

# Shen-Val-Lore

The Student Voice of Shenandoah Valley Academy

Shenandoah Valley Academy

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### SA BANQUET

ROSE SERRANO

Everyone found the movie very entertaining, and the theater was filled with laughter. Students enjoyed the plot, especially the humorous jokes and comments made throughout it. The moment it was over people had their last opportunity to take pictures

with friends. It seemed that they all enjoyed the evening, but they were not expecting what followed. For the final activity, SA officers and helpers prepared to hand out sparklers for everyone once they got off the buses back on campus. The best part was

seeing the students' reactions as soon as they saw the sparklers. They were all so happy to have a lit sparkler in their hands, even if it meant standing in the freezing cold for a couple of minutes. It definitely created a nice atmosphere for our "Starry Night" theme.

After a relaxing and fun night, everyone finally headed back to the dorms to get some rest for the next day.

I am very glad to say that our SA banquet was a complete success, and would not have been one without the help of Principal and Mrs.

Short, our bus drivers, the supervision team, and student helpers. SA had tons of fun organizing it after months of planning. I certainly had some memorable moments with my friends. I hope everyone else had a wonderful time. This school year has been coming



### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### NOVEMBER

29-30 Journey to Bethlehem

#### DECEMBER

1-3 Journey to Bethlehem  
cont.

4-6 Candlelight Rehearsal

7 Candlelight Concert

8 Candlelight Repeat Concert  
/ Christmas Extravaganza

9 ACT

16 Sunday School

17-20 Semester Exams

20-31 Semester Break

#### JANUARY

1-3 Semester Break

12 Class Parties

20 NHS Induction /  
Principal's List Brunch

21-25 Student Led Week of  
Prayer

#### FEBRUARY

2 Gymnastics Field Trip

3 Sunday School Activity Day

6-10 Homeleave

16 Talent Show

17 Joint Dorm Activity

23 Faculty Family Activity /  
Academy Preview Day

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BARN PARTY

GABBY PATRICK

A tradition that has been around at SVA for many years is called Barn Party. This happens every year during the fall season. Barn Party is run by the Student Association at SVA and happens by the red barn where the some of the big busses are kept. SA and Senate decorated the barn in festive fall and harvest decorations. Savannah Perkin, class of 2022, said, “The decorations really got me in the mood for the holidays.”

Barn Party involves the whole student body and a lot of the staff. Barn party brings out a creative side in all of our students as they dress up in many different costumes. This year, Barn Party was on Sunday, October 14. It started at 5:00 pm, and people came dressed up as

all sorts of things. Costumes like the classic pairs such as Mario and Luigi and Salt and Pepper were displayed. Some people even came in onesies. Onesies are always an easy costume for the students due to the fact that they are easy to find, cheap, and come in all different things like animals or characters from TV shows. Many people didn't come as anything, and just dressed up like themselves. Johana Villatoro, Class of 2019, said, “This year's Barn Party was much more enjoyable than I expected, because I dressed up as the shingles virus and it was the last one I'll be attending as an SVA student.”

When people started to arrive, they waited in line for tickets to be able to buy food from the different vendors.

Each student got 10 tickets equaling \$5. The classes are in charge of different types of food every year. This year the Seniors sold pizza and Sprite, the Juniors sold hot chocolate and brownies, the Sophomores sold the classic walking taco and slushies, and the Freshmen sold homemade rice crispy treats and caramel candies. Student Association sold popcorn and apple cider. Haley Wolters, class of 2019, excitedly stated, “I really enjoyed the food that was served. From the traditional pizza to the inventive haystacks in a bag, everything was delicious.”

This year's Barn Party had a lot of different activities for the student body to do. They had the tractor going for hayrides, which was driven by

the boys' soccer coach, Mr. Jedamski. The hayride took us around SVA in a big loop. A student said, “The hayrides were calm and not as fast as other years.” Some students and staff members competed in a pumpkin carving contest, which Dillon Walters, class of 2019, won. Upstairs in the barn they were showing the movie Cars. Not only did they have a movie playing, but Kendra Fairbank, class of 2019, did face painting. Across from the barn there was an inflatable jousting area. A lot of kids enjoyed this fun activity. Andrea Huaytalla, class of 2020, said, “My favorite part about Barn Party was when some friends and I got to go and play in the inflatable arena one on one with each other.” A lot of noise and

laughs were coming from that arena. One particular activity that everyone enjoys so much is called hitching. Hitching is a fun way to get two people (who may or may not like each other) tied together with a twisty tie. This fun game really tests your friendships. Hitching helps new crushes form, old romances resurface, and the same old couples come together.

