

December, 2007 Volume 1, Issue 2

Forum Fostorum

The newsletter of the:

Abby Kelley Foster Junior Classical League

Salvēte!

Welcome back, students and teachers of Abby Kelley Foster Charter Public School. This is the second issue of the Latin club’s newsletter, ***Forum Fostorum***. A new issue will be released every quarter and will include convention information, planned events, and as many extras as we can find. Our Latin Club had an eventful first quarter of the school year. We’ve lost one of our club sponsors, inaugurated a new officer, gone to the first event of the MASS JCL season and began holding the executive board meetings at our school. Please continue reading for more information.

We always welcome articles for publication. Submit your work to Denzel Amevor, your 2007-2008 Publication Editor.

Upcoming Events

Friday, December 7

Classics Day: Boston University

Wednesday, January 30

Certamen Scrimmage: BLA

May 9 -11

Mass JCL Convention:
Barnstable High School

Monday, June 2

Club Officer Elections

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A Word from our Consul

Salvete omnes! This year is the first year our club is entering the newsletter, website, community service, publicity contests. So far we have entries for all four contests and I hope we can keep up the good work! If you have any questions or concerns, always feel free to come ask any of your officers. Enjoy your dormice, et Io Saturnalia!

We may have lost one sponsor, but we gained many new students. One of those students, Tiffany Dupuis, wrote an article describing our club from a new student's point of view:

Outlook of a new club Member

Hi, I'm new to Abby Kelley this year so obviously that means I'm also new to Latin club. It has been a lot of fun so far. Up to this point we've been on one field trip to Mount Greylock. I've never been to anything like that so it was something new. My favorite part was watching the catapults. Another thing I like about Latin club is I get to talk to and meet people I wouldn't have otherwise. I can't wait for Classics Day. I'm guessing it will be fun also.



Our 2nd vice president was not able to perform her duties so we decided it was time to appoint a new one. The student our sponsor chose to fill the position was Christopher "C.J." Maffris. One of our club members, Nichole Belsito, had a chance to interview C.J. Here's what he had to say:



Meet the new officer

How do you like being an officer?
It's weird. I didn't think I'd be the first choice.

Then, why did you agree to be an officer?
I thought I could do it. It was kind of spur of the moment.

So far, what have you done as an officer?

Shown up to the meetings...

Any interesting facts about yourself which you would like to share with the club?

I don't know any interesting facts about myself. I'm just a boring person, I guess.

Tell us a little more about yourself.

I'm a junior. I play basketball.

What is your motto to live by?

Treat every day as your last. I like to make every day good because if it's your last you could say it was good.

What is your favorite class?

Would be PE, but I don't take that.

How about a class you actually take (and lunch is not acceptable)?

Environmental Science

If you were stranded on a deserted island, what five things would you take with you?

- 1. A machete to cut down wood*
 - 2. I Pod in case I get bored*
 - 3. Food-like a snack*
 - 4. My brother's laptop*
- I need one more? Fine*
- 5. A shoe...Clothes*

What would you name this island?

Muffin Land

Speaking of food, if you were a fruit, what kind would you be?

An apple because I like eating them

How do you feel about the seniors in Latin Club?

I love Nichole and she's awesome.

Any advice you would give to the other Latin Club members?

Get used to my stupidity. That's more of a warning. Probably work together.

Anything else you would like Latin Club to know about you?

I'm happy to be part of the team.

What would you want your final words to be, if you were on your death bed?

I have no regrets.

-Nichole Belsito

He sounds like an interesting person. I'm sure he'll be a great addition to our officers.

On October 20th our Latin club traveled all the way to Williamstown, Massachusetts to compete in Mt. Greylock Regional High School's annual catapult kick off. We were lucky enough to compete in all of the competitions and even come home with some victories. Our secretary, Emily Gallagher, was kind enough to write an article about the events that took place at Mt. Greylock.



A Day in Williamstown

“The entire Latin club piled onto the bus at 7:00 A.M. sharp on the chilly October morning full of excitement for the day ahead. After two long hours of napping, gaming, texting, and socializing we finally arrived at Mt. Greylock High School. After registration we filed into the auditorium for a presentation and then headed to the cafeteria for lunch.



After we had eaten our fill we made our way to the gym for the small scale catapult contest. Abby Kelley was lucky enough to have five teams competing. Those five were “Serpens Sibilans”, “Aspello ad Astra,” “Iris Superbia”, “Odysseus”, and “Fac Me Cochleare Vomere”. “Fac me Cochleare vomere” won 3rd place in both the most creative name contest and the distance contest.

Later, we went to the final event of the day -y the large scale, trebuchet, catapult, and ballista competitions. Originally we planed to just watch this competition but thanks to the last minute feat of our technical engineer, David Arell, we were able to enter this competition

for the first time with “David’s Goliath”. The trebuchet originally wouldn’t fire and when it finally did it sent the 8 pound weight flying backwards. Luckily for us during the final tossing the trebuchet preformed outstandingly and set a remarkable new club record of 2 feet!

After the large scale competition we all assembled in the auditorium and said our good-byes to the new friends we made and loaded back on the bus for another hectic and monster-fueled bus ride.”

• *-Emily Gallagher*

We hope that next year our trebuchet will be one of the top contenders, we will build a ballista, and that one of our catapults will get first place.



As mentioned by Emily one of our catapults, “Fac me Cochleare vomere” won two prizes. “Gag me with a spoon,” its English name, was built by two seventh graders, Lincoln Bois and Andrew Gemme. Our Vice president, Gwendolyn Bois, had the opportunity to sit down with Lincoln and Andrew.

Catapult Kings



Gwendolyn B.-How long did it take you to build your catapult?

“I would say it took about 3 hours to build. We tested it for about a week.”

G.B-What was the funniest moment when you were putting it together?

L.B+A.G- “Before we tested it, we weren’t sure it was going to work. During the first launch, the marshmallow went straight up. But after adjustments, the marshmallow went flying! It went almost 62 feet!”

G.B-What would you do differently if you had a chance?

L.B+A.G- “We would get stronger spoons to allow us to tighten our rope to make the marshmallow go farther.”

G.B-What did you like the least about this project?

L.B+A.G- “The fact that some people in the competition didn’t follow the rules and used things you would never find in medieval times.”

G.B-What did you like the most about this project?

L.B+A.G: “Working with a good friend.”

-Gwendolyn Bois

Congratulations to the two great engineers for their catapult. I hope that you guys win first prize next year.

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The catapult contests weren’t the only events at Mt. Greylock. There were certamen scrimmages, lectures, and a worm race. We had five students competing for our school and one on another team for the Worm Race. One of the racers on our team, Meagan Alcorn, wrote an article describing the race.



A Worm's Eye View

At the catapult kick off, five students from our school entered the worm race. The team consisted of Brittany Strew, Denzel Amevor, Meagan Alcorn, William Debordes-Jackson, and Elena Bourassa. The objective of the race is to cross the finish line while connected to each other. It may sound easy but there are several rules that made the race very challenging. The person in front is only allowed to use his or her legs, the person in back is only allowed to use hands, and the others can't touch the ground with their hands or feet. The team has to be 3 boys and 2 girls or vice versa. We did fairly well for only five minutes of practice. Our team came centimeters away from victory and to add insult to injury the winning team consisted of students from B.L.A. and our own president Zach Hall! Maybe with some luck, practice and our president on OUR side we'll win. He's such a traitor. =]

- The Akfcs Worm Team