From the artist’s studio

Junior speaks to the creative process in ‘mug series’

By Arthur Germakovski
11th Grade

Art is one of my greatest passions. This project gave me the opportunity to practice and fine-tune my skills. The inspiration for my series of mugs extended from the challenge to take an everyday object and explore the many possibilities of its form and function. I wanted to create something simple yet useful. So I thought of one of the most utilitarian forms: the mug. While making the mugs I explored many different forms and styles. I tried to make as many variations as possible. My mug series is wheel thrown and has trimmed feet (bottoms). I utilized pulled handles; the handles are elegant and stylized for each mug.

While considering surface design and glazing (the final step in the ceramic process), I tried to use different combinations and techniques: Everything from sprinkling the glaze on the mug to brushing the glaze in multiple layers for varied outcomes. Finally, I finished with the whole process. Multiple variations of form, handles and glaze applications resulted in no two pieces being the same.
**Libraries win grant for robots**

The Solvay Middle School Library Learning Commons and the high school Library Learning Commons won a yearlong loan of 12 Finch Robots. They were awarded by the creators of Hummingbird (a kit for building customized robots with craft materials) from Birdbrain Technologies. These robots will be used in many different classes, from technology to science and math, to give students the opportunity and experience in coding and troubleshooting real robots rather than coding strictly virtually. It gives students authentic situations that could and will be part of future job opportunities.

You can view a video about the Finch Robot and its use in computer science education at [https://youtu.be/8Imq5io3HuE](https://youtu.be/8Imq5io3HuE). The Finch was designed to allow students to write interactive programs which include: light, temperature, obstacle sensors, accelerometers, motors, a buzzer, bull-color beak LED, pen mount for drawing, and USB charger. “We are very excited to have this opportunity for all of our middle and high school students,” said middle school library media specialist Heather Turner.

**Eighth grader earns placement in art show**

The central New York region has conducted the annual Scholastic Art Awards program for more than 70 years to recognize the artistic accomplishments of students within a wide region of local districts. The Scholastic Art Awards program is a very competitive show representing artwork from grades 7–12. Each year the show brings in close to 5,000 pieces of art from a variety of districts in the surrounding Syracuse area. More than 70 professional artists, educators, and photographers recently selected award winners during the judging process to create an exhibit of over 1,300 pieces of art work. “Congratulations to Abigail Lee (eighth grade) for receiving an honorable mention for her drawing ‘Hola,’” said middle school art teacher Bridget Nadzan, speaking on behalf of the department and the school art district. Abby’s artwork was included in the Scholastic Art Awards Exhibit displayed in the Whitney Applied Technology Center at Onondaga Community College.

‘Hola’ by Abigail Lee
Application for FREE Pre-Kindergarten Program

The Solvay School District offers a pre-kindergarten program for four-year olds residing in the Solvay School District for the 2016-2017 school year. There is no charge to families regardless of family income. This program is funded by special grants from the New York State Education Department. We have funding for only 72 students total at Solvay Elementary School (full day Monday – Friday).

To be eligible and considered for the program a child must be four years old on or before December 1, 2016, be a resident of the Solvay School District, and must have all required immunizations. Transportation is provided for students attending Solvay Elementary School once they are 4 years old. Until then, parents are responsible for transportation.

Children will be selected randomly from applicants who have applied if the number of applications exceed the seats available. If you are interested in having your child participate in the Pre-Kindergarten program for the 2016-2017 school year, please fill out and return this application by 4 p.m. on Friday, April 1, 2016. In addition, include a copy of your child’s birth certificate, a copy of your child’s immunization and health records, and proof of residency in the Solvay School District. Residency information is available at www.solvayschools.org under the District tab - Parent Resources, then click on “Residency & Age Determination List.” Please note: Cancelled mail is not acceptable proof of residency.

Send all materials, including this application to: Assistant Superintendent for Instruction
Attention: Pre-Kindergarten Program
103 Third Street
Solvay, NY 13209-1532

Once we receive all of the above required materials, we will review your application for your child’s inclusion in the Pre-Kindergarten random selection process for the 2016-2017 school year. We will notify you if anything is missing. Participation in the selection process does not guarantee a spot in the program as seats are limited to 72. If your child is not selected, they will be placed on a waiting list.

Child’s Name: ___________________________ Child’s Date of Birth: ____________

Parent(s) Name: ___________________________
(If the child is residing with both parents, please provide both names)

Parent Address: ___________________________

Home Phone: ________________________ Cell Phone: ________________________ Work Phone: ________________________

Father / Male guardian

Cell Phone: ________________________ Work Phone: ________________________

Mother / Female guardian

OFFICE USE ONLY
Spring Challenges

By LAWRENCE WRIGHT
Superintendent of Schools

Spring is often a difficult time for school districts. Although it brings a reprieve from lake effect snow, it means number crunching for almost everyone here — administrators must prepare the district budget for a vote in May, while our students and teachers must prepare for state testing.

