

Shen - Val - Lore

The Student Voice of Shenandoah Valley Academy

Shenandoah Valley Academy

March 6, 2026

Volume 95, Edition 3

Andrews Tournament Jake Pacylowski

Upcoming Events

From January 21-24, 2026, Andrews University invited over 40 teams to come participate in their yearly basketball tournament, our school's teams being a few of them. Leaving early Wednesday morning, on January 28, we rode on the bus for ten hours and arrived at Andrews campus in Berrien Springs, Michigan. Upon our arrival, we were greeted with food and fellowship with other schools' teams. We then checked into our hotel and prepared for an early morning the following day.

On Thursday, January 29, we headed to the first of many games of the tournament. Our J.V. opened against Fletcher Academy and girls' varsity played against Wisconsin Academy. Following those two games, boys' varsity played against the other SVA (Spring Valley Academy). Girls' varsity were able to win their game, but the boys' games did not turn out as we wanted them to. Despite this, we held our heads high for the upcoming games. Boys' varsity then played Granger Christian School. After losing against SVA, our team was fueled to outplay Granger. This game was a big win that brought much needed confidence to our team. The next game was one of the best games of the tournament. Our J.V. played against Andrews Academy's J.V. team. Samuel Onoffrey had a huge night scoring his second 30-point game of the season. Despite this effort, our team was unable to secure the win and lost by four points (61-65). At around 8:00 at night, girls' varsity finished the day against Union Springs Academy.

The next morning, we arose at 6:00 AM to arrive at the Andrews Academy gym by 7:00 AM for J.V.'s third game.

That morning, J.V. was able to achieve their first win of the tournament by defeating Wisconsin Academy. Following that game, the girls played against Collegedale Academy's J.V. Our girls' team was able to come back and almost win the game after being down in the beginning. Unfortunately, they were unable to cut the lead, losing by only eight points (39-31). At 10:30 AM, boys' varsity played a must win game against Crawford Adventist Academy. Their team had two main scorers that were giving our team trouble all game. In the fourth quarter, we found ourselves down seven points with only about a minute in the game. Asa Johnson, who had been our main scorer that game, had been struggling from the 3-point line. Luckily, when we needed it most, he hit a pull up three to cut the lead to five points. We were able to get a big defensive stop to get the ball back. This allowed Asa to run down the lane and get a quick 2-point shot before their defense could set up. At this point, Crawford attempted to hold the ball to secure their win, being up two points at this time. Their strategy did not go to plan as one of their players made the mistake of throwing the ball out of reach to their teammate. This caused the ball to fly out of bounds and we had another chance with around 25 seconds remaining. Asa, being the one to cut the lead to two, was taking the ball up the court. He just happened to lose his dribble, but the ball bounced into Stevie DeLong's hands. Stevie threw a one-handed pass from the half-court line to Jake Pacylowski in the corner. His three-pointer hit to put the Stars up one with just under 20 seconds remaining. Despite this, our team was in the bonus and we gave them two free throws to have a chance to win the

game. Luckily, they went one for two. Our team had a chance to hit a game-winner with just above two seconds left. Ajani Shaw's fade-away was slightly short, and the game went to overtime. In overtime, Marcos Torres and Asa were able to score multiple free throws.



March

Faculty Family Vespers

DST Starts

9
Cookie Monday

12-23 Spring Break/
Music & Mission Trips

12-13 Candlelight
Concerts

29 Boy's/Girl's
Club Activity

29-30 CapitalMUN

April

1-5 Andrew's
Preview Trip

2 PreACT - Freshmen
& Sophomores

5 Easter

9-11 PCSDA
Elementary Music
Festival

12 ACT
Junior/Senior Banquet



Shen-Val-Lore

Once again, we were up one point with about 25 seconds remaining. Crawford’s team was attempting to hold the ball for the chance to hit a game-winning shot. As the time depleted, we knew Crawford’s team would try to get the ball to their 6’6” guard, but Kyle Goodwyn was not going to let that slide. As they tried to stall just a couple more seconds and make one extra pass, Kyle jumped into the passing lane and stole the ball. He immediately passed it up to Asa for a chance to seal the game with a layup. Asa was fouled, but

the refs missed the call. Even so, by the time Crawford got the ball again, there were less than three seconds remaining. Their full-court shot was no good, and the Stars came out victorious with a final score of 67-66.