Barn Party was a very chill and relaxing event in contrast to the busy week we had. Many new friends were created and new memories formed with the same friend groups. Braxton Jedamski, class of 2021, described Barn Party like this: “It was a great event where we could do something fun and different with our friends.” Sammie

Armstrong, class of 2020, said, “I loved the fact that we were all together as friends. It gave us a chance to just be teenagers for a minute and forget about all the responsibilities of school.” Basam Gonzalez, class of 2020, said, “Barn party was an outstanding event that allowed for so many memories to produce and forever remain in our hearts; 10/10 honestly.”

Barn Party was not just an event where we came and had fun. It was also a time to create many memories that we, the students, will remember for a lifetime to come. Thank you to SA officers and their sponsors and the class officers and their sponsors for the hard work!







COLLEGE FAIR

MINNA M. OMWENGA

On the breezy Wednesday afternoon of October 31, representatives from 10 Adventist colleges assembled in the gymnasium for Shenandoah Valley Academy’s annual College Fair. Students milled around, checking out the variety of choices presented to them. Each university had a station displaying their school in the most appealing way possible, bearing colorful signs, banners, and pens, all in an effort to persuade students to come stop by.

Colleges such as Andrews University, Southern Adventist University, and Union College attended. Each school represented did its best to distinguish itself from the others, pointing out what makes them unique. For example, Southern is known for its flourishing nursing program. Similarly, if one were interested in engineering, Walla Walla would be a good option. However, other schools may have an advantage due to their popular location. For example, the Adventist University of Health Sciences may seem more appealing since it is located in such a popular area—Orlando, Florida. Although these schools differ in some ways, one common goal they share is to provide

proper Adventist education to college students.

Going through College Fair this year was significantly different for me given the fact that I am now a Senior. I was grateful for this experience because it gave me the chance to explore my choices. I was able to apply to all the Adventist colleges I had been interested in without having to pay the typical application fee. I was also able to weigh the pros and cons of the different schools and determine which ones I could picture myself at.

Here is what a few of my classmates who also attended had to say about their experience. Genesis Rivera shared that, “College fair is a really good way to see some of the other options that you might not have ever thought of. It lets you know about the different programs that colleges have and broadens your horizons.” Johana Villatoro said, “College fair this year benefited me a lot. I got to apply to more than one college without having to pay a fee.” Benjamin Adjei also shared that, “The college fair was fun, the representatives explained their schools very well, and told me the path I should take if I was to attend

their school as a freshman starting from 2019-2020.” Jill Herbert said, “It was great talking to new people and finding out information about different colleges. I applied to all of them because they made it super simple for me to apply.”

College Fair is an amazing way to learn more about possibilities you may not even have realized that you have. I encourage anyone who is going to go through this process in the future to not take it for granted but to take full advantage of this wonderful event. Figuring out where to go for college can be extremely stressful. You have to decide whether or not you want to attend a school close to or far away from home. Application fees, filling out the FAFSA, and figuring out what to major/minor in can all get pretty overwhelming. This event, which is open to all Juniors and Seniors, eases all those uncertainties. It not only creates an opportunity for us students to apply to these colleges free of charge, but also helps us gain a better general understanding of what Adventist education is really like at the college level.

THANK-A-THON

NATALEE TOWNSEND

On November 27, 2018, students gathered in the Twomley Hall lobby throughout the day during their free periods for Shenandoah Valley Academy’s fourth annual school-wide Thank-a-Thon. The Thank-a-Thon is on the same day known as Giving Tuesday, which is an event all around America where non-profit organizations ask for donations. This time of the year is a season of giving, but more importantly it is a season of thankfulness and a time to reflect on the many gifts people have given us. Instead of asking for donations for the school, SVA sends thanks to everyone who has contributed already. In 2015, Shenandoah Valley Academy had a lot of serious debt from previous years and started fundraising to get rid of the debt. This is when many donors were beginning to help us with financial gifts. It was originally Mrs. Janel Ware’s idea to have a Thank-a-Thon. “Dr. Twomley, the principal at the time, agreed it was important to find a way to say thank you

and to take time to celebrate God’s blessings as a school. So, the Thank-a-Thon was born!” said Mrs. Ware, who is SVA’s current Director of Development.

Every student or staff member who wishes to participate is able to. The requirements are pretty simple; all that is needed is a thankful heart, a pen, and a piece of paper. Students and others sit around tables set up in the lobby. Here, they write their thanks to different people who have supported and contributed to SVA. After they write a couple thank you notes, they are able to receive a little treat. “Doing this let me show my great appreciation for others who helped not only me go to the school, but for the school to keep running!” stated Gabby Patrick. Shenandoah Valley Academy relies greatly on philanthropy, the generous donation of money to good causes. “Because of this, it is important to continue to develop a culture for philanthropy at SVA. That means developing a school culture

of gratitude for the people who make financial gifts to help our school and worthy students, and to thank God for His blessings.” said Mrs. Ware. This is why she and Dr. Twomley originally decided to have the Thank-a-Thon. “Thanks to the alumni and friends who give to help SVA be a sustainable Adventist boarding academy, and to praise God for these people and His goodness in sustaining SVA,” said Mrs. Ware.

