Welcome to the Torch!

A Note from the Editor

Salvete omnes! This is the first Torch this year! I am so excited to bring these wonderful publications to you, full of fun reads and info! This is my first time on the NCJCL Board. Keep reading to learn about JCL in North Carolina!

- Shahzad Singh
  Shahzad Singh
  NCJCL Torch Editor

In This Edition:

1-4: Board Spotlight
5: Fall Forum
6: NCJCL at Nationals
7-8: Q&A With NJCL President
9: Word Search
10: Picture Submissions
Meet the NCJCL Officers!

President - Iris Henry

Salvete, amici! My name is Iris Henry and I am president of NCJCL. I have been in JCL since the 7th grade, and love the friendly competitions and community that it fosters. I adore playing certamen, creating classical art, and learning all the niche history facts that come up when studying the classics. JCL has been an integral part in my life for so long, and I have been a part of 3 different chapters: Lakewood, Riverside, and now North Carolina School of Science and Math. My favorite character from Ecce Romani has to be Uncle Titus or Sextus, no offense to Cambridge Latin, but it is definitely the inferior Latin textbook (feel free to argue about that, though.) But I do not just love Latin, outside of that I play piano and guitar, listen to music, play chess, run, and explore fun Math topics. Feel free to say hello if you see me around!

1st Vice President - Nick Smemoe (Age 6 in picture)

Hi I'm Nick Smemoe and I am the 1st Vice President of the NCJCL board. I am also the consul of my school's JCL Chapter. I love studying about Greek and Roman history, especially Nero, and I love reading books in their original Latin. My hobbies are tennis, piano, and chess.
Salvete! My name is Charles Miller, and I am your NCJCL second Vice President. My favorite hobbies are hiking, writing, trivia, travel, and, of course, anything classics related. I am serving on the board for my third year, and am looking forward to helping make this year of NCJCL great!

Parliamentarian - Eithan Ackerman

Salvete omnes! I am Eithan Ackerman, your 2022/2023 NCJCL Parliamentarian. I'm one of the members on the board this year representing Thales Academy, Apex. I am looking forward to a great year in office and making sure that state convention and fall forum are the best ones yet.
Communications Coordinator - Emily Rillie

Salve! I am Emily Rillie, and I am a senior at Thales Academy Apex High School. I have a twin sister named Jessica and a dog named Roscoe. This is my third year in JCL, and I am so excited to be your Communications Coordinator this year.

My favorite part of JCL is playing Certamen, and I especially like questions about Latin, Latin literature, and Roman history. One fun fact about me is that I have been taking Latin for 7 years. I hope this is the best JCL year ever!

Torch Editor - Shahzad Singh

Salvete! I am Shahzad Singh, and I am your Torch Editor. As Torch Editor, I will make fun and insightful Torches to read, and keep you updated with the latest information on the Torch. I find interest in the societies of Ancient Greece and Rome and I love video games, books, and movies.
Hello, I'm Caleb Chapman and this is my first year on the NCJCL Board. As the Historian for this year I am looking forward to creating a great state scrapbook and working with the other members of the board to create a wonderful experience for the chapters of the North Carolina JCL.

His name is James.
FALL FORUM

When: October 29, 2022

Where: University of North Carolina Greensboro

Theme: Caelum, non animum, mutant qui trans mare currunt.

"They who rush across the sea change their sky, not their soul."
North Carolina went to the National Convention in Lafayette, Louisiana this year!

Thales Academy Apex JH/HS, Thales Academy Rolesville JH/HS, and North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics were represented at National Convention by the students.

2nd place overall in T-Shirt (1st in best use of theme)
Good performance in Spirit
Why did you decide to run for NJCL President?

I've noticed that the NJCL has a communication problem. I know that a lot of things are happening within the boards and committees, but we aren't good at sharing that with the rest of the delegation, so I ran to try to remedy this ongoing issue. On top of that, being an openly gay guy, I hope that other queer JCLers can see someone like themselves represented on the national level. I know that seeing someone like me would have made a huge impact on me when I was younger, so I want to be a reason other JCLers feel comfortable being themselves and trying new things.

How was being on the NCJCL board different from now being the president of NJCL?

I'm finally not the youngest on the board anymore! I started off in NCJCL as the middle school representative, so I knew all too well what it was like to be the youngest. In the rest of my time in NCJCL, I was still on the younger side, essentially being only older than the middle school rep. When I got elected into national office, it started all over again. I was a Sophomore on a board of Juniors and Seniors, and then a Junior on a board of Seniors. Now, I am FINALLY the same age as everyone else, so it is a nice change of pace to be one of the oldest on the board with the most power. In terms of workload, my duties have more than quadrupled. My responsibilities on the NCJCL board were primarily focused on things at meetings, but in NJCL, I have duties that I have both in and outside of our meetings at all times.
What do you plan to do for NJCL as President?

I've mentioned that I want to work on our communication before, but I really feel that transparency is such an important thing to have in an organization this large. I want to make sure that all information is communicated effectively to everyone, whether that's through Instagram posts, state and local Torches, monthly newsletters, etc. I also want to try to break down the barriers between the NJCL board and the rest of the delegation. I know that the NJCL officers can appear to be cliquey or "on a higher level!", but I want to make sure that no one feels uncomfortable reaching out to any of us.

What is your favorite thing about JCL?

I know that quite literally everyone says it, but it's for a reason: the people. I have never been in such an inclusive environment as the people who are in JCL. We all have a shared love for the classics which is just such a beautiful commonality to have. If I had to choose a non-basic answer though, it would definitely be our elections. In most other clubs, candidates are chosen by popularity and popularity alone. Not here. All voting delegates take the time to get to know every candidate and really evaluate their platform on an even playing field.

Do you have any advice for people who are thinking about running for NJCL or NCJCL board positions?

My advice is this: stop thinking about it, just run. That's exactly how I got into JCL leadership. At the 2018 state convention, they announced that there was a state of emergency for middle school representative. My teacher at the time passed me a sticky note that said I should, so, not knowing anything about what I was getting myself into, I threw my name into the hat and ran. I ended up getting elected and the rest is history. I've gained so much valuable experience from all of my terms that I couldn't have anywhere else. Plus, what is there to lose? Due to the incredibly diplomatic nature of JCL elections, even candidates that do not get elected gain the utmost respect from everyone. In my 7 years of JCL, I have never once seen a candidate get shamed or shunned for losing.

What is your favorite ancient Greek/Roman myth or story?

The story of Baucis and Philemon always warms my heart. I'm more of a language and derivatives buff than a myth buff, but I know their touching fable like the back of my hand.
Classics Authors

Lucretius
Xenophon
Virgil
Cicero
Homer

Herodotus
Plutarch
Sappho
Horace

Catullus
Tacitus
Hesiod
Lucian

Ovid
Plato
Livy
PHOTOS?

If you have any pictures that you would like to have possibly featured in the Torch, Scrapbook, or other media, please scan the QR code to send them.