



JAGUAR NATION

FEBRUARY 2013 • VOLUME 2, No. 2

SOMERSET COUNTY VOCATIONAL & TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

Celebrating Career & Technical Education Month!

Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School Hosts Sixth Annual Open House

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Dear Jaguar Nation,

Welcome back from the holiday break! I hope everyone had a relaxing and enjoyable New Year celebration. Preparations are underway for our annual Open House event being held from 9am-12pm on Saturday, February 2. This is a special day for our school community when staff and students work together to showcase our programs to the public and is a great way to have potential students and parents learn more about our school. Please look for future communications regarding our Open House event on our school's website. I encourage current students and parents to be a part of this exciting day.

In addition, many of our teachers and students have been preparing for local and state level SkillsUSA contests. I would like to extend a word of encouragement to all students involved in SkillsUSA. You have all been working very hard for the competitions that will be held in February, and I wish all of you the best of luck! Show everybody what you're made of, and most importantly, have fun doing it!

School Spirit Alert:

Home boys' basketball games are listed below. We welcome you to be a part of these events in a show of support for our students. Go Jags!

Sincerely,
Diane M. Ziegler

Basketball – Varsity & Junior Varsity Schedule:

02/04, 02/05, 02/07, 02/12, 02/14 & 02/19*

Please visit our website for game times.

*Save the Date: At 4:00 pm on February 19, SCVTHS will be hosting the annual Senior Night for our Basketball and Cheer Team Seniors. Parents are asked to attend as we will be acknowledging our upperclassmen for their contributions to the team.



Diane M. Ziegler



In celebration of Career & Technical Education Month, Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School (SCVTHS) will hold its 6th Annual Open House from 9 AM - 12 Noon on Saturday, February 2, 2013. A snow date of February 9th has been set in case of inclement weather. During the event, faculty and staff will be available to answer questions as well as provide information on each of the seventeen Career and Technical Education Programs available at SCVTHS. Some highlights of the day include campus tours, a full review of all academic offerings and program demonstrations. In addition, hors d'oeuvres will be served by Culinary Arts students in the cafeteria, where guests can meet with the advisors of SCVTHS sports teams, extracurricular activities, and clubs.

Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School is a fully accredited, four year high school located on an eighty acre campus at 14 Vogt Drive in Bridgewater, New Jersey. Serving all of Somerset County, SCVTHS accepts students on a full or shared-time basis for challenging programs that combine training in occupational and academic

skills. Along with the Career and Technical Education offerings, students are provided with the opportunity to take a variety of rigorous college preparatory academic courses. Ranked as a U.S. News and World Report Bronze Medal Winner for being one of the "Best High Schools" in America, SCVTHS has been providing quality education and technical skills training for over forty years.

All interested guests are encouraged to pre-register for this event online at www.scvths.org or call 908-526-8900, ext. 7243.*

For more information contact **Cindy Witthoef** at (908) 526-8900, ext. 7243 or email cwitthoef@scvts.net.



UPCOMING EVENTS

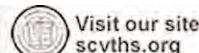
- OPEN HOUSE
February 2 • 9 to 12 noon
- SENIOR NIGHT
February 19 • 4 pm



SOMERSET COUNTY VOCATIONAL & TECHNICAL SCHOOLS

14 Vogt Drive • Bridgewater, NJ 08807 • (908) 526-8900

A US News & World Report Top Ranked High School!





FEBRUARY 2013

TOPS Students Spread Holiday Cheer To Agapé House Residents

Students from the TOPS (Technical Occupational Preparation for Success) alternative program at Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School recently brought their holiday spirit, along with many gifts, to the Agapé House in Somerville, NJ. The Agapé House, run by Volunteers of America Delaware Valley, is a 60-bed family shelter which provides temporary housing and case management to homeless families and individuals.

"The Agapé House event was a TOPS-wide initiative that was started by our TOPS Council consisting of student members

Magaly Chiribao, Scott Zydiak, Jocelyn Ojeda, Matt Balawender, Katrina Regan, and Breana Cox," explained instructor Robert Carrig. Carrig went on to describe how the TOPS students were in charge of purchasing, collecting, wrapping and delivering the gifts.

Carrig was overwhelmed by his students' response, "especially from Montana Hendershot, Tania Rosales, Chap'rel Hoagland and

Breana Cox who went out of their way to purchase gifts with their own money for some of the kids (and adults) at the house." In addition, the TOPS students took it upon themselves to create holiday cards for all of the families at the Agapé House.



(left to right) TOPS student Scott Zydiak delivers a present to a child at the Agapé House.