In Solvay, we have been fortunate to have stronger budgets than some of our neighbors. Despite that, we expect it to be a difficult process this year. Our fixed and mandated costs continue to rise, while state aid remains insufficient and our tax levy increase is limited by law. We will keep you informed as the process unfolds, but I can promise you that we will do our utmost to provide a quality education at minimal cost to taxpayers.

At the elementary level, state testing results have shown gains. Our third graders improved greatly in both English and math last year. Seventh grade also showed progress in those subjects, while eighth grade did so in English. We would like these improvements to be more consistent, though. Additionally, the high volume of students who opt out of testing in grades 3–8 continues to be a challenge. While all of our educators sympathize with the testing exhaustion we know many feel, the decision not to take tests has real and serious implications for our teachers and schools.

I am certain that Solvay is up to these challenges, and it doesn’t hurt that we are still buoyed by our numerous successes. College Pathways continues to help our students prepare for higher education, with four out of five graduating with college credits, and 89 percent enrolling in college. Technology innovations and hands-on and project-based learning continue to expand. Our 91 percent graduation rate remains a huge point of pride, and this year fully 90 percent of our varsity sports teams were designated ‘Scholar Athlete’ for their high academic scores. The expanded universal-prekindergarten grant we received has allowed us to offer a total of four classes — this focus on early childhood should allow our high scores and graduation rates to continue long into the future.
From athletic rivals to sports fans

*Solvay students choose cooperation over competition*

Solvay Middle School students set athletic rivalries aside to cheer on the Westhill Warriors in the state volleyball tournament.

Fourth grade teacher Theresa Cole coaches junior varsity volleyball at Westhill Central Schools and this year assisted varsity coach Carrie Butler at the state tournament. Though disappointed Solvay’s own players failed to qualify for states this year, Ms. Cole’s students nonetheless celebrated Westhill’s success. The students cheered Westhill players when the athletes stopped at Solvay to pick up Ms. Cole before proceeding to states. The students recognized Solvay and Westhill as “part of our larger community,” said Ms. Cole, “and they insisted on showing their support for the team.”

Her students made posters for each athlete. “The [Westhill] team could not have been more excited as the bus rolled up to the middle school and 20 students were waiting for them, waving posters,” said Ms. Cole. “That day, rivals Westhill and Solvay came together to celebrate a huge accomplishment in this community!”

Fifth graders study at Syracuse University

On Feb. 5, fifth grade students spent the day at Syracuse University participating in a lesson study. The purpose of this visit was to provide students with an opportunity to visit campus, experience cutting-edge lessons, and deepen the partnership between the Solvay Union Free School District and Syracuse University. This is the first time students and staff have had an opportunity to participate in this type of activity.

The students attended three of five classes (English, math, science, art, music) throughout the day. “The lesson study benefited a variety of different parties,” commented Principal Diane Hagemann. “The Solvay students had an opportunity to learn more about a topic while being on a college campus, and they were instructed by college professors. The Syracuse University education students observed their instructors teaching and observed how the students processed the information. The Solvay teachers took the opportunity to observe their students working and processing information. For each group the information gained was valuable.”
‘Brave the Shave’ supports cancer studies

The St. Baldrick’s Foundation, a volunteer-powered organization dedicated to raising money for children's cancer research, will host one of its signature head-shaving events at Solvay High School on Thursday, March 17. More than 15 volunteers will “Brave the Shave” in solidarity with kids with cancer.

The Solvay High School event will include a bake sale, student badminton tournament, raffle prizes donated by local businesses and school staff, a photo booth, face painting, henna tattoos, and more.

As the largest private fundraiser of childhood cancer research grants, the St. Baldrick’s Foundation believes that kids are special and deserve to be treated that way. St. Baldrick’s funds are granted to some of the most brilliant childhood cancer research experts in the world and to innovative explorers who bring with them the promise of a future free from childhood cancers. Kids need treatments as unique as they are — and that starts with funding research just for them. Join StBaldricks.org to help support the best cancer treatments for kids.

To "Brave the Shave" in Solvay High School’s St. Baldrick’s event, contact Nicole Halloran (nhalloran@solvayschools.org) or Matt Shutts (mshutts@solvayschools.org) at (315) 468-2551. Donations can be made by clicking on the St. Baldrick’s link at www.solvayschools.org or contacting Katie St. Denis at kstdenis@solvayschools.org for a donation form to send directly to the St. Baldrick’s Foundation.

