



SOLVAY

# Sentinel

Solvay Union Free School District

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

November 2019  
Volume XXXX, No. 2

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## Homecoming 2019!







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

This September and October marked another very busy, productive, and exciting start to the school year for Solvay. I hope that the start has been a successful one for you, and that you and your family have enjoyed getting back into your school routines. Thank you to all of our students, staff, and families who helped make our opening day a success and helped our students have a smooth transition into their new classrooms. We are always appreciative for the continued support that we receive from our community.

We have several items to celebrate. Each of our schools continue to show growth academically. We had our first student to receive an Associates Degree from Onondaga Community College along with her diploma from Solvay High School. Our students received over \$150,000 in scholarships from the generosity of our school community. Solvay was recognized for the second year as one of the "Best Communities for Music Education." Several students received gold, silver, and honorable mention awards for their artistic talent from the Scholastic Arts Association. Students were recognized for their "extraordinary talent" and "athletes of the week" by our local media. Our athletic teams experienced great success this fall season with football and volleyball going into post season competition.

Thanks to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Grant - third year of the "B.E.S.T." program. Over 1,200 of our students participated in before and after school programs. This summer we had students participating in several enrichment programs including some very exciting field trips and activities throughout the county.

Our Early College High School Grant (ECHS) begins its second year with another cohort of students participating. The ECHS grant provides students the opportunity to potentially earn an Associates Degree while they earn their high school diploma. In addition to college/high school concurrent enrollment classes, students also participate in college exploration programming.

We continue to work on plans to strengthen our curriculum and school environment across all grade levels. Additionally, we are working on several initiatives to improve various operations such as striving to go more paperless, electronic report cards, increase electronic parent and community communication, increase use of electronic forms, and provide tutorials for parents, staff, and students.

Our Capital Project is underway and a considerable amount of work was accomplished over the summer. At Solvay Middle School, a new roof was put on along with some interior work including a reconfiguration of the main entrance to the building. The new bus garage is on schedule and is really beginning to take shape. We are looking forward to the completion of the bus garage and the beginning of the next phase of the project, including work at the high school and elementary school buildings.

Please be sure to visit our Solvay Schools' web page. Thank you for making Solvay special for our students and community. I look forward to our continued successes from the start of the year through the end.

## **SHS Students Venture to the Adirondack Region**

Students taking SUNY-ESF's general biology class ventured to the North Country on September 27 thru 29, for an Adirondack Ecology experience centered at ESF's Newcomb research campus in Newcomb, NY. The students visited the Atmospheric Science Research Center (ASRC) at Whiteface Mountain, the NYS Mesonet data collection station (one of 126 state-wide), a trip to the summit of Whiteface Mountain to explore the unique ecology of mountain-top plants and the special cloud and acid rain monitoring station,

water sampling from canoes, and explored the cultural history and old iron works of a mining ghost town in Tahawus. They hiked the Goodnow Mountain (elevation 2,690 feet), climbed its Fire Tower and viewed the sweeping 20+ Adirondack high peaks from the summit.



## Uganda Administrators Visit SHS

On September 25, SHS hosted two administrators from Ndejje Secondary School in Uganda - Dr. Charles Kahigiriza, Principal, and Mr. David Balaba Ssenkungu, Deputy Principal. During their visit, they had an opportunity to see the integration of technology in teaching, have discussions about technology in the classroom, and learn more about the general day to day activities at SHS. It was a privilege to have colleagues from another country come to Solvay to talk about educational ideas and philosophies.



Picture Right:

Bottom Row L to R: Jessica Whisher-Hehl, Assistant Superintendent for Educational Services, Jennifer Wall, Diane Hagemann, SHS Principal, Kermit Buckman, Content Specialist/Teacher,

Mike Emmi, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Grant Director. Top Row L to R: Jay Tinklepaugh, Superintendent, Travis Hall, Content Specialist/Teacher, David Balaba, Deputy Principal, Dr. Charles Kahigiriza, Principal, and Crispin Erasto Ouma Ojwang, SU Doctoral Student.