On the behalf of SVA, I would like to thank Mrs. Ware, Mrs. Kelly Menhardt, and members from the Parent Association for all of their tremendous work in making the Thank-a-Thon possible. Thank you for your dedication to SVA and the students who go here. Thank you for your help in making it possible for a lot of students have a Christian education. Thank you for showing us, the students, your love of God through your actions of thanks.



RINGFEST

JESSICA PALACIOS

On October 23, Shenandoah Valley Academy’s Bell Ensemble loaded their bells and belongings into a bus. We were just about to depart when we discovered that the door on our bus would not close. So we went to the maintenance building, took everything out of the bus, and loaded our belongings into another bus. Finally, around 8:30 P.M., we arrived at Toledo Seventh-day Adventist Church. After we got there, we unloaded our bells and went back to the hotel to rest for the night.

We woke up Thursday morning and went to the church to meet the other schools to start practicing for Friday night’s concert. After worship, our schools divided into groups so that we could meet each other. We played a few games and got to know each other. Then we got to our tables and started practicing for Friday night. Every hour and a half we would have a short break to move around and then we would practice for another hour and a half. We also had workshops, which included a conductor class, a shelly class, and two other workshop classes. We also had practice with Spencerville Adventist Academy to work on our duet of “Fantasy on Kingsfold.”

After all of our practices on Thursday night, we went to the mall while the Festival Choir practiced their song. The Festival Choir was made up of one member of each bell group. The Festival Choir member from our group was Emily White! The rest of the bell choirs went to the mall or their rooms. While at the mall, my friends and I went to many different stores and bought some food and drinks. When we got back to the hotel

room, we were exhausted and went to sleep.

We woke up Friday morning and went to the church to work on the music that was chosen for the last few hours before the big show. We had our regular mass practices, workshops, and our practice with Spencerville. We also had our dress rehearsal just to make sure everybody would be ready when it was show time. After practicing most of the day, we got into our performance attire and we began to take group pictures. After pictures, we got into our places and we began the concert.

The concert went very well. Afterwards, many schools packed up and left so they could go home. SVA stayed to play the next morning and to help take down the stage on Saturday night. On Sabbath morning, we woke up and got ready for the service. When we got to church, we went to Sabbath School and got ready to play for the service. We played our song with Spencerville and some songs with the remaining schools throughout the service. Other schools gave sermonettes and played their songs. The Sabbath service was a success and after lunch we went back to the hotel to rest. After resting, we went to a restaurant to eat. Then, we went back to the church to take down the stage. After taking down the stage, we went back to the hotel to get sleep before we left the next morning. We left Toledo, OH, at about 8:30 A.M. and returned to New Market, VA, at about 6:00 P.M. I don’t know about my fellow bell members, but I had a lot of fun at Ringfest 2018 and I can’t wait to go back next year!







JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM

JOHANA VILLATORO

December is usually a pretty hectic month, but throughout the chaos, an event that never fails to fill the hearts of all and remind us of the significance of the birth of Jesus is the production of Journey to Bethlehem, or J2B. Journey to Bethlehem is a production that the New Market SDA Church does every year to witness to the community. It reminds us all that, in the midst of holiday cheer, Jesus the Messiah was born for us and was the ultimate gift.

J2B started on December 27 and ended on December 2. Every single day that the production was held, a blessing emerged from it. Almost half of the student body participates in J2B every year. Ethan Lowe says, “I enjoy putting a perspective of Jesus in the minds of the people; it is worth the long cold nights.”

The process of making every night successful is much more complicated than it looks. We start the construction of Bethlehem in October and begin to recruit participants in the beginning weeks of November. Everyone who participates must be committed from the very beginning. The Bethlehem setup looks so realistic. The marketplace and synagogue are created to make the people feel Bethlehem with all their senses. There are live animals, multiple props, and buildings with such exquisite detail that all the visitors who pass through are left mesmerized. The first tour begins at 5:30 each night, and the actors must be ready to engage the people at all times. Maya Assefa says, “The hardest part about J2B is staying in character when all of your friends are around.” A guide takes the visitors around Bethlehem, starting with a wedding scene around a fire. They pass by lepers, who at that time would be outcasts, and many other scenes that would be typical of the culture. After those beginning scenes, the group comes close to the marketplace. There, a soldier stops them until he gives them permission to enter the market place. Once inside, they see a tax collector and little girls dancing around a fire. They continue to walk

