



Dear St. Andrew's Family,

A little after 10:30 p.m. last night, [the Pell seniors sat around my kitchen table](#), eating Derby pie. In many ways, it was an ordinary night, like so many others throughout the year; gathering for baked goods around that table is a tradition with the Pell senior team, a place of communion for these VI Formers who devote so much of their time, energy, and love—without regard for the busyness of their own year—to mentoring the newest St. Andreans. But last night felt just a little different, as we've reached the point in the year when the seniors are starting to realize they're coming up on lasts: their last couple of duty nights, their last Spring Fling free day (at least if the weather gods and Mr. Roach finally accede to their pleas), their last handful of classes, their last games and Arts Weekend performances.

I've been thinking a lot lately about what it means to be a senior at St. Andrew's, and how different it looks here than it does in most places. This thinking is, of course, occasioned by where we are in the calendar year—those lasts we mark with the seniors, even as we begin the process of building new senior teams to take up this mantle next year—but it's more than that. In conversations with teaching candidates over the last few months, the question I've most frequently been asked is, essentially some variation on, "Is this real?" Is this remarkable culture they are glimpsing in the twenty four hours they spend on campus actually possible, and if so, how have we achieved it?

There are many ways to answer this question, but most often, I end up talking about our seniors—and when I do, I am thinking not only of the wonderful members of the Class of 2019 whom we will celebrate in a few weeks' time, but also the years of seniors I have seen precede them. There is something distinctive here about the depth and power of the collaboration between students generally, but seniors especially, and the faculty towards a shared vision: the power and potential of a school community that

balances intellectual rigor with kindness, authenticity, and human connection. The teaching candidates see it when they speak with the Senior Interviewing Team—an experience they usually describe as the best and most intense part of their interview day. They remark with surprise that current seniors are so deeply invested in what the school will look like next year, when they won't even be here.

But that's the thing about generations of St. Andrew's seniors. As excited as they are about the possibilities that await them in college next year, they remain fully committed not only to the St. Andrew's of right now, in the waning days of their senior spring, but to the St. Andrew's of tomorrow—the St. Andrew's their own III Formers will lead in three years time.

It often makes me think of the final lines of Tony Kushner's *Angels in America*, one of my all-time favorite plays, which Elizabeth Roach and I always teach in Humanities at this time of year. Prior Walter, the play's central character—a prophet for a new millennium—ends the seven and a half hour play speaking directly to the audience with a blessing, an invocation, and a call to action.

“Bye now.
You are fabulous creatures, each and every one.
And I bless you: More Life.
The Great Work Begins.”

This feels like it captures something essential in what our seniors do each spring: having offered the underformers the blessing of their care, their mentorship, their guidance, the seniors pass The Great Work that is the preservation of the St. Andrew's ethos on to them. It will begin again as the rising seniors take up their charge.

More life,
Emily Pressman

It All Begins in the Classroom...

In Math 2, students were working on geometric proofs, and were defining the properties of a parallelogram and other figures. "The students use two-column proofs to write out their reasoning and explanations," said teacher Ms. Gahagan. "They were also using their computers to model some problems on a learning tool called Geogebra. Very fun and pretty cool."



In Global Students, students were discussing [Place, Not Race: A New Vision of Opportunity in America](#), a new book by Georgetown Law professor Sheryll Cashin. "Cashin argues for new thinking around affirmative action policies, such as moving toward a model that focuses on creating socioeconomic diversity on school campuses," explained teacher and Dean of Student Life Will Robinson.





In Mr. Duffy's AS Spanish class, students are participating in a "signature experience" unit to end the class. At this point in the SAS Spanish curriculum, "students are pretty much fluent, and this unit gives them a



chance to use the language as a life tool," explained Mr. Duffy. Josie Friedli '20 is seen here interviewing Jaime Ramos, a Peruvian professional, via Skype. "Josie asked Mr. Ramos pointed questions about Alan García, the former president of Peru who was accused of accepting bribes from Odebrecht, a multinational Brazilian company that has its tentacles in more than 10 Latin American countries," Mr. Duffy said. "Josie took Latin American History with Mr. Miller in the fall, and fell in love with the history of the region, which is why she picked this signature experience topic. She's also writing a blog in Spanish on the subject."



