

Shen-Val-Lore

The Student Voice of Shenandoah Valley Academy

Shenandoah Valley Academy

October 18, 2019

Volume 89, Edition 1

UPCOMING EVENTS

OCTOBER

18 ROK Meet and Greet / End of 1st Term

20-21 Academy Days

22-27 NACA Tournament

23-27 Homeleave

30-31 Ringfest

31 College Fair

NOVEMBER

1-3 Ringfest

8 Faculty Family Vespers

15 Senior Dedication

16 Senior Extravaganza / International Food Fair

19 World Religions Fireld Trip

24 SA Banquet

26-30 Thanksgiving Break

DECEMBER

1-2 Thanksgiving Break

3 J2B Dress Rehearsal

5-9 Journey to Bethlehem

10-12 Candlelight Rehearsals

13 Candlelight Concert

14 Candlelight Concert / Pops Concert

15 ACT / Sunday School

17-19 Semester Exams

19-31 Christmas Break

JANUARY

1-5 Christmas Break

11 Leadership Retreat

19 Principal's List Brunch / NHS Induction

20-24 Student-led Week of Prayer

26 Sunday School

29-31 Homeleave



FIRST WEEKEND

ROSE SERRANO

The first week back at SVA is always filled with enthusiastic and joyful faces. New and returning students here form new friendships, bonds, and memories that will never be forgotten. New students are anxious and nervous to see how it really is to be at SVA. Vespers is a very spiritual and emotional Friday night where we come together in God's house and seek His holy presence.

The first vespers of the year was led by the Senior praise team and the Senior College Religion Class. We were divided into groups and then went to certain places on campus that previously had been decided on and prayed over the classes and those instructing them. We held

hands and the love of Christ was there.

The first Sabbath we were greeted on the sidewalk with warm, loving hugs and sincere smiles. The members of the New Market Church were excited to see us. We entered the church, and the Senior praise team started the day with a session of praise. Pastor Buz had the children's story and the adorable little lambs all gathered in the front of the church to hear the story. After that we had a wonderful sermon by Pastor Shane, in which we sang together as a church family and were only separated by our sections of voices. After the sermon was done, the R.O.K. program handed out a special lunch box to every student in the

church. We then went to the cafeteria to enjoy a wonderfully prepared lunch.

After lunch we all got into groups from vespers, each group combined with another one, directed by the college religion class and walked to the campground by the river. We competed in games such as: The Wall of Jericho, Carry the Paralytic, Heaven or Hell, Fill My Cup Oh Lord, etc. The Wall of Jericho was a game in which you have to model a wall out of marshmallows and toothpicks. Carry the Paralytic was a game in which two students must carry one person up onto the hill. Heaven or Hell was a game in which you had to listen to a distinct voice of your team and try to end up

on the side of Heaven. The other group is tempting you teammate who is blindfolded to go into the other side and vice versa. Fill My Cup, Oh Lord is when your teammates must run to the lake and fill up a cup. Whoever got the most water bottles filled wins. All the games had a deep spiritual aspect, which we shared right before departing on the buses. One person from each team went up and talked about one of the games we previously did.

After having a long day of interacting and smiling, one might think that it was over, but then we had the annual Almost Anything Goes. The whole day was filled with learning about each other, bonding with each individ-

ual, and making memories. Our school has always been distinctly loving and spiritual and throughout the day that point was proven. Friends were made and staff members were witnesses to see such love in the school. The atmosphere changed completely and people who were shy and nervous really got in close with one another. Although the Seniors are leaving this year, the memories and moral values will never leave us. SVA forms characters and makes sure that we are set for the real world away from SVA. It allows us to form a spiritual shield and protection in the real world. It helps to know we will always be able to do hard things through Christ.



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ALMOST ANYTHING GOES

STELLA SOUZA

On August 24, a Saturday night, SA hosted an event called “Almost Anything Goes.” This is an event where there are many games, and classes compete against each other. It all began with Mr. Zach Lowe, our SA Sports Coordinator, introducing the Freshman class, Sophomore class, Junior class, and finally the Senior class.

