A Message From The Principal  
by Corey Graves  

It is hard to believe that March is already here. It won’t be long before the warm weather arrives and the end of year preparation begins! As you may know, this is a time of year that students make the most academic and social learning improvements. Make school a priority. With the increase of sun and warm weather, it may be challenging to keep our children focused on learning.

**What can you do to make school a priority for your child?**
- **Regular Attendance** - A missed school day, in-person or remote is a lost opportunity for students to learn.
- **Show Interest** - Talk to your child about school activities and projects.
- **Remain Positive** - Set a positive example for your child. If you show a positive attitude about your work, your child may feel better about their own.
- **Create a Routine** - One good way to show your children how important education is at home is to make it a part of their daily schedule.

What are some things you can do to make school a priority for your child?

If you have any questions or concerns feel free to give the school a call! As always, we thank you for your continued support!

SMS Principal  
Mr. Graves

---

**This month’s Spotlight Students are Alivia Orr and Cameron Milton. Get to know them below!**

**What are you most looking forward to this spring?**
- **Alivia:** Enjoying the weather and practicing volleyball
- **Cameron:** Sunshine and warm weather, and playing with my friends outside

**What is your favorite book?**
- **Alivia:** Wonder by RJ Palacio  
  **Cameron:** The One and Only Ivan by Katherine Applegate

**What is one positive thing about this year?**
- **Alivia:** Being able to come back and meet teachers, especially Mr. Sgroi  
  **Cameron:** Getting to see my friends again

**What is one challenge you have overcome this year?**
- **Alivia:** Some classes are more difficult online  
  **Cameron:** Online schooling

**What does being a Solvay Bearcat mean to you?**
- **Alivia:** Solvay is one of the best schools I’ve been to. Good friends and good teachers!  
  **Cameron:** Solvay is a really nice place. I enjoy the area that I live in.

---

**CALENDAR**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3/9</td>
<td>SMS PTO Meeting – 7pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/15</td>
<td>No School – Staff Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/15</td>
<td>BOE Meeting – 7pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/19</td>
<td>SMS Musical – 7pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/20</td>
<td>SMS Musical – 2pm &amp; 7pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**HELPFUL REMINDERS**

- Check Google Classroom every day and complete all assignments.
- Check-in with teachers often and ask for extra help using Google Hangouts or Gmail.
- Charge Chromebooks the night before you come to school!
- Read a little bit every day!

---

We are pleased to announce the rollout of StudentSquare for our 7th & 8th grade students. StudentSquare will replace other communication apps such as Remind. This app provides a safe and secure platform for all student communication at school. The two-way group-messaging, district-wide alerts and notices, and simple user interface keeps everyone connected, creating a vibrant school community. The primary use of StudentSquare will be for sports teams and other extracurricular activities.
GRADE LEVEL TEAMS

5th Grade:
Fifth graders have been learning...

ELA: The novel *Maniac Magee*, a Newbery Medal winning modern classic about a racially divided small town and a boy who makes a difference.

Math: Using models to learn about equivalent, improper and mixed fractions

Social Studies: The First Americans and creating pocket books of student learning

Science: 5th graders are investigating how plants and animals get the matter and energy they need to live and grow, how they interact with food webs and how one change in an ecosystem can have various effects. Students are currently observing and recording measurements of mealworms as they grow.

The 5th grade team welcomes Courtney Dunaway from Syracuse University. Courtney is completing her pre-service teaching with Mrs. Barboni. Our students are lucky to be working with her!

6th Grade:
Math: we are continuing to work on the fraction unit. I am offering online virtual math help. If you are interested in having your child participate, please email mmercer@solvayschools.org

Science: using a variety of visualizations (i.e., images, charts, and graphs), students are exploring ocean circulation patterns as they relate to the world’s ocean garbage patches using NASA ocean currents data. Students are investigating the forces that contribute to ocean circulation patterns, and how debris, especially plastics, travel from land to garbage patches. Students will be analyzing regional plastic production and waste management data to describe how humans have contributed to ocean plastic pollution.

Social Studies: we ended our Ancient Egypt unit with pyramid building projects. We are moving on to Ancient Greece to study the rivalry between Athens and Sparta, the origins of our modern day Olympic games and the beginnings of democracy.

Health, we are currently in our Analyzing Influences unit with the content knowledge of Empathy. Students are completing a project “Walk In My Shoes,” where we get to learn what it is like to be someone else and experience life through their eyes. After February break, we took a socially distant scavenger hunt around the Middle School to learn about the Mental Health resources available to our students.

ELA: Students are in the process of designing their own video games. Through this unit, students have learned the meaning of protagonist and antagonist, as well as the different types of conflict. Their video games must incorporate each of those elements! We are looking forward to seeing what games they create!

