

Sentinel

Solvay Union Free School District

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Questions and comments are welcomed by the superintendent's office at (315) 468-1111 sentinel@solvayschools.org.

Valedictorian Ibro Alemic



Ibro's parent are Sakib and Zijada Alemic and he plans on attending Syracuse University to study finance.

Salutatorian Jessica Kuts



Jessica's parents are Nikolay and Nadia Kuts and she plans on enrolling in Ithaca College's Exploratory Program.

Artist recasts faces as fable



Pictured clockwise from right: Serenity Thomas (eighth grade); Mr. Agostino, Carlos Martinez, Tyler Campbell, Brianna McGee and Serenity; and Mr. Agostino with Shahid Hutcherson. See story on page 7.

Science-minded Senior tapped for STEM event

Tyler Beagle, a senior at Solvay High School, has been nominated to attend the Congress of Future Science and Technology Leaders in Boston this June.

The congress is an honors-only program for high school students who are passionate about science, technology, engineering or mathematics (STEM), and is intended to inspire them to be scientists and technologists. Organizers also hope to provide a path, plan and resources to help the students reach their goals. Tyler was nominated by his science teacher, Travis Hall, to represent Solvay High School based on his academic achievement, leadership potential, and passion for science and technology.

"As a New York Delegate to the 2015 Congress of the National Academy of Future Scientists and Technologists, I proudly say that I am more than eager to be attending this year's congress, and I am very grateful to Mr. Hall for nominating me for a full scholarship to the organization," said Tyler. "Thank you, Mr. Hall, for the nomination and being one of the best science teachers I've ever met."

"Knowing Tyler since his middle school days, I was delighted

to nominate him to attend the National Academy of Future Scientists and Technologists," said Mr. Hall. "Tyler has used his passion, interest in science, and his academic abilities to the utmost while here at Solvay." Mr. Hall credited both Tyler's hard work and the opportunities provided by Solvay teachers for leading to "an exciting start to the next stage of [Tyler's] life," adding, "I look forward to hearing of the great things he accomplishes down the road." During the three-day congress, Tyler will join students from across the country to hear Nobel laureates and National

Medal of Science winners talk about leading scientific research, be given advice from deans of the world's top tech universities, be inspired by fellow teen science prodigies, and learn about cutting-edge advances and the future of science and technology.

"Focused, bright, and determined students like Tyler Beagle are our future, and he deserves all the mentoring and guidance we can give him," said Richard Rossi, executive director of the National Academy of Future Scientists and Technologists.



Tyler Beagle, pictured above right, will represent Solvay at the Congress of Future Science and Technology Leaders in Boston this June. He was nominated for the experience by his science teacher, Travis Hall (above left).

Young poets perform

The Solvay Middle School Library Learning Commons was transformed into a haven for budding poets this spring.



During National Poetry Month in April, Cecelia Kulak's seventh grade English language arts classes wrote and edited original poetry. They included literary devices in their poems such as alliteration and simile, and then presented their poems to their fourth through seventh grade peers. They finished the project with a poetry reading and tea event for parents and guardians in the middle school Library Learning Commons.

"Such events are the cornerstone of the learning commons," said Heather Turner, library media specialist. "It was an amazing experience for both audience and readers. Many students were hesitant to read their poems at first; however, after the experience, many could not believe how easy it was to read their poems."

One student, Adam DeLucia, rapped his poem as audience members kept the beat. Each was unique, and together they ran the gamut of subjects from dogs to grandfathers, many with humor at the heart. The poems were recorded and will soon be available on the library web page (smllc.weebly.com). "It was a fun two days in the Library Learning Commons," said Ms. Turner.

Wee Deliver!

Postal program processes 1,000 letters

Solvay Elementary School's Wee Deliver program circulated 1,000 letters this year.

Wee Deliver is a postal service that delivers mail within Solvay Elementary School, "employing" interested third graders who apply for and win a post. Wee Deliver workers collect, stamp, tally, and sort mail in the mail room, delivering mail on the following school day.

The learning standards require students to routinely write across a range of tasks, purposes, and audiences. The Wee Deliver mail system has helped Solvay Elementary students to increase

their writing frequency, fluency, sense of audience, and purpose this year, say speech therapist Nicole Goodeve and literacy coordinator Amanda Simmons, who co-advise the program.

Mrs. Goodeve and Mrs. Simmons challenged students and staff to generate and circulate 1,000 letters this school year. Although they met their goal in March, they kept the fervor for this program alive with a recent building-wide Spring Poetry Contest. The teachers offered a heartfelt thanks to all students who participated and to all teachers who supported the program this year.



Wee Deliver, an elementary school postal program, collected, stamped, sorted and delivered 1,000 letters this year. Students volunteered for the opportunity. Pictured first row from left: Kaley Pierce, Landon Raymond, Anthony D'Agostino, Neonna Turk and Delaney Kaszubinski. Second row: Connor Maloney, Joshua Chipman, Sam Chipman, Aaliyah Harp and Natalie Fadden. Third row: Nicole Goodeve (advisor), Minerva Miller, Adam Tarbell, Kira Kipp, Ream Obadi, Gabriella LaFlair and Serenity Putzig. Fourth row: Amanda Simmons (advisor), Zackary Gardner, Jacob Gannon, McKenzie Tryon, Ashleigh Kearns, Hannah Haase and Kendall Carson. Not pictured: Olivia Onderkirk, Evelina Bosovsky, Natalie Michalek, Skydyn Jocko, Natalie Mather, Tyler Michalkow, Rosalind Sowan and Tayler Kadlubowski.