The first challenge was mattress racing. Each class placed their classmates on the ground to hold the weight of the mattress rider. The goal was to see how many times the class could bring people across on the mattress.

The second event was balloon popping. Each class sent two people, one to blow up the balloon and another to pop it. Those who had to pop it had to pop it on the mattress, which could be difficult if you didn't have a strategy. The Senior class tried to pop it with their elbows, while other classes tried to pop the balloon by sitting on it.

The third game was the balloon train. Students couldn't touch the balloons or the person in front of them.

All they could use was the force of their bodies to keep the balloons from falling. As each balloon train went to the center to go around the chair and come back to their class, you could hear the cheers getting louder.

Next up was chariot racing. In order to race you need two runners, one rider, and a bed sheet. The rider goes inside the bed sheet and the two runners go as fast as they can around the gym, then they switch out all three students and do it again. The goal is to see how many times you can go around the gym. Some classes bumped into each other. The riders had so much fun as they were dragged with intense speed around the gym.

Next, the toothpick and lifesaver game! In this game, the class chose 10 girls and 10 boys, and the 20 students stood in a pattern, boy, girl, boy, girl. Each student had a toothpick in their mouths, and each class had one lifesaver. They had to pass the lifesaver safely through all those 20 students. The only way you could pass the life-

saver was with the toothpicks in everyone's mouth. Whoever got the lifesaver to the other side first won. It's fun to watch as each team desperately tries to pass the lifesaver to beat all the other classes!

Next up we had a small basketball tournament. Ten girls from each class would try to shoot as many shots as they could. Then, 10 boys would do the same. It was good to see that we have some good basketball players in our school.

Last but not least, we had a new game suggested by our own vice principal, Mr. Caleb Leeper. He explained that all would participate and at the end of the game everyone would have thrown each of their shoes. Shoes? Thrown? Thrown onto what? SA officers set up four mattress, one for each class. The purpose was to throw shoes to land on top of the mattress. Let's say you threw one of your shoes onto another team's mattress, the point would go to them! It kept people at the edge of their seats. At the end, the Senior class won! It was a great night.



SA PICNIC
JULS CUELLAR

It's hard to think that each year Picnic develops more and more. Each year, Picnic is even more enjoyable for all the students. Picnic is a time to come together as a class. One can learn a lot from just hanging around his or her class, but actually working together for a certain cause brings classes closer together. Picnic teaches valuable lessons to each person that can stay with one for years beyond high school. There are so many benefits to just being there for one's class. Even if one does not participate, one can simply cheer on one's class. One can enjoy the company of other classmates and enjoy nature. The camp is so beautiful, and every time we go it brings us closer to our Creator. On another note, there are lots of bugs so it would be wise to bring bug spray!

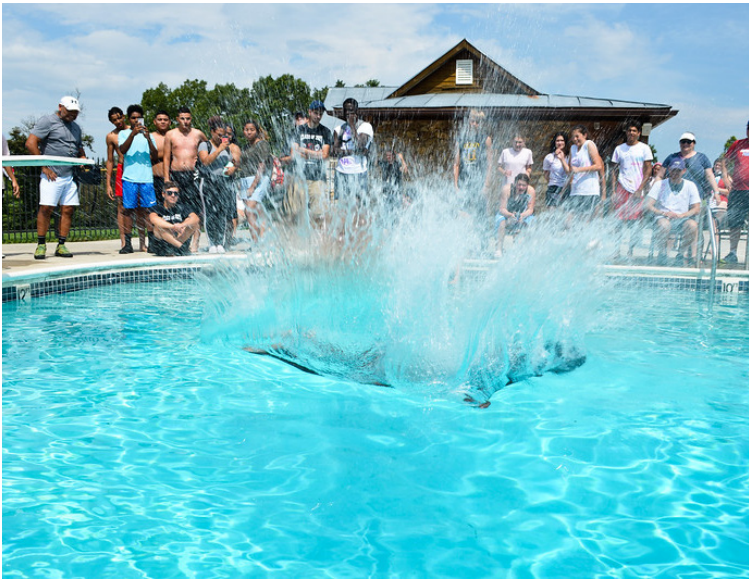
Camp Horizons has an interesting layout. When we get off the buses, we head to the open area near the stage. The stage is right next to the soccer field. Once we get to the stage, we normally start Picnic off with a worship thought and prayer by the SA pastor. Some of the SA officers then describe the events, the rules of those events, and other important details that we might need to know. Normally, one of the camp's employees comes and tells us the rules and boundaries of the camp. After all the announcements are done, we are ready for our first event.