The following games consisted of girls’ varsity losing to Mount Pisgah Academy and J.V. losing to Andrew’s Academy J.V. team again. Boys’ varsity’s final game of the tournament was against Andrews Cardinals varsity team where our team faced an unfortu-

nate loss as we were rushed to the court due to miscommunications. This led to little to no warm-up and a cold start for us, which the Cardinals took advantage of. Despite this, boys’ varsity still had a chance to play for third place in the tournament on Saturday night. To all of our dismay, we were informed of the decision to return to SVA early due to bad weather. we still had a great time at the tournament.

Candlelight Kaydin Kinney

The 51st annual Candlelight Concert was characterized by a diverse repertoire that had a shared tone of reverent praise for the Christmas narrative. With two repeated concerts, the music department pulled together a celebratory telling of the birth of Jesus. With the phenomenal care and effort of music directors Mr. Mendoza and Mrs. Wiedemann-Jaen, the concerts managed to display the various emotions the Christmas story evokes.

The concert began with Concert Band. “C’est Noel!” began the performance with a vibrant start. Featuring the familiar melodies of “Now Is Born the Divine Christ Child,” “Silent Night,” and “Angels We Have Heard On High,” “C’est Noel!” took the listener on a journey through the joy and sacredness of Christ’s birth. Marked by distinct rhythms, vulnerable woodwind intervals, and powerful brass chords, the Concert Band began the program with a tone of praise and celebration.

The program shifted in tone as Shenandoans entered the stage, where they presented the more venerated and gentle aspects of Christmas. Beginning with “God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen,” the powerful melody was paired with reverent harmonies as the vocalists confidently displayed the good news of Christ’s birth. Next, “What Child Is This?” was like a worshipful lullaby, capturing the holy and tranquil night of Christ’s birth with swells of elegant synchronized voices. Lastly, the Shenandoans sang “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.” Featuring a melancholic opening solo by Genesis Roldan, the piece displayed the desperation for a Messiah and what that truly meant for Christ.

Following the Shenandoan’s performance was the yearly tradition of performing “Breath of Heaven.” Featuring alternating soloists Hadassah Foote, Jordan Rivera, Grace Atama, Emily Wetmore, Abigail

Moore, and Belmaris Mercado, the piece was accompanied by the graceful orchestration of assorted strings, piano, and harp. The piece carried the heavy emotions that Mary felt becoming the mother of Christ, displaying her worry, fear, and eventual acceptance of her responsibility.

The strings continued their colorful display of the Christmas story with Handel’s “Pastoral Symphony from Messiah.” Paired with the warm foundational harmonies of the organ, the strings played a beautiful repeating melody that felt both joyful and reverent. The strings then shifted to a livelier piece. “Christmas in the Mountains,” which featured the harp, powerfully strung together “The Babe of Bethlehem,” “Jesus, Jesus, Rest Your Head,” and “Star in the East” into an engaging medley.

The strings were then followed by the Handbell Ensemble. Beginning with “Huron Carol,” the rotating humming of bells filled the audience with wonder as the piece captured the pure holiness of the Christmas narrative. The handbells then shifted to “On Christmas Night All Christians Sing,” a much more joyful piece. Filled with a sense of praise, the Handbell Ensemble lifted the spirits of listeners with various textures of sound that truly only handbells can capture.

The concert then turned to the Orchestra. Beginning with “People, Look East,” the Orchestra played a very exposed piece featuring brass and percussion solos and a flute duet. The piece showcased the diverse emotions that the Christmas story evokes. The Orchestra then followed with a much simpler piece, “The Joy of Christmas.” The piece paired “Patapan” and “Gesu Bambino” into a regal and meditative tone.

Next were the Shenandoans’ Gentlemen, also known as the “Shentlemen.” The vocalists, accompa-

nied by some SVA staff, performed a vibrant and fun adaptation to the familiar melody of “Good Christian Men, Rejoice!” They displayed the good news in a lighthearted and joyful performance.

The Concert Band then returned to the stage, this time accompanied by the Concert Choir. The two groups performed the exuberant “Christmas Finale.” The medley included melodies from “Joy to the World,” “It Came Upon a Midnight Clear,” and “O Come, All Ye Faithful” into one powerful piece.

The concert then came to its conclusion as the Orchestra played “Silent Night” and the Choir surrounded the sanctuary with candles. The church then filled with the familiar reverent repetitions of “O Jesu So Sweet.” Audience members and alumni were invited to join in the communal praise and remembrance of the birth of Christ. The church swelled with voices as all joined together as one voice to praise the origin of our Savior Jesus Christ.

Following the closing prayer, the Orchestra and Concert Choir closed the repertoire with a majestic and hopeful adaptation to “Angels We Have Heard on High.” The concert was tied together by this joyful praise, leading to a standing ovation from the audience. With that, the 51st Annual Candlelight Concert had come to an end, but all involved left with a feeling of joy and praise for the good news of Christ.