Educators collaborate on writing lessons

English teacher Enzo Carr and literacy coach Jim Rolince recently fine-tuned a peer revision and editing process for students. The two devised a series of revision and editing sessions with Mr. Carr’s ninth grade honors English class. Based upon past experiences, the pair set out to design a series of small group revision sessions. One of the primary desired outcomes was for students to provide each other with specific, relevant, and helpful feedback on their writing.

After preliminary meetings, they identified specific areas of feedback and common writing errors students would focus on in revision and editing conversations, adapting the Critical Friends collaboration protocol: https://www.teachingchannel.org/videos/student-writing-peer-review-nea.

"The collaboration was a model of two professionals bringing together their respective areas of expertise to create a greater student learning experience," said Mr. Rolince. “Several colleagues in the high school English department expressed interest in learning more about our collaboration and this approach to peer revision and editing.”
Jazz ensemble opens for Civic Morning Musicals

The Solvay High School Vocal Jazz Ensemble performed as the opening act for the Civic Morning Musicals’ 125th Anniversary Concert.

The concert took place on Jan. 16 at the Coyne Performing Arts Center at Le Moyne College. Solvay singers performed with former Onondaga County High School musicians who went on to pursue music careers. Artists included conductor Debra Barsha (Jersey Boys) and jazz pianist Chris Grasso. Civic Morning Musicals (CMM) exists to support classically trained musicians throughout the central New York region. It is a non-profit, volunteer-run organization, which produces more than 30 concerts a year and sponsors activities for young musicians. “Congratulations to all of the students who performed,” said Maggie Dougherty, Solvay High School’s vocal music teacher.

Students shine at music festival

Seven chorus students participated in the 2016 Junior High All-County Music Festival held at Skaneateles High School. The festival took place on Jan. 22 –23.

These students were selected based on an extremely rigorous audition process, their exceptional scores, and hard work and dedication. Eighth grade students were: Jennifer Klix, Nicholas Lopez, and Jordan Scheirer. Ninth grade students were: Sidney Chafee, Brandon Falcone, Marisa Presutto, and Zachary Sensenich.

“Ms. Maggie Dougherty, the Solvay School community and I are very proud of their fine musical accomplishments,” said SMS teacher Mary Perun.

Choral students performed in the Junior High All-County Music Festival. Pictured from left: Sidney Chafee, Marisa Presutto, Jordan Scheirer, Zachary Sensenich, Nicholas Lopez, Jennifer Klix and Brandon Falcone.

Transportation Request Notice

Requests for transportation to private, parochial, or charter schools for the 2016–17 school year must be in the Solvay Union Free School District Transportation Office, 399 Beach Road, Syracuse, NY 13209, by Monday, April 4, 2016. All requests must be made in writing. Even if your child is being transported to a private, parochial, or charter school this year, we must have a new request for next school year. If you have any questions, please call the transportation office at (315) 487-5842.
DECA students score at regionals

Twenty-two Solvay High School DECA students traveled to Le Moyne College for a regional competition.

The Region 9 DECA Competition was held Jan. 6 for emerging leaders and entrepreneurs. The students had spent many hours after school studying business concepts and developing their presentation skills. The result of the hard work was two first place teams and one second place team in an individual event.

Katie Harrington and Alina Zdebska came in first place in the “Buying and Merchandising” event, while Joe Miczan and Colby Skrupa placed first in “Financial Analysis.” Raina Shea placed second in “Restaurant Management.” Additionally, Katie Harrington and Alina Zdebska were elected by DECA students in Region 9 to serve as Region Officers next year.

At left: DECA students won first and second place rankings at a recent regional competition. Pictured from left: Joe Miczan, Colby Skrupa, Katie Harrington, Alina Zdebska and Raina Shea.

At right: The DECA team. Pictured from left in the first row: Denis Mujicic, Clayton Backus, Eddie Nanno, and Colby Skrupa; second row: Zac Cornish, Rich Gratien (DECA advisor), Jake Dippold, Blake Bagozzi, Jesse Call, Mike Tomoroksa, Josh Posnick, Joe Miczan and Jadin Jackson; back row: Natalina Natoli, Raina Shea, Leda Jaquin, Debbie Young (FCS teacher), Alina Zdebska, Katie Harrington, Maya Martineau, Lauren Nichols, Delana Thomas and Jerilyn Parkhurst.

