



JAGUAR NATION

OCTOBER 2012 • VOLUME 1, No. 1

SOMERSET COUNTY VOCATIONAL & TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

Welcome to our Readers!

New Graphic Communications Program Unveiled at SCVTHS

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Dear Jaguar Nation,

Welcome to our new Jaguar Nation Newsletter and the Principal's Corner.

Parent involvement is a crucial part of the success of our students and generates a positive and student-centered learning environment. On September 13, we hosted a successful Back to School Night with over 250 parents attending. Also, on September 19, we had our first Parent Advisory Committee meeting. The PAC meets monthly in our Trade Wins Restaurant at 6:30 pm. For more information, please reach out to PAC President, Michele Cardenas at scvtspac@gmail.com. New members are always welcome!

School Spirit at SCVTHS unites students and staff and allows a sense of pride to flow through our community. In fact, our school has won the School Spirit Award for the 5k Legal Runaround presented by the Somerset County Bar Foundation for the second year in a row. In addition, we are in the midst of planning special activities to recognize the Week of Respect (October 1-5) and School Violence Awareness Week (October 15-19). We will continue our involvement in many activities promoting school spirit and pride for our entire school community.

As you may already know, our school has been acknowledged by US News and World Report for being one of the nation's top high schools, receiving a bronze medal designation. We remain committed to providing a quality career and technical education for our students. I appreciate your support in continuing the advancement of Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School.

Sincerely,

Diane M. Ziegler



Diane M. Ziegler

Over the summer, the Commercial Art and Print Shop Programs were officially combined into a Graphic Communications Program which promises to bring fresh and exciting challenges to the students at Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School.

The merging of the programs began with a renovation and physical move of the Commercial Art classroom which is now located next door to the Print Shop. With the move accomplished, the time was right to combine the Commercial Art and Printing Programs into one Graphic Communications Program.

“What the students were missing was the business end of the program,” said Instructor Linda Weber-Smith. The curriculum has since been updated so that all Graphic Communications students will be given instruction focused on the business aspects of the industry. More specifically, students will learn how to balance budgets, take and complete orders, manage jobs and time, service customers, and meet deadlines. To accomplish this goal students will become project managers as they create production schedules, follow through with customers, and see entire projects from inception to completion as they interact with the public.

An important addition to the new Graphic Communications Program is the new production room, located between the two instructional areas. This production area will be used by students to take orders for in-house projects such as brochures, flyers, and posters, as well as teacher-approved jobs from outside community organizations.

Instructors Linda Weber-Smith and Joseph Alfieri are thrilled with the new program and recognize that the extra room will increase



(left to right): SCVTHS Graphic Communications Instructors Joseph Alfieri and Linda Weber-Smith

collaboration and allow students to complete projects more efficiently in the shared workspaces.

The students will certainly be busy this school year as their instructors ensure that they will be well-prepared and given a taste for real-world working conditions. *



SOMERSET COUNTY VOCATIONAL & TECHNICAL SCHOOLS

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SOMERSET COUNTY VOCATIONAL & TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL WINS SCHOOL SPIRIT AWARD

SOMERSET COUNTY VOCATIONAL & TECHNICAL SCHOOLS

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Duane Wallace • *Editor & Designer*
James Strickhart • *Editorial*
Sharleen Leahey • *Graphic Production*
Janet Cantore-Watson • *Photography*

For the second time in as many years, Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School has won the School Spirit Award, presented by the Somerset County Bar Foundation. The award is given to the Somerset County high school which has the largest number of affiliated registrants in the Somerset County Bar Foundation Legal Runaround 5K, held each year in May.

Monica Carlton of S. Bound Brook, a junior in the Law and Public Safety program, was credited as the student liaison who helped to sign up members of the SCVTHS school community and promote the event throughout the County. Among SCVTHS participants in the race were administrators, staff, students and their families. As a result of Monica's efforts in helping SCVTHS win the School Spirit Award, the Somerset County Bar Foundation awarded her an iPod Touch.

Proceeds from the Legal Runaround 5K benefit local non-profit organizations and scholarships for county residents to pursue educational advancement in the legal field. The next Legal Runaround 5K will be held on May 24, 2013. There will also be a 3K Walk and Kids Dash for those who wish to participate. *



(left to right): Carol Ann Winder presents the School Spirit Award to Law and Public Safety Instructor Jaime Morales and Principal Diane Ziegler.

For more information contact James Strickhart at (908) 526-8900 x7169 • jstrickhart@scvts.net or Carol Ann Winder at the Bar Foundation at (908) 685-2323 • cawinder@somersetbar.com.

BRONZE MEDAL WINNERS RAISING FUNDS FOR CLEAN WATER INITIATIVE

In December 2011, Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School students Apurva Swapnil of Hillsborough, Shawn Young of Martinsville, and Abhishek Shrinet of South Bound Brook decided to raise awareness and educate their school community about the importance and scarcity of clean water throughout the world. Their message was centered on spreading knowledge and awareness about the conservation of natural resources with water as their main focus.

Swapnil, Young and Shrinet were able to bring in Seth Maxwell of the Thirst Project to further motivate and educate SCVTHS. The Thirst Project is a non-profit organization which was created to inform and empower students about the global water crisis. During a recent SCVTHS assembly, Seth Maxwell explained how water clean limitations in Third World countries can significantly affect a community. The ultimate goal of both the SCVTHS group and the Thirst Project is to build clean water wells for underdeveloped and in need countries which range in cost from \$5,000 to \$12,000.

To gain support and increase donations, the students have teamed up with United for Rural and Agricultural Development (URAD), the Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School Horticulture Program and the Rotary Interact Club.

Last summer Swapnil, Young and Shrinet gave a presentation at the 2012 NJ SkillsUSA Championships in Kansas City, MO. The students won Gold medals in the Tech Prep Career Pathways Showcase (Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources) and received Bronze medals for their presentation.

As a new school year begins Swapnil, Young and Shrinet are planning to open a local chapter of the Thirst Project at Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School, create fundraisers, host more assemblies, and continue to spread the word about their cause. "We hope to help some of the people most affected by the global water crisis," said Apurva Swapnil. With lots of hard work and much-needed donations the students plan to build freshwater wells to help a community in need. *



(left to right): Shawn Young of Martinsville, Abhishek Shrinet of South Bound Brook, Seth Maxwell, and Apurva Swapnil of Hillsborough.