

SOLVAY

Sentinel

Solvay Union Free School District

We develop confident, continual learners who are caring community members.

March 2018
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The *Sentinel* is published four times a year by the Solvay Union Free School District (SUFSD). Questions and comments are welcomed by the superintendent's office at (315) 468-1111 or sentinel@solvayschools.org

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Solvay Police Department gives back to two Solvay UFSD teachers



For two Solvay Union Free School District teachers, the holiday season was a little brighter thanks to the Solvay Police Department. The Solvay Police Department recently donated funds raised from "No Shave November" to two teachers from the Solvay UFSD.

The month of November is known not only for Veterans Day and Thanksgiving celebrations, but also "No Shave November," or "Movember." Movember is an annual event involving the growing of moustaches and facial hair during the month of November. The event aims to bring awareness to and fundraise for cancer education, prevention, and to assist those fighting the battle against cancer. This year, the Solvay Police Department got involved in Movember and, in an effort to keep the fundraising efforts local, donated the funds raised to two teachers from the Solvay UFSD.

For Movember 2017, the members of the Solvay Police Department were allowed to grow facial hair during the month of November and donate money to the cause. Solvay Police Benevolent Association matched all of the money donated by the Officers. At the end of the month, the Officers and the Solvay PBA had raised \$1,100. (*continued, page 2*)



Solvay Elementary School students participate in the Board Games Program, run by Mrs. Hastings and Mrs. Reale. The program is a part of the 21st Century Learning Grant.

Calling all Solvay Alumni! We want to hear from you!

Have a story to share? Good news or an exciting accomplishment? Share it with us! Email us at sentinel@solvayschools.org.

Solvay Police Department gives back *(continued from page 1)*

The overall goal of the Solvay Police Department was to keep the funds local in the Solvay community. On Friday, Dec. 1, the department did just that by holding a surprise ceremony at Solvay Elementary School. Two Solvay UFSD teachers, Solvay Elementary School Teacher Amy Diel and Solvay High School Teacher Fabiola Tedesco, were invited with their spouses to meet at SES. Also in attendance at the ceremony were members of the Solvay UFSD administration team and the Officers who raised funds for the Movember event.

The ceremony honored Ms. Diel and Ms. Tedesco for their courageous fight against cancer and their contributions to the Solvay community. Each teacher was presented with a check in the amount of \$550 to help their families during the holiday season.

During the ceremony, Solvay Police Lt. Derek Osbeck read the following statement to those in attendance:

"We are now in the heart of the holiday season. At this time of the year, Thanksgiving and Christmas, we take time to reflect and be thankful. This is a time to come together, share laughs, hugs and make memories with family, friends and loved ones. During this time, we also make an effort to acknowledge those special people in our lives and communities that have touched so many but are dealing with their own struggles.

The Officers of the Solvay Police Department annually participate in "No Shave November." "No Shave November" is an event that both brings attention to the battle against cancer and is a fund raiser for those battling the disease.

In the past, the money was donated to organizations but this year there was a strong feeling among the membership to donate to a person who is fighting cancer and who has a direct positive impact within the Solvay Community. The members of the Village of Solvay Police Department, Solvay Police Benevolent Association, and Chief Allen Wood, humbly and with great pride would like to assist you and your families in easing those stresses this holiday season.

We hope that the money raised will help to make your holidays less stressful, more enjoyable and help your families know, without a doubt, that every day you battle cancer there are so many of us in your corner to support you. We wish you the best in your battle and ultimate success in your fight against Cancer."

The announcement was met with great applause and appreciation from Ms. Diel, Ms. Tedesco, their spouses, and everyone else in attendance. Ms. Diel and Ms. Tedesco both expressed their immense gratitude for the kind gesture.

"My family and I are so thankful to everyone involved," said Ms. Diel. "We would like the Solvay community to see and know what a great community they live in with, such a special police force."

Ms. Tedesco also shared a similar sentiment.

"I was blown away with the kindness of the department," said Ms. Tedesco. "This is exactly what makes Solvay special."

Thank you to the Solvay Police Department for showing Solvay UFSD and the Solvay community what makes Solvay special.

Kazoo Krew visits Solvay Elementary School



The hallways of SES were buzzing before the winter break, but not just from excitement. On Friday, Dec. 22, the Kazoo Krew from SES took to the stage during Morning Program to share the sounds of the season and send students off for the holiday recess.

The day was full of excitement, starting with a visit from the pre-kindergarten students to join SES for the Morning Program. The program began with the Solvay High School Vocal Jazz Ensemble performing two holiday pieces to get the students into the holiday spirit. Following this, the Kazoo Krew took to the stage. Their performance included teachers playing kazoos, much to the delight of the students.

Following the Kazoo Krew performance, Ms. Vanelli stepped on to the stage with a lovely collection of instruments that quickly had students laughing. Keeping with the theme of "Sharing is Caring," she shared these instruments with the Kazoo Krew, who began playing along. By the end of the piece, everyone was playing Ms. Vanelli's exciting instruments and enjoying making music. Students and staff then joined together to sing along to some holiday carols as they closed out the program.

The tradition for the Kazoo Krew and musical performances for Morning Program began years ago, thanks to Ms. Reddinger, and was recently brought back by SES teacher Ms. Lysiuk. Bringing back the tradition was met with great enthusiasm, with teachers looking forward to sending students off for the holiday recess on a high note.

"It's wonderful to see everyone, children and grown-ups alike, having such fun with music," said Ms. Reddinger. "I was thrilled to hear that our tradition was being brought back!"

