

# Shen-Val-Lore

The Student Voice of Shenandoah Valley Academy

Shenandoah Valley Academy

March 5, 2025

Volume 94, Edition 3



## Upcoming Events

### March

- 1 Talent Show
- 2 Boys’/Girls’ Club Activity
- 7 3rd Quarter Ends
- 8 Church Connect
- 9 SAT Faculty Family Activity
- 12 ASVAB
- 13-25 Mission Trip
- 13-24 Spring Break
- 26-29 Mission Emphasis Week
- 28 30-hour Famine
- 30-2 Senior Andrews Trip
- 31 Junior Religion Trip

### April

- 5 Music Outing
- 6 Junior/Senior Banquet ACT
- 7-11 SA Spirit Week
- 10-13 PCSDA Music Festival
- 18-20 Alumni Weekend
- 22-27 Music Tour
- 23-27 Homeleave

### May

- 1-4 New England Tour
- 9 ROK Hayride
- 10 Spring Concerts
- 11 SA Picnic
- 15-16 Senior Exams
- 16 Awards Chapel Outdoor Vespers
- 17 Flower Eventide Video Yearbook
- 18-21 Senior Class Trip
- 19-21 Final Exams
- 23-25 Graduation Weekend

## Junk Scramble

Abi Dugre

On the snowy evening of Saturday, January 11, the student body gathered at the SVA gym for Junk Scramble, an annual SA event. Excitement filled the air as everyone gathered their chosen items in designated sections of the gym. There was only one goal that night for each class: To be faster than other classes and emerge victorious.

One of the most fun aspects of this event was the variety of items brought by students. To name a few, there were U.S. passports, vinyl albums, a La-Z-Boy, mini fridges, a huge inflatable duck, a stroller, and a keyboard. Additionally, students demonstrated school spirit by wearing their class colors and loudly cheering on classmates as they ran to the center of the gym in hopes of scoring a point.

The night began energetically, with each grade having high hopes of ending the night as the winner. This year was slightly different from past years because everyone was rooting against the junior class, which only motivated the juniors even more. Mrs. Heilman took it a step further by making posters saying “Who Can Beat the Class of ‘26?” The atmosphere in the gym was transformed into one of friendly competition.

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pertaining to it were introduced, and then Mr. Leeper began listing off objects to bring to him. One member of each grade was allowed to sprint to the center of the gym with said item, and whoever got there first with the correct item in hand would score a point. Junk Scramble, being one of the most competitive SA events, is also one of the most fun and lively events. This energy was demonstrated in all of the activities prepared by SA officers. Students participated in several rounds of “Andy’s Coming,” where someone would yell the aforementioned phrase and every student would have to immediately fall flat on the ground and stay completely still. Whichever class was judged to have gone down the quickest and stayed the most still would win that round of “Andy’s Coming.” There was also a bubble-gum blowing

contest, human pyramids, and a contest to see which representative of each class could play “You are My Sunshine” the best on their personal instrument. Samantha Trigo and Marcos Torres tied, both performing creative renditions of this classic song. Some other competitions included making a pencil drawing of the school cat Mochi, as well as a challenge to make the tallest plastic cup tower. Lastly, there was an activity where students had to put an M&M on a spoon

and carry it in their mouth all the way to the middle of the gym, where it would then be dumped into a bowl held by a class sponsor.

The gym was filled with laughing and cheering, friends were chattering amongst themselves, and lasting memories were made that night. There was excitement and adrenaline coursing through the students and staff alike, amidst some frustration as the tally marks on the whiteboard added up. Classmates were seen helping each other find the objects they needed. “I really loved throwing items to my classmates so they could take them up to Mr. Leeper. It made me feel helpful,” said junior Grace Atama.

After a couple of hours, the night began winding down and a clear winner emerged. Whereas it was fair game for everyone at the beginning of the event, by 10:00 the freshmen were falling far behind as the upperclassmen rallied for first place. They gave it their best effort, but the seniors pulled ahead of the juniors and won by twenty points. “I really enjoyed the vibe. Everybody was so excited and everyone was against the juniors, which made it fun. I hate that we lost, but it was still memorable,” junior class sponsor Mr. Hernandez said.



