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## [News & Notes](#)

### **Thank You For Your Support of St. Andrew's!**

It's times like these, when we await the glory, warmth, and radiant light of the season before us, that we are so thankful for families like yours, who support our school in so many wonderful ways! One of the most important ways you can partner with St. Andrew's is by making a gift of any size



to the Saints Fund. The Saints Fund is the fund that makes St. Andrew's possible. Gifts to this fund support financial aid, academic resources, faculty professional development, athletics, the arts, and your child's campus home. If you'd like to give before the calendar/tax year ends, you may do so [here](#). If you have any questions about ways to give, or how to make a pledge, please contact Laurie Kettle-Rivera P'23,'26 at [lkettlerivera@standrews-de.org](mailto:lkettlerivera@standrews-de.org).

### *In the Classroom*

Yes, in fact, standing on top of a giant mulch pit *is* science! Just ask Alex Horgan's **Biology** students, who trekked out to study the process of cellular respiration by observing the heat generated by decomposers in the mulch—as the decomposers break down the organic material, the heat the process gives off can warm the inside of the mulch pit to 150 degrees! To test the heat, students unearthed an egg Horgan buried in the mulch to see how well it cooked.



Studying Thucydides in Lauren Urbont's **AS Athens** is one thing, but seeing the Athenian historian and general's living work is something altogether different. The

class celebrated their term-long study of Thucydides' *History of the Peloponnesian War* by visiting the [Penn Museum](#) in Philadelphia, where they saw the earliest work of Thucydides, dating to the first century, which was unearthed from an archeological site in Egypt. Students also saw early manuscripts of the New Testament (Gospel of Matthew), as well as papyri of the *Iliad*, *Odyssey*, and also everyday documents like receipts and letters.



A long-standing St. Andrew's tradition for seniors is to deliver an exhibition on Toni Morrison's masterwork *Beloved*, a project currently ongoing in two different classrooms. Each reader in **Humanities: History, Literature, and the Contested Past** with Emily Pressman and Dr. Martha Pitts's **English 4** delivers a presentation on the book that is the product of an independent line of inquiry in criticism. Humanities students, however, consider the text as an entry into a larger conversation with historical sources—both primary and secondary—about historical memory.





Students in Melinda Tower's **World at War** class present their findings after embarking on a specifically St. Andrean project: utilizing the school archives and outside research to investigate the involvement of German national and former Saint Horst Roloff '39 in World War II.



### *Artists at Work*

At the last School Meeting prior to Winter Break, the **Noxontones** gifted us the unofficial opening act to our gorgeous weekend of holiday arts (see more below!) with their festive and fun a cappella rendition of the legendary Nat King Cole Trio's "The Christmas Song."



What's a Christmas **orchestra** performance without a Harry Potter medley and magic wand in lieu of a conductor's baton? Our resident orchestra kicked off the holiday arts weekend on Friday, Dec. 13, with lots of muggle magic. From a movie medley, to "Christmas at the Symphony," German carols, and a Russian Christmas music arrangement evocative of the Eastern Orthodox church choral tradition, our Saints did it all! Watch the performance [here](#).





There were no lords a-leaping on this stage last Saturday night, but there were jumping mice, warring toy soldiers, and pirouetting sugar plum fairies. St. Andrew's **dance** dazzled in Engelhard Hall, with a joyful opening act that featured SAS dancers and children from the Adaptive Dance program. Watch the performance [here](#).



There's no St. Andrew's tradition quite like Lessons & Carols, our intimate, reflective, and breathtaking Christmas Chapel service that features readings and performances by the Andrean Ensemble and Vocal Studies students. Watch the service [here](#).



## *Go Saints!*

St. Andrew's **indoor track** athletes had themselves a day at Tower Hill on Dec. 14. For the first time in school history, the boys team won every individual event, from the 55m through the 3200m. Collectively, the team broke *seven* school records and recorded 28 different new personal bests. With a well-rounded list of Top 10 finishers, and some very close brother-vs-brother times (we're talking to you, Birds!), it was a benchmark day for the team. Communications intern Leo '26 has the full breakdown [here](#). 📷

'26



St. Andrew's **girls wrestling** was in the house for the first-ever all-girls DIAA-sanctioned tournament, hosted at Milford High this past Saturday. The girls weren't content to just be in the room—they made some big Saints noise! Juliet '25 and Madeleine '25 each made quick work of the two opponents they faced, with both wrestlers notching two pins each, which sent them both to first place in their weight classes. Other standout performances included a 13-2 victory for Alice '28 in her first-ever match, a 3-0 shutout from Sol Bean '26, and a beastly 16-6 rout for Anjola '27.



