



# JAGUAR NATION

APRIL 2018 • VOLUME 7, No. 6

SOMERSET COUNTY VOCATIONAL & TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

## SCVTHS STUDENTS' COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT RAISES AWARENESS AND FUNDS FOR CHILDREN'S TUMOR FOUNDATION

### PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Dear Jaguar Nation,

Spring has finally sprung, and preparations have been underway for the SkillsUSA state competitions on April 14. Instructors and students are continually working on sharpening their already impressive skills as they prepare for their CTE area competition. Good luck on going for the Gold!

In addition, students have enjoyed several extended learning opportunities with recent field trips to NJ Pipe Fitters Local 274, Union City High School Dance Festival, Cosmetology Hair Show at the Jacob Javits Center in NYC, and Hunterdon Hills Playhouse in West Hampton to name a few.

A very special shout out to this year's Scholar Athletes, Rebeka Quagliato and Brian Turck, who will be honored at a county-wide dinner on May 9. Way to go, Rebeka and Brian!

#### School Spirit Alert

- March 28: National Honor Society Induction Ceremony at 7:00pm
- April 14: SkillsUSA State Competitions at SCVTHS
- April 21: Rotary Interact and HOSA Beach Sweep Service Project

#### On The Field

Baseball and Softball seasons have begun so please remember to check out our sports schedule on our website and come on out in a show of support to cheer our teams on. Go Jags!

#### This year's seniors on the fields

Baseball: Malachi Brockman, Christian Melendez, Alex Norz, and Brian Turck  
Softball: Rebeka Quagliato and Christine Starozytnyk

Sincerely,

Diane M. Ziegler



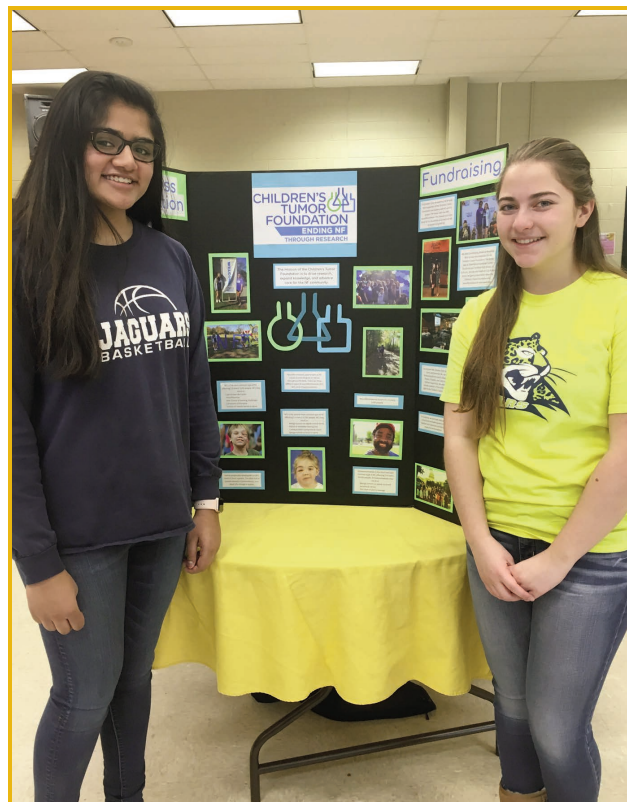
As part of a community service project, Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School students Ritu Peddinti of Bridgewater, Michelle Masiello of Hillsborough and Mira Amin of Bridgewater have been raising awareness of neurofibromatosis and fundraising for the Children's Tumor Foundation.

The Children's Tumor Foundation supports research for neurofibromatosis and the families who are affected by it. Neurofibromatosis is a type of cancer that causes tumors to grow on nerves throughout the body. Over the past year, the students have raised over \$1,000 for the Foundation by selling bracelets and hosting fundraising dinners.

"One of the most successful dinners we had was at Chipotle, where people could bring in flyers, and 50% of their profits would be donated to our project; we earned \$108.25 from that fundraiser," said Ritu Peddinti. Ritu went on to add, "Another successful dinner took place at our school's Trade Wins Restaurant, where we presented a slideshow about neurofibromatosis to over 30 people and raised awareness for our cause."

Additionally, as part of their project, the team participated in a neurofibromatosis walk and have been in contact with a director at the Children's Tumor Foundation in order to create gift baskets. "These baskets will contain different crafts and DIY kits that the kids can use to decorate their hospital rooms," Ritu explained.

In April, the students' project will culminate with the team competing at the New Jersey SkillsUSA Championships in the community service category, where they will be showcasing the work they've done over the course of the year.\*



(l-r): Ritu Peddinti of Bridgewater and Michelle Masiello of Hillsborough in front of a display for their community service project.

For more information, contact James Strickhart at [jstrickhart@scvts.net](mailto:jstrickhart@scvts.net) or (908) 526-8900, x7169.



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# JAGUAR NATION

APRIL 2018

## SCVTHS HOSTS TENTH ANNUAL BLOOD DRIVE

### JAGUAR NATION

Volume 7, No. 6 • April 2018

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*This publication was funded by the  
Somerset County Board of Chosen Freeholders*



Students from the HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America) Club and the Health Occupations Program at Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School gather for a picture at the 2018 Blood Drive.

(back l-r): Rebeka Quagliato of South Bound Brook; Jenna Molfetta of Bound Brook, Ramon You of Somerset, Christine Starozytnyk of South Bound Brook, Health Occupations Instructor Kim Vasaturo, and Carolyn Romero of Bound Brook;

(front l-r): Sam Shephard of Hillsborough, Brian Coletta of Green Brook, Nicole VanderWal of Hillsborough, and Sarah Castro of Raritan.

Students from the HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America) Club and the Health Occupations Program at Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School, in coordination with Atlantic Health System serving Overlook Hospital, hosted their Tenth Annual Blood Drive on Thursday, March 1, 2018.

The Health Occupations and HOSA students were involved in the scheduling and coordination of the drive and received practical hands-on experience caring for the blood donors during and after their donations.

Over one hundred SCVTHS students and staff members were credited with contributing 65 units at the event.✿



## STUDENT OF THE MONTH

## Madison Pitts

Madison Pitts, a sophomore in the Health Occupations Program, has been selected as Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School's Student of the Month for March 2018. Madison is the daughter of Reginald Pitts and Ericka Lewis of South Bound Brook.

SCVTHS English Instructor Rachel Miller nominated Madison for the Student of the Month Award because, "she is an incredibly hard worker and dedicated English student. For example, she will redo and rewrite every assignment until it meets her high standards. She never hesitates to express her opinions about the literature, while respecting the other students' interpretations. Madison is also very involved in the school community. I had the pleasure of helping her decorate for Haunted Halls this year."

At SCVTHS, Madison stays busy by participating on the basketball and cheerleading teams. She also is a member of the Rotary and Operation Smile Clubs at SCVTHS.

Outside of SCVTHS, Madison spends time volunteering at a food bank in Irvington and at clothing drives.

After graduating high school, Madison has a goal of being accepted into an ivy league college, going on to medical school and becoming a pediatric heart surgeon.

This summer, Madison is excited to attend a leadership conference in Seattle with Operation Smile.✿



Madison Pitts

