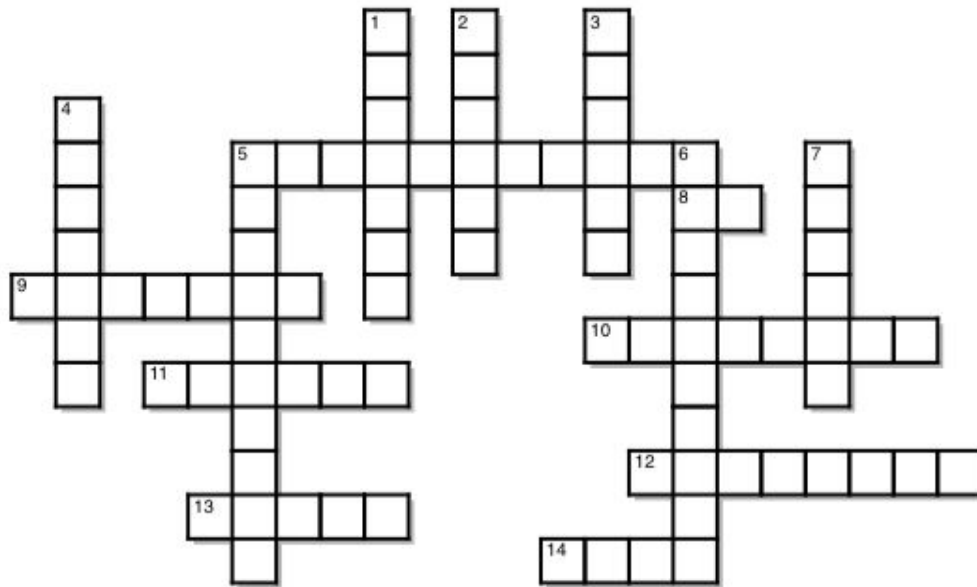
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Difficilius

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IO SATURNALIA: CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 5 Unconquered sun (Lat.)
- 8 ___ Saturnalia!
- 9 Conical felt cap universally worn during Saturnalia (Lat.)
- 10 The event that happens on Dec. 21
- 11 A synonym for dona (Lat.)
- 12 The king of Saturnalia or a chief (Lat.)
- 13 The season in which the holiday took place (Lat.)
- 14 The clothing item set aside at Saturnalia

DOWN

- 1 The servant of the day
- 2 The master of the day
- 3 Hopefully this adjective of emotion describes you during Saturnalia: (Lat.)
- 4 Writer of epigrams who talked about gift-giving at Saturnalia
- 5 The Roman holiday that began Dec. 17
- 6 Small figures of wax exchanged during Saturnalia (Lat.)
- 7 Early Greek version of the holiday