Meanwhile, Sra. Ramirez's AS Spanish students traveled to NYC, where they saw *En el tiempo de las mariposas*, the play version of the novel by the same name by Julia Alvarez, at the Repertorio Español.



In Physics with Dr. Hyde, students worked through problems on uniform circular motion—"such as calculating what speed a rollercoaster needs to travel to feel weightless at the top of a loop, how fast a car can go over a bump in the road without becoming airborne, and thinking about what makes you feel lighter or heavier," said Dr. Hyde. "We were outside to celebrate Earth Week!"



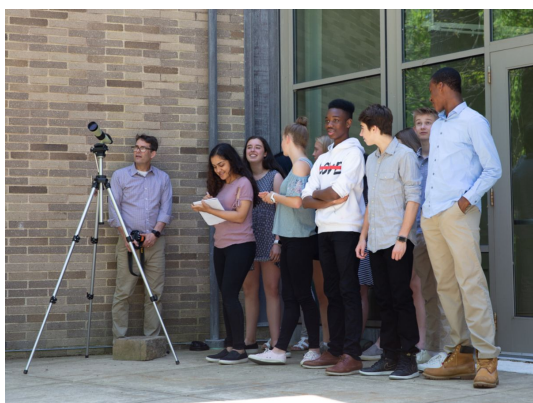
In Mr. Rehrig's Engineering class, "We were beginning the aeronautical engineering unit," explained Mr. Rehrig. "Students were learning about the principles of flight, and were then tasked with optimizing a paper airplane to fly the furthest given their new understanding of flight."



In English 2 with Dr. Walsh, students are reading and discussing Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*. "Four students—William Zhuang '21, Gigi Palacios '21, Noah Kates '21, and Jackson Swets '21—were leading an in-class discussion of the novel," Dr. Walsh said. "We were discussing the dangers of impulsive love, as demonstrated by Lydia Bennet and George Wickham, and how their relationship is different from the emerging love relationship between Elizabeth and Mr. Darcy."



Mr. O'Connell's Intro Bio students spent a portion of their class on Thursday examining a new guest on campus: a barred owl fledgling, who spent the day perched in a tree off the east end of the Arts Center. "Note the dark eyes," said fellow biology teacher Dr. McLean. "The barred owl is the only owl with dark eyes. An unusual sighting."



Griffin Up!



Saints lacrosse players have been making names for themselves this spring: Nancy Tucker '19 (seen here at left) was recently nominated for [Delaware Online's Athlete of the Week](#) for her performance against Saints Peter & Paul School and Charter School of Wilmington last week. Nancy scored 15 points and added 6 assists across both games, both wins for the Saints at home. In the same week, Will Cammerzell '19 (seen below right) was recognized by Delaware Online as one of the top 45 lacrosse players in Delaware; as of late April Will had scored

21 goals and recorded three assists so far in his senior season. Saints boys lacrosse Head Coach Brian DeChants received the following note on Will from the head coach

of an opposing team on April 28: "Congrats on the win Saturday. They are always battles, but the Saints were clearly the better team. Wanted to point out what I believe was a noteworthy act of sportsmanship by #16 on your team. I believe his name is Will Cammerzell, and he's a sniper of an outside shooter. So, when his shot hit off the helmet of our freshman face-off middie, Donnie Morton, and he went down quickly, it was #16 who went down to make sure he was OK. I think if you look at the tape you will see Will comforting Donnie. Fortunately, Donnie was fine. But in the heat of a fierce conference rivalry, it was inspiring to see such an act of compassion and human kindness. I think your player is to be commended for his outstanding sportsmanship and character."



Girls and boys tennis, both of whom are currently ranked third in the state, had a joint home match against Charter School of Wilmington yesterday. The girls beat Charter 5-0, while the boys fell to Charter 2-3.

