



St. Andrew's Regional High School ISLAND CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

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Mission Statement: St. Andrew's Regional High School strives to develop Catholic-Christian values in students by openly stating and celebrating our belief in the values Jesus taught. Our commitment to excellence in education of the whole person guides our decision-making. Our goal is to provide each student with opportunities to gain the knowledge, skills and values necessary to respond to personal challenges with faith, hope, and love.

Friday, January 24, 2025

Dear St. Andrew's Families,

After a week of exams, our students must be exhausted and ready for a break. Thankfully most should get a long weekend as they didn't have classes today.

Monday, students will start fresh with new courses and new teachers. It is an opportunity for students to set new semester resolutions. Whether it is reducing the use of their cell phone, establishing regular work habits, getting all assignments submitted on time, or asking their teachers for help, this new semester gives them the opportunity to reflect on what made their first semester successful and what they could do to make their second semester the best ever.

Not that perfection is the goal, but rather an incremental improvement.

On **February 5th**, St. Andrew's will be hosting an information night for current Grade 7 students. The presentation begins at 6:00 in The Commons. The hour-long presentation will describe the St. Andrew's program. All families considering attending our school are welcome to attend.

Following that information session, at 7:00, teachers and staff will be opening their classrooms for all families and prospective families. Drama and music will have performances, basketball demonstrations, science experiments, and student presentations will give families a good idea of what St. Andrew's has to offer.

Please share this opportunity with your friends who do have children attending our school. Word of mouth by our families is the best way to share and help our school grow our amazing community.

Blessings,
Patrick Niwa
Principal



2025/2026 Course Selection Information Night: Wednesday, February 12th

Current Grade 9, 10, and 11 Students and Parents / Guardians:

Please join School Counsellor Michele Sanders, Academic Advisor Cathy Fowlie, Vice-Principal Ciaran McLaverty, and Principal Patrick Niwa on Zoom for the 2025/26 Course Selection Information Night on Wednesday evening, February 12. This information session will provide an overview of BC's Graduation Program (Grades 10-12), including credit and course requirements, career education, post-secondary preparation, scholarships, and guidance for course selection to help next year's Grade 10-12 students successfully graduate and plan their future pathways. Although the session will not be recorded, the slide deck, along with other relevant information and forms, will be available on the school website under the "Student" tab once all grade levels have had their in-school course selection presentations (during Focus on February 18, 20, and 24). Both paper and online course selections must be submitted by Friday, March 7. Please email Cathy Fowlie at cfowlie@cisdv.bc.ca if you have any questions.

Date: Wednesday, February 12 from 6:30-8:30pm
Current Grade 9s Session: 6:30-7:15pm
Current Gr. 10s and 11s Session: 7:30-8:30pm
Zoom Link: <https://cisdv.zoom.us/j/63954843844>

Mark Your Calendars:

January 25	Winter Formal for Grads
February 5	Open House 6pm –meeting for new families, 7pm official opening
February 7	ICS Pro-D Day— NO SCHOOL
February 12	Course selection night for Grade 9, 10, 11
February 13	Red, Pink and White Day
February 14	SARHS Pro-D day— NO SCHOOL
February 19	Grad photo retakes
February 26	Pink shirt day

MDI

**HUMAN
EARLY LEARNING
PARTNERSHIP**



**THE MIDDLE YEARS DEVELOPMENT
INSTRUMENT (MDI) IS COMING TO YOUR
SCHOOL IN JANUARY/FEBRUARY!**

As in previous years, St. Andrew's has again partnered with the Human Early Learning Partnership (HELP) at the University of British Columbia to measure and promote children's social and emotional development, health, well-being, and assets through the Middle Year Development Instrument (MDI). The Middle Years Development Instrument (MDI) is a self-report questionnaire that asks children in middle childhood about their thoughts, feelings and experiences. The MDI is the first survey of its kind to gather information about the lives of children both in school, in the home and in the community, from their own perspective. The survey questions align with the BC Ministry of Education's K-12 curriculum, which includes a focus on promoting children's personal and social competencies.

Grade 8 students are invited to complete the MDI during class time between:
January 14th and March 14th, 2025.

