Happy Holidays and Io Saturnalia! Today at Linganore High School, we are celebrating Saturnalia, and as the Romans looked forward to the reversing of masters and slaves, we can look forward to the Teacher Certamen as well as our own! Have fun!

The Photo of the Month!
Congratulations to Belle Harmeson, a senior from Dulaney High School, with her photo of the decoration committee and their work for the “Dulanium” Roman festival.
Salvete amici! It's your MDJCL prez, wishing everyone a happy holiday season! Since everyone is off from school for a while, that gives you plenty of time to start preparing for State Convention! December’s focus is the art contests. Are you artsy? Do you like painting, drawing or sculpting? Then you should definitely create your very own masterpiece for States! Then, in January, you can focus on the catapult contest. This year, we decided to bring it back, so if you love firing projectiles at targets (the real question is, who doesn't?), then catapult-building is right up your alley, so check out the rules for the contest in this edition of the Torch! I hope everyone enjoys their winter breaks, I know I will! Amo vos 😊

- Ella Joshi
CATAPULT CONTEST

The Romans used launching devices to conquer their enemies. Now it's your turn to make a launching device to take home the prize!

There are 3 competitions:

**CATAPULT**

- The competition is based on strength.
- Strength judged by projectile distance through a cardboard brick wall.
  - If there is a tie, the catapults will be tested a second time.
  1. Projectile: 2 inch diameter ball of modeling clay. 100 grams
  2. Cardboard bricks made into a wall of 5 ft. Bricks have dimensions: 9 by 4 by 2.5 inches.
     a. Wall will be 2 yards from the front of the catapult

**TREBUCHET**

- The competition is based on distance.
- Distance judged by the distance from the front of the trebuchet to the projectile's resting position. Measured to the nearest foot.
- If there is a tie, the trebuchets will be tested a second time.
- Maximum distance:
  1. Projectile: 2 inch diameter ball of modeling clay. 100 grams

**BALLISTA**

- Competitions based on accuracy.
- Three rounds of testing will determine the most accurate launcher.
- In each round, a cardboard Roman soldier will hold a shield with a bull's eye four feet above the ground.
  - Rounds:
    1. The cutout will be 3 yards from the front of the ballista
    2. The cutout will be 6 yards from the front of the ballista
    3. The cutout will be 9 yards from the front of the ballista
- Remember, a ballista IS NOT a crossbow. Please stick to the principles of a ballista, as any crossbow-like entries will be disqualified.
- The projectile will be a basic Sharpie with the cap OFF to leave a marking on the target. Each entry will have a different color.

**AESTHETIC JUDGING**

All entries will be judged on visual appeal in the same competition using a point system (1 to 5, 5 being the best) on the following categories:

- Quality of Paint
- Quality of Structure
- Creativeness in the display of the launcher's name

CONTACT US!
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We want YOU in the Torch!

Did you know that YOU can submit stories to the Torch? If you have any Classical stories to share, jokes, comics, or something interesting to say in general, email our editor at williamzhao417@gmail.com!

T-Shirt Design Contest

Got an idea for a cool shirt? You can design the MDJCL State T-Shirt! Send your design to ikunz@tcps.k12.md.us by January 14, 2017 to enter the contest!

This year’s shirt theme is:
“Omnis ars naturae imitatio est.”

Dates

MDJCL Spelling Bee: January 14 (Loyola Blakefield)

Ientaculum Certamen: February 11 (Dulaney)

State Convention: April 1-2 (Easton)

Information

Website: www.mdjcl.org

Twitter: @MDJCL

Facebook: Maryland Junior Classical League