We then divide into our classes by the lake and we begin our class competitions. Everyone has a chance to prove the strength of their classes with the many events that our students compete in during the day. The most classic events include the metallic ball race, canoe racing, tug of war, fifty meter race, the swimming competition, and the belly flop. This year we added two more events onto the list. The new events were

the watermelon eating contest and the bus push. During Picnic, there are so many things to do and accomplish throughout the day. No one really expects the excitement that each class brings every year. My freshman year, I wasn't personally excited for Picnic. As the years go on, however, it's always nice to participate in a few events. Seeing the determination of all the classes was a really great experience. Determination and hard work was shining through all of the students as they tried their best to win the events.

The physical events challenge classes to work together and build teamwork between classmates. There are other events at Picnic that require a great amount of teamwork also, but in a very different way. Banners really help to either make or break a class's win. Artists are able to work to create wonderful and creative representations of their class, school, or themes. A group of people volunteer, or are chosen, to work on the banners they are given. The banners are initially blank, so the team of classmates have to brainstorm ideas to create a banner that would be accurate, yet creative, that really depicts their individual class. They work on the banner for the majority of the time and are given few materials to create what they want.

The winner of SA Picnic as a whole was the Junior class. The Juniors came in with a fire in their hearts. This year the Juniors wanted to win, so they brought their all to the table and won. I'm very grateful to all the help of the staff members and school directors, because Picnic couldn't happen without them. I think overall everyone had a good experience and I'm also thankful to our SA leaders for being able to organize the events so effectively.



CLASS PARTIES
IGNACIO LIZARRAGA

Class parties are held annually every year at the beginning of the year and each does a different activity. Class parties are a good opportunity for classmates to get to know each other better and have fun together. The class parties were held on Saturday night, August 31, while the Seniors were gone on Senior Survival.

The Freshmen had their class party in the student center. It was a fun-filled

night spent playing foosball, pool, and checkers. They also had salsa and chips, flavored water, and Gatorade to snack on. After that, they voted for their class officers. Emma Cuellar won the presidency. Then, they spent the night playing games and hanging out with each other. The night almost took a turn for the worse when Joey got injured when he jumped off the balcony in the student center. Fortunately, he's recovering

well and the class party was a success and a wonderful night to remember for the Freshmen.

Meanwhile, the Sophomores had their class party in the gym. Since they were in the gym, they had more options. The guys played basketball and indoor futsal. After they had their open gym time, they had to vote for their officers. The Sophomore class voted for Keiza DeSpirito as their class presi-

dent. The sponsors provided chips, water, and Capri suns for the class to snack on. Near the end of the night, the class played charades. Overall, the class had a fun time playing sports and participating in fun activities together.

Finally, my class (Juniors) had our party in the auditorium. We started by voting for our class officers and the outcome was voting Nathanael Perez in as president. After that, we watched a movie

called Big Hero 6 and it was pretty funny, but we weren't able to finish it as time ran out. Our class sponsors also provided snacks for us to enjoy with the movie. They gave us chips, juice, and ice cream at the end. It was a good time and the movie was good too, even though we weren't able to socialize a lot.