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# SAU & WAU Music Festivals

## Emily Wetmore

On Wednesday, February 12, a small group left Shenandoah Valley Academy. Their destination was Southern Adventist University, in Collegedale, Tennessee. The chaperones included Miss Neyvn Dahlburg and Ben Hasley, along with Mr. Biaggi. Music Festival rehearsals were all in the Southern Adventist University Church. The guest conductor, Mr. Geoffrey Dean, began each practice with a devotion. He covered how each of the five senses affect our lives and how each one helps us make music. Daniela Muñoz and Emily Wetmore were able to audition and eventually were selected to perform a solo each.

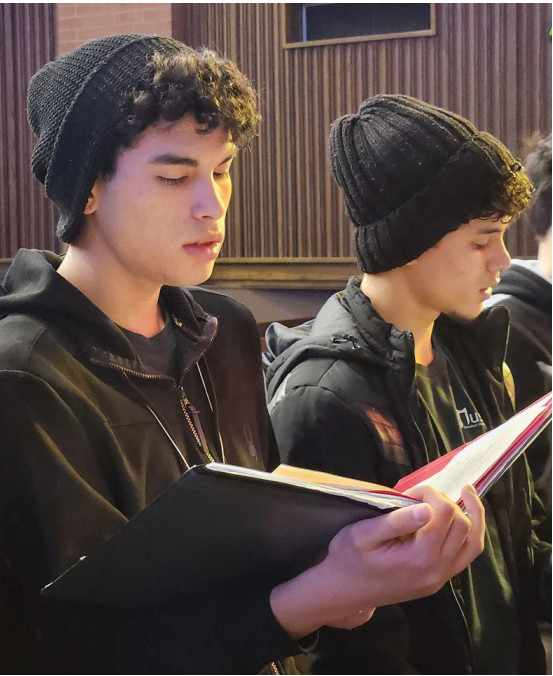
On Thursday evening, the students attending the festival had a few recreation options. These included going to the pool on Southern’s campus, watching a basketball game, and observing the Gymmasters, Southern’s gymnastics team. There were also many other things to do,

like meeting up with SVA alumni, exploring Southern’s campus, and eating some delicious food from the Southern cafeteria.

On Friday, Southern Music Fest students attended vespers. This vespers centered around student missions, featuring last year student missionaries, a flag show, and some amazing music. It ended with an appeal to students wanting to be student missionaries in the future. Many students came forward, tears streaming down their faces. On Sabbath morning, the visiting academy students attended church and were serenaded by Southern’s select choir, I Cantori. That afternoon, the festival students performed a vespers program to close the Sabbath after twenty hours of combined practice.

The students attending the Washington Adventist University

Music Festival at the same time as the SAU festival had a similar experience. Abby Moore said, “It was a very educational experience. It was nice to see all of the other schools and how they operate their select choirs.” They performed at the Sligo Seventh-day Adventist Church for the morning church service and again in the evening. Overall, the students attending both festivals were able to represent SVA and all shared a grueling but life-changing experience.



# JMU Invitational

## Sophia Trigo

On January 31, 2025, the Shenandoah Valley Academy Music Department participated in the James Madison University (JMU) String Orchestra Invitational 2025. This unique program was envisioned this year by Dr. Omelchenko, Director of the JMU Orchestra, and brought together students from Harrisonburg High School, Rocktown High School, Eastern Mennonite High School, and SVA! These schools wanted to make it possible for SVA to participate in this invitational and scheduled the concert as early as possible to allow us to return to campus by sundown.

Somehow, it seemed to be a lot more difficult to get there than we expected. Our transportation decided to be very complicated, as somehow a vacationing staff member (Pastor Harley) was scheduled to take us to JMU on a chilly, rainy, January morning. Poor PH was enjoying his time in the Dominican Republic and was unaware of the situation. Mrs. Wiedemann-Jaen and her music workers were desperately searching for help. Luckily for us, our SVA parents really know how to help us out. The Dauer family was quick to respond and took the initiative of getting a minibus and getting the 24 students to all fit in the vehicles.

