



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

Address:

P.O. Box 320536
Boston, MA 02132

Fax:

(413) 502-3619

Phone:

(617) 902-0753

Web:

www.ascaniusyci.org

Email:

info@ascaniusyci.org



Visit Ascanius on FB: find out the latest Ascanius news, view recent photos, connect with friends, and even enter publication giveaways!

Board of Directors:

Kristen B. Bortner

*Director of Marketing & Development
Cranberry Twp., PA*

S. Douglas Bunch

*Legal Specialist
Washington, DC*

S. Suzanne Henrich

*Conference Specialist
Milton, MA*

Kevin S. Jefferson

*Director of Student Programs
Sterling, VA*

Irene Morrison-Moncore

*Assistant Director of Student Programs
New York, NY*

Matthew D. Webb

*Executive Director
Director of Teacher Programs
Milton, MA*

Bryan Whitchurch

*Oral Latin Specialist
Harlem, NY*

Summer 2014 Program Recap: LatinSummer All Over the Globe!



Above: The LatinSummer Rome students, parents, and instructors visit St. Peter's Square.

For the first time ever, Ascanius hosted a student program in Rome! **LatinSummer Rome** took place in July 2014 and involved not only middle school students, but their parents as well. As the participants explored each Roman site, they also learned Latin through modern, engaging techniques. The group was led by two very knowledgeable and enthusiastic instructors, Ms. Skye Shirley and Mr. Gregory Stringer. The program left a lasting impression on the students and their parents. As one parent said, "It greatly exceeded all my expectations."

This past summer, over 100 students from **Birmingham AL, Boston MA, and Northern VA**, continued the tradition of our LatinSummer programs, a tradition which is now in its fourteenth year! At LatinSummer, students spend two weeks learning about the language, culture, and mythology of the ancient Romans.

LatinSummer Birmingham was held at Samford University. This was the second time that LatinSummer has come to Birmingham; the program was first held there in 2012. An enthusiastic team of high school and college students introduced the joys of Latin and the Classics to 44 students in grades 1-7.

Returning for its second year, **LatinSummer Boston** was hosted at The Brimmer and May School in Chestnut Hill. Led by a dedicated faculty of local high school students

(continued on page 2)



Above: Students at LatinSummer Boston dress up as Romans.



ITER ASCANII

and a special immersion instructor, 23 students in grades 1-7 traveled back in time to bring the past alive, some returning to the program for the second time!

LatinSummer Northern Virginia was held at Dominion High School in Sterling, Virginia. This program was conducted by a faculty and staff made up of high school Latin students and Latin teachers. They shared their enthusiasm for Latin and ancient Rome with 48 students in grades 1-7 over the course of the two-week program.

Continuing in our dedication to accessibility, this year also witnessed updates to our three-tiered system of registration, offering a pay-what-you-can option for families who qualify for free or reduced lunch. These rates are supported in part by our generous donors.



LatinSummer Birmingham students pose with their giant bird mosaic.



LatinSummer Boston students construct a Roman road out of candy.



LatinSummer Northern VA students learn the geography of Italy by decorating cookies.



LatinSummer Northern VA students show off their Roman clothing.



Roman Explorers

Roman Explorers programs build partnerships between Ascanius and local schools across the country. In 2014, **Roman Explorers Harrisonburg (VA)** and **Roman Explorers St. Louis (MO)** continued to ignite a love of Latin in students from local elementary schools through fun and interactive workshops on mythology, etymology and even the Greek alphabet. RE Harrisonburg was organized in collaboration with Gail Collins, Advanced Learning Supervisor of Harrisonburg City Public Schools in order to offer this unique opportunity to 24 both gifted and underrepresented students for four hours on a Saturday morning. The Harrisonburg program was supported by Excellence Through Classics. Thank you for helping us bring a love of Classics to these young students!



Kevin Jefferson leads Harrisonburg students in a kinesthetic activity.



Students construct edible mosaics.



eTogaTrek  **ASCANIUS**
The Youth Classics Institute

eTogaTrek: Take a Trip Back in Time to Ancient Rome!

Introducing eToga Trek, a new video series about Ancient Rome! In Fall 2014, Ascanius unveiled this new video series, which gives students the opportunity to participate in a hands-on activity and to respond to the information presented. Five videos will be made available to students, parents, and teachers at no charge throughout the school year. We are excited to share the world of Ancient Rome with students all across the globe!

