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Reminder: Student Pictures Delivered to Mailboxes Prior to Thanksgiving Break

If you ordered your student's school picture and chose for it to be delivered to the school, packages were delivered to your student's shelf in the package room prior to Thanksgiving break. If you have any problems, please contact Erin Farrell at erin@erinfarrellphotography.com.

Talk of the T-Dock

Students Attend Baltimore Student Diversity Leadership Conference 2024



On Saturday, Nov. 16, Anjola '27, Divya '27, Ashley '25, and Gloria '25 attended the Baltimore Student Diversity Leadership Conference (BSDLC) with Dr. Danica Fisher. While at the conference, which aims to bring together high school students from diverse backgrounds to explore themes of identity, equity, and inclusion through

student-run sessions, the group facilitated a workshop titled, "They Don't Read Us!: Censorship & Education." In their presentation to nearly 20 attendees, they covered why books are banned and what goes on behind the scenes to ban them.

"We arranged the classroom to mimic the discussion-based format that we love so much at SAS [because we] felt that it allowed students to showcase their voice, which was the mission and objective of being at such a dynamic conference in the first place," Ashley explains. "In addition, Anjola, Gloria and I participated in the Talent Show on a whim, showcasing an impromptu step performance that very quickly became a crowd favorite and won us first place. We want to thank Dr. Fisher for the awesome opportunity, not only working out logistics on our behalf, but being such a strong support system for us holistically, as well as running a tight ship as dean of DEI on campus, teaching us what we know, so that we can make a bigger impact in the world at large."



Joe Hickman '74 Encourages Students to Find A Place for Reflection



Joe Hickman '74 P'00,'02,'05,'07, recipient of the 2024 Distinguished Alumni Award, delivered the talk at our annual Founders Day chapel service, a day in which we celebrate the founding of our school. Hickman noted that although he did not participate in chapel services at

St. Andrew's as a student (he and a few classmates were taken into town to attend a local Catholic mass), he always found peace and solitude in the chapel, particularly in the back pew, the seat located behind the column.

In his talk, he shared his academic challenges and his fear of not being able to continue his education at the school if he could not raise his grades, along with the humorous tactics he employed to achieve better grades. It wasn't until he was much older that he realized the significance of the unseen support from

St. Andrew's faculty members, and that of his own family, which enabled his St. Andrew's experience. Read and listen to the full talk [here](#). 📺 Avi Gold



In the Classroom

Kim Klecan's **Calculus AB** students played a game called "Quiz Quiz Trade" to practice making connections between the graphs of a function, its derivative, and its second derivative with the points where a function changes direction or changes concavity. Students had to think critically about the basic definitions of extrema and points of inflection, and how those definitions apply to each type of graph. Because this isn't easy, the game works well—each student answers their own question, hides their answer, then shows the question to a classmate, who then answers the

question. Finally, they compare answers and debate. “Lots of good peer-to-peer discussion and uncovering of misconceptions happen with this activity,” says Klecan.



In Klecan’s **Calculus 2 class**, students are working on “the big idea” of differential calculus, which is using average rates of change over smaller and smaller intervals to approximate an instantaneous rate of change. In a recent exercise, they tried to find the instantaneous velocity of a ball falling through the air, at first numerically by plugging in values and making calculations and looking for a pattern, and then they attempted it algebraically. “Once we connect this idea with the idea of limits that they already have,” explains Klecan, “we’ll have defined the derivative, one of the two core concepts of calculus.”



In Dr. Ashley Hyde’s **Honors Physics**, the class experimented with the idea that the interaction between two objects involves a pair of forces, with the goal of trying to understand how each force in the pair relates to the other. More broadly, this experiment is one of a series that allows students to authentically experience the process of scientific inquiry and discovery. “By drawing free body diagrams, we reasoned our way through all the forces acting on two identical carts on a low-friction track to predict how the force that each cart exerted on the other would compare in

different situations: first when they were at rest, then when they were moving together with constant speed, then when they were moving together while speeding up, and finally when they were moving together while speeding up but now with different masses as well,” Dr. Hyde explains. “After making our predictions, we used force sensors and data analysis software to measure the two forces in each situation. We observed that the force that one cart exerted on the other was *always* the same size, just in the opposite direction! Students had predicted this for the first situation or two, but had been less certain about what we would see when the carts were speeding up, or one of the masses changed, both of which caused our free body diagrams to become more complex. Our discovery of a rule that two carts seem to always exert the same-size force on each other in any situation was no coincidence: after the experiment, I let students in on the ‘secret’ that someone else had figured out the same rule already. After having discovered his first two laws (through similar, exploratory experiments), students were quick to guess that it was Isaac Newton! Indeed, we were seeing Newton’s Third Law in action for the first time—and, as with his first two laws, we had followed a modernized version of Newton’s own work; recreating his thought process, and hence his discovery, for ourselves.”



In David Myers’ **Precalculus** classroom, students practice the use of properties of logarithms to simplify mathematical expressions.



English 2 students recently wrote essays about the ending of Jesmyn Ward’s *Salvage the Bones*. As a final assessment, students engage in an oral exhibition where they exchange essays with a peer, self- and peer-evaluate, and discuss their ideas and findings with their teacher. This process is the first iteration of a progression of oral exhibitions, culminating in a senior exhibition of one student with two teachers.

Recently, Lane '27 and Austin '27 presented with English 2 teacher Kate Cusick. “Both Lane and Austin demonstrated close reading of their classmate’s work and an openness to refine and rethink previous assertions made in their essays,” says Cusick. “Oral exhibitions are one of our students’ most enriching experiences within the English curriculum. They always come prepared with insights to share and are genuinely receptive to their peers’ feedback.”



