

Latin Club gears up for Certamen



Matthew Gianetti, 11, and Alexander Rock, 11, discuss their ride situation for the upcoming Latin Conventions in Columbus. "My old Mercedes that I drive gets horrible gas mileage, so I think we'll drive Alexander's Toyota Prius," said Gianetti. Both boys enjoyed talking about future events.



Mr. Mike Torlone and Latin Club President Mary Bidwell, 11, discuss upcoming events during a club meeting. "We were discussing the upcoming Latin convention," said Torlone. Alexander Rock, 11 and Matthew Gianetti, 11, liked the Latin food at the convention. "I loved the food but more importantly, I got to break out my toga, which was nice," said Rock.



On Saturday, October 7, the Latin Quiz Team competed in its first Certamen at Madeira High School. Students included **Alexa Fogler, 11**, **Sanya Dosani, 11**, **Elizabeth Wei, 11**, **Kit James, 10**, and **Matthew Miller, 11**.

"The first Certamen of the year was fun because they mixed up teams. It wasn't as competitive and we got to meet new people," said Wei.

Schools from all over the city went to Madeira to answer questions in four Latin categories. The categories included: Ancient History, Greco-Roman Mythology, Roman Culture and Civilization, and Latin Grammar and Vocabulary. Students competed in Certamen based on their level of Latin knowledge. Students in Novice I and Novice II competed in the Novice level. Students who took Intermediate III competed in the Lower Level. Students who took Intermediate IV, AP Virgil, or AP Literature competed together in the Upper Level.

"I was really excited we made the finals," said Wei.

Latin Club had many perks for its members. Picnics, games, and quiz team were a few examples. But there is one thing all Latin Club members look forward to, and that is the Latin Convention. The Ohio Junior Classical League Convention took place in Ohio on March 9-11.

"I'm definitely going to the convention this year," said **Michael DeCourcy, 11**. "Everyone says that once you go to it, you're hooked."

All students will participate in the academic contests, which contain derivatives, grammar, mythology, and much more.

Take lead with Leadership Initiative



It could finally be said that the Student Leadership Initiative was officially up and running. It was broken up into smaller groups so that groups of students had a chance to form close bonds with one another. The girls group wasted no time with beginning monthly meetings, field trips, and coming up with a mission statement.

There was a trip to the Underground Railroad Freedom Center, which the entire group attended. On Thursday, November 16, the entire group headed downtown on buses at around 3:00 P.M. There, they were separated into three smaller groups and each one was given a Freedom Center tour guide

and took separate tours around the museum.

"The Freedom Center was great! I never knew Cincinnati was such a large part of the Underground Railroad," said **Alphonso King, 10**.

On Tuesday, November 29, the girls group left the high school around 10:45 for Operation Give Back (OGB). They spent all of fifth bell there and had a "working lunch." Besides snacking on wraps and chips, there was the task of forming a mission statement to establish what they wanted the groups' purpose to be.

"I am so glad the group can utilize the OGB building for their meetings," said **Mrs. Wendetta Langston**, head of OGB.



Mrs. Ann Kuess and Mrs. Christine Minano work with a girls group during a Leadership Initiative meeting. "The goal is to bring together teachers, adults, and students so the adults can mentor the students to become better leaders within the school and beyond," said Mrs. Kuess. "The goal is to lead the kids in the right direction, to create an attitude that 'I can [be a leader].'" said Coach Hank Ray.