



ITER ASCANII

The Journey of Ascanius

Annual Report of Ascanius: The Youth Classics Institute Fall/Winter 2009

Ascanius:
The Youth Classics
Institute
a nonprofit
organization dedicated
to advancing
knowledge of the
ancient Greco-Roman
world on the
elementary and
middle school levels

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LatinSummer Williamsburg

Over seventy students in grades one through seven attended **LatinSummer Williamsburg** from July 27 to August 7, 2009, in Williamsburg, Virginia. Classes were taught by high school and college students from across the nation. Among other things, students eagerly learned Latin words and phrases and went home each day excited to share them with their families. They constructed a cardboard model of Pompeii and then watched as an erupting volcano cake sizzled nearby! They wrote Greek letters in sand, played Risk on a colossal 10' by 13' map of the Roman Empire, and even created their own frescoes and mosaics! The two weeks concluded with a special closing ceremony. Students acted out myths from Ovid's *Metamorphoses*, and they participated in a fashion show featuring not only tunics and togas, but also a pair of authentically reproduced Roman sandals! The program was a huge success among both students and parents. When asked if they would recommend LatinSummer to a friend, the most common student response was, "Yes, because it is fun!!!"

Summer 2009 Workshops

This past summer was an eventful one for *Ascanius*. In June, **LatinSummer Los Angeles** introduced students living near Loyola University to the joys of the Classics. This year is the eighth year that *Ascanius* has brought a day of Latin fun to students living near the location of the American Classical League Institute. A second summer workshop, **LatinSummer Newport News**, took place in July in urban Newport News, Virginia. Over thirty elementary students participated.



A Roman banquet in Newport News

The Faculty Perspective

Most classes at LatinSummer were planned and taught by high school and college students. During the two weeks, the faculty functioned as a team, working together, eating meals together, and staying together in Williamsburg. Here are their thoughts about the experience:

Being a LatinSummer faculty member was amazing...To see the kids at the end say, "I learned so much! I love Classics! I want to take Latin when I get to middle school!" - That was so rewarding.

-Lena Barsky, Yorktown High School, VA

If you think that you can make a Roman road from Fig Newtons and mini-marshmallows, possibly participate in an impromptu fashion show, and begin each day with, "Salvete, omnes," apply to LatinSummer! It will probably be the most fun job you could ever hope for.

-Molly Kriva, Northwestern University, IL

Please visit the *Ascanius* website to learn more and to view two videos of faculty discussing their experience.



CLASSICAL PROMISE SCHOLAR'S REPORT:

This past year, from October to December, I continued teaching the introductory Latin enrichment program instated last year for the 5th grade students of Elizabeth Mellick Baker Elementary School in Great Neck, New York. The program was designed to introduce these students to the Latin language, as well as to the culture of those who spoke it. It was an eight-week course that covered the first declension of both nouns and adjectives, the present tense of the first verb conjugation, and Roman numerals. The program also included basic Latin syntax and grammar, as well as simple sentence composition and translation. Students explored Roman and Greek mythology, focusing especially on the Twelve Labors of Hercules. In addition, students were also introduced to the Roman Forum, the Roman household and lifestyle, Roman dining, education and the Circus Maximus.

This course was very successful in its second year and will be around for many more years to come. I noticed how excited the students were to stay after school and attend the class, and I know they all had a very positive experience. Many of those students who participated in the enrichment program are looking forward to pursuing Latin further in the middle school. I am very thankful for Ascanius: The Youth Classics Institute's support in making this program possible and allowing young students to enjoy the Latin language and the ancient Greco-Roman world.

-Brian Miranda

At right: Students at Elizabeth Mellick Baker Elementary participate in a Roman trivia activity.



**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR
NEWEST CLASSICAL PROMISE
SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS!**

**Brandon Shih,
Great Neck High School, NY
Latin IV & V Classes,
Moultonborough Academy, NH**

Look for their reports next year!

STUDENTS: We are currently accepting Classical Promise applications. Visit our website for details!



ARS GRATIA ARTIS: WORKSHOP FOR TEACHERS 2009

This summer in Williamsburg, over thirty teachers participated in the Institute's free, three-day workshop, *Ars Gratia Artis* (Art for Art's Sake). Teachers from a variety of backgrounds, ranging from elementary art to high school Latin, attended. They experienced hands-on and edible ways of teaching about Greco-Roman art and architecture, explored the use of ancient coins in the classroom, and discovered connections between ancient art and our modern world. Each day, teachers also had an opportunity to observe the LatinSummer classes and see these activities in action. Here is what participants had to say about the experience:



- *I was definitely inspired to teach more Greek and Roman history.*
- *All of the presentations were excellent...I plan on using some of the hands-on activities in the classroom.*
- *I enjoyed coming and learning a bit about Latin, as well as Greek and Roman architecture.*
- *Thank you. All our eight participants agreed that it was a very enjoyable workshop.*

Below: *Ars Gratia Artis* participants build a candy model of a Greek temple.