Above, our 6th Grade Team is celebrating 100 school days, pandemic style!
7th Grade:
A glance into our 7th grade classrooms!
ELA: Students are continuing to read and analyze the book *A Long Walk to Water*.
Math: Students will be applying operations with signed numbers to manipulate algebraic expressions.
Social Studies: Students will be looking into the structure and formation of our government.
Science: Classes will be studying genetics and will be doing a lab to pool information about some of their traits! Once this data is collected, they will find out which form of the traits are dominant or recessive by doing a statistical analysis.
Italian: Students will be learning about vocabulary related to the home. In this unit, they will complete a project in which they will design a "dream" home for themselves using Italian vocabulary.
Spanish: Students are learning about family and relatives, and will start to jump into conjugating irregular verbs.

Mrs. Medsger updated our bulletin board for February, to celebrate some amazing black writers for Black History Month.

Mr. Sgroi's classes looked into the Boston Massacre, and whether it was self-defense, or murder.
8th Grade:

**Spanish:** Students are working to compare the irregular verbs “ser” and “está”, by using them in real life situations.

**Physical Science:** Students will be transitioning from learning about Chemistry to Physics this month. The learning focus will be on forces, motion, and energy.

**Biology:** Students will be finishing up their Genetics Unit and moving on to Natural Selection and Ecology to finish out the year.

**ELA:** Students have just finished a project where they looked at articles discussing the use of technology in the home and determined the bias of those articles. We are now learning different types of figurative language.

**Advanced ELA:** Students finished a project on banned books and has transitioned into looking at figurative language. We will be moving into *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee soon.

**Italian:** Students are learning about how to use the verb “andare” in our unit about transportation.

**Social Studies:** Students are learning about the Roaring 20’s and the Great Depression. Students will experience how the stock market works, the culture of the 1920’s including music and movies, as well as participate in a simulation of the stock market crash of 1929. They will then learn how the government provided support to the American people during the Great Depression by looking at New Deal Programs, and how this impacted Syracuse.

**Math:** Students are learning how to graph equations based on the slope and y-intercept, building their graphing skills in preparation for Algebra next year.

**Algebra:** Students are working on solving linear equations and linear inequalities. This is building their skills to transition into the next unit, which is about systems of equations.

---

YEARBOOKS

Solvay Middle School Yearbooks are on sale! Soft covers are $15, and hard covers are $25.

To order, go to [ybpay.lifetouch.com](https://ybpay.lifetouch.com) and use code 5151521

Orders must be placed by April 1st - No extras will be available.

Share your candid photos! Use #SolvayMSYearbook - Photos will be accepted until March 15th. All photos must be deemed school appropriate by yearbook staff. Any photos that do not abide by the Code of Conduct will not be included.

---

BEST PROGRAM

**Block 3** Ends March 26th. Block 3 programs are up and running. If your child is re-entering Cohorts A or B, please look at the academic support and programs offered. We have space available. Sign ups are on SMS web page under BEST Programs or email mcole@solvayschools.org or dmarshall@solvayschools.org

- We have sent out a BEST Interest Form for developing programs of interest for your child. Your response will help us create programs for the future.

**Block 4** Begins April 12th – May 20th. Programs and academic support are being planned with a start date of April 12. We are excited to bring you new weekly or weekend programs as well and field trips. Check them out on the SMS website under BEST 4th Block Programs, later this month. We will notify all parents in the SMS district when it becomes available through Parent Square. Here are some sneak previews: Food Science and Games, Macramé, Summer Cooking, Sewing Machine Embroidery, Rocketry, Crafts

**BEST Summer Programs** are also being developed. More information will be available in the months to come.
HONOR ROLL & HIGH HONOR ROLL

5th Grade High Honor Roll
Allen, Parker • Bell, Shyanne • Bosovyk, Nicole • Brusa, Kathryn • Butler, Owen • Chapin, Madison • Conley, Cooper
Dibrova, Volodymyr • Doyle, Timothy • Fragola, Vincent • Green, E-zheir • Gromov, Nikita • Gulev, Karina • John, Kaniel
Johnston, Connor • Kelly, Evan • Korobii, Vladyslav • LaVeck, Braylen • Law, Lila • Lotito, John • Lydon, Madison
Martinez, Aleena • Maybee, Layla • Morales, Anthony • Mulderig, Liam • Neuman, Kasidie • Oleson, Ella
Oliver, Ashlynn • Pallone, Gaige • Schlosser Jr, Christopher • Sellers, Kora • Sinko, Vincent • Tucker, Lauren
Van Slyke, Andrianna • Walker, Caleb • Young, Ethan

5th Grade Honor Roll
Affleck-Block, Reese • Baculis, Izbella • Cedeno Almarales, Yulianis • Ciciarelli, Angelina
Hadi, Ehda Mohammed • Irons, Ovian • Lockwood, David • Paradise, Kayleigh