SHS sophomores off to college

The sophomore class visited Syracuse University May 1 for a college experience.

"The good weather contributed nicely to a positive experience," said high school principal Jay Tinklepaugh. Highlights included tours of the Carmelo K. Anthony Basketball Center, Manley Field House, and main campus. Students also attended a speech by Director of Student Support Services Robert Wilson, a student panel, arts activities, an admissions presentation, and had lunch on the quad. "The day was very productive," commented Mr. Tinklepaugh.



Alumna joins MDA

Former Solvay valedictorian **Lianna R. Orlando '89** has taken a position with The Muscular Dystrophy Association.

Ms. Orlando's concentration on The Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA)'s research team will be managing grant portfolios for muscle diseases such as myotonic dystrophy, congenital myopathies, and mitochondrial myopathies.

"As we continue to build a powerful research team here at MDA, we are lucky to have Lianna be a part of it," said Dr. Valerie A. Cwik, MDA executive vice president, chief medical and scientific officer. "She brings an incredible amount of expertise to the field of research development in the neurological space. MDA remains committed to pursuing lifesaving discoveries, and I'm looking forward to working with Lianna and the team to ensure that MDA continues to prioritize progress for the families we serve and the larger research community." Ms. Orlando joins recently hired scientific program officers who, together, will

lead MDA as it accelerates new front-line discovery that leads to treatments and cures for various types of neuromuscular and motor neuron diseases.

"I am thrilled to join MDA at such an exciting time, when research is taking center stage," Ms. Orlando said. "MDA has had a hand in nearly every neuromuscular disease research breakthrough, and I look forward to applying my experience—supporting research efforts in other areas to help the MDA continue to achieve its mission."



***I am thrilled to join MDA
at such an exciting time,
when research is taking
center stage.***

— **Lianna R. Orlando '89**

As MDA's scientific program officer, Ms. Orlando will be based in Boston. She will provide leadership for MDA through interactions with federal agencies, international neuromuscular disease partners, philanthropists, investors, drug development groups and bio-pharmaceutical companies, as well as with patient advocacy groups, and other neuromuscular disease stakeholders.

Ms. Orlando studied at Harvard University. She is the daughter of Steve Orlando and Lena Rose Orlando, Solvay's board of education president.

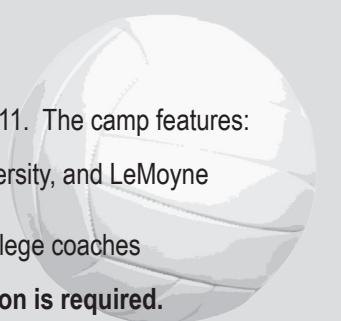
Salt City Volleyball Camp

August 3–6
Solvay Middle School

Solvay will again be hosting the Salt City Volleyball Camp this summer for girls currently in grades 3–11. The camp features:

- College coaches from Colgate, Wells College, SUNY New Paltz, SUNY Polytechnic, Syracuse University, and LeMoyne
- Three levels to match the skills and experience of all girls, from beginners to varsity
- An opportunity for younger girls to learn the game and older girls to develop their skills and meet college coaches

E-mail Eric Wojtalewski (ewojtalewski@solvayschools.org) for registration information. **Pre-registration is required.**



Perspective

Another wonderful year

By **LAWRENCE WRIGHT**
Superintendent of Schools

Solvay has advanced this year both structurally and academically.

As a district, we have made a concerted effort to “go green”—through support from Solvay Village Electric, our most recent capital project saw the installation of 32 solar panels at the high school and nearly 400 LED light bulbs, which will cut energy usage, save money, and provide a “green” example for our community. Voters approved improvements in the fall that include a roof replacement, floor refinishing, and refurbishing of athletic fields—a \$6.4 million project at no additional cost to taxpayers. And in June of 2016, we will be moving our district office into the middle school building, allowing us to consolidate services and save tens of thousands of dollars annually.

We continue to invest in technology, including everything from software and equipment to professional development, and are working towards 1:1 mobile device implementation, which means two years from now we will have one computer or mobile device for every student.

Through our Pathways to College program, high school students now have the opportunity to earn an associate’s degree before they graduate. We offer as many as

40 courses through Onondaga Community College, Syracuse University, and the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry. Nearly 80 percent of our students earn college credits before they leave high school. Grants, creative planning, and hard work allow us to continue to bolster our early literacy and after school programs. Last year, the high school graduated 89.5 percent of its students (nearly that same number of our graduates enrolled in college).