We arrived at JMU at 9:30 am with 24 of our lovely SVA students, ready to learn, rehearse, and perform. The strings were divided into two groups, an intermediate group with 86 students and an advanced strings group with 56 students. The intermediate group was taken into the Forbes Theater to rehearse with the grand Dr. Savage while the advanced strings were led to the JMU music building and led by Dr. Omelchenko herself.

Students waited to be seated in their respective areas. Rehearsals began at 9:45 on the dot. We played and listened and learned a lot while working under the guidance of these directors. Our practices went on for about three hours until our lunch break. As our students mingled with other schools, we were able to learn about the music programs in other schools. Once our lunch break ended, we packed up our instruments and music stands and made our way into the Forbes Center for the Performing Arts. JMU students and workers helped guide us through the very large backstage department in Forbes Center. We were able to place our cases and personal belongings in backstage rooms before we were

led to the concert stage for a very grand dress rehearsal. As one group practiced, the other group observed from the balcony. “It was so fun to see our friends perform on such a large stage!” said a strings student.

After about an hour on the concert stage, the advanced strings group was dismissed to observe the JMU Studio Classes. The violinists sat in JMU violin professor Dr. Wanchi Huang’s class. The cellists watched Dr. Carl Donakowski, JMU cello professor, and his students perform in the class. The violas and basses were able to have a Q&A chat with a viola student and Mr. Suggs, the bass professor.

Once the advanced strings group finished their session with the Studio classes, they made their way back to the Forbes Center. From there, it was a small rush to be completely ready for our concert. The intermediate group would be performing first as the advanced group sat ready to go on the balcony. At 3:00 sharp, the concert began. Dr. Savage and Dr. Omelchenko gave an introduction to the group to start the concert. With a swing of the baton, the music began. All the hard work in rehearsals really showed as the lovely chords of

“Cripple Creek,” “Secret Agent 440,” and “Poor Wayfaring Stranger” were played by the intermediate ensemble. Once the ensemble stood to take in their standing ovation, the advanced ensemble rushed down the stairs into the backstage room behind the doors. With a cue to the music workers, the doors were opened and 56 students flooded in, taking the place of the 86 intermediate ensemble. With a cue from Dr. Omelchenko, the advanced students began their repertoire, “Adoration,” “Salut d’Amour,” and “Blue Rhythmico.” Once the last chord played, we could all take a sigh of relief, our long hours of rehearsal and preparation paid off, and the advanced ensemble stood to take in their standing ovation.

Once we were ushered off stage we quickly grabbed our bags and instrument cases and headed towards the cars. Lovely SVA parents took us back to campus and we were able to get ready for vespers with a small hum in our hearts of the grand work we accomplished.



# Cold On and Off the Court

## Aleks Ullrich

On January 29, our two varsity basketball teams travelled up to chilly Michigan for a weekend of basketball. While most people here on campus were getting ready for class and waking up, we were on the road with a goal in mind. After not having attended the Andrews tournament in many years, we wanted to come in and make a statement against the other teams. Wednesday we mostly traveled the whole day, with the trip going by quickly thanks to the coach bus and having the luxury of having two chairs per person to fall asleep in. We got there at around eight and checked in at the main Andrew’s building.

The next day was game day. The girls had a game around nine and then we boys played shortly after at eleven. The girls’ team put up a well fought fight against North Tampa Bay, but fell just short. The boys’ team faced off against Granger Christian, which was a tough team as well. It was hard getting used to the weirdly built gym with low ceilings, but we pulled through and ran off with the 61-59 win. Both teams played two games that day, with a game in the afternoon as well. The girls’ team had a hard fought battle with Kryza Carrasco leading the charge. The guys went 2-0 for the day after beating

Forest Lake Academy by 20 points, with Emmanuel Matagaro dropping a 30 ball. Overall it was a successful day for both teams, with both teams learning more and also studying the opponents they would play later on in the tournament. The first day was to figure out how teams were placed in the bracket, with the following games determining if the teams were eligible competing for the championship game. We went to sleep exhausted, with a next game coming up very soon.