Next up is the New York DECA State Career Conference at the Rochester Convention Center in March. At the conference, these five students along with fellow DECA students Natalina Natoli, Leda Jaquin, Eddie Nanno, and Josh Posnick will compete against DECA students from throughout New York State in business role-plays. They will also have an opportunity to attend various workshops designed to promote college and career readiness.

Tuba Christmas

Students attended Tuba Christmas in Liverpool, an annual event for tuba/euphonium players of all ages worldwide on Dec. 19. Attendees, pictured from left, were: Mary Catherine Lopez (10th grade), Caitlin McCann (eighth grade), Chris Jabot (band teacher), Toby Love (seventh grade) and his father, Ted Love.

Budget Hearing
2016–17

Monday, May 9
7 p.m.
Solvay Elementary School

Budget Vote
2016–17

Tuesday, May 17
Noon to 9 p.m.
Solvay High School
Informational message from the New York State Department of Health

Meningococcal Vaccine School Requirements for September 2016

The purpose of this informational message is to inform school superintendents, principals, nurses, administrators, and the public of new meningococcal vaccine school requirements that will take effect on Sept. 1, 2016.

On Oct. 26, 2015, Gov. Andrew Cuomo signed into law Chapter 401 of the laws of 2015, which amended New York State (NYS) Public Health Law (PHL) section 2164 to require children entering or attending seventh and 12th grades on or after Sept. 1, 2016 to receive an adequate dose or doses of vaccine against meningococcal disease as recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). Meningococcal meningitis is a serious disease which can lead to death within hours. Survivors may be left with severe disabilities, including the loss of limbs, cognitive deficits, paralysis, deafness, or seizures. In the coming year, the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) will work with the New York State Education Department and other partners to draft regulations and establish updated immunization requirements charts and other materials to help implement this new requirement.

The ACIP recommendations for meningococcal vaccine are:

- A single dose of vaccine against meningococcal serogroups A, C, W-135, and Y (MenACWY vaccine; brand names Menactra® or Menveo®) should be administered to all adolescents at age 11 or 12 years.
- A second (booster) dose of MenACWY vaccine should be administered at age 16 years.
  - The booster dose is not necessary for adolescents who receive the first dose of MenACWY at 16 years of age or older.
  - The minimum interval between doses of MenACWY vaccine is 8 weeks.
- A serogroup B meningococcal vaccine series (MenB vaccine) may be administered to adolescents and young adults 16 through 23 years of age, at the discretion of the healthcare provider. The preferred age for MenB vaccine is 16 through 18 years of age.

For additional information, please see the websites below:

Sisters perform at Ithaca College

Chelsea and Cassie Cook played at the 2016 Senior High Area All State Music Festival held at Ithaca College.

The festival took place on Feb. 5 and 6. Both Cook sisters were selected to perform based on their NYSSMA solo scores performed in May 2015. “The Solvay High School Music Program would like to congratulate both Chelsea and Cassie on their musical accomplishments. They are wonderful students to have representing the Solvay School District,” said Maggie Dougherty, high school vocal music teacher.

Chelsea and Cassie Cook performed at the 2016 Senior High Area All State Music Festival.

Solvay Elementary School Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten Registration was held on Feb. 23 and 24. If you missed these registration dates, please stop in to the Solvay Elementary School’s main office for a registration packet. For more information or to schedule a tour, call (315) 468-5422. Your child must be 5 years old by Dec. 1, 2016, to be eligible to start kindergarten this fall.
Athletic updates

Fall Scholar Athlete teams
At the end of each sports season, the state Athletic Association honors varsity teams that excel in the classroom. Each team must have an average of 90 percent or higher with the required number of members eligible. This fall, varsity girls soccer, football, and volleyball teams qualified. Congratulations!

Scholar Athlete dinner
Senior football player Dustin Harris attended the 16th Annual Scholar Athlete Awards Dinner presented by the Central New York Chapter of the National Football Federation and College Hall of Fame, held at the Turning Stone Casino and Resort on Jan. 30. Dustin was the senior with the highest grade point average on the varsity football team and received a $500 scholarship. He will attend SUNY Cortland in the fall. Congratulations, Dustin!

Baseball signing
Congratulations to Sam Kippen, who signed his national letter of intent to play baseball in college. He will attend Olivet Nazarene University in Chicago. Good luck, Sam!

Where are they now?
Solvay High alum Syd Cimini '14 signed her letter of intent to play D1 softball for Saint Rose. She is in her sophomore year at Herkimer, where she is the starting catcher. She was a four-year starting catcher for the Bearcats softball team.

Website
Visit the athletic department website at http://www.solvayschools.org/athletics for important announcements. For the most up-to-date schedules and directions to other schools, visit www.schedulegalaxy.com.