I feel it is important to mention, however, we face a challenge because of the high opt out rates for both English language arts (ELA) and math testing. I fully understand why many parents chose to opt their children out of state testing, but I feel it is incumbent upon me to mention that this decision negatively impacts our participation and performance. Twenty-five percent of students opted out of ELA testing, 33 percent opted out of math, and still others chose not to complete tests they had started. This will make it difficult to interpret Solvay’s results, which may not truly reflect the hard work and dedication of our students and teachers.

Despite that, I feel we are ending the year on a high note—our academic programming is on the upswing and our campus continues to improve. Thank you, Solvay, for another wonderful year!



Project Advance visits SU

The Syracuse University Project Advance psychology students recently visited the university.

Students were able to meet psychology professor Lawrence J. Lewandowski and discuss possible careers in the field of psychology. They also attended a full lecture and toured Bird Library. “This was a great opportunity for our seniors to experience the academics of college life,” said high school social studies teacher Kim Shambaugh.

Syracuse University Project Advance (SUPA) is a cooperative partnership linking Syracuse University (SU) with secondary schools like Solvay. Through this partnership, Solvay High can offer qualified seniors the opportunity to enroll in university courses for university credit. Teachers who have qualified through SUPA as SU adjunct instructors teach enhanced, concurrent enrollment university courses in high schools during the school day.



Project Advance students attended a Syracuse University lecture and received a taste of college life during a recent visit to the campus.

'Wild Things': Sixth graders share Sendak-inspired stories, artwork

Sixth grade art students participated in a literacy-based art project with middle school art teacher Bridget Nadzen and literacy coach Jill Weston.

Students wrote unique continuations of the book "Where the Wild Things Are" by Maurice Sendak and developed illustrations to mirror the originals.

After finishing their projects, students traveled to Solvay Elementary School to share their stories and artwork with the kindergarten classes. The event was a huge success and both kindergarten students and sixth grade students enjoyed it, the teachers agreed. Participating elementary school teachers were Lucille Lewis, Kim Smith, Beth Barriere, Carolyn Erwin, and Lori Everett.



Sixth graders shared stories and illustrations based on Maurice Sendak's famed children's book, "Where the Wild Things Are," with SES students. Above is a piece by Julianne Mero. Top right: Katie Haskins reads to Mrs. Lewis's and Mrs. Smith's classes. Bottom right: sixth graders with Mrs. Barriere's class.



Seniors travel to Washington, D.C.

Forty-three seniors recently took a three-day field trip to Washington, D.C., to experience the U.S. Federal Government in person.

The trip included a stop at Arlington National Cemetery, where they visited the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and witnessed the Changing of the Guard ceremony, as well as visits to the Iwo Jima Memorial, the Air Force Memorial, and the Pentagon Memorial. Students also toured the Lincoln, World War II, Jefferson, and Franklin D. Roosevelt memorials, and the new Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.,



The senior trip included visits to numerous museums and monuments. They are pictured here in front of the U.S. Supreme Court.

memorial.

They received inside tours of the White House, U.S. Congress, and U.S. Supreme Court, and spent time in various Smithsonian museums, such as the Holocaust Museum, the American History Museum, and the Air and Space Museum. These seniors proudly represented the school and community, their chaperones agreed.

Chaperones included high school teachers Shawn Mitchell (the trip organizer), Mike Emmi, Chris Rufo, Keith Lasher, Kelly Monaghan, and Matt Krawczyk.

AIS Night mixes laughter, learning

Solvay Middle School Academic Intervention Services Family Night was held in March.

Academic Intervention Services (AIS) students and their families were invited to a night of literacy, math games, and snacks. The annual event allows teachers and administrators the opportunity to gather and converse with families, playing common everyday games that enhance literacy and math skills. Twenty-five Solvay families attended this year's event.

"All of the students and parents left smiling with books," said Heidi Dennison, an AIS teacher at the middle school and one of the event organizers. Parents also took away a renewed interest in helping their children improve math and literacy skills.



Pictured above: Luis Martinez, Mr. Martinez and Miguel Martinez. On the bottom: Hailey Muel and Tristin Moran.

Key Club members recognized

Two Solvay Key Club members were recognized this year at the Key Club Leadership Conference in Albany.

Ken Vreeland, a senior, received the New York State Distinguished Lieutenant Governor Award, and Jillian Everett, also a senior, received the New York State Distinguished Key Club President Award.

This year's conference marked the first year the event was interpreted for the deaf—an experience that allowed the over 1,000 student attendees to realize the vibrant contribution of that community. Students left excited about an upcoming Thirst Project, through which they will

work with other groups to help supply clean, potable water to areas where that is scarce or nonexistent.



Solvay Key Club members Ken Vreeland and Jillian Everett were honored. Pictured at the ceremony: Lashaya Overton, Jillian Everett, Kathleen DeMong, Alyssa Haynes, Emily Sokol, and Amy Christian.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Deb Sitnik, ELA teacher at Solvay Middle School. On May 13, Deb was awarded the Teacher Collaborative/Advocate of the Year Award, from OCM BOCES School Library System.



Deb Sitnik, pictured above left, and Heather Turner, library media specialist at SMS, right, who nominated Deb for the award.

Painting the picture *(con't from page 1)*

Solvay Middle School hosted Christopher Agostino's StoryFaces in early May.