Bearcat Bites and Barista in Solvay High School



Have you ever walked into your favorite coffee shop, excited to order your favorite beverage or snack, and are instead greeted by an endless line? While this may not be the case at Solvay High School, the Food Services team at SHS has worked together to come up with a solution to lines in the SHS cafeteria – the Bearcat Bites and Barista. The Bearcat Bites and Barista offers snacks and drinks, allowing students to skip the lunch line on those days they are just looking for a small snack or quick cup of coffee.

The Bearcat Bites and Barista opened up earlier this year and has been a tremendous success. When brainstorming ways to get kids through the lunch line faster, the Food Services team decided

to move the snacks from the serving line into their own area. From this, the Bearcats Bites and Barista station was formed. Snacks offered fit within the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act guidelines and include items such as vegetables, chips, hummus, guacamole, and much more. Following the initial success of the Bearcat Bites and Barista, the Food Services team soon added options for hot and iced coffee, which quickly became a favorite among students at SHS.

The Bearcat Bites and Barista is available in the SHS cafeteria during lunch hours. The station offers a set menu of convenient snacks and drinks throughout the week. For more information, visit the Food Services website.

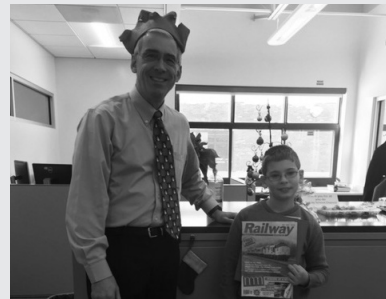
Elves visit the Solvay District Office

It was a busy time of year in the North Pole and the students (elves) from Ms. Dennison's class are looking to help.

Elves from Ms. Dennison's class recently interviewed for job openings at the North Pole. Interviews were conducted with the help of Solvay Administration, including Solvay Superintendent Mr. Tinklepaugh, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction Mr. Larison, and Director of Special Education Mrs. Sheehan.

Elves were offered a variety of positions to choose from, including Barn Assistant, Candy Chef, Doctor/Veterinarian, Health Trainer, International Travel Expert, Office Assistant, Toy Maker, and Warehouse Supervisor. The elves were then asked to pick a job to interview for that would best fit their talents. For the interview, elves wrote a persuasive letter describing their qualifications and explaining why they wanted the job in the North Pole. They also provided a letter of reference.

During the interviews, the elves were asked a variety of questions pertaining to the jobs they had applied for. From working with reindeer to opening letters to Santa, these elves proved they were qualified for the job and impressed their interviewers. Great work, Ms. Dennison's class!



Students Prep Vegetarian Meals in "Beyond Salad" Vegetarian Cooking Class

What do vegetarians eat? Students from the Solvay UFSD recently learned more about being a vegetarian and got firsthand experience preparing vegetarian meals, thanks to a vegetarian cooking class, "Beyond Salad."

With the class, hosted by Solvay teacher Mrs. Russell, students met every Thursday starting at the end of November and concluding before the holiday recess in December. "Beyond Salad" was funded by the 21st Century Learning Grant and gave students the opportunity to have hands-on experience each week preparing meals and learning more about vegetarian meal options available.

The "Beyond Salad" class concluded on Dec. 15 with a dinner party, hosted by Mrs. Russell and her family. At the party, students dined on homemade pizzas, snacks, and dessert, while chatting about future plans and reminiscing about their time at the Solvay UFSD – including the good old days at Solvay Middle School.



Budget Reminder: Budget Hearing May 7 @ SES 7:00 p.m.
Budget Vote May 15 @ SHS 12 p.m.- 9 p.m.

Did you participate in #HourOfCode 2017?

Starting on Dec. 4, students from Solvay UFSD celebrated the annual Hour of Code and Computer Science Week with the Hour of Code campaign. Students from the district were invited to participate in an Hour of Code event on Dec. 6 at the Solvay Middle School library. During this time, students of all ages were invited to learn about code, try out the robotics Solvay UFSD has, and explore makerspace items.



Hour of Code is an initiative started by code.org. The campaign encourages students to learn more about computer science, and in turn demystifies coding. In showing students the basics of coding, they are encouraged to develop an interest in computer science. Code.org has successfully engaged ten percent of students from across the world, grades K-12.

The event at Solvay UFSD was a success, with students and their families stopping in to learn more about coding and how it is used throughout the world today -- both inside and outside of the classroom.



March is National Nutrition Month®!

By Lindsey LaDue, RD, CDN, School Dietitian with OCM BOCES

This year's theme is "Go Further with Food." The goal of this message is to help eliminate food waste, promote healthy nutrition, and remind us to be mindful of portion size. Here are some excellent examples of how you can "go further" with simple changes and planning ahead:

- Save Leftovers – Freeze or eat as lunches throughout the week.
- Shop Local – Items will be fresh and taste better because they are in season.
- Eat a Hearty Breakfast – Eating when you wake up will help rev metabolism and keep you going until your next meal or snack. A powerful combination includes a complex carbohydrate and lean protein source, such as a greek yogurt parfait, whole grain english muffin with peanut butter and banana, whole grain waffles with berries and milk, or oatmeal with diced apples and an egg.
- Plan Ahead – Set aside a few minutes on the weekend to write a grocery list and search for simple recipes. Meal planning also helps reduce food waste when you have a list to stick to at the store.
- Become a Portion Pro – Try a smaller dinner plate and pre-portion bulk snacks to avoid wasting food. Share an entrée at a restaurant with a friend/family member or bring half home for tomorrow's lunch.
- Pack for Peak Performance – Active families require adequate fuel for physical activity. Easy grab-and-go items that provide carbohydrates needed for energy for after-school practices and games include raisins, granola bars, cereal, fruit, and crackers.

