Salvete,

This school year is certainly moving at a rapid pace and the annual Latin Convention appears to be right around the corner. I hope that your child will be able to represent our school. The dates for the convention are April 1st – 2nd at Samford University.

Although the convention is in town, we will be spending the night in the convention hotel as many of the events occur there. The cost for registration, one night's stay in a hotel, and a banquet dinner on Friday will be roughly $65. Additional information will follow as the date for the convention draws nearer.

If your child wishes to attend, he or she must make or acquire an authentic ancient Roman costume. I have distributed instructions for homemade togas and stolas and posted a link to the directions on my website, under links on the home page – I hope you will find these helpful. You will find it difficult to find a website that specializes in the sale of authentic Roman costumes for men and women. Please tell me if you do!

I am so excited for convention and hope that your child is, too. Altamont has a strong tradition in attending conventions and placing well.

At the moment I have no volunteer chaperones but am on an active search. Please feel free to volunteer or contact me if you have any questions or suggestions.

Cura ut valeas (Take care)!

Buck Crowe

More on the Convention

Each year Altamont Latin and Greek students are eligible to compete at the state convention. The day begins with the ever popular field events. Then to the main event: the tests.

Two students from every school with Latin in the state compete in each of the following categories: Vocabulary, Mythology, Mottoes, Abbreviations, Greek and Roman History, Roman Private Life and Customs, Latin Grammar, Reading Comprehension in Latin, and Greek and Latin Derivatives. Altamont usually does well, winning or at least ranking as top scholars in the state. Our goal is always a complete sweep, winning first and second in every category.

Following the testing, students wear period dress to a banquet held in their honor. Boys wear *togae* and girls *stollae*. At the banquet a mythology competition, held spelling bee style, determines the state champion in mythology. After the banquet is over, everyone heads over to the dance for fraternizing with other Latin students from across the state. Typically we will stay overnight at the convention site.

The next morning we will get up early and attend the certamen competition. This is a scholars' bowl style competition to determine the best group of four students in the state. The competition is fun and entertaining and usually is fun for players and spectators alike.

Typically door prizes are then distributed and awards are handed out for performance in the tests.

And that's it. When students excel at the state convention, as is usually the case, triumph is declared and games and holidays follow. After a successful and dominating performance at the convention the poet Browning's words sum up things aptly, "the lark's on the wing, the snail's on the thorn, God's in his heaven and all's right with the world."