Normally, the Seniors would also have a Senior class party, but since they were on Senior Survival they weren't

able to. They still had a mini Senior class party in the middle of the woods, where they played games and ate food around the campfire.

Overall, the class parties were a fun time and were a good chance to get closer together as a class. Also, they were able to vote for their class officers and plan their class goals. It was a good way to start the school year and get everyone excited for the rest of the year.



WEEK OF PRAYER

KATIE DAVIS

From September 9 to 13, Shenandoah Valley Academy (SVA) was really blessed during the fall Week of Prayer (WOP). The Senior class of 2020 helped out with the WOP during Monday morning and night and Tuesday morning. Taurus Montgomery, the main speaker, came Tuesday night and spoke about Transformation, the theme of the WOP. Each meeting we sang the theme song “Transfiguration.”

The Senior class did different activities with the students that included skits and Bible studies. On Monday morning, the Seniors had the students write on a sticky note what they wanted God to transform in their lives. Then, they showed us a video that talked about how we need to wholly surrender to God. Later that night, the students got into groups and studied various Bible studies about people who were transformed by God. Some of the stories included Esther, Saul who turned into Paul, Ruth, Joseph, and Daniel, to name a few.

During each WOP, the students write encouraging warm fuzzies to each other. The students then tape their warm fuzzies that they wrote to someone on the white board just out of the religion classrooms. It is amazing to

see teens write these special notes to each other and to see them appreciate each other.

Taurus Montgomery is from Benton Harbor, Michigan. He is a very well-known speaker and also a successful entrepreneur. He has written a book called Set on Fire and many others. Taurus comes from a challenging childhood that led him to drugs, drinking, and crime. When he was in high school, he wanted to be in the NBA. His life changed when his house burned down and he had to stay with some Adventists.

His brother became an Adventist first in their family, and he soon followed. His athletic career changed when he attended Oakwood Academy in Alabama. His struggle with school helped him to be transformed into the guy he is today. Taurus is a professional and certified motivational speaker. He shares his inspirational story with young athletes around the world.

At SVA’s WOP, he talked about four steps that we need to do in order to be transformed. The first step is to Know God. You need to know the true meaning of the Bible, how prayer works, and accept the Holy Spirit in your heart and life. The second step is to find freedom. Ask God to help you with all your problems and you will be able to

find freedom. The third step is to find your purpose. God has a specific purpose for each one of us, and we need to ask Him to show us what our gifts are and how to use them. The fourth step is using our gifts for God to serve others and make a difference now.

Taurus really emphasized missions on Friday night, and how we need to serve others and make a difference everywhere we go. Later, he made a call for anyone who was willing to do the four steps to be transformed. He prayed over those who walked up and asked for the Holy Spirit to come down and to fill their lives. After that, the students had a foot washing ceremony and communion. During that time, students gave their own testimonies about the week and sing songs.

Every student was truly blessed with his words and passion for God. It opened the eyes of the students to actually have a real relationship with God and to serve Him. The staff members were also blessed by the WOP. “But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror of the glory of God, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.” - 2 Chronicles 3:18



SALT

CIERY FLORES

S.A.L.T. stands for Spiritual Academy Leadership Training. Shenandoah Valley Academy was one of the many schools that had the chance to attend SALT this year. Class officers, Girls and Boys Club Officers, RA’s, SA officers, and more had the privilege to attend this weekend training in Edgewater, Maryland. We left right after lunch on Thursday, September 26, and rode the bus for about three hours. We arrived that evening, unloaded our stuff into the cabins, and went to dinner. At first, we all sat together as a school, but throughout the weekend, we began to sit with other schools and start conversations with the other students. Our guest speaker for the weekend was Pastor Paul Graham. He presented about two sessions a day and talked about Samson and being “Born to Deliver,” which was the theme for this year. Samson was born to deliver the Israelites from the hands of the Philistines. But Samson’s eyes became a big problem when trying to accomplish what God had intended for him to do. He made many mistakes throughout his life, but in the end, he was able to deliver the Israelites and killed more Philistines in his death than he had ever killed in his lifetime. The speaker did a great job at portraying the life of Samson and how it relates to us as leaders. I learned about the importance of being a leader and what it takes to accomplish this mission we have here on earth. We will go through struggles in life but we need to realize

that God is with us through it all.