through and pass by little stores where they find people selling different things. They go to a blacksmith, a Hebrew school, and a carpenter. The guests also get stopped by a prostitute, just to show how rabbis were back then. They end in the marketplace with a visit to the potter and the inn. All these different stops have actors playing very specific roles in order to put a story together. This leads them to the shepherds, and there the angels emerge to reveal the beautiful message. The visitors’ favorite part comes after the angel scene where the shepherds lead them to baby Jesus. The baby Jesus scene is so beautiful. It is just a quiet moment where the visitors watch Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus in the stable. It is also a very emotional moment because it takes our minds back to the fact that this really happened. Our Jesus came down from heaven as a baby to die for us. After all this is over, families are taken to an evangelism booth where questions are asked or just simple conversations occur.

We repeat this same thing for a week. Every night has different actors and different reactions but the outcome is always the same: people leave learning about a real God who sent His Son down to become one of us. Loraine Serrano says, “Even though the nights are long and you come back smelling like smoke, I love seeing the satisfaction we, as actors, get knowing that we just witnessed to an entire community about this amazing message.” Every night we end with a prayer and we all enjoy the bread that we call “J2B bread.”

Journey to Bethlehem is an amazing thing the New Market Church does. All ages participate in it and all feel overjoyed doing it. I know that in the future, Jesus will look at all of us individually and say “thank you” for sharing to the world the most unbelievable story of His birth and for bringing so many people to know Him. As this is the last time my classmates and I will participate, I know we are all glad to have been a part of such an extraordinary event.





ACADEMY DAYS

BASAM MOHAMED-EL SAYED-GONZALEZ

This year our Academy Days theme text was, “The eyes of the Lord search the whole earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him.” 2 Chronicles 16:9. This year we had a good representation of Adventist elementary schools and high schools. We had students from Atholton Adventist Academy, Beltsville Adventist School, Boulevard Adventist Academy, Bronx-Manhattan SDA School, CF Richards Christian School, Takoma Adventist Academy, and many more.

Academy Days began at registration on Sunday, October 21. Students were met by the ambassadors of all the teams. The kids visiting SVA then got to choose which color group they wanted to be in and then they were added to the group. There were about 10 in each group and all the teams were divided by color. All the students wore the color shirt that represented their team color. After the teams were set, the ambassadors took the kids in their groups to their respective dorms, where they helped the kids get settled into their rooms for the night. When that was finished, the ambassadors and their kids went to

lunch and ate. Once lunch was finished, they went to the auditorium for the welcome and the explanation of what this weekend was going to entail. Mrs. Griffin explained that there were points that could be gained and the group that got the most points would get a cash prize of \$20. Principal Short explained that the kids could also get scholarships that day.

When the meeting finished, it was time for scholarships. Students were able to try out for scholarships in music, sports, and academics. The ambassadors’ job was to make sure they knew where their team members were at all times and to help them with anything they needed. Visitors had another competition Sunday afternoon; these challenges had to do with knowledge. The kids and the ambassadors had to go to all the stations located all around campus and earn points to win the Grand Finale.

Later we had a dinner of Mexican cuisine. It was delicious and the kids enjoyed the decorations and the good food. After dinner, the kids had a little bit of free time before everyone had to go to vespers. Finally, the time came

to go to vespers and everyone headed to the church. At the church, the kids and ambassadors sang songs, saw a drama skit, and listened to what the speaker had to say.

After that, it was time for the Academy Days competition. The competition was held in the gym and the objective was for the teams to compete against each other in physical activities. The team with the most points at the end would win. The games included shooting free throws, throwing bean bags, playing a special version of golf, hitting a dodgeball with a water jug bat, using a skateboard to go from one end of the gym to the other, etc. The kids had a lot of fun and they all worked super hard. At the end, the green team had won. They were given SVA backpacks filled with various goodies. Afterward, they began throwing SVA logoed miniature sports balls across the gym.

Monday morning, the ambassadors and the kids had to wake up early so that they could eat breakfast and head to the ad building. First, we had worship and everyone sang together and listened to the speaker. Then, the SVA bells had a performance. After

worship, it was time for core testing. The kids could pick which core tests they wanted to take. The options included: Math, Religion, English, Science, and Social Studies. The core tests were opportunities for the kids to get scholarships but those that did not want to participate did not have to. During this time, the students rotated through various classrooms where they had more chances to win points.

After lunch, it was time to go to the Grand Finale where there was a performance by all the music groups, followed by the presentation of the scholarships. The entire school was there and there were so many kids that got a scholarship. At the very end, it was finally time to announce who got the most points during all of Academy Days. The team that won was Team Gray. All the members won \$20. After that, they said their final words and said goodbye. Then the ambassadors went to the dorms and helped the kids to pack so that they could drive home. Academy Days was a fantastic experience this year, and it always will be.