The Solvay UFSD offers all five food groups each day as part of school lunch, with healthy, delicious, and affordable meals that meet USDA guidelines to help you fuel for a busy day.

Solvay High School Senior Ed Nanno Named "Extraordinary Talent of the Week"

Congratulations to SHS Senior Ed Nanno! Ed was recently named the "Extraordinary Talent of the Week" by News Channel 9, hosted by Carrie Lazarus. The segment first ran on Tuesday, Jan. 16, 2018.

Ed plays four instruments – three of which he has taught himself. In addition to this, Ed has had roles in many of the musical productions throughout the district, including "Cinderella."

Throughout the segment, Ed continuously expressed his gratitude towards the Solvay community for helping him grow his musical talents. At the end of the year, Ed will head off to college with a new tenor saxophone, thanks to the Carrie Lazarus Extraordinary Talent Fund. To view the segment, visit www.solvayschools.org.



EXTRAORDINARY TALENT: ED NANNO



Superintendent's Perspective

**Solvay Superintendent,
Jay Tinklepaugh**

As the snow begins to clear this spring, things certainly get busier for everyone at the Solvay UFSD. Our administrative team has been busy working to prepare for the district budget vote in May, while our students and teachers have been busy prepping for state testing. As the second half of the school year approaches, our district has certainly been full of activity. Regarding our budget, it is always challenging to prepare the district budget in an often unpredictable fiscal climate. 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 assure you that we will always work to provide a quality education to our students at minimal cost to taxpayers.

Despite these challenges, we are well positioned for success thanks to the hard work of everyone in our school community. This year has had a successful start so far for our students and staff. Thanks to the 21st Century Learning Grant Award we received last year, our students and teachers have been able to take part in many different projects and activities throughout this school year. Students have greatly enjoyed these projects, all of which have successfully incorporated science, technology, engineering, arts, and math. With the support of Smart Schools, we have continued to invest in technology, including moving our district toward one-to-one (1:1) device/student implementation, which greatly benefits our students.

At the beginning of this school year, we made a shift in our classroom placement. This shift involved moving our fourth grade students to SES, and placing the Pre-Kindergarten students in a wing near the district office at SMS. I am proud to say that this shift has been extremely successful for both grade levels. The fourth grade students have flourished being with their peers at SES, while the pre-K students have made SMS their home – and are always stopping to visit us at the district office. While changes such as this can often be concerning at first, I thank everyone for their support in making this move such a success.

We must take this time to thank the community for your support of our capital project, which will help us better maintain and improve our facilities within the district. Work for this project is scheduled to tentatively begin in fall of 2019. More information will be made available as we finalize the first phase of the project.

As we make our way into the second half of this school year, we look forward to the work ahead of us. Thank you for all you do to make Solvay such a special place.

Solvay Pre-K Students Make Holiday Gifts



Our Pre-K students were busy little elves making chocolate covered pretzels for holiday gifts! Thank you to Mrs. Cole and Mr. Gottlieb for helping make this such a fun and enriching experience!

Solvay students recognized for spreading kindness throughout the community



The Solvay UFSD has been doing their part to spread kindness throughout the Solvay community this holiday season. As a part of the 21st Century Learning Center Grant Award, students in Mrs. Santoferrara's Community Kindness group made over 170 ornaments. The ornaments were donated to be hung on the Christmas trees at St. Camillus.

Students were recognized for their efforts on News Channel 9's "Cool Schools" segment on Jan. 2, 2018.

Thank you to the Community Kindness group for showing us a little bit more of what makes Solvay special!

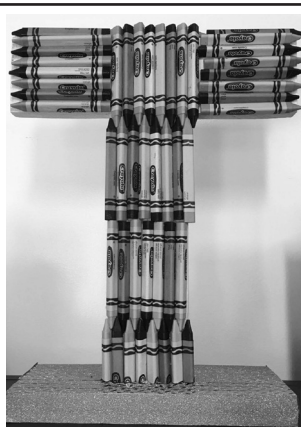


SHS Character Ed and S.A.D.D Clubs holds first "Ugly Sweater Day" competition



On Dec. 22, 2017, the halls of SHS were full of ugly sweaters, as the Character Ed and S.A.D.D Clubs held their first annual "Ugly Sweater Day" competition. It was a wonderfully participated event, with numerous students and a few staff were involved. The three club advisers—Ms. Geist, Mr. Lasher, and Mr. Shutts—were judges along with Character Ed President Aleah Yaizzo, Vice President Ashley Bosco, and Member Maya Martineau.

Everyone had a great time seeing the "ugly sweaters" the participants all wore. Planning is already underway for "Ugly Sweater Day" 2018. The first place winner was Phoebe Guadagnolo, second place was Brielle Bagozzi, and third place winners were Hope and Gabby Rivera. SHS staff that participated included Ms. Laurie Nuhn, Ms. Dee Dee Hagemann, and Ms. Chris "Lollipops & Teddy Bears" Rufo.



Happy Birthday, Mr. Tinklepaugh!

On Friday, Dec. 1, students in the Solvay Pre-K program gathered in the District Office to wish Mr. Tinklepaugh a very happy birthday. Students gifted Mr. Tinklepaugh with a "T" they decorated with blue and orange crayons for him. The gift is now proudly on display in Mr. Tinklepaugh's office.

Solvay teacher Bonnie Borowiec named Master Teacher



Congratulations Bonnie Borowiec! Ms. Borowiec was named one of 214 new master teachers to the 2017 class. It is a great honor to be named a Master Teacher, as Master Teachers are recognized based on their efforts in going above and beyond in their classrooms, while also being involved in district clubs, activities, and community organizations.

