



# Classics in the Desert

Salvete Omnes!

The Phoenix Country Day School Latin Program Invites You  
to its inaugural

PCDS Desert Classics Latin Event  
The Roman Reckoning:  
An Application of Classical Achievements to the Modern World

Join us for a day of  
chariot racing  
debating  
engineering and construction  
gladiator competitions  
certamen  
and an assortment of other inspiring activities

Where  
Phoenix Country Day School (Upper School Campus)

When  
Saturday, February 25, 2017

Times  
9am-4:30pm

Cost  
\$3 per participant

Membership in the JCL is not required for participation in this event.

# PCDS Classics in the Desert: The Roman Reckoning

## Events and Guidelines

### Certamen

There will be two types of Certamen events.

*Traditional Certamen:* Questions will pertain purely to Latin vocabulary and grammar, and Greco-Roman mythology, history, and culture.

*Non-Traditional Certamen:* Questions will pertain not only Latin vocabulary and grammar, and Greco-Roman mythology, history, and culture, but also to pop culture, modern history, and a variety of other closely related topics.

Rounds will consist of 10 toss-up questions, with 1 bonus per question.

There will only be a "Lower Competition" (Beginning Latin through Latin II or Elementary Latin) and an "Upper Competition" (Intermediate Latin through Advanced/AP Latin).

Trophies will be awarded to the 1st and 2nd place teams for each level.

### Debate

If you love politics and enjoyed watching the debates of the 2016 political season, this may be the event for you.

There will be two debate levels:

Lower: Beginning Latin through Latin II or Elementary Latin (grades 6-9)

Upper: Intermediate Latin through Advanced/AP Latin (grades 10-12)

Students will divide into two panels.

One panel will be in support of the issue and the other will be against the issue.

In an orderly fashion, students will debate.

Judges will award points to those students who:

- use knowledge of Roman history and culture to support/denounce an issue.
- use rhetoric and style to rally others to support/denounce the issue.

Rosettes will be awarded to 1st and 2nd place performers at each level.

**\*\* Topics for the debate will be announced via email on Friday, February 17, 2017.\*\***

### **Build It!**

Artists and Engineers, this is the event for YOU!

Teams of 2 to 4 students will build a likeness of a famous building or structure from ancient Greece or Rome.

Teams will be given a kit with a variety of building materials and then have 1 hour to create their best copy (small) of a building or structure. Each team will have a different building or structure. Buildings and structures will be assigned at random on the day of the event.

Teams may be a mixture of students from various Latin levels.

Ribbons will be awarded to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place teams.

## **Gladiator Fights**

Become a legend in our mini arena.

Put on a toga, grab a shield, and take a noodle-sword, then see how many other gladiators you can destroy. This event is purely for fun. There will be levels based on size/weight, male/female, etc.

If you need to get some aggression out, come on out and whack your friend!

Ribbons will be awarded to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place competitors in each level.

## **Dramatic Interpretation**

Since many of you may already be practicing and preparing for this event at the NJCL Convention at Troy University in Alabama (July 24-29, 2017) we're going to use the NJCL selections for this event. Scoring will be according to standard NJCL rules.

Click [HERE](#) to see the selections.

Ribbons will be awarded to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place competitors in each level and gender.

## **English Oratory/Speech**

In order to keep to the theme of our event, we'll be using our own topic for this event.

Topic: The Impact of Roman Technology on the Development of Modern Society (think S.T.E.M.!)

Scoring will be based upon these criteria:

- (1) Adherence to topic/theme (20%)
- (2) Memorization (20%)
- (3) Allusion to CORRECT information about developments by the ancient Romans (20%)
- (4) Use of rhetorical devices (20%)
- (5) Overall impact (20%)

Levels: Middle School, High School (9th & 10th), High School (11th & 12th)

Ribbons will be awarded to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place competitors in each level.

## **Skits**

Each school is welcome to perform a SHORT (*less than 10 minutes*) original skit.

Skits highlighting the event theme will be favored.

Plaques or trophies will be presented to the 1st and 2nd place skits.

## **Costume Contest**

The world of the strange and scary is always the most interesting.

For this event, choose your favorite character from the UNDERWORLD and become that character! Be prepared to give a presentation to the judges about your character that explains his/her/its role in the Underworld, why you chose that character, and how your costume depicts/reflects that character.

HOMEMADE COSTUMES ONLY. Purchases costumes will NOT BE JUDGED.

- (1) Adherence to topic/theme (30%)
- (2) Presentation about the character and costume (40%)
- (5) Overall impact (30%)

Ribbons will be awarded to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place costumes.

## **Chariot Racing**

No... not real chariots! (Who has the time to build a full-size, functioning Roman chariot?)

Remote control chariots! Yes, you read that right!

We're going to mock-up small, remote control cars to look like Roman chariots and then race them.

Note: The **MAXIMUM** size of your remote control car (without decorations) is

10 in. in length, 4 in. in width, and 4 in. in height. Cars that exceed these dimensions may not race

in the Circus Maximus or the Magnificus Cursus, but may be entered into the Fabulosa Picta

Raeda. **\*\* Rules about car size will be STRICTLY ENFORCED. \*\***

There will be 3 events:

(1) ***The Circus Maximus:***

All competitors will race around the "big circle" for 2 laps.

The first chariot to cross the finish line WINS!

(2) ***The Magnificus Cursus:***

This is an obstacle course. All competitors will follow a course filled with obstacles.

The first chariot to cross the finish line WINS!

(3) ***The Fabulosa Picta Raeda:***

This is not a race. All competitors chariots will be judged for how much they look like real Roman chariots. (Don't forget your AURIGA!) The best chariot WINS!

Ribbons will be awarded to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place competitors in each event.