ADVICE COLUMN

8 Ways to Stay Focused While Studying

1. Put your phone and other distractions in a different place.
2. Set goals and reward yourself with a break once you reach the goal.
3. Say no to other things that will take up your time and distract you.
4. Exercise. Short-term exercise helps you focus for a longer amount of time.
5. Pick a quiet, comfortable (but not too comfortable) place to study and stay there.
6. Listen to classical music.
7. Figure out the best studying methods that work for you.
8. Have a positive mindset.

7 Things to do on the Weekends

1. Rearrange your room.
2. Call your family.
3. Host a mini party in your room.
4. Read a book.
5. Go to a basketball game.
6. Cook something.
7. Get ahead on homework for the week.







SENIOR WEEKEND  
FATIH TROUP

Senior weekend is an annual two-day event that starts on Friday night and ends on Saturday night. This two-day festivity takes place in the beginning of November and features the Senior class and commemorates the accomplishments of the students. It is also a time for the students to showcase their talents and ethnic culture throughout a series of events.

This year, the weekend began on November 9 with the class lining up outside the sanctuary of the New Market Church. Each student was paired with a classmate to walk down the aisle of the church to the tempo of the organ piece which Mrs. Dodge played. After everyone arrived at the platform and stood while an invocation was given by Henry Ware, the Senior class treasurer, we were directed to sit as the program had officially begun. It started with special music which was given by both of the Senior praise teams. The speaker, Mr. Lowe, then was introduced by Jillian Herbert and Ethan Lowe, both Senior class officers. The message given was powerful and something that will surely be remembered for many years to come. Once Mr. Lowe's address was complete,

Tia Jones gave a short message of her own with the benediction. Following the benediction, the Senior students, parents, faculty, and staff headed to the student center for a small reception. This time was used for students and parents to catch up with each other after time apart. It also gave plenty of time for friends to take pictures with each other to remember this special night.

The following morning, students in music groups woke up extra early to go to the church to prepare for the music that would be featured as a part of the Senior weekend festivities. The song service was led by Senior students and supported by the band, pipe organ, and piano. The strings ensemble played for the children's story and orchestra played for the choir to sing along with. The orchestra also played the postlude. After clearing the church platform of the chairs and music stands used by the various music groups, the students dispersed for the afternoon meal. Lunch was served in the cafeteria. This time was used for reconnection and fellowship among the students' parents. The remainder of the afternoon

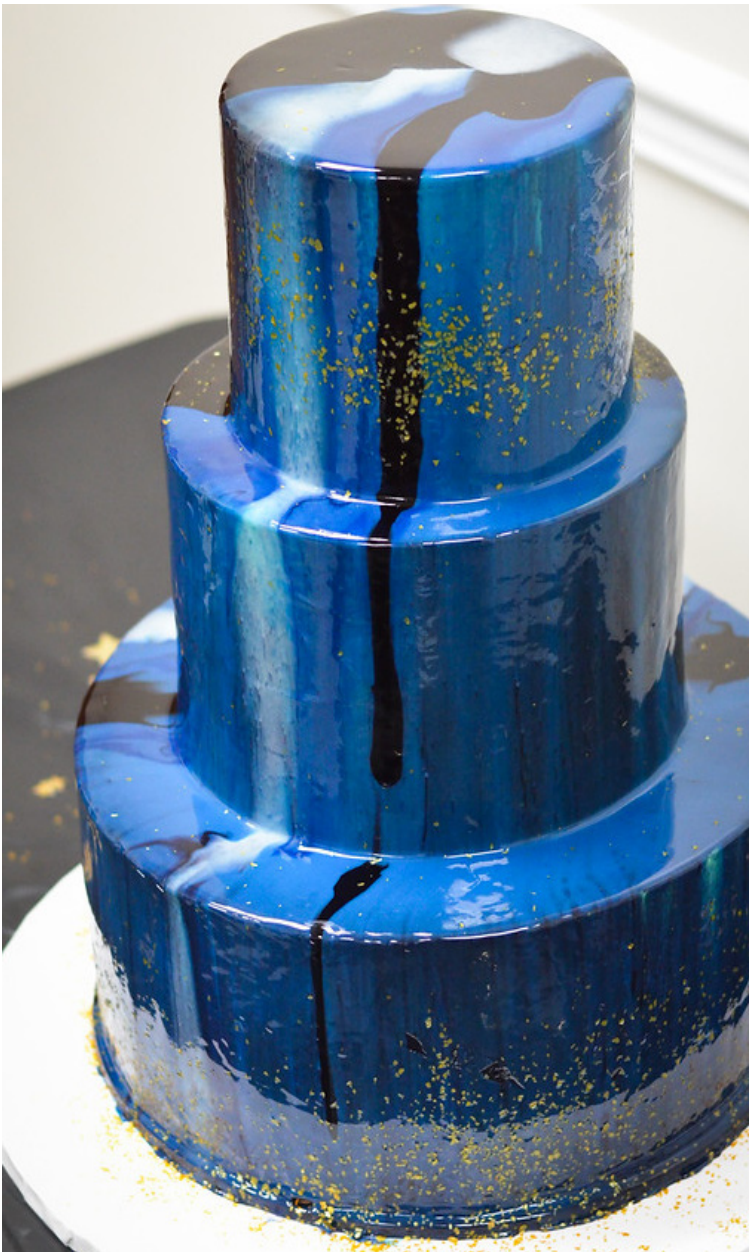
was uneventful, giving people the opportunity to rest after the long week.