Ms. Borowiec brings her passion for science with her to work each day and is dedicated to showing her students how science is all around them. She currently teaches science at Solvay Middle School and has been with the district for 17 years. Prior to her time at Solvay UFSD, she was an Environmental Scientist for 12 years at a local engineering firm. This school year, Ms. Borowiec teaches eighth grade physical science and Regents Biology to advanced eighth grade students. When not in the classroom teaching, Ms. Borowiec spends the rest of her day as the Grade 5-12 Science Content Specialist, a role she was appointed to at the start of this school year. Congratulations to Ms. Borowiec on receiving this great honor! Interested in learning more about Ms. Borowiec? Read below!

What is one of your favorite things about coming to school each day?

Getting a chance to show my students how science is involved in their everyday lives. I love the energy eighth graders can have, and enjoy watching them make meaning and connections throughout the science concepts we learn about.

What made you decide to apply for the honor of becoming part of the New York State Master Teacher Program?

I applied for the NYS Master Teacher Program twice actually. I was not accepted into the program the first time I applied. This was a milestone in my career that I really wanted to meet, so I applied again and was accepted the second time around.

I decided to apply for the Master Teacher Program because I wanted to see if all of the hard work that I have put into my teaching career met the high standards set by this program. The application process is rigorous and includes sending in transcripts, taking a content area exam, submitting references from administrators and a student I taught, writing an essay, teaching a lesson to other science teachers, participating in an interview, and responding to a timed writing prompt. I like to be challenged and this, to me, was one of the biggest challenges I have come across in my teaching career.

How did you react to receiving the exciting news that you were accepted into the program?

When I received the e-mail that I was accepted into the program it was a huge relief. It was a very exhilarating, happy moment in my life. It was deeply satisfying that the hard work that I put into my application had paid dividends. I shared the news with a few of my close friends and my husband. I am not one to boast – I like to live a pretty simple, low-key lifestyle. My purpose for applying to this program was not to seek publicity or accolades from others. It was to achieve a personal, professional goal and I am very happy to have met it.

What are your plans for the upcoming school year with this award?

Now the hard work begins! Being a member of the Master Teacher program comes with great responsibilities. Participation in a minimum of 50 hours of professional development, attending monthly regional meetings or workshops, joining professional learning teams, sharing best practices with other science teachers, and participating in mentoring pre-service science teachers are some of the requirements of being a Master Teacher. I am looking forward to engaging in high-level content discussions with other Master Teachers and sharing best practices with them.

What are you most excited about bringing to the Solvay UFSD with this award?

I am most excited about delving deeper into the recently adopted New York State Science Learning Standards with other teachers to gain a greater understanding of the standards. The new standards involve a substantial shift in how science is taught to students at all grade levels. It will be an enormous undertaking to develop science curriculum that aligns with the NYSSL, but I firmly believe that our students' understanding of scientific concepts will be much deeper under these new standards.

SHS Hosts Law Career Seminar

The SHS counseling office presented a career seminar on the topic of law on Nov. 20, 2017.

Nila Merola (SHS Class of 2004), an attorney in the Labor & Employment Department of Seyfarth Shaw LLP's New York office, spoke to students about her experience in this field.



Merola works with commercial litigation, regulatory investigations, and arbitration. She also highlighted her pro bono practice and past jobs as a litigator in a New York international law firm and a law clerk to the Honorable Gary L. Sharpe in the Northern District of New York.



Lyncourt Students Visit SHS



SHS Students Who Participated (L to R): Row 1: Connor Lee, Aleah Yaizzo, Erika Wilsch; Row 2: Sophia Guadagnolo, CeCe Cavallo, Madison Gwynn, Angela DeMarchi, Sophia Marotti, Michael Hayden; Not pictured: Richard Leonardo, Marisa Presutto

On Thursday, Jan. 25, eighth grade students from the Lyncourt Union Free School District came to SHS for a tour of the school. During this tour students had the opportunity to talk with SHS teachers in art, business, technology, music, and home and careers, and also learn about the different types of courses offered. Several of our high school students who live in Lyncourt helped to guide the tour groups and after the tour they spoke to the eighth graders about their experiences at SHS. The SHS students explained about the nervousness of coming to the high school for the first time, how quickly they settled in, and how they found plenty of opportunities to engage them throughout their high school years. They also spoke about the new friends they have made, and about their still enduring friendships with their childhood Lyncourt friends. It was a very positive morning for both the eighth grade students and the high school students.

Kindergarten and Pre-K Registration for the 2018-19 School Year Now Open

Kindergarten and Pre-Kindergarten registration for the 2018-19 school year is now open. To begin the registration process, please visit the Central Registration website. Please complete the registration process as soon as possible to help with enrollment projections for the upcoming school year.



Solvay UFSD offers a pre-K program for four-year-old children residing in the Solvay UFSD for the 2018-2019 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.

Space is still available in this program and all children who are four years old on or before Dec. 1, 2018 are welcome to apply. To apply, children must be residents of the Solvay UFSD and must have all required immunizations. Transportation is provided to Solvay Middle School for students once they are four years old. Until then, parents are responsible for transportation.

For more information about kindergarten and pre-K registration at Solvay UFSD, please visit the Solvay Central Registrar page on our website.

What's that sound? SMS students learn the ukulele

Those walking past the music rooms of Solvay Middle School may have recently heard a different kind of instrument being played. It has four strings, is smaller than most musical instruments, is fairly easy to learn, and has been featured in popular Disney movies like "Lilo and Stitch."

