

March 2024

## SMS Welcomes Maisey

SMS has officially welcomed their first therapy dog, Maisey! She has been coming in one to two times a week, visiting classrooms, and helping out in the counseling office. She loves greeting students in the morning when they get off the bus. Therapy dogs provide a variety of cognitive benefits such as mental and physical health, and improve skills such as reading. The students have welcomed her with open arms and are excited to have her here.



## Caring School Community

SHS provided gifts to 80 students and families, which represents nearly 1/5<sup>th</sup> of our population. Christina Rufo organized the distribution with the help of the school counselors, social workers, and Lisa Coggi of Peaceful Schools. We received very generous donations from many high school staff and the community, including Peaceful Schools. This is not a small task. It takes weeks of planning, shopping, and organizing to make this happen. Our caring school community has brought smiles to many faces this year!



### BUDGET REMINDER

**Budget Hearing @ SES**

**May 13 - 7 p.m.**

**Budget Vote @ SHS**

**May 21 - 12-9 p.m.**

## Key Club Celebrates 75 Years of Service

SHS Key Club was honored at the Ontario Division Council meeting by Solvay-Geddes-Camillus Kiwanis and New York Kiwanis Governor, Lucien Giancursio, for 75 years of outstanding and devoted service to the Solvay-Geddes-Camillus communities. The SHS club consists of 16 members, has been in existence since October 13, 1948, and is the fourth oldest in the NY District Key Club. The 2023-2024 officers are: Hailey King (President), Emilia Drozdovska (Vice President), Isabella Williams (Secretary), Taleah Torres (Treasurer), and Kristine Manabo (Webmaster)



Pictured L/R: Gabby Moran (Key Club Advisor); Taleah Torres (Key Club Treasurer); Hailey King (Key Club President); Loretta Gibson (Key Club Alumni); Kenneth Vreeland (Key Club Alumni); DeeDee Hagemann (Principal)

Key Club is the oldest and largest student-led service organization for teens and teaches leadership through service to others. Key Club today thrives on more than 5,000 high school campuses with a total membership of 200,000 in 38 countries. New York District alone consists of 29 divisions, the second-largest-single-state district and the fourth-largest-district in Key Club International. The core values of Key Club include leadership, character building, caring, and inclusiveness.

Club advisor and English teacher, Gabby Moran, asked members the question: What does Key Club mean to you? Some of the heart-wrenching responses are as follows:

- “As soon as I heard what Key Club was from my friends, I immediately knew it was something I wanted to join. I want to give back to the community more often.” (Aurora Rombach)
- “Key Club is a way of contributing to the community in a positive way; Key Club is feeling good about helping others.” (Ester Thang)
- “Key Club is important to me because of all the things we’re able to do for the community and the impact we can have on those who may be less fortunate than us in some way...it feels good to take the burdens from people, no matter how small.” (Hailey King)
- “Key Club means being able to submerge myself in an environment where I can grow as a person and a future leader. Key Club provides opportunities to student members that fosters life skills, confidence, knowledge, and independence through serving the people and the community...There is enlightenment in personal wisdom, compassion, and connecting with different kinds of people.” (Kristine Manabo)

These are just a few of the many moving responses from our club students. Their wise words speak volumes, reminding all of us of the powerful part and hand that we have in serving humanity. It is students like these that make our Solvay Alumni proud of the work they’ve done and passing onto next generations that will keep Key Club alive for another 75 years!

## Transportation Request Notice

Requests for transportation to private, parochial, or charter schools for the 2024-2025 school year must be in the Solvay Union Free School District Transportation Office, 399 Beach Road, Syracuse, NY 13209, by Monday, April 10, 2024. 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.



## Kindergarten & PreK Registration for the 2024-2025 School Year is Now Open

Kindergarten and PreKindergarten registration for the 2024-2025 school year is now open. If your child turns 4 by December 1, 2024, they are eligible for the district's free PreK program. If your child turns 5 by December 1, 2024, they are eligible to attend Kindergarten in the 2024-2025 school year. To begin the process, please visit the registration page at [www.solvayschools.org](http://www.solvayschools.org). Please complete the registration process as soon as possible to 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 4 years old. Until then, parents are responsible for transportation. Please register by May 23, 2024.

