



# JAGUAR NATION

DECEMBER 2012 • VOLUME 1, No. 3

SOMERSET COUNTY VOCATIONAL & TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

Happy Holidays

## Culinary Arts Program at SCVTHS Serves Up Holiday Cheer

### PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Dear Jaguar Nation,

Staff wise it has been a busy time this Fall. Recently we added a new staff member, Rebecca Hovey, in the position of Educational Media Specialist. Becky is located in the High School Media Center and will be working closely with students and staff to assist with their supplemental instructional needs. Also, we had two current instructors move into new positions. Mr. Jaime Morales, Law and Public Safety Instructor will be assuming responsibilities as our new Coordinator of Student Discipline and Activities. Mr. Ben Pokrywa, Electrical Construction Teacher, will be assuming the role of Cooperative Education Coordinator, working closely with students and teachers in the areas of career education and workforce placement opportunities.

#### School Spirit Alert:

We will be having our annual Santa Breakfast on December 8th in our student cafeteria. This is a fun, community-minded event and supports our school's local chapter of SkillsUSA, a career and technical student organization designed to give our students a solid foundation in career and professional development activities as well as local, state and national competitions. This is a great opportunity for our students to interact with community members and raise money for the school.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,  
Diane M. Ziegler



Diane M. Ziegler

This holiday season, students in the Culinary Arts Program at Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School will be hard at work hosting events and bringing holiday cheer to the community.

The Culinary Arts students recently took part in a "Wedding Cake Icing and Décor" presentation by Chef Paul Prosperi, a Pastry Art Professor from The Culinary Institute of America. The event, sponsored by SkillsUSA, was presented to 52 students from SCVTHS and other vocational schools from around the state. Many of the students who attended the informative presentation will be putting the skills and techniques they learned into practice at the Cake Decorating Contest at next year's SkillsUSA Competitions.

On December 8th, students from the Culinary Arts Program and SkillsUSA volunteers will invite the community to Breakfast With Santa, a favorite community event at SCVTHS. Guests of all ages will enjoy a buffet breakfast, purchase holiday gifts, and take pictures with Santa. Proceeds from the annual event will benefit SCVTHS SkillsUSA students competing at next year's national competitions in Kansas City, Missouri.

A variety of organizations and clubs are scheduled to take advantage of the services of the TradeWins Restaurant at SCVTHS. This year the student-run restaurant has been host to many different community groups for meetings and meals. Hailed as a tremendous success, this service not only gives the Culinary Arts students real-life experience through serving guests on a regular basis, but also strengthens their community relations skills. From serving a buffet for an organizational meeting for Easter Seals, baking apple pies for the school's Annual Food Drive, to teaching Bridgewater Garden Club members how to create an easy Thanksgiving dinner menu, the Culinary Arts students are being relied



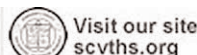
(left to right): Victoria Iturra and Andrea Sanchez, Juniors in the SCVTHS Culinary Arts Program, bringing holiday cheer to the community.

upon to perform a wide range of tasks. With so many events on their calendar, the Culinary Arts students at SCVTHS are really getting a taste for the real world! \*

Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School's TradeWins Restaurant is available to host breakfast, brunch and lunch events during the school day. For pricing and more information on the Program's offerings, contact Culinary Arts Instructor Mark Mastrobattista at (908) 526-8900, ext. 7149 or email [mmastrobattista@scvts.net](mailto:mmastrobattista@scvts.net).



**SOMERSET COUNTY VOCATIONAL & TECHNICAL SCHOOLS**  
14 Vogt Drive • Bridgewater, NJ 08807 • (908) 526-8900  
A US News & World Report Top Ranked High School!