ASCANIUS PRESENTATION AT ACL INSTITUTE

This past June, Ascanius board member Suzanne Henrich presented at the American Classical League Institute in Los Angeles. Her presentation, *Mythology Activities for the Elementary School Classroom*, introduced teachers to hands-on activities from *Ascanius* publications and programs. Ms. Henrich shared ideas for mythological activities that can easily be adapted for various grade levels. Here are some comments from attendees:

- *Really liked the pottery projects -- excellent way to combine info with mythology.*
- *Very entertaining and informative. Activities could be honed for younger or older students. OPTIME!*
- *Great ideas for activities that can be quickly and easily done. Thank you!*



ITER ASCANIUS

ASCANIUS IS TURNING 10 YEARS OLD!

Here is a preview of our plans for celebrating our first decade:

10th ANNIVERSARY TEE-SHIRT

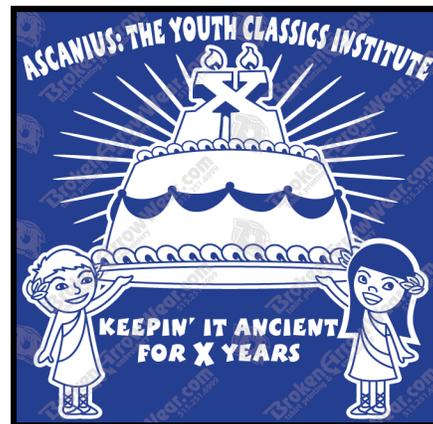
We are excited to offer a one-time-only 10th Anniversary tee-shirt, pictured at right. Proceeds will benefit *Ascanius* programs and scholarships. Here are the details:

Color: Blue

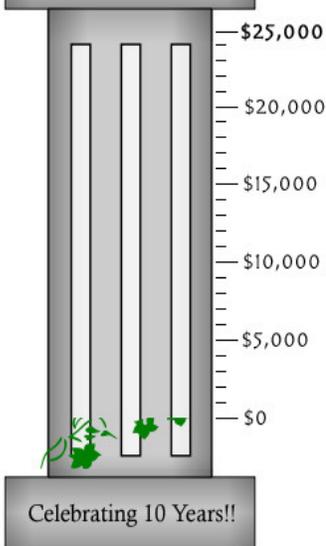
Cost: \$15.00

Order Deadline: April 1, 2010

How to order: From our website, use the Paypal link, or print the order form and mail with a check. Shirts will be shipped in early April.



ASCANIUS



eTOGA TREK

Students - Get ready to participate in *Ascanius* activities from your own home! Tune in to our eToga Trek webcast event next fall. Look for details in the fall 2010 issue of *Iter Ascanius*!

FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

We want to ensure that *Ascanius* can continue its mission for years to come. This year, we hope to raise **\$25,000** from donors to permanently support our outreach programs and scholarships. Please help us to achieve this goal by using the pledge form below or donating via our website.

STUDENT TRAINING AT NJCL

We'll travel to the National Junior Classical League Convention this summer to train high school students to conduct elementary programs.

10-YEAR MAGNET COLLECTION

We're unveiling ten magnets that take a look back at favorite activities over the years. Each features student artwork from a particular year. They can be viewed and purchased, individually, on our website.

PUBLICATIONS: ANNIVERSARY EDITIONS

We are pleased to announce the tenth anniversary editions of our student activity guides, "Activitates Pro Liberis," now organized into separate volumes by theme. These updated books include new lessons and activities in addition to the fully revised originals. To order, please visit our website.

Thank you to our 2009 donors: Kristen and Ryan Bortner, Doug Bunch, Steve and Beth Bunch, Sally Davis, Stuart Davis-Foxworth and Jeff Foxworth, Elizabeth Dowling (in honor of Matthew Webb), Suzanne Henrich and Matthew Webb, Mary Howell, Kevin Jefferson, Stephen and Jessica Ng (in honor of Hannah Marie Ng), Richard Popeck, Maria Webb (in honor of Matthew Webb), and Bryan Whitchurch.

PLEDGE FORM

Please detach and mail to: **Ascanius: The Youth Classics Institute**
P.O. Box 188
Alton Bay, NH 03810

You can also donate online at our website.

We are a 501(c)(3) public charity. All donations are tax-deductible. Receipts will be sent. Please check the level at which you wish to give.

PLEDGE LEVEL

- Venus
- Anchises
- Aeneas
- Ascanius
- Julius Caesar
- Augustus
- Other

AMOUNT

- \$25
- \$50
- \$100
- \$250
- \$500
- \$1000

Donors will receive a magnet featuring student artwork from **LatinSummer 2009.**



Name _____ My donation is in honor of _____

Address _____ Phone _____

Email _____



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Inside:

- **Ascanius* celebrates its 10th birthday in 2010!
- *News and pictures from LatinSummer 2009 programs
- *Find out what it's like to be a LatinSummer faculty member!
- *Classical Promise Scholar report and awards
- *Learn how you can support *Ascanius* as it continues to grow!