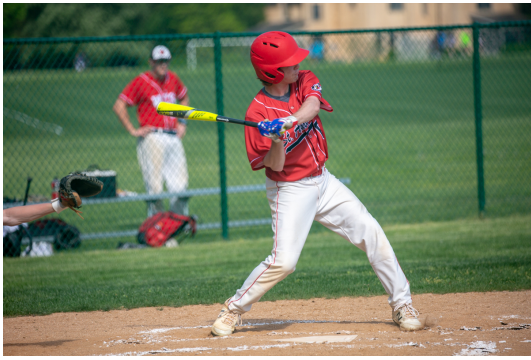






Meanwhile, over on Colburn Field, Saints baseball was also playing Wilmington Christian School, and won the game 7-3. "It was a hard-fought battle as St. Andrew's fell behind twice in the first four innings, but fought back to tie the game at 2-2 in the fourth," recapped Assistant Coach Bob Colburn after the game. "We scored twice in the fifth and three times in the sixth for a 7-3 win." Review recent scores and read game recaps at standrews-de.org/scores.







"The Saints had Mikey Biondolillo as our bat boy, and he brought us some good luck," added Head Coach Mike Mastrocola. Mikey is the son of Rosanna Biondolillo, a member of St. Andrew's Advancement Team.



This past weekend the varsity volleyball team threw a surprise party for their coach, Mr. Mastrocola, who is leaving St. Andrew's at the end of this school year. "We wanted to play one last game all together as a team and show our love and appreciation for everything he has done for each of us personally and for the program as a whole," said team member Miles Abney '20. "He means an awful lot to each of us."



Meanwhile, elsewhere on (and off) campus...

Students attended and participated in an all-School Good Friday service in the Chapel.





On the Wednesday before Easter, we celebrated a student-led Passover Seder at Wednesday night family-style dinner.



On Easter Sunday, after Chapel, students who stayed on campus for spring Long Weekend attended a brunch at the Daly home...





... and the Sunday School teacher crew helped faculty kids plant flowers around campus to celebrate the new season.



Last weekend was Dance Weekend, aka the SAS Prom! You can view more photos and video from the weekend in [our Instagram stories](#).