6th Grade High Honor Roll
Burke, Brielle • Butler, Connor • Butler, Zachary • Darling, Jazmyne • Drozdovska, Emilia • Feigel, Giavanna
Germakovski, Georgiana • Grant, Alexander • Kennedy, Arielle • Lowe, Andrew • Michalek, Joshua
Moulton, Desmond • Nichols, Christopher • Olesh, Mark • O’Neill, Allison • Robinson, Gabriel • Rolince, Carson
Santos-Sustache, Joel • Sauer, Parker • Schell, Natalie • Sellers, Carter • Smorol, Shauna • Stanton, Bryant
Stewart, Sawyer • Willsey, Gabrielle • Yaromich, Elijah

6th Grade Honor Roll
Alnuaimi, Almuatasm • Bailey, Sincere • Darby, Justin • DiTucci, Ryan • Estrada, Alana • Galvin, Sophia
Harding, Skyler • Hobson, Jordan • Landers, Athena • Morales, Joshua • Ouderkirk, Amelia
Remiesiewicz, Rhianna • Vona, Antonio • Wing, Jenna

7th Grade High Honor Roll
Beecher, Bailey • Bigelow, Jacob • Brusa, Anthony • Burke, Jack • Burke, Nora • Caruana, Ethan
Davis, Jason • Germakovski, Naomi • Hadden, Alyssa • Harding, Savannah • Hollis, Kiera • Karim, Ali Mostafa
Kasubinski, Davin • Lathrop, Rylee • Lorick, Taylor • Markowski, Zoe • Maybee, Ellie • Natal, Antonio
Reichert, Cathryn • Remington, Sean • Reyes, Anouk • Stewart, Annabelle • VanEpps, Madelyn
Willsey, Rachel • Wilson, Ashjon • Zimmerman, Justin

7th Grade Honor Roll
Ash, Jason • Bagozzi, Carmella • Conners, Jordyn • Hardy, Zayne • Manning, Sebastian • Orr, Alivia
Paradise, Madelyne • Perez Martinez, Adriel • Plotitsyn, Egor • Romanchuk, David • Salvagni, Zavier
Sanford, Shawn • Sardo, Samuel • Stanton, Bryce • Syssoyev, Mark • Tarbell, Jenna

8th Grade High Honor Roll
Betts, Zachary • Bligh, Ryland • D’Eredita, Gianna • Doring, Sienna • Ferguson, Mika • Gulev, Yana • Hardy, Xavier
Lowe, Ethan • Mason, Ethan • Mumford, Dylan • Overend, Maxwell • Reynolds, Robert • Rutkowski, Emma
Sauer, Tripp • Seneshich, Zeke • Smorol, Ashlyn • Steinbrecher, Caleb-Anthony • Trendell, Aaron • Zappala, Victoria

8th Grade Honor Roll
Alfonso-Machado, Kevin • Cappetta, Cameron • Ciciarelli, Anthony • Cox, Rihanna • Godbolt, Jaedyn • Gosha, Riley
Kuriatnyk, Lucas • Moroz, Sofia • Richardson, Nicholas • Sass, Jamison • Tyler, Carson • Whalen Sgroi, Sylvia
**COUNSELOR’S CORNER**

“Asking for help is a sign of strength, not weakness”

On March 16, 2020, our lives changed when we were ordered to stay at home for what we thought would be a 2-week hiatus from business as usual! As we approach the year anniversary of COVID-19, 2021 is a hopeful year, as we now have a vaccination and many of us have adapted to our new normal. However if you’re not inclined to embrace the winter wonderland, you may find yourself trapped indoors and falling victim to cabin fever. With being isolated from family and friends, it’s easy to fall into a gloomy state of mind. That’s why we wanted to share this resource with you. Project Hope is New York’s COVID-19 Emotional Support Helpline.

NY Project Hope helps New Yorkers understand their reaction and emotions during COVID-19. Through an emotional support helpline, educational materials, and trusted referrals, NY Project Hope helps people manage and cope with changes brought on by COVID-19. Project Hope Crisis Counselors understand what you are going through. Talking to them is free, confidential, and anonymous. Talk to someone who is trained, knowledgeable and never judges. Sometimes it helps to talk with someone you don’t know.

**Helpline:** 1-844-863-9314

---

**FINE ARTS**

**Jazz History:**
The MS Jazz Band has been focusing not just on playing this year, but also on learning more about the history of jazz music. Throughout the year, students have been exploring jazz. Through its birth in New Orleans at the end of the 19th century to our most recent discussions about the era of the Great Depression, students have been able to learn about how the music of jazz evolved, and its close connection with the societal and cultural issues of the time. We will continue to study this uniquely American art form through the rest of this year, learning not just about its historical significance, but also about the many pioneering musicians who shaped the genre and made it such a lasting piece of our musical history.

**8th Grade Studio in Art**

![Anna Kunai](image1)

![Gianna D’Eredita](image2)

**7th Grade Featured Artist:**

Nieomie Santiago