

The Journey of Ascanius

Annual Report of Ascanius: The Youth Classics Institute

Ascanius: The Youth Classics Institute

a nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing the knowledge of and inspiring lifelong learning about Latin, Greek, and the ancient Greco-Roman world, especially at the elementary and middle school levels

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Ascanius Goes Home To Rome For Roman Explorations





This past June, Ascanius Executive Director Matthew Webb led eleven elementary and middle school teachers in Ascanius' first Roman Explorations workshop—held on site in Rome! The participants learned about the Latin language, as well as the culture, myth, and history of the Romans. Using *Minimus* as their text, the workshop participants were introduced to the Latin language and toured the ruins of Rome, visiting a variety of ancient sites, including the Colosseum, Ostia, and the Forum Romanum. Throughout the course of this seven day workshop, the participants followed the tale of Minimus and learned how the Latin language and Roman



culture has influenced the English language and Western culture. The objective of this new workshop is simple: to provide teachers of subjects other than Latin the resources and skills to incorporate Latin into their classes. The participants went home with a plethora of materials ready for use in their own classrooms.

Classical Promise Scholarship Recipient Brings Latin to Virginia Beach By Jackson Skeen, a senior at Cape Henry Collegiate School in Virginia Beach

Over the course of the four weeks I conducted my after school Latin program, I was able to share my knowledge of and love of Latin with a group of enthusiastic 1st through 5th graders at Cape Henry Collegiate School. During the program, I taught them how to introduce themselves in Latin and engage in basic Latin conversations, created unique Latin names for them, discussed the use of bullas and masks in Roman times, and broadened their knowledge of Roman mythological gods, heroes, and monsters. We then applied this knowledge through various interactive art projects. We

made mosaics composed of paper, Roman theatrical masks, our very own bullas, togas, as well as

wreaths for our heads. We also played Roman bingo, in which we learned more about mythological figures through a modern and fun competition. On our final day, we wore our togas and wreaths and had a Roman feast. I was pleasantly surprised at how receptive and eager the students were to actively engage in all aspects of the program, from speaking Latin to making mosaics to shouting out answers in a game of Roman bingo.

The Classical Promise Scholarship is available to high school and college students wishing to provide Latin to elementary students. For more information, visit ascaniusyci.org/scholarships.htm





Salvete: Boston! Ascanius Creates Latin Enrichment Course

This fall, students in grades 5-8 could enroll in a Latin enrichment course in the Boston area. The ultimate goal of the after school course is to introduce students to the Latin language and culture, providing the equivalent of roughly half a year of high school level Latin. Because the pacing of Latin varies so greatly between schools, there is no guarantee that enrollment in the course will automatically place the students in a higher Latin class upon completion of Salvete. This class is a unique opportunity for students to get a head start on Latin for when they get to middle school / high school, or provide an opportunity for students to study Latin in the case that their regular school does not offer it. Homeschool students are also welcome to attend.

The textbook used is the Cambridge Latin Course Unit 1. A variety of educational activities are being used in this enrichment course, and the small course size ensures that the certified Latin instructor is able to provide the individualized attention to each student







Roman Explorers Takes On Memphis

Roman Explorers Memphis was held June 27th on the campus of the University of Memphis, continuing an annual tradition of hosting the program free of charge in conjunction with the American Classical League Institute. Twenty nine students from the Memphis area joined Ascanius Board Members Kristen Bortner and Suzanne Henrich as they spent the morning exploring the ancient Roman world. Students learned about Roman roads and mosaics (by making their own edible versions!), Roman cuisine, Roman clothing, and an introduction to the Latin language. The 2013-14 school year will see at least a few more Roman Explorers workshops for elementary students at a variety of sites.





I Came, I Saw, I Clicked!

Ascanius Board Member Kristen Bortner presented the technology workshop "I Came, I Saw, I Clicked" at Franklin High School, New Jersey, on October 11, and at Lake Forest School District 67 in Lake Forest, Illinois on November 22. Latin teachers from across both regions made the journey to learn about technology in the Latin classroom. The Classical Association of the Atlantic States

helped to make the New Jersey workshop possible. If you missed out, don't worry: this popular workshop is also headed to the web in the Spring of 2014 as a series of webinars!





LatinSummer Stays East ... And Goes West!

