



# JAGUAR NATION

NOVEMBER 2012 • VOLUME 1, No. 2

SOMERSET COUNTY VOCATIONAL & TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

## CASE Curriculum Enhances SCVTHS Horticultural Technology Program

### PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Dear Jaguar Nation,

First and foremost, I would like to commend all our students and staff for their participation during October's Annual Week of Respect and School Violence Awareness Week. Assemblies were provided that centered on anti-violence and anti-bullying messages. Students read quotes, created photo collages, took pledges and added artwork to our Wall of Peace; all centered on respecting themselves, others, and their school. The Wall of Peace is an area in our hallway leading up to the student cafeteria and was designed to give students the opportunity to permanently promote positive statements and ideas. Students submit drawings and the chosen artwork is then painted on a brick. I look forward to watching this wall grow.

Kudos to our SCVTHS Girls Varsity Soccer Team for winning their 8th game in a row and clinching a spot in the State Playoffs! Go Jags!

#### School Spirit Alert:

We have begun collecting food for our annual Holiday Food Drive. This drive will assist Somerset County families in need and bring a Thanksgiving meal to their table. In the spirit of encouraging donations, we are simultaneously having a competition between each grade level. The class that donates the most food will win a pizza party!

Thank you and as always, your support is appreciated.

Sincerely,  
Diane M. Ziegler



Diane M. Ziegler



(left to right): Ryan Choynake, Instructor Erik Fargo, Frank Merrill and Nancy Trivette perform a lab using CASE.

Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School's Horticulture Program is now in the second year of implementing the nationally recognized CASE (Curriculum for Agriculture Science Education) Program. The CASE Program uses student-directed learning interactive labs, as well as STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics) educational components.

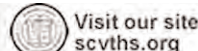
As one of 17 other schools in the state of New Jersey to be certified to teach and implement the CASE program, Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School is in elite company. In addition, CASE is now being taught in 26 states. By using CASE, SCVTHS is able to expand offerings for its students, leading to opportunities for high skill and high wage jobs after graduation. The program will also give students the opportunity to gain valuable college credits while still in high school. Instructor Erik Fargo is a firm believer in the new curriculum. "I'm really excited about the opportunities CASE will provide for our students," he stated.

Nancy Trivette, the State Program Leader and State Advisor of Agricultural Education for New Jersey's Department of Agriculture, recently visited the SCVTHS Horticulture Program and spoke very highly of CASE.

"By incorporating the CASE Program students will become more focused on the science involved. By implementing CASE, SCVTHS is making the program more than vocational, while improving students' readiness for careers," Ms. Trivette explained.\*



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A US News & World Report Top Ranked High School!





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## STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN 'WEEK OF RESPECT' AT SCVTHS

### Annual Cut-A-Thon Raises Funds In Memory Of Mackenzie Wright



(right) Cosmetology Student Julia Heller, Bridgewater, performs a manicure during Annual Cut A-Thon

Cosmetology Instructor Julie Strober and her students provided over 70 haircuts and manicures to community members to raise \$1,300 for Cure Search for Childhood Cancer Research, the most ever generated by a Cut-A-Thon in school history. Instructor Julie Strober was thrilled with the turn-out and how professionally her students performed throughout the day. Strober plans to continue and grow this event in the years to come.

For more information on this event or to donate, contact Cosmetology Instructor Julie Strober at (908) 526-8900, ext. 7260 • [jstrober@scvths.net](mailto:jstrober@scvths.net).

As part of the annual Week of Respect, and in accordance with the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act (P.L.2010, c.122), the Linkages Department at Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School implemented daily events for students to recognize the importance of character education through preventing harassment, intimidation and bullying in their school community.

Over the course of the week, students created new designs for the ever-expanding Wall of Peace. In addition, a Respect Newsletter was distributed and students filled out a Respect Pledge and Respect Worksheets outlining how they show respect for themselves, others and their school. During daily announcements each morning, students read quotes centering on the anti-bullying theme. Linkages staff member Rose Murtagh created a student survey and prepared respect-related music, which was played in the school's cafeteria during lunch periods.

Students in Deb Gichan's Photography classes were major contributors to the week's events. "Because there is no gray when it comes to bullying, the students were tasked with creating black and white images incorporating anti-bullying slogans they



(left to right) Freshmen Ramya Kommidi of Franklin Park and Anthony Santana of Somerset create anti-violence artwork on SCVTHS' Wall of Peace.

found or made up," Deb Gichan said. The students' photographs have since been on display throughout the school's buildings, hallways and cafeteria.

SCVTHS' 'Week of Respect' was further enhanced by the J-Line Dance Crew who performed two assemblies centered on anti-violence, anti-bullying and the importance of self-esteem. By injecting a unique musical twist into the traditional school assembly the J-Line Dance Crew's interactive and exciting performances educated and energized students.\*

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

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Volume 1, No. 2 • November 2012

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### STUDENT OF THE MONTH

## SAMANTHA SCHNITZER

Samantha Schnitzer, a full-time senior in the Graphic Communications Program, has been selected as Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School's Student of the Month for October 2012. Samantha is an active member in her school community. She is involved in both the National Technical Honor Society and the National Honor Society Clubs. Additionally, Samantha is currently enrolled in a Color Theory course at Raritan Valley Community College two days a week during her Graphic Communications class period. Samantha was recently honored by having her artwork displayed at the Teen Arts Festival.

During holiday and summer vacations, Samantha spends her time working at Apples & Books, Bugs & Sticks Child Daycare Center, located in Somerville. In her spare time, Samantha likes to volunteer at her church and attend mission trips. Samantha is the daughter of Scott and Debbie Schnitzer of Somerville.



Graphic Communications student Samantha Schnitzer

After graduating from SCVTHS, Samantha plans to continue her education at Raritan Valley Community College where she plans to study Psychology.\*