Students from SMS have been invited to take part in a ukulele class, taught by SMS Music Teacher Chris Jabot and funded through the 21st Century Learning Grant Award. The class consists of a group of ten students and meets once a week. At each class, students learn to tune, care for, and play a soprano ukulele.

"Coupled with its smaller size, the ukulele is a very accessible instrument for people to pick up and learn," said Mr. Jabot. "The group is really enjoying getting to work with such a unique instrument."

Students have had enough meetings where they now know enough chords to play a variety of popular songs. At a more recent meeting, students came prepared with a song to teach the class. The class consists of a mixture of students from fifth to eighth grade. So far everyone has enjoyed and found success with the instrument.

"The ukulele serves the music students in the class well," said Mr. Jabot. "It reinforces specific music reading concepts, but is open to any students who wish to learn. The group is really enjoying getting to work with such a unique instrument."

SHS Triathlon Club volunteers with CNY Family Bicycle Giveaway



Pictured: Mackenzie Crossett, Esther Germakovsky and Jason Butterfield.



On Dec. 16, members of the SHS Triathlon Club volunteered with the Central New York Family Bicycle Giveaway in their workspace at the New York State Fairgrounds. They helped to pump tires, pull usable parts from damaged bikes, test newly repaired bikes, and moved hundreds of finished bikes! They are proud to have been a part of this great community project. For more details about this charity, visit www.cnyfamilybike.org.

How did the Gingerbread Man cross the river?

Students from Solvay Elementary School worked together using their STEM and social skills to create an alternative plan for the Gingerbread Man to cross the river without falling in.



What Makes Solvay Special: Jakob Ligoci

The Solvay UFSD holds true to the motto of "We develop confident, continual learners who are caring community members." Within the Solvay community, there are a number of people who keep this motto in mind and show us each day what makes Solvay special. Solvay High School freshman Jakob Ligoci is one of our community members who makes Solvay special.

On Jan. 11, the SHS main office received a phone call from a parent whose daughter walks with a cane. SHS freshman Jakob Ligoci recognized this and on days that it snows he walks over three quarters of a mile to the girl's house and shovels the sidewalk, so it is easier for her to get to school. The parent has offered to pay Jakob for his efforts, but he refuses any compensation.

At the Solvay UFSD Board of Education meeting on Jan. 22, the Board of Education and Solvay Superintendent Jay Tinklepaugh thanked Jakob for being so thoughtful. The Board presented him with a plaque for his efforts. Great job, Jakob! Thank you for showing us what makes Solvay special!



Transportation Request Notice

Requests for transportation to private, parochial, or charter schools for the 2018–19 school year must be in the Solvay Union Free School District Transportation Office, 399 Beach Road, Syracuse, NY 13209 by April 1, 2018. 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.

Solvay DECA Participates in Regional Competition

Solvay DECA sent a record number of students to the regional competition this year held at LeMoyne College on Dec. 19, 2017. Solvay sent 33 students to compete at the event. Competition included an exam, which tests academic knowledge combined with performance on a business role-play. The exam takes place with one or more judges and allows the students apply their knowledge and use 21st Century Skills to solve a business problem and present their ideas. To prepare for this event, the students spent significant time after school improving their knowledge of business concepts and developing the skills needed to effectively present solutions to business challenges.

Our students were among 500 students from 11 school districts that competed at regionals. This year, four Solvay students won awards in their competition category: Nick Lopez placed fifth in Sports and Entertainment Marketing; Denis Mujcic took fourth in Job Interview; Myah Platler won second place in Sports and Entertainment Marketing; and Natalina Natoli won first place (for the second year in a row) in Apparel and Accessories Marketing.

These four students will go on to the DECA State Career Conference in March where they will compete with students from around the State in their respective events. Also joining them at the conference in Rochester will be Anna Luckette competing in Principles of Hospitality and Avery Sladick in Principles of Marketing.



Pictured (L to R): 1st Row: Olivia Petralito, Olivia Rutkowski, Nancy Gonzales, Ryleigh Bidwell; 2nd Row: John Canestrare, Nick Lopez, Luca Geiss-Zicaro; 3rd Row: Maya Martineau, Gianna D'Agostino; 4th Row: Mackenzie Petrocci, Chrystia Tejera-Johnson



Pictured (L to R): Denis Mujcic, Myah Platler, Anna Luckette, and Natalina Natoli

SMS Students Practice STEM Experiments



The 21st Century Learning Center Grant Award has allowed SMS fifth grade students the opportunity to participate in the Science Technology Engineering Math (STEM) program on Tuesdays and Thursdays with Mrs. Alton and Ms. Farrell.

Learning about static electricity, the students created figures out of tissue paper and made them stand with friction from a balloon. Using their engineering skills, students worked in groups and pairs to create structures using various materials, such as marshmallows, toothpicks, spaghetti, gumdrops, and candy corn. The students measured the height of these structures and refined them to increase the height.

Other projects and experiments from the fifth grade STEM program included catapults and slime. Students created catapults out of craft sticks and rubber bands. Using these catapults, they measured the distance their object traveled. After learning the science behind slime, students enjoyed creating slime with a partner.

A favorite experiment was creating a parachute for a Lego person. Students dropped these parachutes, and based on their time in hundredths of a second, reflected on their construction and refined their parachute to increase their drop time. Lastly, in experimenting with sound students made a harmonica and changed the pitch by manipulating the materials they used. Collaboration with peers has afforded these students opportunities to use their science, math, and engineering skills while working together to accomplish common goals.