For more information and to view the questionnaires:

<https://earlylearning.ubc.ca/monitoring-system/mdi/mdi-overview/>

Parent FAQs:

<https://earlylearning.ubc.ca/monitoring-system/mdi/parent-caregiver-info/>

If you don't want your child to participate, please contact our school counsellor, Michele Sanders, fill out the withdrawal form at the end of the parent/guardian informed passive consent letter, or contact the MDI project staff at mdi@help.ubc.ca.

Sports Parents

We are so excited to have Mr Adeit Omule as our Athletic Director. We have our first meeting with him on February 20 at 7pm. Please join us as we make a plan.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Grade 11 and 12 parents. Need your PIP hours filled?

Saturday, February 1st: 9am-12pm we will be organizing the Grad Sea can Storage unit located at the back of the school by the basketball court. We need to sort and organize items that have accumulated over the last 2-3 years. We will be purchasing shelves and bins to organize and catalog all the assets we have for the After Grad event. Grade 11 parents this is an excellent opportunity for you to start to see what your event could be next year and for Grade 12 parents we can continue to plan our grad's event. Sign up on our OnVolunteer site.

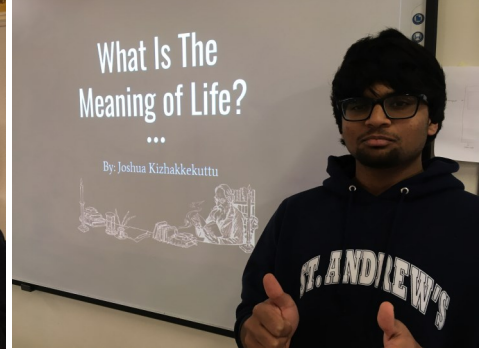
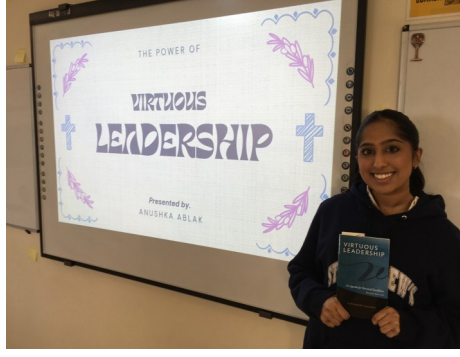
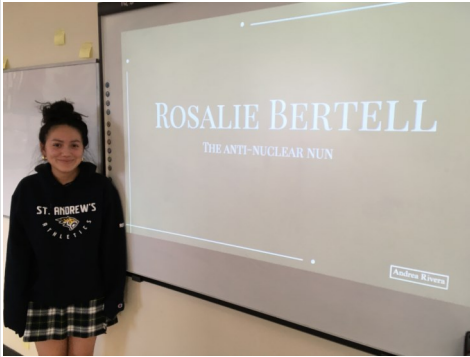
Grad Corner



Our major fundraiser for our After Grad event is our 50/50 raffle. We have 2000 tickets printed and our goal of \$10,000.00 for the winning ticket holder and \$10,000.00 for the Grad Committee. Our first draw is January 31st we are already as of Thursday the winning jackpot is at \$ 4120.00 and growing. Please contact a Grad you know or angelagrohovac@gmail.com if you can support this fundraiser. We are hoping it is our only fundraiser of the year.

Religion Department

Students in our Religion 12 (Ethics and Morality) course recently concluded the first semester by sharing their "Free Range Friday" inquiry learning on a variety of philosophical and religious topics. Students completed focused learning each Friday throughout the semester, grounding their topics in our course curriculum and Catholic worldview. Way to go, Religion 12 students!



Message from Mr. Ballam and the Music Club: 🎵

Hello, music lovers!

Our Music Appreciation Club, led by music enthusiasts Ballam, O'Reilly, and Devenport, (or the BOD for short), is a gathering of musically curious students and teachers who meet every 2 to 3 weeks, depending on the school schedule. We also post songs of the week in our daily announcements.

Our Club Highlights:

Mr. O'Reilly has enlightened us with his presentations on the Hammond B3 organ, Santana's "Soul Sacrifice," and the Leslie speaker.

On the agenda: Mr. Devenport's upcoming session on protest music, and Mr. Ballam's presentation on songs through time.

We Need Your Help! Our club is seeking reasonably good sound equipment. If you have any old stereo equipment (speakers, amplifiers/receivers, turntables, etc.) gathering dust and would be willing to donate them to our club, please reach out to Mr. Ballam at dballam@cisdv.bc.ca to discuss the matter. Your generosity would greatly enhance our musical journey!