Mr. Agostino is a makeup artist and storyteller. In his performances he uses face painting to transform students into active participants as characters from the stories being told. Agostino's ability to create narrative illustrations using the human face as his canvas changes the perception of traditional face painting and captivates audiences. He has been performing, directing, and teaching children's theatre for over 30 years, directing more than 150 student productions and touching the lives of thousands of kids and their families.

Mr. Agostino began his career on stage as a teenage apprentice to a professional theater company, performing Shakespeare in parks and arts-in-education programs in schools.

Notes from the Music Department

Rolince, Dunham honored

Solvay High School (SHS) band students Cory Rolince (trombone) and Dunham Hall (alto saxophone) were selected to perform with the New York State School Music Association's Senior High Area All State Music Festival. The festival was held at Ithaca College School of Music on January 30-31. Students were selected based on their solo festival scores from spring 2014.

SHS band performs

Solvay High band students performed at the New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA) Solo Festival held at Jamesville-Dewitt Middle School on May 1. Students performed solos ranging from NYSSMA level four to level six. They also performed a prepared solo for a specialist on their instrument to receive a rating. Students that performed were: Sarah Burns and Maddy Pellizzari (flute), Jacob DePalma (alto saxophone), Mary Catherine Lopez (euphonium), and Samantha Waters (trombone).

Jazz tapped for All County

Jacob DePalma (tenor saxophone), Zac Mashaw (trombone), and Eddie Nanno (tenor saxophone) were selected to perform with the Onondaga County Music Educators Association (OCMEA) All County Jazz Band. Jacob was selected for the senior high band, Zac and Eddie for the junior high band. The festival was held at Skaneateles High School on April 24-25

Band earns Silver at NYSSMA

On April 30, the SHS band traveled to Westhill High School for the annual NYSSMA Major Evaluation Festival. The band performed at level five, which is defined by NYSSMA as "Difficult: Recommended for more advanced high school groups and soloists of experience and proficiency." The Silver rating is "awarded to organizations that have demonstrated an excellent level of technical and artistic skill."

Hall, Rolince head to All County

Dunham Hall (tenor saxophone) and Cory Rolince (trombone) were selected by audition to perform with the 2015 OCMEA All County Band. The festival to be held at West Genesee High School on June 10.

Jazz band earns Gold

The SHS jazz band traveled to Oneida High School to perform at the Oneida Jazz Festival on May 6. Solvay received a gold rating from the judges. Solvay was the only band in Big Band Class B to receive a gold rating at the festival.

Elementary attends All County

Seven talented young musicians represented SMS at the annual OCMEA Elementary All County Festival. This year's concerts were held at Nottingham High School in Syracuse. "Congratulations to these students on their fine musical accomplishments. The music department, your family and friends are very proud of you," said Lorraine Reddinger, music teacher.



SMS All County Band) pictured above left to right: Larissa DeJesus and Toby Love; (All County Chorus) Madison Chetney, Ryan DePalma, Brianna Holtsberry, Summer Lewis and Rachel Maloney. From left: Summer Lewis, Brianna Holtsberry, Rachel Maloney, Madison Chetney, Larissa DeJesus, Toby Love, and Ryan DePalma.

Notes from the Music Department *(con't from page 8)*

SMS shines at solo festival

Nearly 30 Solvay Middle School (SMS) band and chorus students attended the NYSSMA Solo Festival. The festival took place at Jamesville-DeWitt Middle School on May 1. The students participated both vocally and instrumentally, prepared solos with the help of their music teachers, and performed solos in front of a judge who rated them on various aspects such as scales, tone, technique, diction, and interpretation. In addition, the students had to sing or play a short selection of music they had never seen before (sight reading). All of the SMS band and chorus students scored the highest ratings possible with either an "Excellent" or "Outstanding" score.



Pictured top: (grades 7-8 band) Erica Bagozzi, Jennifer Klix, Jianna Speach, Makenzie Jenkins, Rylie Dwyer, Nicholas Lopez, Brendan Smith and Alexis Trendell; not pictured: Sarah Gerace. Pictured middle (grades 5-6 band) Emily Britton, A'shawnna Turk, Myah Platler, Ryleigh Bidwell, Zachery Balduzzi, Ryan Trendell, Toby Love, Isabella Parker, Jacob Barndollar, Larissa DeJesus and Emma Fenton. Pictured bottom: (grades 7-8 chorus) Anastasia Laflair, Jennifer Klix, Arianna Laframboise, Jianna Speech, Nicholas Lopez, Abigail Lee, Sidney Chafee, Destyni McVey; missing from photo: Brandon Falcone.



Students had a virtual conversation with Dr. Tom Chesnes of Palm Beach Atlantic University.

Students study national parks

Middle school students were challenged recently to complete a national park research project. Fifth grade teacher Sarah Tripp and literacy coach Jill Weston asked students to choose among Yellowstone, Big Bend, and the Everglades.