Career Day Abi Dugre

Although Sunday School is not the most popular or anticipated day of the school year, Career Day makes it both enjoyable and educational. This year’s Career Day on February 1 had a wide selection of options for breakout sessions, including midwifery, nursing, engineering, social work, content creation, and physician, as well as several Adventist universities such as Southern and Loma Linda. Per tradition, the day began with a keynote speaker who motivates and encourages students. This year’s speaker was Mrs. Williams, the mother of Theron Williams, a Junior at SVA. Mrs. Williams made sure that students understood that when it comes to picking a career, it is important to think both logically and outside of the box. She told her own story of growing up on a farm and deciding that she wanted to create a different life for herself. Her words of wisdom motivated students to not just choose something typical or expected, but choose something that fulfills them and brings them happiness. But in order to do that, it is necessary to learn about a broad range of careers and colleges. The students then headed to breakout sessions in order to help them make these important decisions.

In one session, Mr. Buruchara spoke about the different branches of psychology and his daily life as a counselor. “I liked how engaging and informative he was, while also incorporating a good amount of humor,”

said Senior Abby Moore. Another speaker talked about the history of midwifery and the different legal viewpoints on the profession. The local elementary school teacher, Mr. VandeVere, gave an in-depth explanation on his experience in teaching. A couple also spoke about their mutual interest in engineering and the details of their everyday work life, from using crash-test dummies to simulate traffic accidents to computing a code to launch a rocket from NASA. Representatives from Southern, Loma Linda, Southwestern, and Andrews University all talked about their respective schools and answered many questions from eager prospective students. The sessions wrapped up quickly so that everyone could have enough time to roam around the college fair in the gym and discuss more information with admissions officers.

Inside the crowded and noisy gymnasium, about fifteen different booths were set up around the area and surrounded with interested students wanting to learn more about each college. To give another incentive to visit the booths and speak to the representatives, a raffle was held. Everyone could fill out an information sheet and submit it to have a chance to win a free giveaway. These highly coveted items included many things, such as stuffed animals, hoodies, mugs, hats, and sweatpants, which of course displayed university or organization logos. As Mrs. Short

drew names and announced the winner of the raffle at each booth, students cheered and clapped to support each other, filling the

gym with a resounding noise. Overall, the college fair part of career day gave students the opportunity to meet colleges in-person and get clarification from the ones they might want to attend or the organization they have interest in working for.

The Senior class especially found this Career Day to be helpful in aiding their decisions about their future educational and career paths. “I had been wanting to talk with someone from Southern Adventist University for a while now, and I finally got the opportunity during one of the breakout sessions. I learned so much in just a few minutes and now I’m even more sure of my decision to attend SAU,” said an anonymous Senior. Despite the tediousness of going to school on a Sunday, Career Day makes it enjoyable as well as educational. Through this event, people are able to explore their varying interests and learn about options that they might not have considered before.



Principal’s List & NHS Induction

Hannah Hunt

The 2026 Principal’s List Awards Ceremony and National Honor Society Induction on January 18 was an event to remember. Everyone there had dressed up nicely and gotten all done up. Parents had driven for hours to make it and see their child get this award for achieving high academic goals this past semester. Everyone was happy to see family and friends.

First, Principal Don Short welcomed everyone. Our National Honor Society (NHS) Pastor, Madison Wilson, then opened with prayer. Then our NHS Vice-President, Abigail Dugre, introduced the speaker, SVA’s new Vice Principal, Mr. Amir Gulzar. He told us that he was going to give a rendition of the speech that he had given at another NHS induction ceremony. He talked about the four pillars and what it meant to our school and its reputation to uphold them. He spoke of integrity and how that’s one of the most important traits of a person. It was definitely an inspirational speech.

After Vice Principal Amir Gulzar’s address to the scholars, Principal Short presented the Principal’s List Awards as Mrs. Carrie Heilman announced the scholars. Everyone got an individual picture, then the whole class lined up below and on the stage to take a class photo. There were many people who had worked hard and achieved a GPA of 3.5 or above in the first semester. There were a total of 13 Freshmen, 21 Sophomores, 22 Juniors, and 31 Seniors. That is more than half of our school. Many of these students are also involved in sports, music, and leadership roles at SVA. The busy lifestyle here has not stopped them from achieving high things.