- **Episode 1:** Families and Bullas (October 21, 2014)
- **Episode 2:** Clothing (December 1, 2014)
- **Episode 3:** Greek & Roman Architecture (January 26, 2015)
- **Episode 4:** Mosaics (May 15, 2015)
- **Episode 5:** Games and Knucklebones (June 1, 2015)

To access the eToga Trek videos, visit:

<http://ascaniusvci.org/etogatrek/>



Thank you to our volunteers!

Many friends of Ascanius may recall our call-for-volunteers last summer. As a result, we now have 42 individuals serving on several committees and giving their time and energy to help us bring the Greco-Roman world to children. These volunteers have made it possible for Ascanius to continue its mission within a new organizational structure. Thank you to our amazing volunteers!

We especially appreciate the dedication of our committee chairs, specialists, and consultants listed below:

Student Outreach	Tim Lesinski, RJ Parsons, Brad Savage	LatinSummer Online	Irene Morrison-Moncure
eToga Trek	Grace deMajewski, Kevin Jefferson	Scholarships	Caitlin Campbell
Teacher Programs	Matthew Webb	Publications	Nadia Ghosheh
SCRIBO Contest	Kathryn Albee	Legal Specialist	S. Douglas Bunch
Marketing & Development	Kristen Bortner	Presentations Specialist	S. Suzanne Henrich
Technology & Social Media	Kevin Jefferson	Logistics Committee	Matthew Katsenes
Elementary School Consultants	Will Gibson, Kelly Workman	Executive Director	Matthew Webb



Classical Promise Scholar Report

by Cynthia Cheng

This past fall term, I conducted a Latin program at a local elementary school for kids from 1st to 4th grade. I wanted to initiate this program because I consider it important for young kids who don't have access to the Greek and Roman world to be exposed to it regardless, because they are the foundations of important Western culture and literature today. Two classes were held every week for an hour, and we learned everything from Latin sayings to the structure of Roman houses to classic myths. During classes, hands-on activities and myths were definitely the favorites. Among the many different projects, making bullae (Roman pouches worn around kids' necks) and Roman Roads were the most fun, because we worked with many different materials, including candy and special charms brought from home. I brought in actual coins for the class to study and to put in their bullae as well. We explored all parts of Roman life – leisurely bath houses, games that were played by kids, and religious worship of the gods. Using the grant from the scholarship, I was able gather books and supplies for the kids to use in learning about these aspects of Roman culture. Every class, there were new Latin phrases introduced and applied throughout the whole class. This way, the students were able to recognize and reproduce basic Latin phrases. Besides these, we learned names of foods, places, animals, and numbers to find the connections between English and Latin. Realizing the etymology of lots of common English words was something that the students wondered at, and it was then that they appreciated Latin and the Roman world. The kids' excitement at the hands-on projects and enthusiasm upon coming into class made this program worth it, and I will definitely continue this program next year.



Cynthia Cheng is a junior at the Groton School in Groton, Massachusetts.



Classical Promise Scholar Report

Trenton Students Live Latin for One Week
by Brandon Medina

For one week in July, I was a virtual tour guide to ancient Rome for 11 urban 5th-8th grade students who had never been formally exposed to Latin. I used my Classical Promise Scholarship to fund a project at a summer enrichment program run by the Young Scholars' Institute ("YSI") in Trenton, New Jersey. The purpose of my project was to introduce students, who would not ordinarily have the opportunity, to the culture and language of the ancient Romans. Over the course of the week, I, along with my friend Sammy Bhatia, introduced my students to the basics of the Latin language, told them stories from Roman mythology, and taught them about Roman art, culture and food. We taught one-hour classes over five consecutive days, and the students enjoyed themselves so much that the directors of YSI have asked me to come back next summer.



On Monday, I taught the students basic Latin phrases that they used to engage in conversation. Each student selected a Latin name and then created and decorated a bulla (a Roman name tag), using markers and colorful stickers that illustrated their interests and hobbies. On Tuesday, I introduced them to the primary Roman gods and read them the story of Echo and Narcissus. After I finished the story, one student pretended to be a reporter and interviewed other students who played the roles of Echo, Narcissus, Jupiter and other characters in the story. On Wednesday, I gave them examples of how the Latin language appears in everyday life. We examined the seals of Maryland and New Jersey and talked about the influence that Roman mythology played in the naming of the 9 planets. The students were especially enthusiastic when we engaged in an activity called "The Tenth Planet", in which they pretended to discover a new planet in the Solar System and named after a Roman god. Thursday was very special because we discussed Roman art and food. For their first activity, the students had the chance to create their own mosaics using graham crackers, vanilla icing, and Fruit Loops. Next, we had a huge Roman banquet with such foods as breads, cheeses, olives, grape juice, apples, pears, figs and dried apricots. The week culminated on Friday when I presented them with personalized tee shirts for our "Living Latin" week and we went on a field trip to the Princeton University Art Museum. At the museum, a docent used the week's curriculum to take the students on a tour of Roman and Greek sculptures, frescoes, mosaics and other artifacts.