After learning about unique features (plants, wildlife, topography, and park activities), students created travel brochures to convince others to visit their park. At the conclusion of the project, students spoke via the Internet with Dr. Tom Chesnes, associate professor and chair of biology at Palm Beach Atlantic University. Students had prepared questions based on their Everglades research, and Dr. Chesnes showed them reptiles that are found there. The experience was the next best thing to traveling to the beautiful Everglades, said their teachers.

Science project honors women

Katie St. Denis's earth science classes participated in a "Women in Science" poster biography project during Women's History month in March.

Tenth grade students selected from both contemporary and historic women in science-related fields. After completing online and print research, they created "biography boards"—a poster that celebrates the accomplishments of major figures and "unheard voices." The biography boards were required to be both well researched and attractive. "The students learned a great deal about the many contributions by women in science related fields," said Ms. St. Denis.



Working together: SHS, SMS collaborate

Maria Mercer and her fourth grade class collaborated with DECA students on an entrepreneurship project.

The collaboration with 10 high school DECA students and their advisor, high school business teacher Rich Gratien, came about thanks to the Innovation Classroom initiative.

The fourth grade students were working on a simulated project as entrepreneurs, creating a business for the Onondaga Lake front. As the student groups were completing a business plan for their mock business proposals, DECA students came to their classroom to assist. The fourth grade students were excited to work with the high school students, and each group had the benefit of one or two high school mentors to provide guidance with the project. Entrepreneurship is a major focus of DECA, and the high school students had the opportunity to share their knowledge with the younger students. It was a rewarding experience for everyone involved, agreed Ms. Mercer and Mr. Gratien.



Fourth graders worked recently with SHS students on an entrepreneurship project. Pictured, sophomore Katie Harrington (left) works with Kendra Pierce (right).



DECA students and the fourth grade class collaborated through Innovation Classrooms.

Earth Day celebrations raise environmental awareness

High school students, in cooperation with the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, launched the First Annual Earth Day Celebration at Solvay. Students held a seed sale and giveaway, organized an environmentally friendly tie-dying event, and planted flower seedlings for classmates. Local businesses contributed, working to increase environmental awareness. Students are also working on a final project for the course, researching the possibility of creating a sustainable garden

on high school grounds. The types of sustainable gardens students are looking at include native bird and butterfly flowers and shrubs, a rain garden, and a shrub willow biomass garden [with support from the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry (ESF) for harvesting]. ESF professors and grad students as well as local experts from Habitat Gardening in Central New York, the Syracuse Center of Excellence, and Cornell Cooperative of Onondaga County are assisting.



Pictured left to right: Emma McLatchie, Yuliya Garkot, Nick Clemente, Brenna Dillon and Alyssa Haynes. Not pictured: Brianna Damiano.

Innovative instruction

Classes offered in- and out-of-doors

Innovation Classroom students at the elementary school have worked diligently both in and outside of the classroom this year. Students completed an e-book in the fall and are now starting a gardening project.

Innovation Classroom teachers Lucile Lewis and Kim Smith worked with kindergarten students over the fall to publish their first e-book, "Loving our Letters." Kindergarten students were first presented with the challenge by the district's Writing Task Force. The district needed a common language for teaching handwriting in the classroom. After selecting the researched-based program "Handwriting Without Tears," students learned the letters and then in turn taught others with the voice and choice of medium (for example, pencil and paper, sand table or finger paints). The book is available to download via iBooks (search "Loving our Letters").

As part of their spring project, Mrs. Lewis and Mrs. Smith identified a local need for vegetable gardens at Solvay Senior Apartments. The teachers then researched with library media specialist Kate Shanahan, Solvay High School technology teacher Mark Weston and his students, and Jimmy and Janine Golub, owners of Our Farm pumpkin farm in Manlius. Through the assistance of district technology personnel, the class now connects with Mr. Golub for weekly virtual field trips and with high school students. This is the teachers' second experience



with a project-based learning opportunity. The children are excited and motivated to learn about planting as they focus on helping community friends with this project, their teachers agreed.

Final installation of the raised garden beds is scheduled for June. "We are excited about this adventure together, and realize, more than ever, that we could not move forward beyond the 'peat pot' without all of your help," said Mrs. Lewis. "With the expertise offered by each one of you, we are confident to give the children a learning opportunity far beyond what we could on our own, as well as a community service experience that will linger in their little memories for a lifetime."

Library robots teach tech

The Solvay Elementary Library Learning Commons purchased Bee-Bots for students to experience cutting-edge technology.

These hands-on robots offer children the ability to practice early programming language. Students must lay out a plan to direct the robot to a predetermined destination and then troubleshoot to determine what, if anything, went wrong. "It requires students to think ahead so that they give the robot a clear set of instructions and navigate it through a series of commands," explained library media specialist Kate Shanahan.

Students practiced planning, teamwork, and documentation. They answered a series of reflective questions at the close of the lesson to help identify personal challenges within these skill sets. This is the first in a series of early programming tools acquired for students. Students will also have the opportunity to work with Cubelets and LittleBits (also robots) for the remainder of the year at the elementary and middle school levels.



Students had to program hands-on robots to travel to predetermined destinations and then assess their success.