**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- SCVTHS Theater Arts presents "WORKING" Dec. 13-15 • [jmanuso@scvts.net](mailto:jmanuso@scvts.net)
- SANTA BREAKFAST December 8th • [mfresco@scvts.net](mailto:mfresco@scvts.net)



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DECEMBER 2012

## SCVTHS ANNUAL FOOD DRIVE PROVIDES BASKETS TO FAMILIES IN NEED



### SOCCER TEAMS' SUCCESSFUL SEASONS

The SCVTHS Boys and Girls Soccer Teams have just wrapped up their 2012 seasons with their best records to date:

#### 2012 AWARDS

##### SCVTHS BOYS SOCCER\*

Offensive Player of the Year – Brandon Malebranche  
Defensive Player of the Year – Carlos Cabral  
Coach's Recognition – Christopher Geissler  
Most Improved Player – Matthew Wojenski

##### GRADUATING SENIORS:

Thomas Bucek, Michael LaFace, Kevin Leal,  
Brandon Malebranche & Matthew Wojenski

##### SCVTHS GIRLS SOCCER†

Offensive Player of the Year – Harleen Singh  
Defensive Player of the Year – Karen Huang  
Rookie of the Year – Victoria Shahinian  
Coach's Recognition – Regine Canuel

##### GRADUATING SENIORS:

Maggie Hlavaty & Courtney Kahlsdorf

*\*The Boys Soccer Team played a very competitive schedule and finished their season with a final record of 10-10. This marks their best and most successful record in SCVTHS school history!*

*†The Girls Soccer Team ended their season with a 14-7 record and accumulated more victories this season than they have over the past three seasons combined. The girls strung together 12 straight wins, the longest winning streak of any sport at SCVTHS!*

### SOMERSET COUNTY VOCATIONAL & TECHNICAL SCHOOLS

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VISIT OUR WEBSITE:  
[www.scvths.org](http://www.scvths.org)

In the wake of Hurricane Sandy and the recent Nor'easter, Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School continued a 13 year tradition of holding an Annual Holiday Food Drive and creating food baskets to support families in need. Efforts for the drive were led by SCVTHS SkillsUSA, our Class Advisors and Principal Diane Ziegler.

"In light of the havoc and devastation caused by Super Storm Sandy, I'm sure the need to help local families is greater than ever," Ms. Ziegler said. She went on to add, "Our main goal is to assist families within our school community for the upcoming holiday."

As part of the Food Drive, each class grade had the opportunity to win a pizza party by donating the most food items. This year, the Sophomore Class won the party by donating 259 food items, which were included in the holiday baskets.



SCVTHS Sophomore Class recognized for collecting 141 food items for Annual Food Drive donations. (left to right) Geneva Magsino, Treasurer; Diane Ziegler, Principal; Karen Huang, President; Physical Education Instructor Matthew Poznanski, Class Advisor; Shawn Young, Vice President; Saloni Lad, Secretary.

After all the donations were collected, twenty-one families in need were provided with baskets filled with food so that they may be able to enjoy the holidays.

The SCVTHS Annual Food Drive will continue through December. All of the additional donations will be given to Somerset County food banks to support families affected by Hurricane Sandy.\*

For more information on the SCVTHS Annual Food Drive contact James Strickhart at (908) 526-8900, ext. 7169 or [jstrickhart@scvts.net](mailto:jstrickhart@scvts.net).

### STUDENT OF THE MONTH

## CONNIE RUNYON

Connie Runyon, a full time senior in the Gifted and Talented Honors Theater Arts Program, has been selected as Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School's Student of the Month for November 2012. Connie is the daughter of James and Jane Runyon of So. Bound Brook. Miranda McMahon, Connie's English Instructor, nominated her for Student of the Month saying, "She is friendly, involved and always encouraging to her fellow classmates and respectful to her teachers." McMahon went on to add, "She is a thoughtful and diplomatic participant in our discussions and has contributed outstanding insights from her experiences in her program that relate to important topics."

Connie is an active member in the National Technical Honor Society and Bridgewater Women's Club. She loves sports, working out, dancing and singing. After graduating from SCVTHS, Connie plans on attending college for a degree in either



Theater Arts senior Connie Runyon

Theater Arts Management or Business and Performing Arts. Connie's long term goal is to open a studio in New York.\*