

DECA Students Rise to the Challenge

DECA competition this year was virtual with students from eight school districts adapting to compete online. SHS had 19 students rise to the challenge of competing in this unique environment. Students had to complete an online, 100-question Business Content Exam. They were presented with a business case problem to develop a solution and record a video presentation of their recommendations. Those videos were judged by business professionals.

Of those who competed, 11 placed in the regional competition and qualified to compete at the state level. Those students pictured left to right: bottom: 3rd place: Jacob Barndollar, Ty Martineau, and Luke Dwyer; middle 2nd place: Myah Platler, Ryleigh Bidwell, Brianna Kuhles, and Jack Haskell, and top 1st place: Olesya Konopatskiy, Allison Dooher, Amer Lazraus, and Brianna Williams.



All 19 students who competed in the competition are to be recognized for their hard work and professionalism including: Kaylah Kowalczyk (4th), Leila Lopez (4th), Athena Clark, Brandon Burke, Jr., Mekhi Johnson, Nancy Gonzales, Tayler Kadlubowski, and Olivia Rutkowski. Congratulations to all.

Patriotic SMS Student

Nathan Landers, an 8th grade student has deep appreciation and respect for his country. He shows this by proudly standing and reciting the Pledge of Allegiance each school day.



Recently, he noticed that the flag outside of the middle school was quite tattered and torn. Instead of keeping this to himself or dismissing, Nathan took action. He spoke with, Mr. Corey Graves, principal, about the situation. He shared his strong feelings that by flying the American flag, it was a sign of respect to all of the men and women who have served to protect our country. Mr. Graves promised Nathan that he would look into the situation. When a new flag arrived a week later, Nathan was invited to help retire the old flag and raise the new one. He treated both flags with ultimate respect. He folded the old flag and presented it to Mr. Steve Fisher, head custodian, to properly dispose at the American Legion.

Thank you, Nathan, for your dedication and respect for your country, and taking action on this important situation.

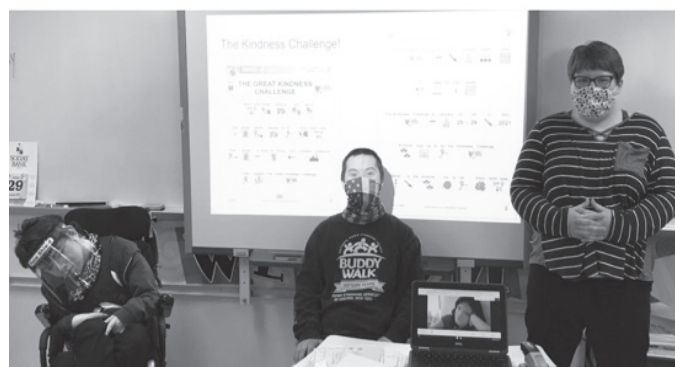
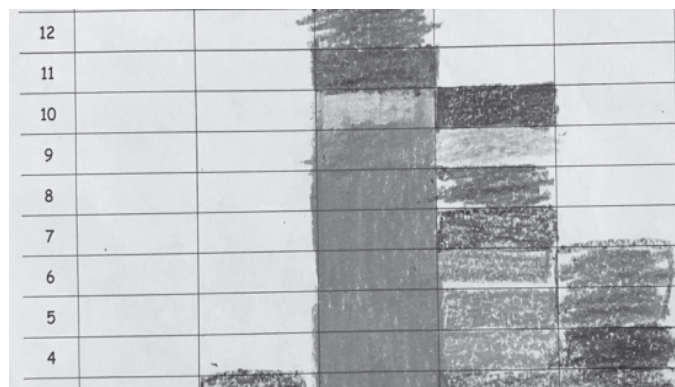
Kindness Challenge

Ms. Kathleen Klier's students have been putting their lessons into action. They participated in the 2021 school year Kindness Challenge. This challenge was begun by a group of students in Carlsbad, CA and now includes schools in 115 countries around the world.

Solvay students selected the following behaviors to bring happiness into the school building during this pandemic year: a wave and hello to everyone they pass in the hallway, a smile for someone, giving compliments, making greeting cards for the custodians, and holding the door open for someone.

Our students collected data and graphed their efforts on a bar graph for the week of January 25-29, 2021.

It was wonderful to see the students enthusiastically engaged in this project! They showed growth in communication skills and confidence.



2021-22 Registration Now Open

Kindergarten and PreKindergarten registration for the 2021-22 school year is now open. If your child turns 4 by December 1, 2021, they are eligible for the district's free PreK program. If your child turns 5 by December 1, 2021, they are eligible to attend Kindergarten in the 2021-2022 school year. Please visit the district's website as soon as possible to complete the online registration. By registering early, it will help with enrollment projections for the upcoming school year.

To apply, children must be residents of the Solvay UFSD and must have all required immunizations. Transportation is provided for students once they are four years old. Until then, parents are responsible for transportation. Please register by May 3, 2021.