Solvay High School social studies teacher and coach Shawn Mitchell traveled to Tompkins Cortland Community College to watch alumna **Syd Cimini '14** play softball. Ms. Cimini is the starting catcher for the Herkimer Community College Generals—the Generals are currently ranked sixth. She was a four-year varsity starting catcher at Solvay who led the 2014 Lady Bearcats to the State Championship game.



Emily Wierzbicki '12 was named to the Dean's List at Coastal Carolina University. Ms. Wierzbicki is a junior majoring in recreation and sport management in Conway, S.C. She had a grade point average of 3.99 and was among 2,125 students to be named to the Fall 2014 Dean's List there.

ALUMNI NEWS

Authors visit middle school

In celebration of School Library Month, Solvay Middle School welcomed authors Jason Chin and Capt. Luis Carlos Montalván.

On April 29, author and illustrator Jason Chin came to the school to talk about his nonfiction picture books "Gravity," "Redwoods," "Island," and "Coral Reefs." Students learned Mr. Chin actually travels to each of the locations of his books to make them as accurate and believable as possible. He said his favorite book to write and illustrate was "Island" because he saw an octopus while on location in the Galapagos Islands. He also had frightening experiences during that same trip, including a run-in with a shark (which, fortunately, turned out to be a nurse shark and therefore uninterested in humans). Mr. Chin spent the day with grades 4 and 5, ate lunch with them, and signed books and impromptu illustrations for each student. Mr. Chin also completed two portraits of students Kahmani Irons and Ezra Homer, now on display in the middle school Library Learning Commons. "Both students said it was hard work being a model, but

it was a lot of fun," said Heather Turner, library media specialist.

On May 4, Capt. Montalván and his dog, Tuesday, arrived at Solvay Middle School. Capt. Montalván was a captain in the U.S. Army, where he was awarded two Bronze Stars, the Purple Heart, the Army Commendation Medal for Valor, and the Combat Action Badge. His dog also won the Award for Canine Excellence from the American Kennel Club. Capt. Montalván is the author of the New



York Times bestselling memoir "Until Tuesday: A Wounded Warrior and the Golden Retriever Who Saved Him" and the award-winning picture book "Tuesday Tucks Me In: The Loyal Bond between a Soldier and His Service Dog." Both are also available in e-book form. "The captain shared a message of compassion and acceptance, emphasizing that looks can be deceiving. Students listened intently to his words," said Ms. Turner. "No one wanted to leave and several students mentioned they would love to take Tuesday home with them," said Ms. Turner.

Institute nurtures leaders

Five Spanish Club students were part of the Puerto Rican Hispanic Youth Leadership Institute this year. The institute cultivates leadership skills in Hispanic and Latino students. Three of Solvay's participants—sophomore Kiara Matos, junior Karissa Benz, and senior Ken Vreeland—were selected to represent the Syracuse Delegation in Albany. Spanish teacher Maria Fenton was an instructor and learner there. Ken was also honored as the Outstanding Student Delegate for New York State at the Angelo DelToro 25th Annual Dinner Gala Event. "It was a wonderful experience for all of us," said Ms. Fenton.

Yearbook staff honored

The Solvay High School yearbook staff and their advisor have been recognized by Balfour Yearbooks with an Honorable Mention Certificate of Recognition for their outstanding contribution to scholastic journalism.

The staff is advised by high school social studies teacher Kelly Monaghan and includes students Nicole Antonacci, AJ Cimino, Angela Frateschi, Yuliya Garkot, Eric Goodrich, Dan Hatch, Hailey Holcomb, Hannah Kloiber, Jessica Kuts, Rebecca Langdon, Emma McLatchie, Natasha Natoli, Lucas Purce, Ashlee Riggins, Owen Ryan, and Kathy Sukhorukov. High school technology teacher Steve Devendorf helped the staff create the yearbook cover.

"Congratulations on capturing the moments of the year in words and pictures. Your yearbook is a mirror that reflects your students' lives," said Marilyn Scoggins, education and marketing specialist at Balfour Yearbooks. "Because of your commitment to telling their stories, the yearbook you have created defines the school year and your school community. It's an extraordinary accomplishment to create a yearbook that preserves your school's memories. Kudos to every staff whose book is recognized." Yearbooks published by Balfour for the 2013-14 school year were evaluated in one or more of the following areas: theme development, layout design, photo content, secondary packages, and cover design. Solvay High School's Honorable Mention is a distinction given to only 13 percent of yearbook staffs.

Three named 'Teacher of Excellence'

Three Solvay teachers were honored this year with a New York State Teacher of Excellence award.

Third grade teacher Allison Szatanek, eighth grade math teacher Karen Schoonover and high school science teacher Katie St. Denis were all recognized. Teachers are nominated for the award by their administrators, coworkers and students, with applications submitted to State Sen. John DeFrancisco. Selection is based on a history of going above and beyond to inspire students, as well as improving the quality of education in classrooms through innovative and exceptional teaching. Sen. DeFrancisco held a local awards ceremony to celebrate the teachers with their friends, family, and coworkers present. Solvay sixth grade vocalists performed at the May 7 ceremony held at SMS.