On Friday, after one of the many great sessions Pastor Graham held, WAU joined us and had a small breakout session. We separated into different leadership positions, and were able to share some ideas that we each do at our own school. Each school later had a brainstorming session. We talked about all the things we were doing well as a school and student body, as well as things we could improve at SVA. Everyone was able to bring ideas to the table and I think it was a really productive session. After we finished discussing, Pastor Harley took us out to get some Sweet Frog, which everyone was really excited about. Friday ended with a small bonfire, some music, and prayer requests.

Sabbath was truly a blessing to us all. Students led out in the entire morning program including Sabbath School, song service, and special music. We collaborated with Pine Forge Academy and Richmond Academy, and led out in song service and Sabbath School. We split into our birth month and each table discussed fear. Each group took a different take on this topic and were able to discuss however they wanted to. After lunch, we had some free time to meet more people and had the option of going canoeing or staying in our cabins. SA Social Secretary Lily Rodriguez said she really enjoyed meeting people from other schools while out canoeing on Sabbath afternoon. Later that night, we had organized

games and each school was able to sing their school song.

My favorite part of SALT was getting to know students from other schools and being able to exchange ideas about events that we could do at our own school. Juicy Franco, Senior Female Senator, and Basam Gonzalez, our SA Treasurer, said they really enjoyed the message Pastor Graham brought and having the opportunity to meet new people. Many of us enjoyed Pastor Graham’s message about being born to deliver. Nathanael Perez, Junior Class President, said that he could relate to a lot of the things the speaker was saying so it struck him on a personal level. He also liked the people that he was with. He said, “Even though we went with our school and our own peers, it gave us the opportunity to interact with some people we barely get to talk to at school, which was really nice.” SA Vice President Asher Ardron said he really loved the spirituality and how we were able to grow spiritually throughout the entire trip. SALT gave us the chance to bond with our own classmates as well as other students from the different schools. It gave us a chance to experience things we couldn’t experience anywhere else. We learned so much about being a leader and how we can make a difference in our school. I encourage those who have never been to attend. You will come back with a different view of things and will definitely be blessed!



SENIOR SURVIVAL
GISELLE VILLATORO

I was extremely blessed to have been able to attend Senior Survival with the Senior class of 2020. First of all, I had no idea it would be so close to campus, but at the same time it was completely isolated. The whole week we had great weather, with the exception of Saturday. When I first got there I was a little concerned, since we all had to make a shelter out of our tarps and hammocks. The first day that I slept in the hammock, I felt very exposed and did not sleep very well.

The activities were made to get us to work together and trust one another. We had to fully trust our teammates without second guessing ourselves. I struggled with the thought that during the activities, I couldn't do them on my own. I am a very independent person, and until Senior Survival, I never realized that I always seemed to see receiving help as a sign that I was weak and therefore couldn't do it myself. In other words, I quickly learned that I could never finish any of the group challenges by myself. So, my choices were either to be difficult and leave it to everyone to lose because of my close mindedness. Instead, I chose to depend on my group for things I had no control over and I realized that strength comes in numbers. Every day brought new challenges, and whenever they gave us the rules to each new activity

to overcome, my mind was always lost. Somehow, however, we all gave our opinion and came up with a solution. I personally never trusted that they would work. Once the timer began, everyone got to work and in the end, we overcame every single challenge. The most important thing I learned that week was that no matter how difficult something may seem, nothing is ever impossible to overcome with God's help.