Saints **boys basketball** shocked the field with a huge upset at the annual DI Showcase, a two-day invitational tournament with schools from Delaware, Pennsylvania, New York, and Maryland, hosted at two different venues in Wilmington. On Friday, at St. Elizabeth's High, St. Andrew's lost to New York's Eagle Academy, 53-40, with Darnell '25 putting up 13 points. On Saturday, the Saints put on a show, toppling Salesianum on their opponent's home court. St. Andrew's forced a 55-50, and Elijah '25 exploded for 25 points. Let's go! 📷 Percival Poyser



**Boys swimming** notched two wins to start the season, one a 92-69 win versus Wilmington Friends on Thursday, Dec. 12, and the second a resounding 98-54 win against Tower Hill on Saturday, Dec. 14. In the same meets, **girls swimming** fell short to Wilmington Friends, 74-94, but followed it up with an 87.5-79.5 win over Tower Hill on Saturday.





Prior to the Milford Invitational, **wrestling** matched up against Odyssey Charter School on Tuesday, Dec. 10.



### *SAS Snapshots*

The final **Polar Bear Plunge** of 2024 took place on Tuesday, Dec. 10, with over 30 students, faculty members, (and dogs!) braving the early-morning 44° temps.



On Dec. 4, six members of our faculty and staff, as well as six students, headed out West to Denver, Colo., to join 8,000 others for three days of mindful work dedicated to **equity, justice, and learning in independent schools**. The group attended two conferences, the National Association of Independent Schools' People of Color Conference, and the Student Diversity Leadership Conference. The theme for both conferences was "Meeting the Moment: Anchoring and Enriching Our Education Futures." These 12 St. Andreans attended workshops, networked with adults and students from peer schools across the country, and had a front-row seat to engaging lectures by acclaimed artists and scholars. The group was organized by Dean of Inclusion and Belonging Dr. Danica Tisdale Fisher.



Following the orchestra performance on Friday evening, students came together in the act of **greening of the chapel** with campus-sourced greenery.



“He brought everything back, all the food for the feast! And he, he himself, the Grinch carved the roast beast!” No, we didn’t actually let him get near the carving tools on his Wednesday, Dec. 11 surprise visit to the Dining Hall, but we do know, by the time he left St. Andrew’s, **the Grinch’s heart grew** more than three sizes. Shout out to George Benson, wrestling coach and member of the facilities services team, who dressed up and wreaked havoc upon unsuspecting students, allowing for lots of Saints cheer.





Lumberjacks and flapjacks: the two go together like peanut butter and jelly! A new society was born this week: **The League of Lumberjacks**. Alongside faculty advisors Connor Doughty and Ben Horgan '19, the Lumberjacks donned their finest flannels to enjoy a bonfire and flapjacks in the brisk morning air before classes. The society aims to transport members back to days of old, before modern amenities like heating and electricity—they come together to tough it out!





The **Myers Advisory** continued their annual tradition of delivering packages from the package room to employee doorsteps. Along with other SAS elves in their advisory, Nico '26 and John '28 delivered 55 packages across campus!

### **Save the Date**

**Friday, January 24 - Tuesday, January 28**

**Winter Long Weekend**

**Friday, February 14**

**Winter Play Production**

**Friday, February 21 & Saturday, February 22**

**Winter Musical Production**

**Saturday, March 29**

**Grandparents & Family Friends Day**

*If you have not done so already, [please fill out this form](#) to share your student's grandparents' and other family friends' contact information with us. If you are unsure if you have previously submitted this information, please contact Megan Altig at [maltig@standrews-de.org](mailto:maltig@standrews-de.org) with questions.*

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## *We Leave You With This*



What says “Merry Christmas” and “I’ll miss you while we’re away” better than screaming Christmas carols at each other in the Dining Hall for an hour? If you ask us, absolutely *nothing*! The **Carol Shout** is one of the most delightfully St. Andrean parts of being a Saint!