Why would anyone study Latin in this day & age, when it’s primarily not a spoken language?

This is what STS 6th graders had to say (with a little paraphrasing by Magistra Cerrato

* It improves English vocabulary:
  + Approximately 60% of English words are derived from Latin
  + English has many phrases or words that come directly from Latin, unchanged
  + Latin teaches English grammar better than English does for native English speakers
* It can help you learn other languages because many other languages have vocabulary derived from Latin, especially the romance languages (Italian, Spanish, French, Portuguese, Romanian and Catalan), which derive as much as 90% of their vocabulary from Latin
  + Approximately 800 million people worldwide speak a romance language
* It can help in travel
* Latin makes you smarter!
  + Mental discipline
  + Study of Latin often improves SAT and SSAT scores
    - Some studies say scores can improve as much as 200 points
  + Latin is highly organized, systematic, and rigorous and helps build critical thinking skills
    - Students who are good in Latin often are good in math too
* The study of a language, gets you into the minds of people who spoke it
  + Romans were very sophisticated peoples and their character pervades history
* The ancient Romans left the world with many legacies, besides language:
  + Stories, myths and legends, teach morals and lessons that help us understand ourselves, other people and the world in general
  + Ancient Rome flourished for almost a millennium and, along with ancient Greece, is the seat of western civilization
    - Roman history impacts how we think and live our lives even today
  + The Roman model of government is the basis for Democracy
  + Christ was born into the Roman Empire, into the province of Judea
    - The world is highly influenced by Roman religions
    - Churches use Latin in their services, especially their hymns
  + Classical architecture
  + Engineering and roads
  + Roman customs helped civilize much of the world
    - Food and dining
    - Daily habits
      * Personal hygiene
      * Exercise
    - Personal interactions
    - Family structure
* For the JOY of it!
  + Latin is a very beautiful language
    - It is inflected
    - It is phonetic