The next day, we woke up at 5:30, when we had a quick breakfast and then both teams headed off to play a 7:00 am game. This seemed to throw off both teams; the boys lost a very unfortunate game (that they should have very much won) to Spencerville by 10 points. The girls’ team played really well against Mount Pisgah Academy, where the game was much closer. They too, seemed like they could have won this game. After lunch and much needed rest, both teams headed off again to go play their afternoon game, which was our second day with back to back games. The boys’ team started their game off against GCA very sluggish, and it seemed like we might not have it in us, but we pushed through. The game was close all throughout, and

then with one minute left on the clock, down by 10, the comeback commenced. With two clutch layups by Emmanuel Matagaro and then another clutch three by Asa Johnson, which they counted as a two pointer, GCA’s lead was cut to two, 74-76. With 1.4 seconds left on the clock, they inbounded the ball, where Guerdy Thomas then came out of nowhere and stole the ball out of their player’s hands. He bounced the ball once, rose up to put the ball in the layup, and right before it went in the buzzer sounded. It was a devastating loss, with a controversial call by the refs; we felt very much that the game should have ended 77-76 in our favor. Regardless, it was one of our best games, as well as one of the best games of the tournament. The girls’ team also played an amazing game against Andrews Academy, where even though Andrews had a great team, our girls’ team was right there with them all the way throughout the end. This was definitely the best game the girls had played so far, and even though they played a very tough opponent, they were able to score many points and moved the ball around really well.

We ended the evening with a very nice vespers where we got to see more of Andrews’s spiritual life, and got

to socialize a little bit with fellow Christian athletes. The next day we all attended the church service, and then headed to Lake Michigan to see the beautiful frozen lake. After that we went back to the hotel before going to get dinner and going to our last and final games. The boys’ team matched up again vs Granger Christian, where due to injuries and unfortunate circumstances, we lost by 10. The girls won their last game 36-17, where they had a fantastic game and ended off the tournament on a good note.

The next day we headed back and arrived late at night at SVA. Emmanuel Matagaro described the tournament as, “Very fun, it really helped us guys grow closer together and improved our chemistry leading up to our Senior Night.” Tori Zimmerman said, “It was a great time, I feel like we really grew as a team and I’m very proud of how we played.” Overall it was a great tournament and I definitely feel like we put SVA on the map for athletics.



# Senior Night: The 2024-25 Season has Come to an End

## Aleks Ullrich



On February 13, the boys’ and girls’ varsity basketball teams’ seasons came to an end. After phenomenal seasons from both teams and building even better team chemistry over the tournament, there was only one thing left to accomplish. With both teams missing some players due to the music festivals, matching up against Highland View Academy was not going to be an easy task. To counter this, though, both varsity teams had already faced off against much tougher opponents at the Andrew’s Newmeyer Classic, and both teams were confident in their abilities to come away

with a win. The JV boys surprised us all pulling off an upset win after having lost to HVA on their home court, by this time now absolutely trashing them with a win of almost more than 30 points.

The Senior Night ceremony began with the senior girls being called up one by one, where they were then given a miniature basketball signed by their coaches. They proceeded to take pictures with friends and family, and then the game commenced. The girls having barely beat HVA on their home turf, they too surprised us all with

a fantastic performance, winning their game by over 20 points. The tournament had really helped this team to grow more together and anyone could see this and how it translated onto the court. The guys proceeded as well with their ceremony and received their miniature basketballs as well before getting ready for their game.

Throughout most of the game, we held a strong lead, leading by more than 15 or so points. After reaching the 4th quarter, HVA decided that they had enough of this, and with our team thinking we were going to

run off with an easy win, the lead was cut to just four points. Thanks to the team’s strong offense, and even more outstanding defense, HVA did not prevail. The game ended 60-52 in our favor, which capped off a great season for us. With all three teams winning, it was the perfect ending to the 2024-2025 Shenandoah Valley Academy Star’s basketball season.





# Jazz Night

## Abi Dugre

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# Study Tips

*Repetition is key!* Start studying sooner to cement the content into your brain.

*Get Lots of Sleep!* Staying healthy is way more important than you realize. Sleep well so you can focus.

*Test yourself.* Have someone question you or prepare a pop quiz to practice for the real thing

*Make a plan.* Decide what you need to focus on the most and designate times to work on everything.