Evening came, and the Sabbath was closed with Eventide. Instead of going to the cafeteria for supper as dorm students usually do on Saturday evenings after worship, everyone was instructed to go back to the dorm to wait for the international food fair that would be hosted by the Senior class. Each student was given ten tickets, each worth fifty cents, to spend at the various food vendors. The foods included injera from Ethiopia, pancit from the Philippines, pupusas from El Salvador, crepes from France, spicy samosas and mango lassi from India, and many more appetizing delicacies from multiple countries.

After the food fair, Senior Extravaganza was held in the school chapel. This program is a fundraising event and talent showcase that features Seniors only. This year, the program opened with a cultural dance with Senior girls representing different countries. The evening also included vocal duets. One was by Alyssa Franco and Jorge Landivar, and another by Misade Rosario and Laylah Vargas. The auction was conducted by

Mr. Jared Thompson, sporting his flashy suit to excite and motivate the audience to generously donate to our class. Some of the items sold included the first and second row seats at graduation, tickets to Sight and Sound in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, and food and spa baskets. There was also a cake that was auctioned. However, instead of the highest bidder receiving the cake, the Senior class ate the cake at the end of the night. Students from all classes began to donate to the cake auction. The seniors began to sing a class favorite, "Take Me Home, Country Roads" by John Denver to motivate the crowd even more. It was a very memorable moment.

After the cake auction ended, the Senior class closed out the evening with a rendition of the school anthem created at Senior survival back in September. By the time the evening ended, the Seniors had raised over \$23,000 and completed our first major Senior event. It was a very tiring and strenuous event to organize. However, with the support of wonderful class sponsors and class officers, the event was successful. The hard work was all worth it!



CANDLE LIGHT  
GISSELE VILLATORO

On December 7-8, Shenandoah Valley Academy had our annual Candlelight concert. The weekend was full of delightful music that is SVA's way of getting parents and students into the Christmas spirit. The week before Candlelight, students prepared their music pieces to perfection. Anyone could tell that so many people had put in their commitment and effort to assure that this year's Candlelight would be a success. Fortunately, it was. After a long dress rehearsal Thursday night, new students weren't sure of what to expect at a Candlelight concert. The experience of Candlelight is like no other, with elaborate music and festivities.

On Friday, December 7th, the church community (and some early parents) got the

first taste of this year's concert. Many were nervous because we have recently changed music directors. But everything carried out smoothly. The groups performing alternated between band, orchestra, bells, Shenandoans, and the choir. There was also the custom "Breath of Heaven" sung by select Seniors. As Friday's performance came to an end, the students were prepared to repeat the process for Sabbath afternoon.

Sabbath went by quicker than expected. After the choir's morning performance for special music at church, they had a few hours to rest before the afternoon Candlelight concert began again. As the time approached 4:00 P.M., students were ready to start the concert. Once the lights were dimmed, the

second Candlelight concert began. Many were impressed with the elaborate musical choices, made by our very own Mr. Biaggi and Ms. Weideman. The first song was a mix of students and adults, with the help of the orchestra as well. The song "Jubilate Deo" caught attention of the audience at the beginning of the concert, and reappeared at the end as well. SVA alumni were able to participate in the performance during the song "O Jesu So Sweet." As the large choir surrounded the sanctuary with lighted candles, SVA alumni joined them in song. Together, current and past students were able to relive the Christmas experience with the beautiful lyrics.

After the lengthy afternoon concert, many chose to stick around for the Pops concert Saturday night, at which guests were free to bid in a silent auction for artwork created by music students. The money raised will help fund SVA's music program. The creative artwork was on display at the entrance of the Pops concert for anyone to bid on. Also, some church members brought baked goods to be sold at the concert in order to support our school. Parents purchased art and snacks as they found their seats at the center of the gym floor.