For more information about Kindergarten and PreK registration visit www.solvayschools.org.

Changing Your Address

Have you moved? If you moved during the school year or if you are planning on moving during the summer, you are required to notify your school principal of that new address as soon as your move is complete. If your new address is not within the boundaries of the school district, then you will need to register with a school in the district where your new residence is located.

Also, remember to keep your student(s) school(s) informed of all changes especially the contact information including phone numbers and e-mail addresses.



Superintendent's Perspective **Solvay Superintendent, Jay Tinklepaugh**

This time of year is typically a very exciting one for our district; spring semester begins, concerts, musicals, athletics, and several other events all occur. This year is considerably different to say the least. Hybrid schedules, mandated quarantine periods, fully remote learning, asymptomatic testing, personal protective equipment, contact tracing, and mask wearing have become part of our everyday experience. Our school community has adjusted to this temporary normal, with a considerable amount of patience and grace. Parents, teachers, staff, and community play an important role in our success. Teachers and staff continue to innovate and adjust their lessons to support in-person and remote learning. Our students have been incredibly adaptive, adjusting to learning, using technology, wearing masks in school, and sharing what supports they need to learn in this environment.

As the second half of the school year continues, our district will continue a full list of activities. Winter athletics have begun, practices and preparation are underway with our school musicals, and the BEST program offerings are expanding with before and after school activities.

Our capital project work in the high school has continued to make great progress. Our library media center opened after February break. Work started at the elementary school during the February break with preparation of the installation of air conditioning and several building upgrades. To follow along with the progress of our capital projects, visit our website at www.solvayschools.org. Summer programming at Solvay Elementary may have to be moved to Solvay Middle School and Solvay High School to accommodate the construction schedule. We appreciate your patience and cooperation as we work to improve our facilities for our students.

As we begin the second half of the school year, we look forward to the work ahead of us. Please encourage your students to work hard, be involved with school activities, and share with us how we can help support our students and school community.

Celebrating Alma Thomas

During winter recess, SES students participated in the BEST program offering, Celebrating Alma Thomas. Alma Woodsey Thomas was an African-American artist and teacher who lived and worked in Washington, DC, and is now recognized as a major American painter of the 20th century.



Solvay Musical In Full Swing

In a year where it looked like activities would be limited, the Solvay musical has come around to finding a new and inventive way to bring the community our musical theatre excellence! With the auditorium being renovated and COVID guidelines in place this year, the Solvay Drama department has ventured into the making of a filmed musical. This year's show is an original written script based upon the relationships we experience in high school. Set in present day COVID guidelines, the show uses songs from the past twenty years of musicals on the Solvay High School Stage following our students through the excitement and turmoil of being a young adult in love. Don't be surprised if you also see some familiar faces of theatre alumni on the screen as well. If you have any questions or would like to donate to the show, please contact Mr. Christian Oliver at coliver@solvayschools.org. More details will soon be coming out. We look forward to carrying on the tradition of great musical theatre in our Solvay community.

SECNY Helps Schools Earn Funds

SECNY Federal Credit Union has launched a program to assist school districts with various needs called Schools Earn Extra Dollars (SEED).

Solvay is a part of this program and money earned will go toward our Dollars for Scholars fund. By participating in the program the Solvay Dollars for Scholars will benefit from every new loan brought to SECNY from Solvay parents, staff, and community members. This includes new purchase loans and a refinance of an existing non-SECNY loan or credit card.

To participate just mention Solvay Schools when you apply for a loan in person or when applying online put "SEED SO" in the comments section. Thank you to SECNY for this wonderful opportunity to earn funds for our students.

Second Virtual Concert Scheduled

After the success of our first ever virtual concert, the Solvay Choral Department is getting ready to stream their second concert of the year. On March 23, at 6:45 p.m. the Solvay Chamber Choir and Vocal Jazz group will be performing live at St. Marianne Cope at St. Cecilia Church. The concert will be live streamed from the Solvay Facebook page. The concert is entitled "To Ease the Heart" and will be featuring different choral selections that reflect on our connection as a society and bring rest to our minds, bodies, and spirits. We hope you can join us.

Solvay Choral Department Presents:

To Ease the Heart

Featuring music by Eckert, Rutherford, Childs, Philip Philips, and WH Smith
Christian J. Oliver, Director

Choral Ensembles:
Solvay Vocal Jazz
Solvay Chamber Choir

When:

Tuesday March 23rd, 2021
At 6:45pm

Streaming live from *Solvay Union Free School District Facebook Page*



Special thanks to St. Cecilia Church and St. Marianne Cope Parish for rehearsal space and concert space!

"WE DEVELOP CONFIDENT, CONTINUAL LEARNERS WHO ARE CARING COMMUNITY MEMBERS."

Athletic News

Winter Sports Are Underway!

Bowling, Indoor Track, and Girls and Boys Basketball are all getting back to the grind. Every student athlete is required to wear a mask, stay 6 feet apart when possible, and get COVID-19 tested weekly.