*Don’t overdo it.* Studying too much can be just as bad as not studying. Don’t miss out on sleep just to study for a few more minutes. Make sure to get outside and spend time with friends in between study times!

*Talk to your teacher.* If you have any questions, clear them up before the test and ask them what topics you should focus on.

*Join a friend.* Studying with friends can really help if you don’t understand something or are having trouble remembering. Everyone views things differently so ask a friend what methods they use to remember certain things.



# Principal’s List/NHS Induction

## Tori Zimmerman

On January 19, we had our annual Principal’s List Awards Ceremony and our National Honor Society Induction. To be on the Principal’s List, a student must have a 3.5 GPA and above. To be a part of NHS, you need to attend SVA for a semester and to be a sophomore with a cumulative GPA of 3.5 and above. To be eligible for either one is quite an accomplishment and something a student should be proud of.

Our speaker for the NHS and Principal’s List Program was Edgardo Ullrich, father of Aleks Ullrich. He gave out wonderful advice for how to excel in our later lives including jobs, college, and relationships. I appreciated the advice and I am sure it was the same for everyone else there. He brought two poster boards with stickers on it displaying what we teenagers typically do with our time. Most stickers were under phones or any technology especially using social media. He continued to talk about how to wisely spend our time and how precious it is and to not waste it on silly things.

I asked Gabi Brazaityte, a senior, what she thought of the talk and she answered saying, “I thought it was really interesting and it helped me think of ways to spend my time

better.” It is safe to say Mr. Ullrich got his point across to the students.

After the speech, the students on the Principal’s List were called up in order of class, starting with the freshmen and ending with the seniors. Each class was called up and then told to stand against the wall in alphabetical order to wait for their name to be called. The student then went up and shook Mr. Short’s hand while receiving the certificate, smiling for a picture taken by Mrs. Heilman. After every student in the grade was called, the class squeezed together for a group picture. Once every class was called up and pictures were taken, it was time to start the National Honor Society induction ceremony.

The NHS part started off with a speech given by myself. I talked about the history of the National Honor Society and the four pillars, which are Scholarship, Service, Leadership, and Character. Once my speech was done, the three other leaders of NHS along with myself read about each pillar. Chloe Juncal, NHS vice president, did the Scholarship pillar, Naomi Pakkianathan, the secretary/treasurer, did the Service pillar, I did the Leadership pillar, and Abby Moore, the pastor, did Character. Once we were done reading the pillars, we lit

the candles and called up the new inductees to light their candles. Once everyone lit their candle I invited all NHS members new and old to join in on the National Honor Society pledge.

Being President of the National Honor Society gave me an extremely new view on the whole induction program, not because I sat up front on the stage for everyone to stare at, but because of how much work it requires to be accepted into NHS and to organize the induction ceremony. Chloe Juncal, my vice president said, “Sitting up front was nerve racking but I was proud of all the new inductees.” I agree with her. I felt like a proud mother sitting up there smiling.

After the whole ceremony there were snacks provided by the cafe for all of the inductees’ families. There were muffins, cookies, and yogurt. The table was decorated nicely with the food and it seemed like everyone enjoyed themselves. People were getting their pictures taken and were chatting it up with other families. I believe that the ceremony ran smoothly and was a huge success. Lastly, I would like to give another big congratulations to those who made it on the List and were inducted.



## Congratulations

### Principal's List

#### Freshmen

- Jael Blackett
- Rhonnier Gutierrez
- Katherine Herold
- Marcel Jaen
- Sophia Juncal
- Jason Kim
- Alexis Mace
- Samuel Onoffrey
- Kayla Prins
- Josiah Richardi
- Nathen Shaw
- Nayomi Siever

#### Sophomores

- Derek Alcantara
- Caleb Alferez
- Jason Alvarado
- Ayden Christiansen
- Josephine DeClerck
- Kendriannah Gordon
- Kristofer Hoffman
- Hannah Hunt
- Asa Johnson
- Joshua Kim
- Kaydin Kinney
- Anaya Maynard
- Micah Molina