In **French 3** with instructor Pamela Pears, students conversed about “Clément aplati”—the French version of Flat Stanley—and what he did over Thanksgiving break, in an exercise to review the past tense usage.



Artists at Work

The Arts Center is alive with creative energy this week as our student artists put finishing touches on their creations just in time for tonight's opening of the **Student Art Show** in the Warner Gallery at 6 p.m.



Prior to break, six members of Ann Taylor's **public speaking** class enchanted St. Andrew's Preschool students with choral readings of two books. The preschoolers immediately asked when Tanner '26, Romi '26, Josie '26, Natasha '26, Sofia '25, and Olivia '27 could come back!



Go Saints!

Winter sports practices resumed following break and Saints have been gearing up for their first games and meets of the season. Read a **preview of the winter sports season** written by sports communications intern Leo '26 [here](#).

Yesterday, **wrestling** 🤼 made their regular season debut at a tri-meet hosted by Tatnall School with Sanford and Wilmington Friends also attending. The team went 2-1 on the day, beating Tatnall and Sanford and losing to Wilmington Friends. Highlights included scoring six pins in three matches (Chun '27 accounted for two of the pins!); Alex '27 wrestled his first varsity match in a six-minute crowd-pleasing battle, ultimately coming up short with a score of 11-10; and Olivia '27 and Brian '28 displayed heart and determination in their first matches. "Individually I am very pleased with the team's progress," says coach Phil Davis. "Giving up 24 points at the beginning of the matches is a tough deficit for a team. Our wrestlers fought hard and overcame the obstacle." 📷 Coach Davis



Today, **girls varsity basketball** and **boys thirds basketball** hit the courts for their opening games. Check out the livestreams of these contests on our [YouTube channel!](#) 🏀 📺 Leo '26



Many of our fall sports athletes were **recognized by our athletic conference** for outstanding performances on the fields, courts, and trails!





The **cross-country** season may be over, but if you ask our runners and their coaches, the work never is. Two SAS running trios had big days recently. First, representing the student contingent, Seth '28, Henry '27, and Peter '25 ran the Nike Cross Country Southeast Regionals outside of Raleigh, North Carolina, on Nov. 23, facing down a national field of runners. Seth ran a 17:12.5, setting a new school record for freshmen, breaking the record teammate Henry set just last year.

Speaking of Henry, his 15:52.5 beat the current sophomore record-holder—who is also Henry!—by eight seconds. Peter, Henry's brother, blazed in at 15:51.6, setting a new school record in the process. Three Saints runners. Three new school records.

Representing the adult contingent, coaches Will Rehrig '11, Alex Horgan '18, and Alec Hill '12—all former Saints runners—did their thing, too, at the Philadelphia Marathon on November 24. Rehrig ran a 2:25:40, earning third in a field of almost 12,000 runners and a cash prize, too. Horgan, in his second marathon, came in at 2:26:57, good for 17th place overall. Hill crushed his PR by a whopping 7:20, running all the way to 94th place in a field of 12,589 competitors.



SAS Snapshots

On Nov. 16, Director of Special Projects Greg Guldin took six students to the **Delaware Recycling Center** in New Castle County in celebration of **America Recycles Day**, hosted by the Delaware Solid Waste Authority. Students toured Delaware Recycling Center's Environmental Education Building to explore the ins and outs of trash and recycling in Delaware.



In mid-November, arts faculty member Navanjali Kelsey, her mother, Jyotsna Sau, and Head of School Joy McGrath '92 cooked an **authentic Indian meal** in McGrath's home for the **South Asian Affinity Group**. The trio cooked for three hours, and together with the group members, enjoyed a delicious meal of chicken curry, pullao, raita, chutney (a head of school favorite!) salad, mango ice cream, gulab jamun, samosas, and naan—of course, all the naan! “Many amazing stories of each student's personal experiences were shared, and it was amazing to watch Divya '27 and Riya '27 converse with my mom in Hindi,” Kelsey said. (Kelsey's mom also insisted on dressing McGrath in a sari!)



The **Pressman Advisory** carried on the tradition of making “**apple turkeys**,” which just happens to be a tradition in the Pressman family (“My mother was a kindergarten teacher,” Pressman says) and on campus (former faculty member Elizabeth Roach hosted an annual apple-turkey-making party for employee kids).



On Sunday evening, Joy and Ty Jones '92 also hosted a **thank you party for the Chapel Guild**, including treats and tree trimming.



Save the Date

Celebrate the holiday season with us! If you can't be with us in Middletown, please join us at the Livestream links below.

Friday, December 13

Orchestra Holiday Concert — 8:00 p.m.

[Livestream here.](#)

Saturday, December 14

Performance of Selections from *The Nutcracker* — 7:30 p.m.

[Livestream here.](#)

Sunday, December 14

A Service of Lessons & Carols — 2:30 p.m.

Join us in person in the A. Felix duPont, Jr. Memorial Chapel for our traditional Christmas service, featuring choral music by the Andrean Ensemble and readings by members of the school community.

[Livestream here.](#)

We Leave You With This

At the suggestion of Greg Guldin, the St. Andrew's Facilities Grounds Care Team decorated the Garth for the upcoming holidays. The festive adornments, harvested from St. Andrew's campus, provide a beautiful backdrop to an already stunning view. Thank you, Grounds Care Team!