As the performers set up, everyone was festive in Christmas colors and accessories. Musicians had different hats full of lights and bright Christmas decor. As the music started, the crowd engaged

in the popular festive music. After the orchestra's performance, students surrounded the crowd yet again in song. You could hear the strong harmony in the large choir as they filled the gym with one song, Go Tell it on the Mountain. Next, the orchestra continued with festive music that made the audience sing along. Everybody was guaranteed a great time full of Christmas spirit.

Many take for granted the impact that music has on people. Through song, we can share God's message, which is the true meaning of Christmas. By celebrating with the people closest to us, we are reminded by giving to others what God has given us. God gave us His only Son so that we could join Him forever in Heaven. This is the message

SVA gives people by putting on these concerts. We are trying to touch others' hearts and souls in different ways, just as Jesus has done. People are different; everyone learns and listens differently. Jesus knows this, and in the same way He brings people to Him in different unique ways. Some may not see music as a powerful form of sharing the gospel, but I believe that our concert has touched someone's heart this year. We underestimate our impact on others, but just by putting on something as simple as a Christmas concert, we can be witnesses to others. Regardless of whether this was your first Candlelight or your last, I hope that everyone enjoyed it and was blessed by the true spirit of Christmas.



NACA TOURNAMENT

JULIANNA CUELLAR

The first day, we were on the road. We headed out on Tuesday, October 23, and when we got to the hotel we signed in and got comfortable in our assigned rooms that we would have for the week.

The next morning was our first game and we left early in the morning to get to the gym. The first day everyone was sluggish, so we did lose the first couple of games we had. These games determined what division we would be placed in. Knowing that, we really tried to play our best.

Unfortunately, we never really did very well in the beginning games. Most of the girls were either sick or not feeling one hundred percent. That wasn't an excuse for us, though. We really started pulling ourselves together at the last few games. That's when people started feeling better, and the comfort on the court started to come to us. Our main starters were in and the calmness they brought to the court helped us pull ourselves together. We ended up playing our best the last

game and we were really close to winning. I know that if we had played our hardest from beginning to end, we would have been placed higher than we were. Since the boys had bad weather most of the time and a few of their players were injured, they didn't do the best they could have, either, but both sports brought back trophies. The girls won the "Best Sportsmanship" trophy and the boys brought back the "Consolation Champion" trophy.

Overall, going to tournament was a great experience for both teams. We got to deepen our friendships and have the experience of a tournament. I know from my personal experience that even though we didn't win the championship, we won a greater thing, which was friendship. It was amazing to just relax after a game and hang out with friends. It was nice feeling to have each other's support at the end of each game. Tournament was a great experience and it is definitely worth going to at least once.



SAU PREVIEW

NELDA ATUTI

Wow! It is so hard to believe that college is just around the corner. A few weeks ago, a group of Seniors went to Southern Adventist University for college preview days. Before this trip, I had never been to Southern and I didn't know what to expect. We began our trip by loading the bus on Sunday morning, November 4. The drive to Tennessee was a total of eight long hours.

Arriving around six o'clock, we checked into our hotel rooms and proceeded to go to dinner which was hosted by the Southern Admission team. After a delicious meal, we left to go back to the hotel for a few moments of relaxation. Some of my friends and I decided to use this time to sit by the pool and reminisce over the different memories we had of the past three years. After a long day of travel, we all headed to bed for some much needed rest.

The following day, our group headed out to the campus. We started our tour at Wright Hall where we met our specific guides for the day. We were divided into groups by the color of our lanyards. After forming our groups, we went our different ways to the various buildings scattered on campus. I remember

there being a lot of walking and stairs.

After touring the various departments and the student center, we stopped for lunch in the cafeteria. The cafeteria was very different from our campus' cafe! There were so many choices of food in the building alone and many other options off campus. To say the least, I was very indecisive. After getting my meal and eating, Laura and I walked around the cafeteria to ask some current students questions. Hearing their perspective of this school was very helpful in my decision of which college I will attend.

We finished our tour by viewing the dorms. The rooms were very nice and resembled the dorms here. Many of the aspects of the dorm reminded me of our school, which was also helpful in my decision process.

After viewing the school, I might be able to see myself going there in the future. Luckily, there are about five months left to make the decision and I am going to take time to make the best decision I can. Southern is a wonderful school and I am very happy I visited. The atmosphere was great and I really enjoyed the departments. If you are given the chance, I would highly recommend visiting!



ROK VESPERS

DRUSILLA APOLA

On October 19, Shenandoah Valley Academy had its Annual ROK (Reach Our Kids) Vespers. ROK vespers is held for the SVA kids to meet their ROK parents, and attend vespers with them. They get to enjoy worshiping and conversing with their ROK families.

