

Know Your Schools ... Online

Good News You Can Use about the Solon Schools.

Friday, Feb 24, 2023

Welcome to the inaugural issue of Know Your Schools ... Online. As part of the district's Strategic Plan goals for communications, this new online news source is launching today to provide more immediate, consistent and relevant information to all families, staff and our Solon Schools community monthly.

The communications goals are part of the district's newly updated Strategic Plan. You can read the [STRATEGIC PLAN here](#).

OLON MIDDLE SCHOOL'S TACO TUESDAY - A HEALTHIER TAKE

As part of a recent food lab in SMS Family & Consumer Science classes, students made homemade tacos by creating their own seasoning mix. The students talked about how different the finished product tasted using their own seasonings compared to a pre-packaged mix. Additionally, they learned safe handling of raw meat and the economics of making fresh-made tacos at home versus ordering out or having them delivered through Door Dash or Grub Hub.



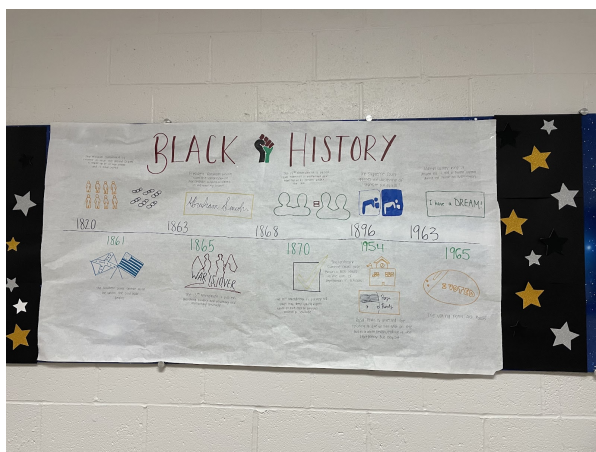
PASSPORT TO THEIR FUTURE

Parkside fourth graders spent the morning of February 24 learning more about the world of work and the skills necessary to succeed in a variety of careers. Among the careers featured by parent volunteers during the Parkside Career Day were medicine (physicians/nurses), education, patent and trademark law, industrial design, human resources, finance/accounting, scientist, consumer research/marketing and industrial/nuclear engineering. Students had the opportunity to take vital signs, learn CPR, look at nuclear submarine models, try remote control robotics and more. The keynote speaker for the program was Solon alum Patrick DiBiasio, an account manager for corporate partnerships with the Cleveland Guardians.



BLACK HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION - A WALK THROUGH HISTORY AT SHS

Solon High School Student Council continued its new tradition of decorating the hallway outside the cafeteria for holidays and special events. This month, the hallway was festively decorated for Black History Month. But the group went deeper this month, partnering with the school's African American Culture Club to create an educational Walk Through History in Comet Alley (the area leading from the study hall area to the athletic wing of the high school). The students posted a Black History timeline and a gallery of influential Black Americans, including Maya Angelou, James Baldwin, Bessie Coleman, Robert Smalls, Ruby Bridges, Angela Davis, the Little Rock 9, Kobe Bryant, and Kissmekia S. Corbett, among others.



OUT-OF-THE-BOX MONITOR RECRUITING

Our district efforts to recruit staff as lunch/recess monitors are paying dividends. School district leaders went to the Solon Senior Center to talk to program participants there about possibilities in working for the schools as lunch/recess monitors. We offer opportunities for full-time, part-time and substitute positions. Several individuals are already in the process of completing applications and pursuing potential employment in these important student supervisory roles.

We have also reached into the high school to recruit students who have open blocks during the middle of the day to work as lunch/recess monitors. The high school monitors are fully engaged with the elementary students and facilitate their play and activity in ways that meet the intent of our recess times. The young students look up to the high schoolers, who are serving as great role models. The high schoolers are also getting valuable leadership and work experience. These are paid positions for the high school students.



ETHNIC EXPO EVENT SPOTLIGHTS THE DIVERSITY OF OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Sponsored by Solon High School's Model UN club, the annual Ethnic Expo is a celebration of diversity. The Ethnic Expo, slated for March 11 from 6-9 p.m. at the high school, is a family-friendly event for children of all ages, providing an opportunity to experience a variety of cultures, foods and entertainment.

Planned entertainment includes ethnic dancers, local bands, student singers, henna art, origami demonstrations and more!

Admission to the event is free and food options are available for purchase.

SOLON HIGH SCHOOL HOSTING 17 SHOW CHOIRS FOR ANNUAL FESTIVAL

How much music can you fit into a single day? More than 12 hours' worth if you attend next weekend's Solon Show Choir Invitational.

Solon High School's Music in Motion is hosting its 11th annual Solon Show Choir Invitational Saturday, March 4. The day-long competition event steps off at 8:30 a.m. on the SHS auditorium stage and features 17 area choirs. The highest-scoring groups from the daytime competition will compete again during the evening finals program, beginning at 7:30 p.m.