Thank you for supporting our musical adventure!
The BOD.

Science Corner

We have a winner in the **Block C Science 9 Power Outage In the Grocery Story Project!** Science students researched and built a battery out of grocery store items and competed to see who could generate the highest voltage.



Congratulations to **Reva Sharma and Juliannalyn Malicdan** for their winning entry and highest voltage.



MUSIC DEPARTMENT

For this first month of 2025, St. Andrew's Singers, Concert Band, and Jazz Band have begun preparations for an eventful next few months of performances: the SARHS Open House for Catholic Schools Week, ICS Music Showcase Concert, Greater Victoria Performing Arts Festival, Con Brio Whistler Music Festival, and more! Please take note of these dates/times below.

All are invited to come out and support our hard-working musicians!

Music students are reminded to please confirm your participation in the Con Brio Whistler Music Festival trip by emailing Mr. O'Reilly (poreilly@cisdv.bc.ca) if you haven't already done so.

Important Upcoming Dates:

Feb.5 - SARHS Open House, 7pm. (Groups TBA)

Mar.5 - Ash Wed Mass, 11am, Sacred Heart Church (St. Andrew's Singers)

April 14-16 - Greater Victoria Performing Arts Festival, date/time TBA (St. Andrew's Singers)

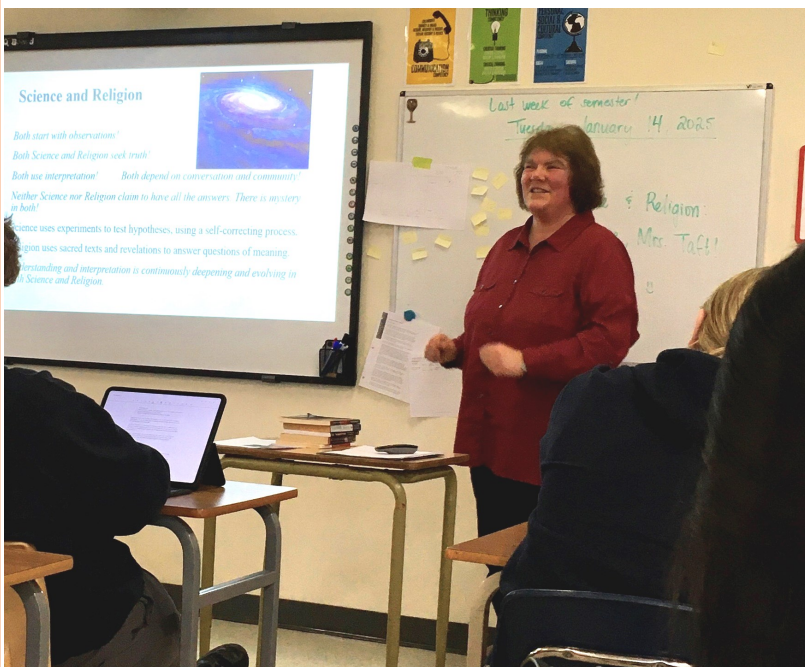
April 15 - ICS Music Showcase Concert, 6pm, UVic Farquahar Auditorium (All groups)

May 1-5 - Con Brio Whistler Music Festival (All groups)

Religion Department

Thank you to two guest speakers who recently contributed to some great learning for our Religion 12 students! **Mrs. Tanya Taft** retired last year after teaching Science and Religion at SARHS for 30 years. She returned to speak to our Grade 12s about the similarities between Science and Religion, and she shared examples of scientists who are also people of faith.

Fr. David Shulist, SJ, is the Catholic chaplain for UVic and Camosun College. He spoke to Grade 12s about life and faith after high school, sharing his personal vocation story and offering practical advice for our students as they consider their journey beyond St. Andrew's.



Bursaries and Scholarships

Knights of Columbus: 2025 Bishop Thomas J. Lobsinger, OMI Memorial Bursary Program:

Happy New Year! Registration for the 2025 Knights of Columbus Bishop Thomas Lobsinger Bursary has just opened. We are offering 14 - \$1,000 bursaries to post secondary Catholic students in British Columbia up to the age of 25. This opportunity is for Grade 12 students. Additional information including terms of reference can be located on our state website: <https://kofcbc.org/bursary-program-2025/>

Victoria Diocesan Catholic Women's League Bursary "In Memory of Freda Smith":

By way of background, this \$750 bursary was created in 2005 in memory of Freda Smith, a very special long-time CWL Member in the Diocese of Victoria. The bursary is funded by donations made by our members during the collection taken up at one of our Masses during our annual Diocesan Convention in May. It is awarded annually to a graduating Catholic student within the Diocese of Victoria.