For more information about Kindergarten and PreK registration at Solvay UFSD, please visit the Solvay Registration page on our website.

## Graham Cracker Houses

Students in Sue Collins' 4<sup>th</sup> grade class made graham cracker houses. Chris Miczan, principal, read *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* to the class. Throughout the month of December, they learned how holidays around the world are celebrated.



## SES Enjoying Music

From singing to moving and playing, SES students engaged in the joy of music through interactive activities. Fourth graders showcased their voices during a chorus performance for family and friends. Students and staff look forward to the rest of the school year being filled with more musical adventures.



## Paintings Displayed at Airport

In partnership with the Solvay Public Library and the Onondaga County Public Library System, three Solvay students were selected to create canvas paintings to be displayed in the Syracuse Hancock International Airport. Pictured below top to bottom: Gabriel Barns (Grade 10), Lili Feliciano-Perez (Grade 8), and Lily Volski (Grade 4).



## SMS Presents Shrek, Jr.



Please join us, along with Shrek and Donkey, in the “Big Bright Beautiful World” as SMS presents Shrek, Jr. Performances are March 22 at 7:00 p.m. and March 23 at 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. Tickets are \$5.00 per person. A portion of the proceeds from Saturday night’s performance will be donated to a charity chosen by the 8<sup>th</sup> grade cast members. Contact [dhelinger@solvayschools.org](mailto:dhelinger@solvayschools.org) for presale ticket information.

## Travel Training for SHS Students



Kathleen Klier's class took advantage of the mild December temperatures to work on some transitional skills. They were joined by Roger Thayer from Centro to do some travel training. The students really enjoyed this educational opportunity. Thank you for joining us, Mr. Thayer!



Kathleen Klier's students worked on expressing their thoughts and feelings in a Winter Poem decorated with a winter hat. The students have been expanding their reading comprehension skills by working on figurative language in ELA.



## Honoring our Veterans

During the SMS building-wide Veterans Day assembly, 8<sup>th</sup> grade students Andi Van Slyke and Julian Chesler read their essays on "How they were inspired by America". Lyla Balduzzi and Gianna Ditucci played taps and Mary Perun's select choir sang the Star Spangled Banner. Students in Miranda Raynor's and Sue Jacobson's art classes drew and painted poppies. It was a wonderful ceremony. Thank you for your service.



## DECA's Busy December

SHS DECA started December with a sports marketing conference with the Syracuse Crunch. Thirteen students spent a half-day meeting with business professionals from the Crunch and Syracuse University talking about the business of sports. Students gained insight into how a sports franchise operates and ended the day attending the Crunch game.

DECA's Region 9 held their annual regional competition. Thirty-three Solvay students competed with over 500 students from local schools. Students were given a business case and had 10-20 minutes to prepare a solution. Students



presented their solutions to volunteer business professionals, who evaluated their presentations, and provided feedback. Students also attended a variety of workshops offered throughout the day. It was a great learning opportunity and they all performed well. Winning awards were Ester



Thang, Natalie Schell, Hannah McDonald, and Scott Lenhardt.

Eight students will go on to compete at the State Career Conference held in Rochester, in early March. They are Ester Thang, Emilia Drozdovska, Natalie Schell, Shauna Smorol, Aiden Reece, Scott Lenhardt, Alex Michalkow, and Jamison Sass.



## Athletic News

### Arcaro All-Star Game

Five football players were selected and played in the "John Arcaro Senior All-Star Game" at Liverpool High School, which is composed of the top seniors in the Central New York Region of Section III. Our own Jaysin Bliss was named MVP. In addition, three players were also selected to play in the "Big 44 All-Star Game". This team is composed of the best 44 senior football players in all of Section III.



The game was played at Vestal High School against the best 44 seniors of Section IV.



### Giving Back

In December, the JV and Varsity student athletes spent the day at the Oncenter, helping set up the Salvation Army's Annual Christmas Bureau. Our Bearcats sorted and set up toys, were personal shoppers along with packing boxes of food. It was a great way for us to kick off the holiday season!