After the Principal’s List Awards, there was special music by Jael Blackett, Katherine Herold, Abigail Wetmore, and Mrs. Kelly Wiedemann-Jaén. They played Minuet and Trio. It was a lovely piece. After they shared their talent, our NHS Principal, Abigail Moore, said a brief remark to start the Candlelight Ceremony. Then each of our NHS officers shared a short speech about each of the four pillars of the NHS Society. Our Vice-President, Abigail

Dugre, talked about “Scholarship;” our NHS Secretary/Treasurer, Kyra Walker, talked about “Service;” Our NHS President, Abigail Moore, talked about “Leadership;” and our NHS Pastor, Madison Wilson, talked about “Character.” Then we started the induction of the new NHS members; each lit a candle and received a certificate from Mr. Short. Then a group picture was taken of the inductees. The inductees were Rebecca Anderson, Jael Blackett, Joshua Franco, Natali Gutierrez, Katherine Herold, Kristofer Hoffman, Alexis Mace, Samuel Onoffrey, Jake Pacylowski, Maria Sanjuan Lemus, Ella Short, Nayomi Siever, Abigail Wetmore, and Emily Wetmore. All these people showed outstanding academic achievement, as well as leadership in various places. They also showed exceptional skills in other things such as character and service, as the NHS requires more than just high academic standings.

After everyone was inducted, all new, current, and former members of the NHS stood and recited the NHS pledge, led by Abigail Moore.

I pledge to maintain my high scholastic standing,

to hold as fundamental and worthy an untarnished character,

to endeavour intelligently and courageously to be a leader,

and to give myself freely in service to others.

In so doing, I shall prove myself worthy of a place in the National Honour Society.

Mrs. Darlene Molina finished out the ceremony with prayer. After this, everyone was invited to the lobby of the Ad Building for food. Everyone got to talk to their family and friends. I know there were a lot of people who were proud of the achievements the students made this last semester. There is no doubt everyone will strive for that excellence this following semester.

Junk Scramble

Sophia Trigo

The room was filled with an unmatched energy. Students flooded Zirkle Gymnasium, flaunting off their class colors. Tutus, face paint, flags, and ribbons decorated the students. As the classes were separated into their respective corners, the SA officers hurried to give instructions to class sponsors and officers. Within a few minutes, the gymnasium was overflowing with “junk”! There was a little bit of everything: school supplies, random household items, a dirt bike, a four-wheeler, a golf-cart, and a ladder! The students waited eagerly for the commencement of the game. Mr. Martin and Mr. Mora dressed as our referees and set themselves at the center of the gym. Mr. Short held up his long list of random items and began to call them one by one. A roar of excitement was heard after each item was called, students rushing to dig up the items out of the piles of junk.

As classes racked up points, the items called out by Mr. Short became more unique and diffi-

cult to find. After about an hour of the game, three of the classes were at a tie. More motivation and team work was sparked throughout the classes. When an art competition was announced, the best artist of each class was sent out, each assigned with the challenge of drawing a beloved cartoon character, Bluey. Next, a musical competition was put in place. Isabella Hernandez (9), Jael Blackett (10), Eddie Jackson (11), and Marcos Torres (12) warmed up their instruments to perform a classic “Twinkle, Twinkle.” Our students performed wonderfully! Our winner, Eddie Jackson, totally ripped it on the electric guitar, putting him in first place.

After a few more rounds of random items and activities such as a PBE challenge, a geography challenge, and oddest items, we reached our final challenge. The classes got together to create the largest tower of junk. The Junior class was successful, as they brought a ladder that seemed to reach the ceiling. As we made our way back to our corners, we wait-

ed with bated breath to hear the winners of the 2026 Junk Scramble. SA Vice President, Genesis Roldan, wheeled around the scoreboard...the Freshmen had 53 points, the Sophomore class had 36 points, the Junior class had 51 points...and the Senior Class of 2026 won with 72 points! The Senior class was beyond ecstatic! They ran around cheering and screaming their win. The SA officers brought a small pizza party together for the Senior Class and Junk Scramble 2026 came to a close.



Alpine Word Search
Corey Whalen

C Z X H P V Z A M I W H B K P N A L P F
S N O W B O A R D I N G Y W O X Q M M G
E W V W J E Q T B U Y P R I G B R E W N
A W L J A L P I N E S K I I N G S T B I
C R O S S C O U N T R Y S K I I N G I I
L I C M A J S C I T B Q M S R Y M M A K
U G C Z F H B B U T G I V G E H J E T S
X E Q L P X B O P R S J O E E E Y G H E
L J R N C N A B D T L V L K N L S U L L
C D T X Q Z B S H C X I H X I E P L O Y
G C E Q S W F L Y I F K N J A C E Y N T
J D H R X P C E P A H M P G T K E R D S
V N L N O R D I C C O M B I N E D C U E
Y G C R W I W G B F J R O H U F S B I E
T Y Q X W U C H S K E L E T O N K B K R
F I G U R E S K A T I N G C M R A T V F
A J Y D I C E H O C K E Y B I I T Y Q K
Z S K I J U M P I N G X B D K E I B T J
A P F M O I F U T Q H L V A S N N G A H
J U I N Y L R B F A Q F W Y Q S G J X L