## Mico Hayden Headed to Rochester

Congratulations to Mico Hayden, Senior, who was accepted as a Bass in New York State School of Music Association (NYSSMA) All-State Vocal Jazz Ensemble. This is a highly selective choral ensemble only accepting the 24 best jazz vocalist from around the state. Mico will attend the Conference in December and work with the Renowned Vocal Jazz Educator



Rosana Erkert. Congratulations to you Mico on this high honor!

## Students Participate in Triathlon

On June 2, the SHS Triathlon Club participated in the Pittsford Tri. Amer Lazraus completed the 3.3 mile run, Emmett Fenton and Kira Lioto (pictured below L to R) completed the sprint



triathlon. To prepare for the race, students train throughout the year - swimming at the Solvay-Geddes Youth Center, developing their cycling and bike maintenance skills, and building up athletic endurance.



## Collecting Markers for the Crayola Cycle Program



Again this year, Mrs. Melissa Boileau and her second grade students will be collecting markers. Since earlier September, they have collected and donated over 3,000 used markers, that comes to

75 pounds, to Crayola for the company's ColorCycle program. This program collects used markers (any brand), highlighters and dry erase markers (any brand) to recycle and make new markers thus eliminating waste and helping our environment. Mrs. Boileau and her students will continue to collect used markers, highlighters and dry erase markers, and ship a box when it is filled. If you would like to donate any used materials for this program, feel free to send them or drop them off at SES. We will keep you updated on our progress as the year moves forward.

## SHS Jazz Ensemble Concert

On October 27, at Our Lady of Pompei/St. Peter's Church, the Solvay Vocal Jazz Ensemble joined the Le Moyne Jazzuits and renowned Jazz Artist, Ronnie Leigh, on the concert "The Music of Mister Rogers". Created by Tom Andino and Carol Jacobo, the concert took us through selections of well known songs written by Mr. Fred Rogers that many of us grew up singing and watching. Throughout the concert, narrations of Fred's words were spoken and brought to life. SHS seniors also sang duets with members of the Jazzuits. Donations collected were donated to the Fred Rogers Productions and Our Lady of Pompei St. Peter's Church. This was an extremely special and moving evening.



## Author Visits SMS and SHS

Ms. Kekla Magoon visited SMS and SHS. Kekla is an award-winning author of books for children and young adults. She teaches writing at the Vermont College of Fine Arts and writes both historical fiction and realistic contemporary fiction, focusing on the civil rights movement. Kekla spoke to our students about developing their voices and using writing to explore their questions, lead writing workshops, and invited students on stage to participate in reader's theater. For more information visit [www.keklamagoon.com](http://www.keklamagoon.com).



## Students Celebrate Eid



On June 7, the SHS Library celebrated, Eid, the holiday that marks the end of Ramadan. Student Alien Ali shared Bengali food and henna art, and students learned how the holiday is celebrated in Bangladesh!

## Selected for NYSSMA

Congratulations to (pictured below L to R) Evan Tennant, Nicholas Lopez, and Mico Hayden, who were all selected as Alternates for Mixed Chorus and Jazz Percussion for the New York State School of Music Association (NYSSMA). To be chosen as alternates for these ensembles, students must score a 100 on their auditions, which is no easy feat! Congratulations gentlemen on such a challenging and great accomplishment! We are so proud of you!