Pictured top: Allison Szatanek, Karen Schoonover and Katie St. Denis. **Bottom,** at award ceremony: vocalists Ryan DePalma, Briana Kuhles, Rachel Maloney, Mackenzie Crossett, Madison Chetney, Toby Love, Brianna Holtsbery and Summer Lewis.

'Wizard' performance enchants crowd



Above, cast. Below, art and tech crew.



The middle school presented "The Wizard of Oz" to packed audiences in March. The show included a cast and crew of over 130 students in grades 4-8. Cameo appearances by Principal Paula Kopp and teachers Julianne Cousineau, Diane Hagemann, and Collin Thompson added to the show. The cast brought to life the characters of L. Frank Baum's classic novel and surprised the audience with the little-known Jitterbugs story and its accompanying high-paced dances. Iconic scenes of this show, including the cyclone, utilized a newly installed auditorium projector. The production team, along with the cast and crew, expressed thanks to the Solvay community for its continued support of the annual musical.

Congratulations to the 2015 Scholarship Recipients

Scholarship	Recipient First	Recipient Last
Arthur Salvetti Memorial Scholarship	Kayla	Butler
Bagozzi Twins Student Athlete Scholarship	Maid	Kahrimanovic
Bagozzi Twins Student Athlete Scholarship	Emma	McLatchie
Clara Hill-Murphy Scholarship	Da Yen	Kim
Coach Al Merola's Bearcat Pride Scholarship	Daniel	Hatch
Coach Al Merola's Bearcat Pride Scholarship	John	Dippold
Crossroads Lodge #520 Solvay Masonic Temple Scholarship Award	Tayshia	Tyson
Dave Pirro Memorial Scholarship	Chance	Todd
Dave Pirro Memorial Scholarship	Emily	Bak
Dolores White Memorial Scholarship Award	Kyle	Queor
Dr. Joseph F. Sebesta Memorial Scholarship Award	Alyssa	Haynes
Elaina Canestrare Memorial Award	Tyler	Beagle
Erik S. Kohler Memorial Scholarship	Danielle	Leonardo
Friends of Lucian Garzia Memorial Scholarship	Brenna	Dillon
Friends of Marc Ball Memorial Scholarship	John	Dippold
Geddes Federal Savings & Loan Association Scholarship Award	Ibro	Alemic
Geddes Federal Savings & Loan Association Scholarship Award	Jessica	Kuts
Hodnicki Family Scholarship Trust	Owen	Ryan
Hodnicki Family Scholarship Trust	Rebecca	Langdon
Hodnicki Family Scholarship Trust	Nicholas	Clemente
Hodnicki Family Scholarship Trust	Alex	Cimino
Hodnicki Family Scholarship Trust	Belicia	Nieves
Hodnicki Family Scholarship Trust	Carissa	Moleski
Hodnicki Family Scholarship Trust	Anna	Onufriychuk
Hodnicki Family Scholarship Trust	Yuliya	Garkot
Hodnicki Family Scholarship Trust	Maia	Jaquin
Hodnicki Family Scholarship Trust	Kseniya	Myalik
Hodnicki Family Scholarship Trust	Logan	Kelly
Iannicello Family Community Award	Samuel	Okhman
Iannicello Family Community Award	Nicole	Antonacci
John O. Pepe Memorial Scholarship	Brianna	Damiano
Joseph F. O'Neill, Jr. Memorial Award	Eric	DeLuca
Lakeside VFD Angelo "Babe" Fernandez Memorial Scholarship	Corey	Rolince
Leon and Kathryn Mountain Hildenbrand Scholarship	Tina	Senke
Leon and Kathryn Mountain Hildenbrand Scholarship	Gabriella	Maggi
Lise Katherine Henrickson Memorial Scholarship	Tim	Baleno
Luciano F. Bogaz Memorial Scholarship	Meghan	Reno
Lyncourt Volunteer Fire Department Scholastic Achievement Award	Alex	Cimino
Lyncourt Volunteer Fire Department Scholastic Achievement Award	Michaela	Marotti
Marc Ball Memorial Scholarship	Alyssa	Haynes
Margaret Duda Kingson Teaching Scholarship	Brianna	Damiano
Margaret Duda Kingson Teaching Scholarship	Nicole	Antonacci
Maria C. Maestri Teaching Assistance Award	Nicole	Antonacci
Mary & Eddie Giemza and Richard Balduzzi Scholarship	Geoffrey	Gerace
Nilo and Rose Miori Memorial Scholarship Award	Connor	Mazzuca
Peter Baichi Memorial Scholarship Award	Alexandria	La Flair
Peter Baichi Memorial Scholarship Award	Gino	Fedele
Planned Results Scholarship	Gina	Frost
Planned Results Scholarship	Richard	Bersani
Planned Results Scholarship	Jordyn	Everett
Planned Results Scholarship	Jonathan	Scutt