Brandon Medina is a senior at the Lawrenceville School in Lawrenceville, New Jersey.

Do YOU know a high school or college student who would like to share Latin with younger students?

If so, please encourage this student to apply for a Classical Promise Scholarship! Scholarships are available to any high school or college student who wishes to create or maintain a Latin/Classical Studies program in partnership with an elementary school. Students may apply at any time, but preference will be given to early applicants. Funds are available in amounts ranging from \$50 to \$200 and must be used to purchase materials and other items related to the program.

For more information, visit: ascaniusyci.org/scholarships.htm



Let's Learn Latin Workshops

This past summer, elementary and middle school teachers across the country were introduced to Latin and the world of the ancient Romans. These one-day *Let's Learn Latin* workshops took place in **New York City, Kansas City, Williamsburg (VA), and Boston**. The workshop participants, most of whom had no previous experience with Latin, played the role of students, learning Latin with the same activities and lessons that they could later use with their own students! Teachers left eager to implement Latin in their own classes. The excitement for *Let's Learn Latin* continues, as the most recent workshop took place in **March 2015 in Boulder, Colorado**.

The Kansas City workshop was supported by the Gifted Association of Missouri. The Boulder workshop was supported by the Classical Association of the Middle West and South. Thank you for helping to make these workshops possible!



Let's Learn Latin Kansas City



The 2014 SCRIBO Composition Contest had over 130 entries from all over the country this year! The judges have enjoyed reviewing the wonderful work submitted by talented and creative Latin students. SCRIBO is always looking for interested, qualified judges; if you are interested, please contact Kathryn Albee, SCRIBO Contest Steering Committee Chair, at kalbee@westoverschool.org.

Be sure to check out our Facebook page and visit our Twitter page (@AscaniusYCI) for the latest in Ascanius events and happenings!



Support Ascanius by Becoming a Member

This is a perfect opportunity for **teachers** of all levels, **parents** who would like to help their children further explore the ancient world at home, and **lovers of Latin** of all backgrounds. You can receive great benefits and help support our student programs at the same time!

The Ascanius membership year runs from September 2014 to August 2015. Members receive:

- “The Shooting Star,” a bi-monthly e-newsletter featuring **full lesson and activity ideas**
- Access to a **Members-Only section** of our website, including free lesson and activity ideas
- 10% discount on **publications**
- 10% discount on **workshop registrations**
- 10% discount on **SCRIBO Contest registrations**
- Free e-book of **SCRIBO: Young Latin Authors**

Membership costs only **\$25**. Join today at www.ascaniusyci.org/members and receive immediate access to the benefits!



Thank you to our 2014 Donors!

Gregory Alvarez, Annmarie Barone, David and Susan Boose, Kristen and Ryan Bortner, Elizabeth Brady, Mary Bristow, Allyson Bunch, Doug Bunch, Patrick Burns, Julia Byers, Melissa Cannata, Howard Chang, Ronnie Coffey, Chris Condrad, Dan Cummings, Jessica Day, Lillian Doherty, Elizabeth Dowling, Mary Deborah Draper, Jian Fu, Shannon Fuller, Trudo Gallo, William Gibson, Massimiliano Gioia, George Gowen, Ms. Grabowski, Deborah Hamilton, Pam Harper, Beth and Donald Henrich, Sabrina Hoffmeyer, Danielle Huebner, Kevin Jefferson, Julian Ward Jones, Jr., Ed Joyce, Kevin Kelleher, Pam Koleszar, Ariel Landvick, Gilbert W. Lawall, Mary Joan Masello, John McAlonan, Irene Morrison-Moncure, Thomas P. Moss, Richard Popeck, Colleen Power, Teresa Ramsby, Kathleen Reardon, Robert Scheid, The Virginia Junior Classical League, Allen M. Ward, Jr., Margaret Wargo, Maria Webb (in honor of Elizabeth von Wellsheim Dowling), Matthew Webb and Sarah Suzanne Henrich, Bryan Whitchurch, Kathy Wilkins, and Amy Worth.



Thanks to your generous support, programs such as Roman Explorers, LatinSummer, and Let's Learn Latin have reached countless students and teachers across the country. With your continued support, we are able to make Latin and Classics come to life for even more individuals.

Multās grātiās vōbīs agimus!