Website

Please be sure to visit our Athletic Department website at <http://www.solvayschools.org/athletics> for important announcements and for the most up to date schedules and directions to other schools

please be sure to visit www.schedulegalaxy.com.

Twitter

Solvay Athletics is on Twitter! Please be sure to check daily for contests, score updates and other athletic office news. Follow us @SolvayAthletics!

Where Are They Now?

Josh Call, Class of 2013

On January 6, 2021, Josh Call, Class of 2013, stepped into action to help save the U.S. Capitol in Washington, DC. That day, he worked 20 straight hours and sustained minor injuries from multiple attacks by rioters. Josh has been a United States Capitol Police Officer for 3 years and is currently assigned to the Senate Division.



During his time at Solvay, he was an active athlete participating in varsity football and baseball. He went on to play baseball and study Criminal Justice at Utica College, graduating in 2017.

We would like to thank Josh for his service and the heroic measures he took on this day.

Gr. 6 Social Studies Students Ancient Egypt Pyramid Project with Marshmallows & Toothpicks



Solvay Success Academy Registration Opened March 1

Registration for students in 8th grade who would like to be considered for the Solvay Success Academy opened on March 1, 2021. The registration can be found at www.familyid.com. All incoming freshmen who apply must write an essay stating why they would like to become a



member. The Solvay Success Academy is a grant-funded program that provides an opportunity for students to earn 24-60 college credits while in high school. Those students that earn 60 or more credits could potentially graduate from Solvay High School not only with their Regents diploma but also an Associate Degree in Math/Science from Onondaga Community College.

For more information about the program, please contact the Solvay Success Academy Coordinator, Mr. Keith Lasher, at klasher@solvayschools.org.

SMS Musical

This year's musical will be *Dear Edwina*. It follows Edwina Spoonapple, as she directs the neighborhood kids in a series of production numbers for the latest edition of her weekly "Advice-a-Palooza." This musical allows the flexibility to record students on stage or virtually depending on the current COVID guidelines. Check the district's website for updates.

Student Forum's Small Acts of Kindness

Due to COVID restrictions, the SHS Student Forum has used this school year as an opportunity to teach students a more philanthropic approach to the school and the community. They meet once a month to come up with one way they can help their community or boost morale and show appreciation around the school. They have sent "thankful for you" candy bags to the staff, held a "Dress Your Most Festive" Day to raise money for the Food Bank. In January and February, they worked with some students from CBA to support the "Her Drive" that helps bring feminine care and hygiene products to those in need. The students are doing a wonderful job seeing the kindness and generosity through small acts.

National School Breakfast Week

National School Breakfast Week is March 8-12. This year's theme is "Score Big with School Breakfast." This is a great reminder that breakfast is an important part of children's success in school, sports, arts, and daily life.

According to the School Nutrition Association, "studies show that children who eat school breakfast are more likely to:

- Reach higher levels of achievement in reading and math
- Score higher on standardized tests, and
- Have better concentration and memory."

Share your love for school breakfast on social media using #NSBW21 and remember that breakfast and lunch are free to all enrolled students.

Capital Project Update

This past spring, construction at SHS began. The building's main office was reconfigured providing a new, secure entrance. The hallways with the green tiles and lockers, have been replaced. With the renovations in the auditorium, the library was relocated and updated. Work has been ongoing in the auditorium, with a projected reopening in late summer.

Phase 3 of the project was kicked off in late January. This phase of the project is focused on SES. The renovations include a variety of exciting projects: air conditioning, main office, bathroom, tiles, and flooring, just to name a few.



BUDGET REMINDER:

Budget Hearing - May 10 - 7 p.m.

Budget Vote - May 18 - 12 p.m.- 9 p.m.



SOLVAY
Sentinel

Solvay Union Free School District
PO Box 980
Syracuse NY 13209

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
Syracuse, NY 13220
Permit # 799

Board of Education

Kristin Sunser-King, President

Kevin J. Dwyer, Vice President

Stephen P. Zalewski, Assistant Clerk

Joseph Barnello, Member

Lena Rose Orlando, Member

Grant Helps District During Pandemic

The Solvay UFSD is pleased to be the recipient of one of the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) Innovation Fund grants. The \$20,000 grant was awarded to Solvay to help students, families, and staff across the district during the pandemic.

The district used funds to meet the needs of students and families that needed internet access, calculators, masks, socio-emotional support as well as academic supports. In addition, students have the opportunity in receiving pleasure-reading books (pictured) purchased from the grant. Tutorials are also being developed for using district platforms like SchoolTool, Family ID, Parent Square and Google Classroom.

In addition, the grant helped to provide support to staff with items like air purifiers, masks designed for singing, snacks, student calculators, just to name a few.

The district is very appreciative of the efforts of the Solvay Teachers Association in writing the grant and the AFT for funding the grant.