Students from SHS create portraits for children in Syria

Students in the Solvay High School Advanced Drawing and Painting class recently completed a school project to benefit children from Syria. Students in Kim McGraw's class painted and drew portraits of children from Syria, as a part of the Memory Project. The portraits will be delivered to the children in February.

The Memory Project is a nonprofit organization that engages art students from schools throughout the United States. The project aims to create realistic portraits for orphaned and disadvantaged kids from different countries around the world.

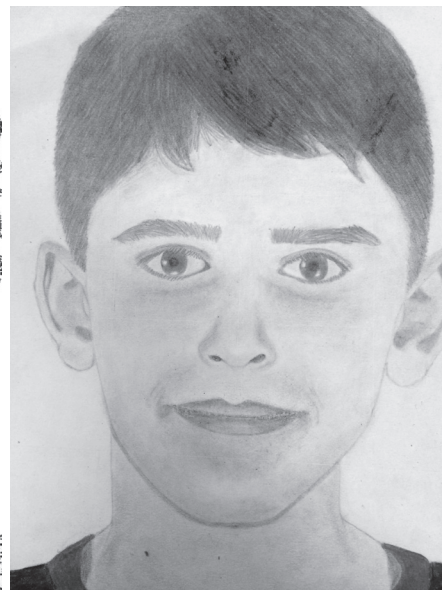
The latest project allows Solvay students to provide the children from Syria with meaningful pieces of personal history.

"This is my eighth year doing this project," said Mrs. McGraw. "The students love the project and the value it can bring to these children's lives. Over the years we have done portraits for children in countries across the globe."

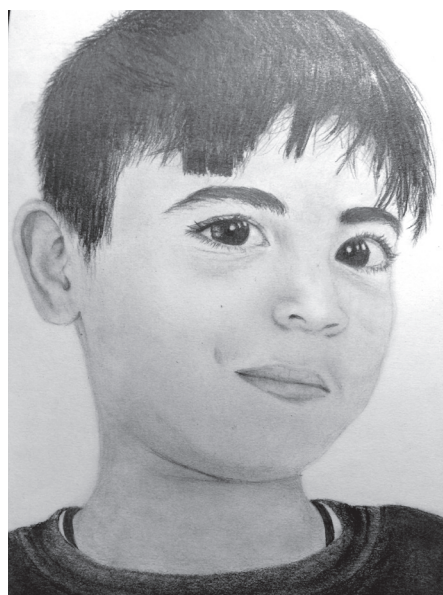
Since 2004, the Memory Project has created more than 100,000 portraits for children in 43 countries. Each child receives multiple unique portraits, as several photos are taken of each child in different poses. For more information on the Memory Project, visit www.memoryproject.org.



By Elizabeth Yuron, 10th Grade



By Abby Lee, 10th Grade



By Skyler Samphier, 11th Grade



By Alyssa Colasanti, 11th Grade



By Erin Roche, 11th Grade

Reminder: Solvay UFSD Tip Line

At the Solvay UFSD, we take bullying seriously. To report an incidence of bullying, please visit our Tip Line on our website www.solvayschools.org/stopbullying.cfm. The Tip Line also offers the possibility of reporting concerns in addition to bullying. You will see the additional concerns named in the dropdowns, including alcohol/drugs, fighting, safety concerns, and more. To report an incident through the Tip Line, fill out the incident form on our website. For those who wish to remain anonymous, do not enter your name, telephone number, or email address. If a situation is an emergency, call 911.



Author Tom Watson Visits SES

Author Tom Watson recently stopped by SES for a visit, bringing with him not only humor and fun, but also his famous "Stick Dog" series.

Watson is the author and original illustrator for the "Stick Dog" series. The idea for the "Stick Dog" series came about many years ago, when Watson began writing and illustrating picture books for his children. Soon after, the "Stick Dog" series was born.

During his visit to SES on Jan. 17, Watson was introduced and met with a great round of applause from students. He greeted the crowd and noted, "I see a lot of kids here missing teeth!" Watson then launched into a comical story about the time his daughter tried to get rid of a loose tooth during school, delighting the students in the audience.

Watson asked that all students draw with him, showing them on the screen how to draw stick dog. As he drew Stick Dog on the screen, students followed along, drawing their own versions of Stick Dog using Watson's instructions and examples. Once he was done drawing Stick Dog, he moved on to show students how to draw some of the other characters in the books, asking questions and telling them more about Stick Dog as he did so.

"We want this one to sound like he's snarling," said Watson while drawing one of the characters. "Can you all tell me, how do you draw the snarl?"

Students in the audience were thrilled to draw along with Watson and laughed as he shared jokes from his books.

"Why do you think my first book was about burgers," asked Watson, unbuttoning his shirt to reveal a t-shirt with a picture of a hamburger on it. "I love burgers."

Once finished with drawing the Stick Dog characters, Watson began drawing Stick Cat. When all of the drawings were complete, Watson asked the students to hold up their pictures for him to see. He then walked around, looking at the students work and telling them what a great job they did.

Before ending the presentation, Watson asked the students of SES for their help with his next book. After listing off seven books in the "Stick Dog" series – all of which are based on a food item – Watson asked the students what food the dogs should go on a quest for next. Students answered with a variety of foods, including pizza, popcorn, bananas, eggs, chicken nuggets, oranges, meatballs, and bacon.

"Everything's better with bacon!" Watson replied, causing the students to laugh even more.

Watson thanked everyone for their ideas, saying he would keep them in mind for the next three books. He then mentioned that he is working on another book that he would like to run by the group of students. He asked the students that if they thought it was a good idea to raise their hand.