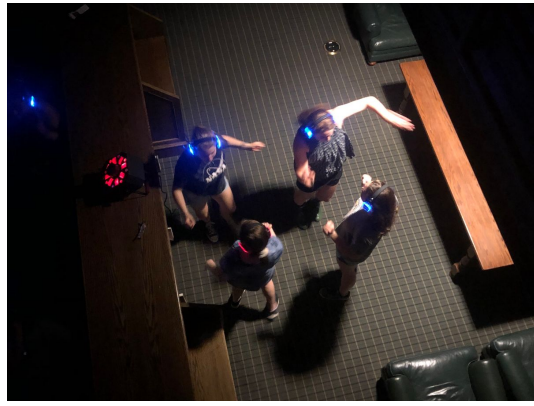




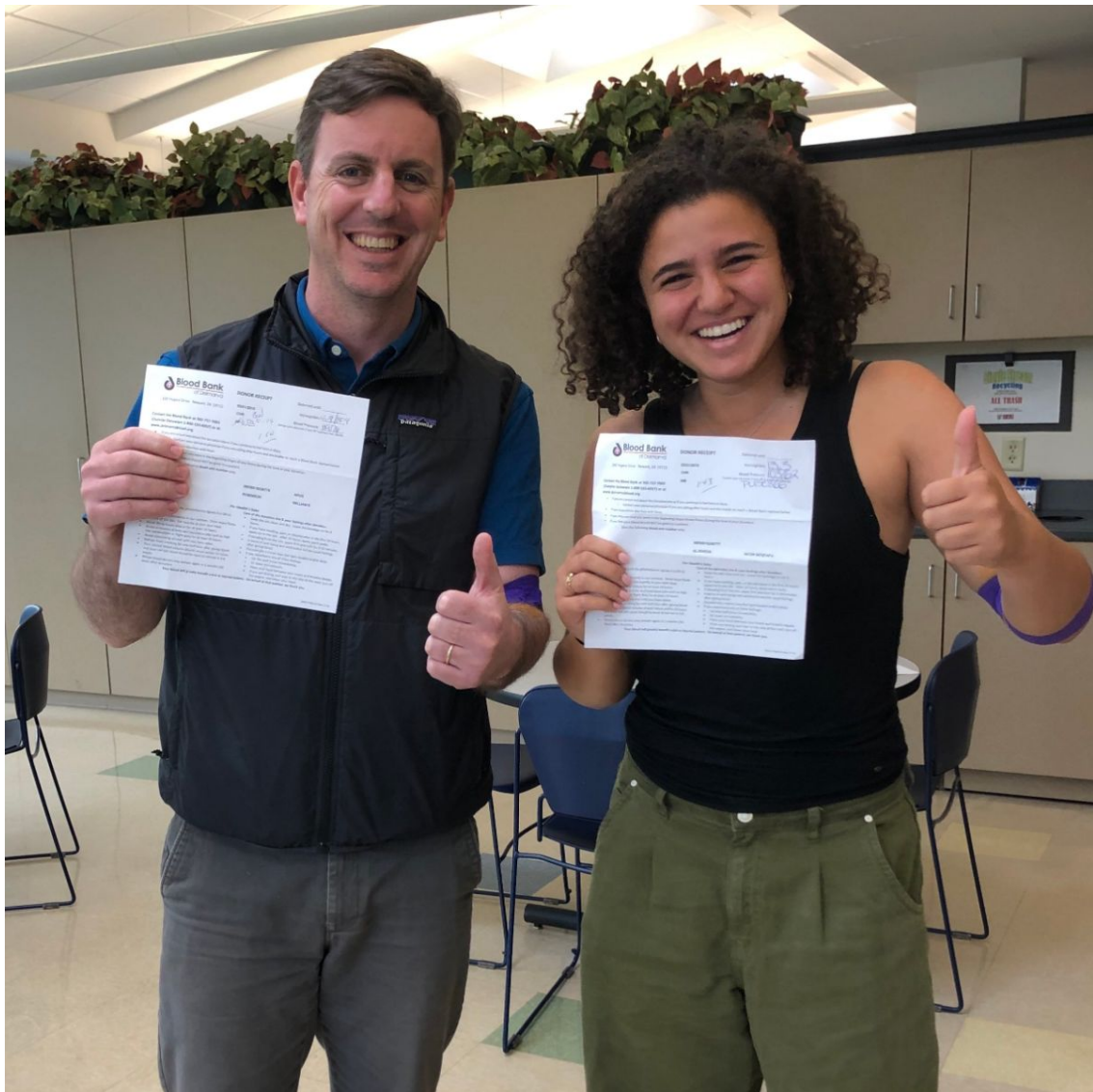
After Prom, seniors got to stay up extra-late and enjoyed a midnight pancake breakfast at the Roach home.



The Friday night before Prom, SWAG organized a silent disco in the library—because why not pack as much dancing as possible into a single weekend?! [Watch the silent disco hype video \(featuring many student cameos\) created by SWAG on YouTube.](#)



Mr. Robinson took Noor El-Baradie '19 to the Delmarva Blood Bank on Wednesday, where they both gave blood; Noor will be observing Ramadan during the annual SAS blood drive, but still wanted to participate. "She's checking off her SAS bucket list before graduation," Mr. Robinson said. Ramadan Mubarak!



Dr. McLean took students for the annual hike of Old Rag in Shenandoah National Park on the Monday of spring Long Weekend.



Faculty took students on a canoe trip to Odessa over spring Long Weekend.



Classics teacher Mr. McAuliffe and Danny Lee '19 enjoy some coffee and conversation at our local Middletown Starbucks.



Can't Help But Connect

We celebrated alumni and parents of color at our annual United event, held this year in NYC at the home of Chip Holman '71 and Merida Welles on April 25. This year's event was open to the entire SAS community, inclusive of all races and ethnicities, and honored the 50th anniversary of the graduation of the first African-American students at St. Andrew's.



Upcoming Events

Fri, May 10 - Sun, May 12 — [Arts Weekend](#)

Fri, May 17 — Classics Colloquium

Sun, May 19 — VI Form Dinner
Sat, May 25 — [Awards Night](#)
Sun, May 26 — [Commencement](#)
Fri, Jun 7 - Sun, Jun 9 — [Reunion](#)

[All-School Calendar](#) | [2018-19 School Calendar](#) | [2019-20 School Calendar](#)

We Leave You With This

Just four cool seniors, posing casually.