Every night we gathered around a campfire and had worship. We sang and listened to sermons under the stars. While we were out in the wilderness, a lot of the things that would usually matter and take up my time seemed unimportant. I miss the simplicity of living in the woods, and the only responsibility was to study God's creation rather than the world's. During Senior Survival, I thought that it was pretty easy to live out in the woods. We could build a simple shelter and make sure that it is strong enough to hold through the rain. Then, we worked on building a fire pit. We got that started with some dry leaves, pinecones, and little sticks. Once we had a fire, we could pick some dandelions and roast them on a stick, and there you have a vegan kabob. Also, we could pull out and eat some wild carrots and plantains for more diversity. We learned what we needed

to do to survive on our own. Once we had a shelter, water, and food, we pretty much were set to camp as long as our heart desires.

On Saturday night, we had an agape feast. The guys cooked in the kitchen while the girls dressed up. We were all seated, and ready to eat when we were told it was going to pour soon. So everyone dropped the food and headed to the campsites because all our shelters were most likely going to flood and fall apart if we didn't fix them. Almost everyone moved their bags into the chaperone's cabin and took down or bagged up their hammocks. After that, we all calmly headed down to dinner to enjoy our evening. That night it poured; thankfully, though, the girls were able to relocate for the night in a cabin, so nobody got soaked outside. The next day, it was already time to go back to SVA. We were lucky that at least it rained the last night, instead of some other time during the week. On our way back, I was tired and really wanted a good shower, but still, I missed the whole experience of our week away. It was such a great experience that I took as time to reset from the stress of life's problems and see God's creation for a fraction of what it was created to be.





Happy Birthday August

3	Janet Castellanos	25	Rodrigo Cruz / Kayla Moguels
4	Dakota Gullatte	26	Edwin Gutierrez
5	Cesar Pauls	30	Anisa Phillip
6	Spencer Fairbank		Hannah Kellers
7	Sarah Durichek / Jason De Witt	1	Lily Rodriguez / Olivia Sarmiento / Emma Davis
10	Darwin Majano / Eric Toledo	5	Emma Cuellar
13	Elijah Smith / Alicia Anderson / Caleb Rivera	7	Eliana Sanchez
14	Adrian Moonga / Wilbert Hurcules-Orellana	9	Lucas Ferraz
15	Jeremy Bocala	10	Gigi Lucasin / Judith Vargas
16	Aubrey Herbert	12	Lisbette Sanchez
17	Aubrey Benton	13	Brandon Jacques
18	Abby Burks	14	Michael White
22	Awot Abreha / Josselyn Villatoro / Thiago Adao	15	Jedaiah Lim
23	Santiago Tiiroli / Josue Flores / Lany Balthazar	16	Miguel Castillo Cruz
25	Carlos Funes	23	Seth Pitton
26	Ciru Theuri / Saul Lopez	26	Fiona Williams
28	Johnathan Temesgen	30	Ethan Odiewuor
29	Brandon Melo		
31	James Vernon / Devon Mearss	3	Zion Calvin

4	Leah Shaws / Oliver Bernal / Jake Chalker	7	Ignacio Sepulveda
7	Patrick Mencia	9	Juliana Mendez
10	Gabriel Silva	13	Joseph Franco
11	Malachi Diaz	15	Rose Serrano
12	Dulce Espinals	19	Trinity Moguel
13	Leo Lams	21	Kiera Griffin / Leandra Larrea
14	Giselle Villatoros	22	Christopher Reyes
16	Jessica Palacios	23	Ryan Wickline
		24	Rachel Brossfield
		25	Michael Moulder / Nevyn Dahlberg
		26	Tyler Armstrong
		27	Jenayah Dunn
		28	Drusilla Apola
		29	Sophie Hintz / Stefan Ullrich

October

November

SHOUT-OUTS!

Shout-out to Josselyn, the best roommate out there!
- Kiera Griffin

To Everyone at SVA: If you want us to publish your shout-outs, email them to aubrey.benton@student.sva-va.org or text them to 301-331-7797
- Sarah Durichek and Aubrey Benton, Newspaper Editors



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