During the summer of 2013, Ascanius operated four LatinSummer sites: Williamsburg, UMass, Charleston, and the first LatinSummer west of the Mississippi — St. Louis! Not only was this year's LatinSummer the first year a site west of the Mississippi was chosen, but it was also the first year for the introduction of the finalized and improved Latin Immersion curriculum, used at the St. Louis site. The new curriculum was created by the Ascanius Board over a period of several years, and its creation allowed the sixth and seventh grade students the opportunity to learn Latin via the immersion method. A number of Latin-only videos were created and utilized for this new curriculum — and starred a number of the Ascanius Board Members as characters in a series about a Roman family.







From left: Latin-Summer St. Louis on the corner of the Appian Way and Cooperative Blvd; LatinSummer Williamsburg faculty; and a penguin in a toga.

Publications Update:

Alpha is for Anthropos is now available at www.ascaniusyci.org, along with a coloring book and teacher's guide (and songs!).



άθάνατος ή ψυχή. άθάνατος ή ψυχή. άθάνατος ή ψυχή. ή ψυχή οὐκ ἀποθνήσκει

> The soul is immortal. The soul is immortal. The soul is immortal. The soul does not die.



By Therese Sellers; illustrations by Lucy Bell Jarka-Sellers. An alphabet book in Ancient Greek with an original Greek nursery rhyme for each letter of the Greek alphabet. Exquisite and playful illustrations in the style of Greek red-figure vase paintings complement the verses. Alpha is for Anthropos is a joyous introduction to Ancient Greek and the art and iconography of vase painting.

Iota Magazine Subscriptions Now Available

Iota is a Classics magazine for young children. It aims to introduce Classics and Latin in a fun, informative and engaging way, and its content is designed and written to fit in with curricula on the ancient Greeks and Romans. The three issues (Oct., Feb. and May) will delight younger students! e-Versions also available!



SCRIBO International Latin Composition Contest Deadline Soon!

Be sure to register by Dec. 1, 2013, for the SCRIBO



contest. Students can submit original Latin stories, comics, poetry, and other forms of creative writing for the chance of winning medals and their work being published! For more information, visit ascaniusyci.org/scribo



LET'S LEARN LATIN WORKSHOP INSPIRES TEACHERS

BY KELLY WORKMAN, ELEMENTARY GIFTED TEACHER AT WARRENSBURG (MO) R-VI SCHOOL DISTRICT

I attended the Let's Learn Latin! workshop in Chesterfield, MO, in July of 2013. Kristen Bortner was the teacher. My main goal was to find a unique way to increase my students' vocabulary (even more than it already was since I teach gifted students), and learning Latin seemed like a logical and fun answer to this challenge.

Now, I am starting Latin with my third and fourth grade elementary gifted students. I have three third/fourth grade classes that meet once a week in a pull-out program for half a day each. My students and their parents are very excited about this opportunity to learn, as am I! I am using the Ascanius Vols. 1-5 of Latin lessons as well as Minimus and lessons we learned about in the workshop. I look forward to doing much more of the material that I learned at the Ascanius workshop!

I had been looking at teaching my students Latin and this seemed like the perfect opportunity to learn first-hand about teaching Latin. I was so much more comfortable having spent a day learning about it and hearing it rather than just reading lessons and wondering if I was saying words correctly. Kristen gave us so many ideas, and I also purchased materials from Ascanius and it is all I use for our Latin units. The lessons are great and Kristen gave me so many ideas!

Interested in a "Let's Learn Latin" Workshop?

New York City (February 2014)

Williamsburg, Virginia (June 2014) with the American Classical League
Boston, Massachusetts (Summer 2014)

Latin for the Whole Child

On October 25, twenty ES/MS teachers of the gifted learned how Latin can be used to educate the "whole child" at Ascanius Board Member Suzanne Henrich's presentation to the New England Conference on Talent Development & Gifted Education in Portland, Maine! Several attendees informed Suzanne that they plan to incorporate Latin into their gifted programs - at least one of whom said IMMEDIATELY!



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Ascanius events and happenings!



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Beginning in the 2013-2014 school year, you can become a member and support the programs of Ascanius. Members will receive exclusive content including full lessons and activities and exclusive access to the members-only section of the Ascanius website, free educational materials, as well as a 10 percent discount on all publications, workshop and program registrations, and contest fees!

Read more and become a member today by visiting the membership page at www.ascaniusyci.org. Cost is just \$25 per year!

Thank you to our 2012 Donors!

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Matthew Webb and Suzanne Henrich, and Darin Williams





Ascanius greatly appreciates your support of its programs, including those detailed in this *Iter Ascanii*. Your donations have helped fund Roman Explorers, Classical Promise Scholarships, teacher workshops, LatinSummer, and more. With continued support, we are able to bring Latin and the Classics alive to elementary and middle school students.

multās grātiās, amīcī!