



Academia



Vol. 1 No. 2

Welcome to a new issue of *Academia*! In this issue, I highlight student achievement in the areas of fine arts and phonics, answer a frequently asked question about why we study Latin, share a story from one of our parents that illustrates the often surprising fruits of an Augustine education, and provide some examples of student work.

In Christ,

Seth Drown
Dean of Academic Affairs

Student Achievement

I am pleased to announce that two of our students, **Jessica Welsch** (3rd grade) and **Joshua Welsch** (7th grade) had poems selected for publication by Creative Communications in their anthology *A Celebration of Poets*. You can read their poems in the section on student work (see below).

Also, **Tansil Binkley** (8th grade) will be in the upcoming Jackson Teen Theater production of *Heidi*. The performances will be at the Ned R. McWherter West Tennessee Cultural Arts Center on Thursday, February 12th and Friday, February 13th.

Finally, Mrs. Mary Milton, our kindergarten teacher, shared with me the good news that every one of our **kindergarteners** made a 100 on their last phonogram checkup.

Please join me in congratulating our students (and their parents and teachers) on their achievements!

Academics FAQ

Why study Latin?

There are at least three reasons to study Latin as thoroughly and as early as possible: one cultural, one intellectual, and one practical.

The *cultural* reason is that for most of the last two thousand years, to be educated meant to know Latin. Latin was the *lingua franca* (common language) of most scholarly disciplines and professions. Many of the greatest books of western culture are written in Latin. Most legal, scientific, medical, mathematical, and logical terms are in Latin. If to be well-educated is to know one's history and culture, then knowing Latin is an integral part of being well-educated.

The *intellectual* reason is that Latin is a highly ordered and systematic language. To learn Latin is to train the mind to think in an orderly, systematic way. This characteristic makes Latin an excellent preparation for and companion to logic and other analytical subjects.

The *practical* reason is that Latin makes many other languages easier to learn and master, including English. Roughly 60% of English words are derived from Latin, but just as important is the linguistic "muscle" that Latin builds. According to philosopher Peter Kreeft, "Great stylists like Cardinal Newman and C. S. Lewis could never have tamed and mastered English and made it flow and prance and sing and juggle so effortlessly and obediently if they had not first mastered Latin and Greek, which were like heavyweight sparring partners to prepare them for lightweight boxing in English." Latin is the foundation of the "Romance" languages (Spanish, Italian, French, etc.), so learning those languages is relatively easy for someone who has first learned Latin.

One last practical consideration: in 2006, students who studied Latin scored between 40 and 100 points higher on the SAT than students who studied other languages and roughly 170 points higher than the national average!

Out of School

In this column, I will share stories of how an Augustine School education manifests itself in impressive and often amusing ways in daily life. Please share your stories with me. The following is a true story submitted by an Augustine parent about a discussion they had while dining at a restaurant.

Augustine Mom: What a great breakfast place . . . so glad we came here! Pancakes, bacon . . . festive place for the holidays, don't you think?

Augustine Dad: Yes, wonderful. So everyone, what do you want to order?

Augustine 3rd grader: [looking at the specials] Mom, what's a Bloody Mary?

Augustine Mom: Well, dear . . . it is a spicy drink for adults that has tomato juice and alcohol, usually served in the mornings, like, at a brunch or something.

Augustine 3rd grader: Eeww! Yuck! Disgusting! Why do they call it a **Bloody** Mary?

Augustine Mom and Dad: [Puzzled] Well, it's a red drink . . . hmm . . . Mary . . . [thinking] . . . Mary mother of Jesus with an alcohol drink name? No . . . Mary Magdalene? No . . . [parent's brains are needing coffee].

Augustine 7th grader: [Face lights up] Guys! Bloody Mary was the daughter of Henry the VIII who became Queen before Elizabeth the Great, and she hated every religion besides Catholicism, so she ruthlessly murdered all Protestants. That's how she won her name: Bloody Mary!

Augustine Family and Waitress (who overheard): WOW! Thank you for that explanation!

Augustine Parents: I guess we are getting something from that education of yours!

Samples of Student Work

Love is Like . . .

Love is like . . .
a flower that never dies,
an egg that stays warm,
a house that is cozy and dry,
a blanket that keeps you comfy,
a light that shines in darkness,
a hot cup of coffee,
a nice soft arm chair,
and an interesting book.

by Jessica Welsch
3rd grade

The River

In a forest long and deep,
A river lies, and from it seeps
The purest water, sweet and cool,
Better than a drinking pool,
But behind the water a story lies
Of good, that triumphs over Eye,
But with his death it came one more,
A beautiful city, told in lore,
Where life was large, and air was crisp,
In ways that now does not exist, but
Its beauty came from evil power.
And alas, in one fateful hour,
It was ALL GONE.

In a forest, long and deep,
A river lies and from it seeps,
Memories of things untold,
Where life was large and air was bold,
Behold, the Eye is dead and gone,
But with it went Lothlorien!
Behold the Eye is dead and gone
But with it went
Lothlorien.

By Joshua Welsch
7th Grade

The following psalms were written for Mr. Jason Hartig's afternoon language arts class:

A Psalm by Joseph Ozment (8th grade)

Good people, descendants of Israel,
take shelter in and praise the good, benevolent LORD.
Oh LORD, I seek your guidance in this time,
for I have fallen like an eagle striking its prey
into the depths of sin.
My enemies and temptations surround me,
their words clouding my mind
and their evil like an assassin's blade to my throat.
Praise to the LORD, for He has answered my prayer
and helped me up from the dark abyss of sin.
He is my Rock; He is my shelter,
for He has rescued me from a river flowing with evil
and weapons of the devil with which my body was besieged.

A Psalm by Jessica Dell (7th grade)

Help me when I'm sick in sorrow,
 when I need a helping hand.
What shall I do without thee?
 I know I can't do it alone.
Praise thee with all my heart;
 my hope is now regained.
You have guided me to you
 like a lost faun to its mother.
I shall be loyal to you,
 like a servant to his master.
I will walk in your footsteps,
 and you will always guide me.
You are the sun of my life;
 you let me see and keep me warm.
You are the potter; you mold me forever
 'til I am just right.

A Psalm by Joshua Welsch (7th grade)

I thank you LORD for all your blessings
 and the many things you have given me.
But demons of sorrow and temptation attack me,
 and I know that my strength is not enough.
You, my God, are my only key to freedom,
 the only One that can deliver me.
So please come fast; make haste
 because I need your help.
Thank you for delivering me from the evil one.
I am forever in your debt,
 And I love you, Lord.

A Psalm by Tansil Binkley (8th grade)

LORD, you are awesome and holy!
 Make me like you, O LORD.
I am like the weed in the garden.
Help me refrain from evil
 and be considered as a treasure.
I know all things are possible,
 But only if we have you, Lord.
 Amen.