"I think my next book will be titled 'Stick Dog Gets a Girlfriend,'" said Watson.

The title was met with much more laughter and giggles from students than hands raised.



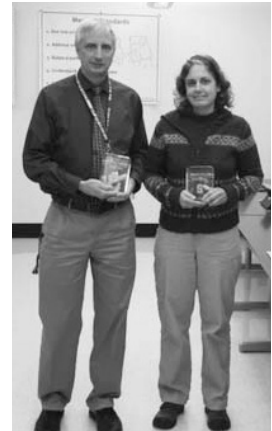
Congratulations to our National Board Certified Teachers

Two teachers from the Solvay UFSD have been named National Board Certified Teachers – one of the most esteemed credentials in the nation for teachers. Richard Gratien and Amanda Phillips both received this honor for excellence in teaching.

In order to become a National Board Certified Teacher, teachers must pass a rigorous certification process. The process includes a demonstration of their advanced knowledge, skills, and practices through the completion of three portfolio entries and a computer-based assessment. A total of 118 teachers across New York State were named National Board Certified Teachers, with ten of these teachers from the CNY region.

“Even in a teaching force as highly skilled as New York’s, these teachers deserve praise for what they have accomplished,” said NYSUT President Andy Pallotta. “They have voluntarily embraced a real challenge — proving to an independent board that they have mastered the ‘art of teaching.’ They are our newest standard-bearers for the profession and ambassadors for teaching excellence.”

Congratulations to Richard and Libby on this great accomplishment! Thank you for showing us another example of what makes Solvay special. To learn more about Rich and Libby, read below!



Congratulations to Richard Gratien! Richard (Rich) Gratien was recently named a National Board Certified Teacher. He has been teaching at the Solvay UFSD for ten years. Most of his time at Solvay UFSD has been as a business teacher at Solvay High School, though he did spend three years at Solvay Middle School teaching Family and Consumer Science. Currently, he teaches accounting, business math, business ownership, and sports marketing at SHS. Prior to his time with Solvay, Mr. Gratien he worked in business for 25 years before he became a teacher.

When asked what is one of his favorite things about coming to work each day, Mr. Gratien was quick to focus on his students.

“My favorite thing about coming to school each day is working with students,” he said. “The energy that the students bring is what keeps me motivated to teach.”

Mr. Gratien was encouraged to apply to become a National Board Certified Teacher because of his wife, who is also a National Board Certified Teacher in art. He was also encouraged by another Solvay teacher, Maria Fenton, who is involved with National Board. Ms. Fenton encouraged him to apply and supported him throughout the journey.

“It is much more than applying for certification,” said Mr. Gratien. “The process involves intensive reflection and documentation of my professional practice, gathering evidence of my work, and collaborating with parents and other teachers. The process naturally makes you look at how you teach and to find ways to do more for your students.”

While he was relieved to hear he had received the honor of becoming a National Board Certified Teacher and that his work had met the standards, Mr. Gratien has many plans for the upcoming school year. To start, he plans to lend his time to other teachers who are working toward their certification.

“I had the support of a number of colleagues while I completed the work,” said Mr. Gratien “I hope that I am able to provide input that will help others reach their goal.”

Mr. Gratien is grateful for the support he has received from the Solvay community and is excited about bringing this award to the district.

“The faculty at Solvay is excellent,” he said. “I hope that this award will reinforce to the community that we are a district that develops confident, continual learners who are caring community members.”

Congratulations to Libby Phillips! Amanda (Libby) Phillips was recently named a National Board Certified Teacher. She has been teaching elementary physical education for 22 years, 20 of which have been with the Solvay UFSD.

When asked what is one of her favorite things about coming to work each day, Ms. Phillips reflected on the joy she finds in “watching a student execute a skill for the first time.”

“The genuine joy on his/her face is why I do what I do,” said Ms. Phillips. “This is especially satisfying when the student has struggled or overcome a fear.”

Ms. Phillips decided to harness this joy and anticipation into a career goal of her own, deciding to work toward becoming a National Board Certified Teacher. Ms. Phillips realized that after teaching elementary physical education for 20 years, she wanted to take on a new challenge.

“I knew that if I wanted to achieve National Board certification I would have to step up my game,” said Ms. Phillips. “Go outside of my comfort zone.”

And go outside of her comfort zone she did. In working on her certification, Ms. Phillips was forced to examine every aspect of her teaching. She was soon able to note her areas of strength along with areas in need of improvement. Even though Ms. Phillips has achieved her certification, she is still very aware that she has room to grow and improve as a teacher.

“The certification process is very rigorous, as it should be,” said Ms. Phillips. “The work you are doing is always in the back of your mind. When I heard that I achieved National Board certification, I felt both relief and satisfaction. Achieving a goal that I set for myself several years ago was very satisfying.”

For the upcoming school year, Ms. Phillips plans to help raise awareness about National Board certification. She speaks highly of the process she went through to achieve this certification.

“The process is unparalleled,” she said. “While it can be a daunting goal, there are many supports to help you achieve certification. You do not have to go it alone.”

When asked what she was most excited about bringing to the Solvay UFSD with this award, Ms. Phillips was quick to reply that she is looking to assist others by providing encouragement and support for those who wish to pursue certification. She is grateful to everyone in the Solvay community who helped her on the road to her certification.

“I had many people who supported and encouraged me throughout my journey,” said Ms. Phillips. “From my colleagues who were flexible with their schedules and allowed me to bounce ideas off of them, to my mentors who read and reread my work and offered critical feedback as well as encouraging words. Their support was critical to my success.”