Twitter
Solvay athletics is on Twitter! Check daily for contests, score updates and other athletic office news @SolvayAthletics!
## Dates to Remember

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>March 2016</th>
<th>May 2016 (con’t)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 3</td>
<td>SES Open House 6:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>March 7</td>
<td>SES PTO Mtg. 6:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 8</td>
<td>All District Band Concert @ SHS 7:00 p.m. (Snow date March 10.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 9</td>
<td>SMS AIS Parent Night 6:15 p.m.</td>
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<td>March 10</td>
<td>SMS PTO Mtg. 7:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 16</td>
<td>SHS Chorus Cabaret 7:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>March 21</td>
<td>Board of Education Mtg. 7:00 p.m. DO 1st Flr. Conf. Rm.</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 24</td>
<td>Staff Development Day - Early Dismissal</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 25</td>
<td>Good Friday - District Closed</td>
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### April 2016

| April 1 | SMS Musical 7:00 p.m. |
| | Pre-K applications due @ DO (see pg. 3 for the application) |
| April 2 | SMS Musical 2:00 p.m. |
| April 4 | SES PTO Mtg. 6:30 p.m. |
| April 5-7 | Gr. 3-8 NYS ELA Assessments |
| April 13-15 | Gr. 3-8 NYS Math Assessments |
| April 14 | SMS PTO Mtg. 7:00 p.m. |
| April 16 | SHS Junior Prom |
| April 18 | Board of Education Mtg. 7:00 p.m. DO 1st Flr. Conf. Rm. |
| April 25-29 | Spring Recess - No School |

### May 2016

| May 2 | SES PTO Mtg. 6:30 p.m. |
| May 4 | SMS Advanced/Accelerated Parent Night 7:00 p.m. |
| May 5 | SHS Chorus Concert 7:00 p.m. |
| May 6 | SHS Senior Ball |
| May 9 | Budget Hearing @ SES 7:00 p.m. |
| May 10 | SES Family Book Fair Night 5:30-7:30 p.m. |
| May 11 | SES Gr. 3 Concert @ SMS 7:00 p.m. |
| May 12 | SES Gr. 2/3 Book Swap Night 5:30-7:30 p.m. |
| May 16 | Board of Education Mtg. 7:00 p.m. DO 1st Flr. Conf. Rm. |
| May 17 | Budget Vote @ SHS noon-9:00 p.m. |
| May 19 | SHS Awards Night 7:00 p.m. |
| May 20 | SES Kindergarten Screening |
| May 24 | SHS Academic Celebration 6:00 p.m. |

### June 2016

| June 1 | SES PBIS Breakfast |
| June 2 | SES Kindergarten Screening |
| June 6 | SMS Athletic Awards |
| June 7 | SES Kindergarten Screening |
| June 8 | SHS Athletic Celebration 6:00 p.m. |
| June 9 | SMS PTO Mtg. 7:00 p.m. |
| June 10 | SES Flag Day Celebration |
| June 14-22 | NYS Regents Exams |
| June 15 | SES Gr. K/1 Field Day/Class Picnic |
| June 16 | SES Gr. 2/3 Field Day/Class Picnic |
| June 20 | Board of Education Mtg. 7:00 p.m. DO 1st Flr. Conf. Rm. |
| June 22 | SMS Gr. 6-8 Awards Assembly |
| June 23 | Last Day for Students & Staff |
| June 24 | SHS Commencement Rehearsal 9:00 a.m. |
| June 25 | SHS Commencement 11:00 a.m. |

If school events change, they can be found on our web site at solvayschools.org.

DO = District Office
SES = Solvay Elementary School
SMS = Solvay Middle School
SHS = Solvay High School
Second graders help fundraise for PTO

At any given moment, you may observe students in Solvay Elementary enjoying school-wide celebratory events or browsing through books at the book fair. You might also see them loading a bus to see a show at the Landmark Theater or heading out on a field trip. These experiences are all made possible by the hard work and generosity of the Parent Teacher Organization (PTO).

Second grade students in Lillian Lawson’s, Kim Smith’s, and Phyllis Stonecipher’s classes see this as an act of kindness and wondered how they could show their appreciation for all that the PTO does for their school. After much brainstorming, they decided to create gifts for the PTO to sell at their annual holiday shop. The event offered students the opportunity to purchase affordable gifts for family members and friends.

“Throughout the process, the students discovered the joy of giving and created the most amazing items with loving care,” said Mrs. Lawson. “If you were a lucky recipient of their labors, they thank you for your support, and we hope that you enjoy your treasure!”