1. Alpine Skiing 2.Biathlon 3.Bobsleigh 4.Crosscountry Skiing 5. Curling 6. Figure Skating 7. Freestyle Skiing
8. Ice Hockey 9. Luge 10. Nordic Combined 11. Skeleton 12. Ski Jumping 13. Snowboarding
14. Ski Mountaneering 15. Speed Skating

Student WOP

Caleb Alfarez

During the 3rd week of February, students engaged in a week far different from the rest. During these five days, school-wide worships were held every morning and every evening with topics ranging from change in ourselves, in our inner circles, in the school, and in the world. This year’s Student-Led Week of Prayer was titled Reconstruction: How to Change the World in Five Days.

On Monday morning to start the week, a short song service was held by the Junior praise team. Following them was an activity where students had to walk across the stage blindfolded without touching any of the chairs. Then came the Question of the Day video hosted by Ajani Shaw and Ayden Christiansen. The speaker was Michael Kelly, who covered the idea of everyone being on the “Same Boat” and being equally sinners. Maya Castillo followed up that evening elaborating on the idea of students being on the same boat while recognizing that we all are on different chapters or stages of the boat.

Tuesday brought Dylan Jimenez who talked about ourselves. This was elaborated on that night by Matteo Perrotti who explained how God wants a relationship with each of us personally and only then can we see change in the atmosphere around us.

Wednesday, the topic expanded to “Our Inner Circles,” when Jackie Vidal explained her experience in the importance of good friendships. Eduardo Campio later expanded on it when he talked about his valuable friendship with Alan Perez and Ben Lazo, two great friends who literally helped save his life.

Thursday morning, students were encouraged by Rhonnier Gutierrez, who gave a great talk covering the idea of change in our school. A notable activity also happened on this day. Students were each given a balloon which they had to fill with air and write their name on. Later, they were each asked to hit it around the auditorium towards other students. Finally, they were asked to try to find their balloon with their name on it again. It was pure chaos but demonstrated that day’s topic perfectly: the impact that our influence has is vast and can spread a great distance. That night, Elijah Masikonde showed how our school had lost sight of God and challenged students to search for Him more, not only alone, and not only with friends, but in unity with our entire school community.

Friday was easily the most eventful day of the week. After a heartfelt announcement from Mr. Short, expressing his love for the school and stating his decision to retire from SVA,

Ajani Shaw told us of God’s desire for change to continue, not just with our friends, but across the world. That evening, Alan Perez gave a great sermon expressing God’s will for us to tell the world of His message and His soon return. Finally, students were invited to stay for communion where Pastor Diego, Pastor Harley, and Alan Perez led students in this sacred ritual. Following the ceremony, students were provided with several snacks to enjoy while listening to the powerful testimonies from students such as Enzo Ngago, Josie DeClerck, Jael Blackett, and Mariana Alvarez.

Overall, students had varying opinions about this year’s Week of Prayer. Many students loved the skits and found them relatable due to their Gen-Z based scripts. Skits constantly included modern slang, everyday school-wide jokes, and commonly used SVA phrases to connect the student body.

Another loved part of Week of Prayer was the Question of the Day video every morning. Students were invited to answer questions concerning that day’s topics and their answers were compiled into a video which was then shown to the school. Students reported enjoying these videos very much, not just because of their light-hearted nature, but because of the idea that they could hear answers to these questions from the very

people they spend time with every day.

After the week was over, people were definitely touched; however, the school heard varying opinions. That next weekend on Friday and Monday, a survey was given to the student body asking for their input regarding the Student-Led Week of Prayer. As it gets processed, the result is clear: This year’s Week of Prayer, as powerful as it was, had its highs and its lows, and many student leaders especially felt it was messy, chaotic, and stressful. This week was one worth remembering, some for the great impact it had on their lives, and the change it brought to their being. Others, for the high stress and emotional roller coaster it brought upon them, although they are planning to use their experiences to make future student led events even better. However, as the Week of Prayer ended, the impact was there and the change would soon be felt. The urge in students to be better has been noticed, and one can easily conclude that even through the mess, God still worked to create a beautiful Week of Prayer for SVA.



Photo Gallery



Editor:
Josie DeClerck
Sponsor
Mrs. White

Happy Birthday!

January

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Mariajose
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Jason

Alvorado

Illiana Simons

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