As the host singers, dancers, band and crew for the competition, Music in Motion does not compete, but the group will stage a special performance at approximately 10:30 p.m. to close out the evening competition. Music in Motion is again having a successful competition season with their show "Triple Threat."

Tickets for the day are \$20 for adults/\$15 for students (children 5 and under sitting on a parent's lap are free). Tickets are available through Solon's online ticket portal at <https://www.solonschools.org/showticketportal>.



JAZZ FEST

The 2023 Solon Jazz Festival is March 8 at 7 p.m. The evening showcases jazz ensembles from SMS and SHS, with students in grades 7-12 performing. Just prior to the concert (beginning at 6:30 in the Senior Commons), the Solon Music Parents will have a gift basket auction to support music programming in the schools. There is no charge to attend the Jazz Festival.

DIVING SUCCESS AT THE STATE TOURNAMENT

Three of our Solon Comet divers placed in the state diving meet this week. Junior Dom Roberto is a state champion for the third time and Mitch Caldwell took 4th place. Dom is only the third Ohio high school diver to 3-peat as a state champion! In the girls tournament, Bethany Mercer pulled off an amazing final dive to vault herself into a 3rd place finish. It was a stunning performance for our Comet dive teams.



SOLON HIGH SCHOOL STAFF TEACH THE SENIORS A BASKETBALL LESSON - AGAIN!

The Solon High School staff remains undefeated in philanthropic basketball games against the students with an 18-7 victory over the senior team in today's student-staff round robin tournament. The event, which featured games among 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th grade teams as well as the highlight match between the seniors and the staff, supports After Prom.



The halls of Orchard Middle School are filled with positive thoughts thanks to a Gratitude Jar activity students participated in during a recent Homeroom Huddle session. Students decorated gratitude jars by adding things in their lives that they are grateful for - including friends, family, food and other necessities, their extra-curricular activities, nature (wildlife, plants, the ocean, beach, etc.), school, their pets, a home, books, their teachers, good health and sports.

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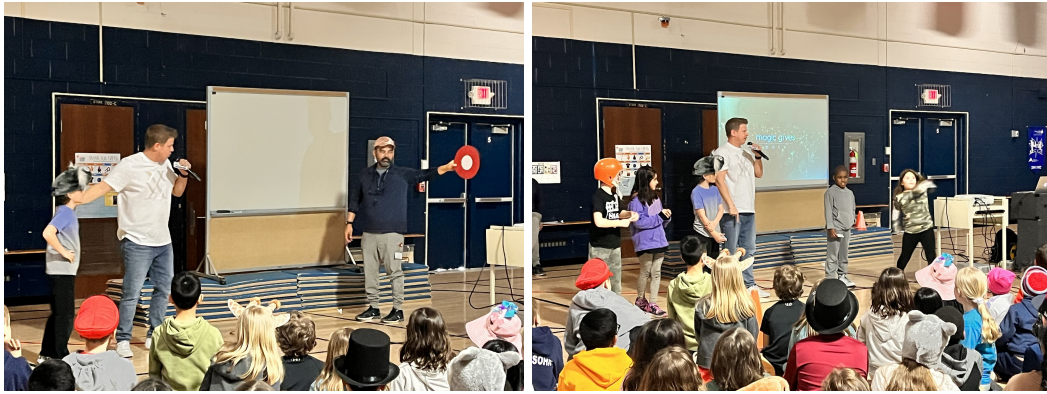
Roxbury students were soaring during a recent STEM program with the Great Lakes Science Center. After building rockets using foam tubes, tape and paper, students launched them in the gym using the mechanisms from Stomp Rockets. The students were able to launch their rockets over and over and ran back to the tables loaded with materials in between launches to make modifications to their rockets. Using their scientific thinking, they hypothesized and applied changes they believed would make their rockets fly higher. Students' rockets routinely reached the rafters in the gym when they changed the tail flaps and smoothed the tips of the rockets to refine their trajectory.



SAVE THE DATES

Solon PTA Council has two family-focused events on the calendar for May. Look for more details from your schools over the next few weeks.

- Solon Day with the Cleveland Guardians featuring the Orchard Ensemble singing the National Anthem on May 27.
- Magic Gives Back - A Las Vegas-style show with illusionist Rick Smith on May 6. Rick will be visiting the schools over the next two weeks to give students a sneak peek. Lewis Elementary was his first stop this week and he had them all wondering "how did he do that?!".



To order tickets, go to <https://www.magicgivesback.com/student-registration>

GOT NEWS? WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

Please share the good news about your Solon students with us so we can help to celebrate and amplify their successes. Just email us at info@solonboe.org and put GOOD NEWS in the subject line.