### Spring Start Dates

- March 11 - JV/Varsity (baseball, softball, track & golf)
- April 8 - Modified (baseball, softball, & track)

*\*Please check with the school nurses if your child needs a physical for the upcoming season.\**

### End of the Year Awards

- May 30 - Varsity Athletic Awards Night
- June 12 - Modified Athletic Awards Night

### Family ID

Sign up today for sports via FamilyID.com.

### Website

Visit our 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](http://www.schedulegalaxy.com).

### X & Facebook

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

## Changing Your Address and/or Contact Information

Have you moved or changed your contact information? If you move 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 possible. If your new address is not within the boundaries of the school district, 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 email addresses.



## Busy 1<sup>st</sup> Semester for the Music Department



Congratulations to our Student-Musicians! Pictured above: 1. NYSSMA Junior High Area All-State Festival: Jenna Rogala, alto & Alexander Grant, tenor; 2. OCMEA Senior High All-County Festival: back row L/R: Bryce Stanton, tenor; Jamison Sass, clarinet; Ryland Bligh, tenor; front row L/R: Audra Tennant, soprano; Natalie Michalek, soprano; Natalie Mather, alto; 3. OCMEA Junior High All-County Festival: back row L/R: Alexander Grant, tenor; Christopher Shlosser, bass; Jenna Rogala, alto; front row L/R: Blake Pino-Espino, alto; Ethan Young, bass; Andrianna Van Slyke, soprano; 4. NYSSMA Senior High Area All-State: back row L/R: Natalie Mather, soprano; Ryland Bligh, tenor; James Webber, bass; front row L/R: Audra Tennant, soprano; Jady Rathbun, tuba; Natalie Michalek, soprano.



## A Variety of Student Performances

Pictured L/R: 1. SHS brass players participated in this year's Tuba Christmas; 2. SMS Jazz Band played at the Everson Museum's Festival of Trees & Light; 3. SHS Vocal Jazz & Chamber Choir performed a fund-raising concert for St. Charles-St. Ann's in Camillus; 4. Fourth grade band performed on January 24; 5. members of the 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> grade chorus sang and signed "America the Beautiful" to open a Syracuse Crunch hockey game; 6. SHS Vocal Jazz & Chamber Choir caroling at SMS; 7. SHS Vocal Jazz at LeMoyne Jazz Festival.



## **SOLVAY** *Sentinel*

Solvay Union Free School District  
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## **Holiday Extravaganza**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Christmas Coloring Contest and Holiday Extravaganza was held and over 300 students and their families attended.

The day included a district-wide coloring contest, craft stations, face painting, a prize wheel, games, and activities. Senior and aspiring clown, Alejandro Dejesus, donated his time and talent for the event. The families went home stuffed after enjoying pizza and candy all while creating great memories!

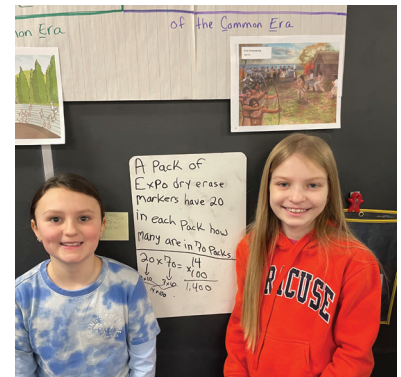


Thanks to Mike Emmi, DeeDee Hagemann, John Dippold, Rory Malone, and custodians for their patience and support. A special thanks to the BEST Program, Lisa Coggi from Peaceful Schools, PTO's, and Athletic Boosters, for providing the resources to give back to our students and community.

Events like these are what truly makes Solvay special!

## **SES Spicy Math Activity**

After each math lesson, the students are able to choose a mild, medium, or spicy activity. Fourth graders, Nora Kelley and Hailey Harding, chose spicy. The task was to create a word problem for 20 multiplied by 70. Their work shows that they are critical thinkers and can apply their learning at an advanced level.



Pictured L/R: Officer Derek Czerow, Emmett Nipper, & Sergeant Mike Niedzialek.