- Morgan Molina
- Jake Pacylowski
- Ella Short
- Keilyn Tarango
- Thalia Trasporte

#### Juniors

- Grace Atama Sienna Dauer
- Abigail Dugre
- Joshua Franco
- Matthew Hernandez
- Dylan Jimenez
- Ethan Kareti
- Abigail Moore
- Andres Muñoz
- Neijer Ortiz
- Alan Perez
- Jordan Rivera
- Genesis Roldan
- Maria Sanjuan
- Ajani Shaw
- Anna Short
- Marcos Torres
- Sophia Trigo
- Mariajose Velasquez
- Kyra Walker
- Emily Wetmore
- Caden White
- Mya Wong

#### Seniors

- Luis Ac
- Mychel Baron
- Gabriele Brazaityte
- Juridia Castellanos
- Nolynn Dahlberg
- Samuel Girven
- Tamat Hamilton
- Seth Job
- Chloe Juncal
- Daniela Muñoz
- Naomi Pakkianathan
- Faith Richardi
- Caley Smith
- Camila Soriano
- Michael Theodore
- Lia Thomas
- Samantha Trigo
- Aleks Ulrich
- Tori Zimmerman

### Nhs Inductees

- Derek Alcantara
- Caleb Alferez
- Sienna Dauer
- Abigail Dugre
- Tamar Hamilton
- Hannah Hunt
- Asa Johnson
- Joshua Kim
- John Mathai
- Belmaris Mercado
- Neijer Ortiz Paredes
- Alan Perez
- Genensis Roldan
- Mychel Baron
- Lia Thomas
- Thalia Trasporte
- Madison Wilson
- Mya Wong