The bursary criteria and application which can be accessed through our website <https://cwldov.org/application>.

Applications must be received at the address on the form by **March 31, 2025**.

From the Diocese

1) Observed globally from **January 18 to 25**, the **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** invites Christians to pray for unity, reflect on Scripture, participate in joint worship, and engage in acts of charity. This year's theme, inspired by the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea, is "Do you believe this?" (Jn 11:26). For more information, please visit <https://www.cccb.ca/media-release/the-week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2025>

2) Join **Development and Peace online on Saturday, February 8, from 8:00 am–10:00 am (PST)** for this year's Share Lent Workshop (also hosted in-person at St. Boniface Cathedral, Manitoba). This year's campaign, Turn Debt into Hope, highlights how partners in Peru and Tunisia are addressing poverty. Registration is required to attend: <https://tinyurl.com/yc5v79y3>

3) On the first anniversary of their Pastoral Letter on social media, "Let Your Speech Always Be Gracious", the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops has launched a video series and resources to explore its pastoral and moral insights. These materials are available for personal or group use and can be found on a new webpage dedicated to the Pastoral Letter: <https://www.cccb.ca/media-release/launch-of-video-series-and-resources-for-the-pastoral-letter-on-social-media>

4) Join the **World Religions Conference on Sunday, February 2, at 4:30 pm** in the Gary Oak Room, Saanich Commonwealth Centre. Held in honour of UN World Interfaith Harmony Week, this year's theme is "Healing in a Polarized World", with speakers from eight faiths sharing their perspectives. An East Indian meal will follow, generously provided by the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community. This event is free, but registration is required: <https://worldreligionsconference.ca/upcoming-conference-2/#register>



St. Andrew's Parent Support Group

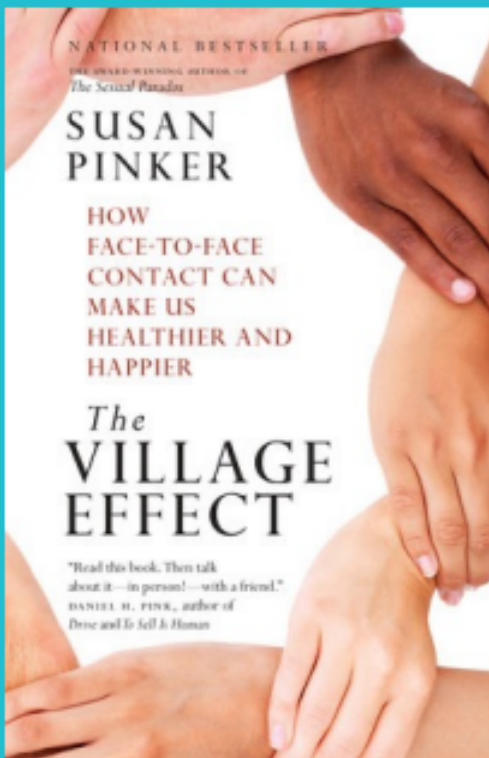
Thank you for helping us help our school!

sarhs-psg@cisdv.bc.ca

St. Andrew's High School

New

Parent Book Club



Do you like to read?
Do you have questions about parenting?

Well, look no further.
The PSG Parent Book Club is here to help.

Borrow a copy of our 2nd book from the school library or purchase your own.

PSG Book Club Night

Thur. Feb. 27, 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Library
(Doors open 6:30 p.m.)

Light Refreshments. Everyone welcome.

Please send your Parent Book Club questions to the PSG at sarhs-psg@cisdv.bc.ca

“From birth to death, humans are hard-wired to connect to others. Direct contact matters: tight bonds of friendship and love heals us, help children learn, extend our lives and make us happy.” Daniel H. Pink

Two copies of *The Village Effect* have been purchased by the PSG. Books will be available to be borrowed through the school library as a ‘Fast Read’. See our school librarian Mrs. Paul for the PSG’s “Fast Read” rules. Happy Reading!