DATES TO REMEMBER

March

March 1 SMS PTO Mtg. 7:00 p.m.
 March 5 SES PTO Mtg. 6:30 p.m.
 March 7 SMS Open House 6:30 p.m.
 March 8 SES Open House 6:30 p.m.
 March 9-10 High School Musical, Fiddler on the Roof
 March 12 Early Dismissal - Staff Development Day
 March 16 SMS March Madness Dance
 March 19 Board of Education Mtg. 7:00 p.m.
 March 23-24 SMS Musical
 March 30 District Closed - Good Friday

April

April 2 SES PTO Mtg. 6:30 p.m.
 April 7 SHS DECA Murder Mystery 7:00 p.m.
 April 12 SMS PTO Mtg. 7:00 p.m.
 April 14 SHS Junior Prom 7:00 p.m.
 April 16-20 SES Book Fair Week
 April 16 Board of Education Mtg. 7:00 p.m.
 April 17 SES Family Night at Book Fair 5:30 p.m.
 April 19 SES Literacy Night Grades 2-4 w/Pasta Dinner 6:00 p.m.
 April 23-27 - District Closed - Spring Recess

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

SES = Solvay Elementary School
 SMS = Solvay Middle School
 SHS = Solvay High School
 DO = District Office



May

May 3 SHS Chorus Concert 7:00 p.m.
 May 7 SES PTO Mtg. 6:30 p.m., Budget Hearing @ SES 7:00 p.m.
 May 9 SMS Advanced/Accelerated Parent Night 7:00 p.m.
 May 10 SHS Band Concert 7:00 p.m.
 May 11 Senior Ball 7:00 p.m.
 May 15 Budget Vote @ SHS 12:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m., Full Plate Dinner 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.
 May 17 SHS Awards Night 7:00 p.m.
 May 21 Board of Education Mtg. 7:00 p.m.
 May 23 SMS 7/8 Spring Band & Chorus Concert 7:00 p.m.
 May 24 - No School - Staff Development Day
 May 28 - District Closed - Memorial Day
 May 29 SHS Academic Celebration 6:30 p.m.
 May 30 Gr. 4 NYS Science Performance Assessment, SMS NJHS Induction Ceremony 7:00 p.m.
 May 31 SMS PTO Meeting 7:00 p.m.

June

June 4 SES PTO Mtg. 6:30 p.m.
 June 6 SES PBIS Ice Cream Social, SMS Gr. 5/6 Spring Band & Chorus Concert 7:00 p.m.
 June 7 SHS Athletic Celebration 6:30 p.m., SMS PTO Mtg. 7:00 p.m.
 June 11 SMS Athletic Celebration 6:00 p.m.
 June 12 4th Grade Chorus Concert SMS 7:00 p.m.
 June 18 Board of Education Mtg. 7:00 p.m.
 June 21 Last Day of School for Students
 June 22 Staff Development Day, SHS Commencement Rehearsal 9:00 a.m.
 June 23 SHS Commencement 11:00 a.m.



Fall Scholar Athlete Teams

At the conclusion of each sport season, the New York 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 amount of team members eligible. This fall, we had the volleyball, cross country, and girls soccer teams qualify. Congratulations!

Scholar Athlete Football Dinner



Senior football player Noah Capella attended this year's 18th Annual Scholar-Athlete Awards Dinner presented by the CNY Chapter of the National Football Federation and College Hall of Fame. Noah was the senior with the highest grade point average on the varsity

football team and received a \$500 scholarship. Way to go Noah!

Track and Recycling

On Saturday, Jan. 27 the Solvay Track & Field program volunteered at the New York State Fair grounds for the Electronic Recycling drop off sponsored by Assemblyman Bill Magnarelli. It was a long, exhausting, fulfilling day for all. Our student-athletes received numerous compliments, one was "they are the hardest worker group we have ever had." It was a fun time spending with our student-athletes outside of our normal rigors of school and athletics.

Where Are They Now?

If you have any Bearcat alumni news, please contact the Athletic Office at (315) 484-1400.

Website

Please be sure to visit our Athletic Department website at www.solvayschools.org/athletics for important announcements. For the most up to date schedules and directions to other schools, please be sure to visit www.schedulegalaxy.com.



Pictured: Solvay Track & Field program volunteering at the Electronic Recycling event.

Twitter

Solvay Athletics is now on Twitter! Please be sure to check daily for contests, score updates, and other athletic office news!

Follow us @SolvayAthletics.

Upcoming Athletic Dates:

3/5/18 - JV/ Varsity Sports Begin

4/2/18 - Modified Sports Begin

6/7/18 - Varsity Athletic Celebration

6/11/18 - Modified Athletic Celebration

China Towne

China Towne Furniture & Mattress, The One BIG Store in Solvay, recently made a donation to the Solvay Athletic Department Booster Club. The employees and owner, Jay Yennock, collectively contributed \$500 in memory of Jay's late nephew, John Fiori. The donation will be used to purchase equipment, uniforms, and to fund community out-reach activities. The donation will be used by student athletes this spring. Thank you China Towne for being a great partner to Solvay Athletics!





SOLVAY *Sentinel*

Solvay Union Free School District
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Board of Education

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Heather Lotito, Member
Ty Marshal, District Clerk
Kristin Sunser-King, Vice President
Stephen P. Zalewski, President

Congratulations to this year's Scholastic Art Awards winners!

- Emily Monette, 2D Portfolio, Silver Key
- Michael Vale, 2D Portfolio- Honorable Mention
- Skyler Samphier, Drawing and Illustration, Two Honorable Mentions
- Hannah Martineau, Ceramics, Honorable Mention

