



Owen J. Roberts School District

Owen J. Roberts High School

981 Ridge Road, Pottstown, Pennsylvania 19465-8404

Telephone (610) 469-5101

Fax (610) 469-5898

<http://www.ojrsd.com>

To the Society for Classical Studies Coffin Fellowship Selection Committee and the Officers of the Society for Classical Studies:

I am submitting this report to confirm my completion of the Caesar in Gaul program organized by the Paideia Institute, and to provide you with a brief report of the activities that were a part of this program.

The Caesar in Gaul program ran from July 19th through August 2nd this past summer. Our time was spent in southern France and I had an excellent opportunity to read Caesar's *De Bello Gallico* in situ and explore several of the sites associated with the text.

We began our program in Aix-en-Provence with a week of seminars and close readings of the text led by Christopher Krebs of Stanford University and Luca Grillo of University of North Carolina Chapel Hill. The lectures were wide ranging including looking at Caesar's style and themes, the genre and literary context of the work, and also the text's ethnography and historiography. After this, we had the opportunity to visit major Roman sites in the area including the Pont du Gard, Nîmes, and Vienne.

We also visited several sites directly connected to *De Bello Gallico* and participated in experiential learning opportunities in each. On the banks of the Saône River, or to the Romans the Arar, we read Caesar's account of the battle and viewed the obelisk erected by the local town to commemorate the battle. At Bibracte we were thrilled at an excellent guided tour of the excavations at this important Gallic oppidum and the extraordinary museum associated with the site. We also had the interesting experience of having a Gallic lunch with historic recipes and table service. We finished the trip with a visit to Alesia. The didactic displays in the museum were impressive and looked out through large panoramic windows and off of a rooftop terrace to explain the military overlay of 52 BC over the current pastoral vista. Outside the museum building we were able to explore a partial reconstruction of the fortifications that were built and also watched a display of Roman fighting and training techniques followed by an opportunity to handle the weapons and armor.

As the school year begins, I am eagerly anticipating integration of this new information into my teaching of the Caesar portion of the Advanced Placement curriculum. My knowledge of the text itself and the context of the writing have increased tremendously. Further, I am able to pair the

readings with photographs from the trip and also displays of instructional posters and books from the sites that we visited.

It is with deep appreciation and sincere gratitude that I submit this report. This experience was one of academic and pedagogic growth in an evocative setting, and I am so very thankful for the opportunity that the Society for Classical Studies provided to me.

With regard,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'KS', with a small dot above the 'S'.

Karin Suzadail
Latin Teacher, Owen J. Roberts High School