OTHER EVENTS

CAREER DAY



LEEPER SHENANIGANS



BLACK HISTORY MONTH CHAPEL





STUDENT WEEK OF PRAYER



TALENT SHOW



SENIOR GOVERNMENT TRIP

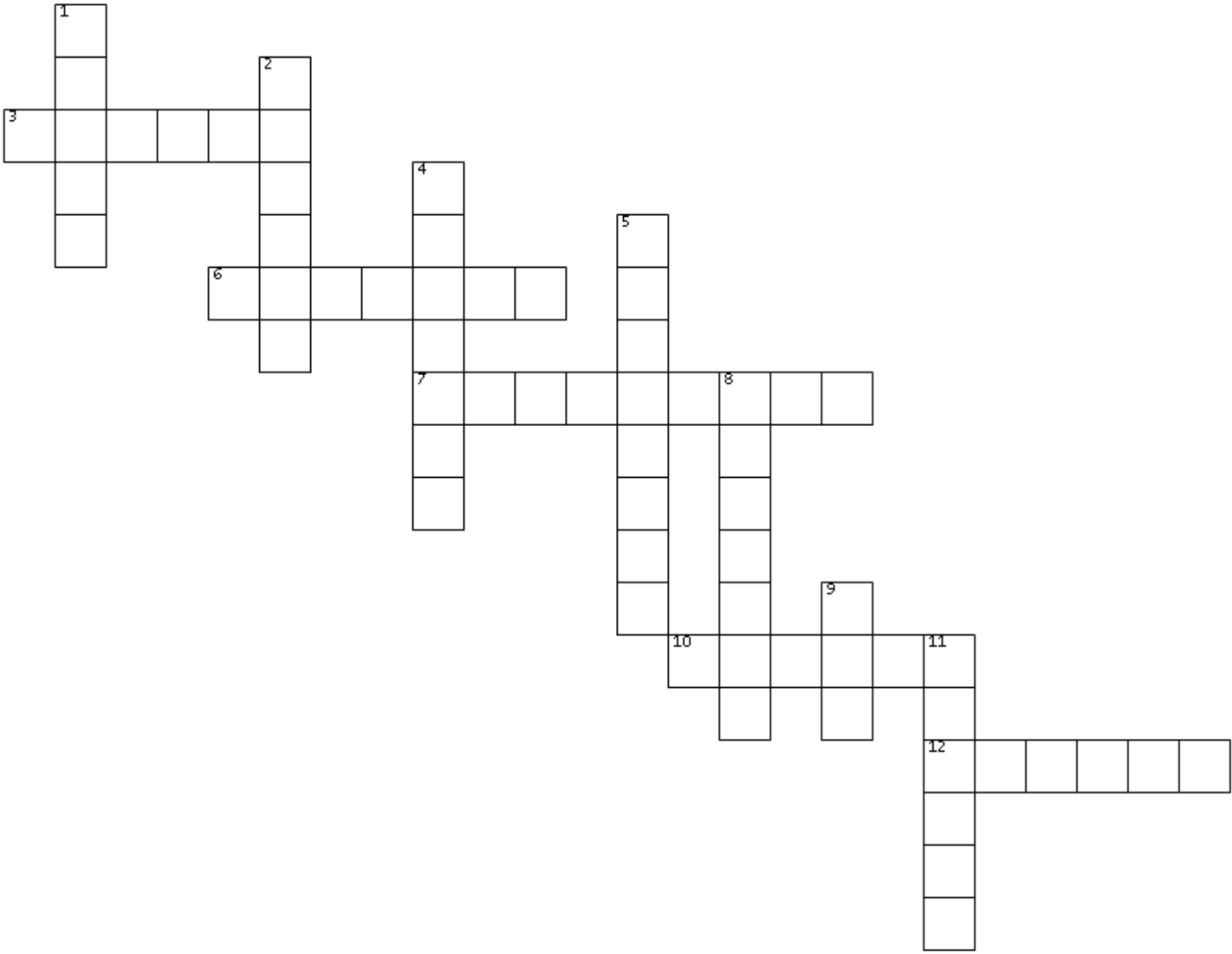




Happy Birthday!

SPRING

March		May	
1	Maria Jose Velasquez	2	Miranda Jenkins
2	Gabriele Brazaityte	4	Lia Thomas
			Guerdy Thomas
4	Donovan Hernandez	6	Dylan Jimenez
			Sinay Ojeda
11	Andres Muñoz	8	Rafael Perez
	Ayden Christiansen		Derek Alcantara
	Aliyah Serveli	12	Camila Soriano
13	Kevin Fernandez	13	Kyra Walker
16	Evelin Balcarcel	17	Neijer Ortiz
17	Genessis Diaz		Aidan van der Vyver
19	Jake Pacylowski		Rebecca Anderson
21	Caley Smith	19	Chloe Juncal
23	Nancy Majano	23	Emmanuel Matagaro
24	Michael Herold	26	Abigail Dugre
27	Samuel Girven	27	Erik Avendano
April		28	Maya Castillo
3	Tamar Hamilton	29	Staell Chrispin
6	Corey Whalen		
	Alex Whalen		
7	Alan Perez		
8	Juridia Castellanos		
9	Sophia Juncal		
10	Seth Job		
	Daniel Torres		
14	Nayomi Siever		
17	Kaylyn Morris		
19	Elijah Masikonde		
22	Isai Sanchez		
24	Luis Javier		
28	Kyle Goodwyn		



ACROSS

- 3. weekend when all graduates come to celebrate
- 6. \_\_\_\_\_ trip to Brazil
- 7. caterpillar after puberty
- 10. pleasant wind
- 12. sport played by dribbling with your feet

DOWN

- 1. Holland is famous for this flower
- 2. meal on a blanket
- 4. God’s promise in the sky
- 5. sport played by swinging a piece of wood
- 8. April Flowers bring May \_\_\_\_\_
- 9. makes sweet syrup
- 11. the day Jesus rose

If you have poetry you want to be published, send it to:  
chloe.juncal@svasda.org

(If you would like it to be anonymous, please let us know)

All photos were taken from shenandoahvalleyacademy.smugmug.com

Editor:  
Chloe Juncal  
Sponsor: Mrs. Boyer White

Letters to the Editor:

The Shen-Val-Lore welcomes your letters. All letters must contain the writer’s name and phone number. All unsigned letters will be omitted. The Shen-Val-Lore reserves the right to edit your letters for space and clarity, and to reject any letters. Place all letters under the door of the newspaper room or mail them to: Shen-Val-Lore, 234 West Lee Highway, New Market, VA 22844.

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