Congratulations to the 2015 Scholarship Recipients

Scholarship	Recipient First	Recipient Last
Ralph E. Scutt Memorial Scholarship	Nicholas	Perry
Rob Sposato Scholarship	Jeffrey	Honsinger
Robert O'Donnell Citizenship Award	Kenneth	Vreeland
Ronald W. Cole Memorial Scholarship	Brenna	Dillon
Solvay Bank Scholarship Award	Emma	McLatchie
Solvay Dollars For Scholars Tuition Assistance Award	Brandi	Pidkaminy
Solvay Dollars For Scholars Tuition Assistance Award	Jacqueline	Gardner
Solvay Dollars For Scholars Tuition Assistance Award	Monica	Watkins
Solvay Dollars For Scholars Tuition Assistance Award	Ashley	Gardner
Solvay Dollars For Scholars Tuition Assistance Award	David	Buko
Solvay Dollars For Scholars Tuition Assistance Award	Chelsie	Delperuto
Solvay-Geddes-Camillus Lions Club/Louis Valerino Jr. Award	Mikaela	Parker
Solvay Geddes Veterans Nursing Scholarship Award	Erin	Cregan
Solvay High School Class of 1964 Scholarship Award	Dunham	Hall
Solvay High School Class of 1964 Scholarship Award	Nicole	Antonacci
Solvay Music Boosters Award	Brenna	Dillon
Solvay Music Boosters Award	Brianna	Damiano
Solvay Music Boosters Award	Dunham	Hall
Solvay Music Boosters Award	Sarah	Berger
Solvay School Employee's Union Scholarship	Mikaela	Parker
Solvay School Employee's Union Scholarship	Nicholas	Perry
Solvay School Employee's Union Scholarship	Brandi	Pidkaminy
Solvay School Employee's Union Scholarship	Monica	Watkins
Solvay Teachers Association Award	Lucas	Campbell
Solvay Teachers Association Award	John	Dippold
Solvay Teachers Association Award	Jillian	Everett
Solvay Teachers Association Award	Kevin	Cooper
Solvay Teachers Association Award	Kayla	Emmi
Solvay Teachers Association Award	Emma	McLatchie
Solvay Tigers Ladies Auxiliary Scholarship	Ibro	Alemic
Solvay Tigers Ladies Auxiliary Scholarship	Jessica	Kuts
Solvay Tigers Memorial Scholarship	Nesib	Osmanovic
Solvay Tigers Memorial Scholarship	Meghan	Reno
Stanley and Ursula Kishman Scholar Athlete Award	Natosha	Black
Tarolli Memorial Scholarship Award	Lucas	Campbell
Tyrol Club of Solvay Scholarship	Lauren	Bandera
Village of Solvay Electric Dept./FORTISTAR Scholarship	Daniel	Hatch
Vincent and Helen Mascette Scholarship	David	Sayre
William Fassinger Memorial Scholarship	Maid	Kahrimanovic
William Fassinger Memorial Scholarship	Michaela	Marotti
YS Comptrollers Award	Kenneth	Vreeland
Junior Awards	Recipient First	Recipient Last
Lemoyne College Heights Award	Jacob	Purce
Clarkson University High School Leadership Award	Samantha	Waters
Clarkson University High School Achievement Award	Dustin	Harris
University of Rochester Bausch & Lomb Award	Noelle	Natoli
University of Rochester George Eastman Young Leaders Award	Jacqueline	Allen
University of Rochester Frederick Douglas and Susan B. Anthony Award	Jacob	DePalma
RIT Computing Award - Male	Colton	Francemone
RIT Creativity Award - Female	Ashley	Davies
RIT Creativity Award - Male	Joseph	Miczan
Wells College 21st Century Leadership Award	Christiana	Marotti

Solvay Union Free School District
Solvay, NY 13209

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Ty Marshal, *Vice President*
Stephen Zalewski, *District Clerk*
Kristin Sunser-King, *Assistant Clerk*
Kevin Dwyer, *Member*

Lawrence Wright, *Superintendent of Schools*

June 2015	
June 1	SES PTO Meeting 6:30 p.m. Gr. 4 & 8 NYS Science Assessment
June 2	SES Kindergarten Screening (<i>Final Day</i>) NYS Regents Exam SHS Athletic Award Celebration 6:00 p.m.
June 3	SMS NJHS Induction Ceremony 7:00 p.m.
June 4	SMS Gr. 5/6 Chorus & Band Concert 7:00 p.m.
June 8	SMS Athletic Awards Night 6:30 p.m.
June 9	SMS Gr. 4 Chorus & Band Concert 7:00 p.m.
June 11	SMS PTO Meeting 7:00 p.m.
June 12	SES Flag Day Celebration
June 15	Board of Education Meeting 7:00 p.m. @ District Office
June 16-June 25	NYS Regents Exams
June 17	SES Gr. K/1 Field Day/Class Picnic
June 18	SES Gr. 2/3 Field Day/Class Picnic
June 19	Early Dismissal PreK-8
June 23	SES PBIS Celebration
June 24	Early Dismissal PreK-8/Last Day for Students
June 26	SHS Commencement Rehearsal 9:00 a.m.
June 27	SHS Commencement 11:00 a.m.

2015-16 Events Calendar
In an effort to contain costs, the district's events calendar will be sent home with students on the first day of school, September 8. The calendar will be available in mid August on our website at www.solvayschools.org. If you would like a copy, please stop by one of the schools' main offices or the district office after August 24 to pick up a copy.