The evening started with the students coming into the church and receiving their name tag which had their ROK parent on it. They found the row that they were assigned to sit in. Hopefully their ROK family would be waiting for them. Soon most of the ROK families arrived and everyone was excitedly meeting each other and getting acquainted before the program started. Once everyone was settled, the vespers began. We sang songs, and had a special speaker for the evening. This year's speaker was Mr. Brossfield, who was introduced by Mrs. Brossfield. He started off with some icebreakers between the ROK families. He then gave a nice sermon that everyone enjoyed and could relate to.

After the wonderful program, the ROK families were dismissed to the fellowship hall where they served pies, juice, and hot chocolate. It was very crowded and hectic but just being with the ROK families was enjoyable. This was one of the best parts, because students were able to talk personally with their ROK families over refreshments. Students were able to learn more about them and their families, and could even exchange phone numbers and plan on times to visit with each other some more. Some ROK families even brought gifts for their students. The fellowship hall got so crowded and hot that they opened the doors and people talked outside.

My experience at ROK Vespers was great. I went to the church a little nervous to meet my ROK family. I arrived and got everything that I needed but they weren't there. I sat in my assigned row waiting for my ROK family to come. Eventually the program started but they still had not come. I started getting nervous that they wouldn't show up. In the middle of one of the songs, an RA told me that my ROK family was there but sitting in a different row. I went with her to where they supposedly were. But when I got there, the people sitting there weren't my ROK family, so I just sat there with them because they hadn't found their ROK children either.

When the songs were coming to an end, I saw my ROK family go to my previous seat. After the program was over, I got to officially meet them, take pictures, talk, and hang out with them. Meeting your ROK family allows you to meet people that you would have never thought you would have met. My ROK parents ended up being the Aunt and Uncle to one of my friends at my past school. It was great getting to talk to and relate to people I had a mutual connection with.

The ROK vespers was great because it showed SVA students, especially those in the dorm, that just because their families aren't here, they still have their ROK friends here for them. It was fun getting to meet new people that chose to be your ROK friend. It was also great meeting friends from your school who are also in your ROK family. It allows students to feel a little more welcome at Shenandoah Valley Academy.



<i>HAPPY BIRTHDAY</i>	27	<i>Bernard Miongo</i>
<b>NOVEMBER</b>	30	<i>Jillian Herbert / Benjamin Ngetich</i>
12	<i>Hope Griseto</i>	
13	<i>Evelyn Tejador</i>	
14	<i>Svannah Westfaul</i>	
15	<i>Rosanny Serrano</i>	
16	<i>Fredy Reyes</i>	
21	<i>Kiera Griffin</i>	
23	<i>Ryan Wickline</i>	
24	<i>Rachel Brossfield</i>	
25	<i>Michael Moulder / Andra Dahlberg</i>	
26	<i>Tyler Armstrong</i>	
27	<i>Jenayah Dunn</i>	
28	<i>Drusilla Apola</i>	
29	<i>Stefan Ullrich</i>	
<b>DECEMBER</b>	5	<i>Thomas Retz</i>
4	<i>Alexa Sepluveda</i>	<i>6 Stella Souza / Nathanael Perez / Kezia DeSpirito</i>
5	<i>Katie Harter</i>	
6	<i>Dillon Walter</i>	
8	<i>Marc-Anthony Jones / Jousevanie Francois / Abigail Charles</i>	<i>13 Julianna Cuellar / Katie Davis</i>
11	<i>Samantha Armstrong</i>	
15	<i>Nicholas DeSilva</i>	
18	<i>Charity Jones</i>	
20	<i>Cathrina Schoonard</i>	
21	<i>ShaDiamond Wilson</i>	
24	<i>Cindy Reis</i>	
25	<i>Henry Ware</i>	
26	<i>Johana Villatoro</i>	

JANUARY

FEBRUARY

**SHOUT-OUTS!**

To ALL MY SA OFFICERS, ABBY TOLBERT, GABBY PHILLIPS, TANIA MOOROVEN, DRUSILLA APOLA, KELLY RAMIREZ, NELDA ATUTI, KENDRA FAIRBANK, LAURA WESTBERG, AND KELVIN FEITOSA: Thank you for staying up and helping with banquet prep! You guys are amazing! – *Julia Rivera, SA President*

To EVERYONE AT SVA: If you want us to publish your shout-outs, email them to [sarah.durichек@student.sva-va.org](mailto:sarah.durichек@student.sva-va.org) or text them to 301-331-7797! – *Aubrey and Sarah, Newspaper Editors*

*If YOU are trying to sell something you can have it advertised in the Shen-Val-Lore! Send the prices for your merchandise to [sarah.durichек@student.sva-va.org](mailto:sarah.durichек@student.sva-va.org), and get the word out about your sale! [YOUR AD HERE]*



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