## Welcome to Our New Staff!

### Solvay Elementary School

- Rebecca Chandler, Typist I
- Ashley Gardner, Teacher Aide
- Andrea Harris, Library Media Spc.
- Summer Hatch, Teaching Assistant
- Marilyn La Force, Teaching Assistant
- Taylor Marcott, Teaching Assistant
- Joshua Merlob, PE Teacher
- Megan Russell, Special Education Teacher
- Brianna Smith, Gr. I Teacher
- Valerie Wozniczka, Gr. I Teacher

### Solvay High School

- Julia Bruno, PE/Health Teacher
- Corey Graves, Assistant Principal
- Danielle Hall, Teaching Assistant
- Diane Parry-Soutar, Teaching Assistant
- Matthew Tenorio, Physics Teacher
- Rachel Troy, ELA Teacher

### Solvay Middle School

- Catherine Dymus, Library Media Spc.
- Gulia Gulev, PreK Teacher Aide
- Lucille Keller, Cafeteria Aide
- James Heffron, Principal
- Gabrielle Hohl, School Psychologist
- Kara Patterson, Long-term Spanish Tchr.
- Sara Thomson, Food Service Helper

### District

- Jessica Whisher-Hehl, Assist. Supt. for Ed. Svcs.
- Michael Vanelli, Custodial Worker Floater

## Students Bake Apple Pies

SHS students recently went on a field trip to Abbotts Farms in Baldwinsville, NY to pick apples (see pictures below). On the following day, students made and baked apple pies with Ms. Deb Young, one of the after school's B.E.S.T. program teachers.

B.E.S.T. is Solvay's 21<sup>st</sup> Century After School Program. To learn more about other programs offered to the students, visit our website at [www.solvayschools.org](http://www.solvayschools.org).



## Thoughts from a Non-Dietitian

By Lindsey LaDue, School Dietitian-OCM BOCES

Registered Dietitians often receive nicknames such as the food police, but I hope to be a living example that these terms are not always accurate when it comes to nutrition. My professional philosophy is shared by many other non-diet dietitians around the globe.

Consider the following thoughts:

- You're not good or bad for eating certain foods.
- You don't need to count calories or build the perfect meal plan each week. Perfect doesn't exist in nutrition, or any areas of life for that matter.
- You're not doing it wrong.
- There is no wrong way to eat. Eating ice cream is not "bad." Skipping the office donuts because you had a filling breakfast and aren't hungry isn't "bad" either. Sometimes there is more on our metaphorical "plate" that requires our immediate attention.

A few questions to ponder...

- Did I restrict myself from eating at all during the past week?
- If so, which food triggered these thoughts?
- Which foods made me feel great this week?
- When I felt hungry, did I eat?
- Are my food choices stressing me out?

Shifting your thoughts to a positive connotation surrounding food can make a huge difference. As many of you know, I am a big advocate for intuitive eating. Use this information as a resource to develop a better relationship with food this holiday season!

## Weather Cancellations/Emergency Closings

In the event of a closure or delay, due to inclement weather or poor driving conditions, notices will go out via *School Messenger*, email, appear on the district's web site, and news/radio media.



## STEAM Quest Camp at SES

Over the summer, students were provided the opportunity from SUNY Oswego, CNY/OC Teacher Center, CITI, and Onondaga County, to create a keyboard with the Makey Makey program. They coded the robot Dash to move around the room, used Google Expeditions to virtually go on field trips, and used the Seesaw program to document their experiences. Pictures below are of Mrs. Sue Alton and Mrs. Amy Diel's students.



## Giving Back to Solvay Schools

At the September 23 Board of Education meeting, the Kids for Christ Youth Group from St. Marianne Cope Parish, were recognized by the board and staff for the donation of school supplies. The youth group raised \$1,500 and donated \$500 of supplies to each school. The school community "thanks you" and sincerely appreciates this generous donation. Pictured right are members of the youth group and school administrators.







# **SOLVAY** *Sentinel*

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Stephen P. Zalewski, Assistant Clerk

Joseph Barnello, Member

## **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](mailto:sentinel@solvayschools.org).

Interested in hearing about what fellow Solvay alumni are up to? Visit [www.solvayschools.org/alumni](http://www.solvayschools.org/alumni).

## **#SolvayBearcatsFirstDay**