(L-R): TOPS students Breana Cox of Bridgewater, Scott Zydiak of Bridgewater, Chap'rel Hoagland of Somerset, & Tierra Ralph of Somerset, at the Agapé House.

With gifts in tow, the students visited the Agapé House to help bring joy to several less fortunate families. A total of 40 gifts were donated and delivered to the Agapé House for the event. Because of all the donations, each one of the 29 children at the Agapé House were able to receive gifts.

Scott Zydiak, a junior TOPS student in the Culinary Arts program, enjoyed interacting with the younger residents of the Agapé House. Scott reflected on his time handing out gifts saying, "I liked seeing their hearts and eyes open up when they opened the gifts. It made me grateful for what I have."*

For more information on this story, contact **James Strickhart** at (908) 526-8900, x7169 or jstrickhart@scvts.net. For more information on the Agapé House, please visit www.voadv.org.

STUDENT OF THE MONTH

MATTHEW WOJENSKI

Matthew Wojenski, a full-time Senior in the Plumbing Program, has been selected as Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School's Student of the Month for January 2013. Matthew is the son of Joseph and Colleen Wojenski of Franklin Township.

Helen Bolha, Matthew's English Instructor, who nominated him to be the Student of the Month, describes Matthew as a diligent student who regularly assists his peers and is a frequent class participant. Ms. Bolha also remarked on Matthew's stellar attendance record and excellent grades.

While attending SCVTHS, Matthew has enjoyed spending time as a student ambassador,

visiting local middle schools and discussing his career path with younger students.

In addition, Matthew lettered four years on the SCVTHS Soccer Team, and even served as a captain this past season. Outside of school, Matthew has worked as a camp counselor at Oak Crest Day Camp and as a referee for soccer games in Franklin Township. In his free time, Matthew practices Taekwondo and is a second degree black belt.

After graduating from SCVTHS, Matthew plans on working as a plumbing apprentice while attending Raritan Valley Community College in order to obtain a business degree. One day, Matthew hopes to own his own plumbing business.*



Plumbing Program Senior Matthew Wojenski



FEBRUARY 2013

SCVTHS Basketball Team Sponsors Toy Drive at the Matheny Medical & Educational Center

Coach Ahmed Mackey and the Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School Basketball Team held a toy drive this past holiday season for the 60 children and young adults at the Matheny Medical and Educational Center which treats children and young adults with severe physical and developmental disabilities.

The SCVTHS students and coaches did more than organize and gather toys for the drive—they spent their Christmas morning delivering the toys and spending time with the children and young adults.*

For more information contact James Strickhart at (908) 526-8900, ext. 7169 or jstrickhart@scvths.net.



SCVTHS basketball team members and Coach Erick Bowers (far left) pose for a picture with Matheny Medical and Educational Center children during their holiday visit.



SCVTHS Red Cross Club members (l-r) Timothy Mahon, Olabade Omole, Anand Arikarevula, Urma Jalil, Rachel Trischetta, Brinda Raghuraman, Thomas Bucek, Emily Fu-Sum, Varun Khandavalli, Stachy Brenes, Ashnee Patel, Preethi Govindarajan, and Serina Giannobile, who participated in the fundraiser.

SCVTHS Red Cross Club Holds Fundraiser

On December 2, 2012 the Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School Red Cross Club held a “Flapjack Fundraiser” at the Bridgewater Applebee’s. The fundraiser was organized and run by the SCVTHS Red Cross Club members who also volunteered as pancake servers, beverage servers, bussers, and greeters.

The event raised a total of \$1,252, which was then donated to the disaster relief fund of the American Red Cross.*

For more information contact James Strickhart at (908) 526-8900, x7169 or jstrickhart@scvths.net.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

www.scvths.org



FEBRUARY 2013

SCVTHS Students in Graphic Communications Program Win Spirit of the Season Award

When Jeanene Leppert, a Special Projects Manager at Special Olympics New Jersey (SONJ), contacted the Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School Graphic Communications Program looking for a new design for their 4th Annual Jingle All The Way 3K Road Race & Fun Run, the students quickly jumped into action.

Led by students Alexis Varga of Middlebush and Sergio Rivera of Raritan, and with the help of Alyson Coletta of Green Brook and Kalen Whitney of Neshanic Station, they took on the project from start to finish. The students were in charge of everything from design creation to gaining approval from SONJ, so that they would have a clean professional image to use for their event.

After revisions and edits the design was finally approved, and over 500 T-shirts were created to be distributed to the 3K run participants. Jeanene Leppert and Special Olympics New Jersey were so thrilled that they

presented a Spirit of the Season Award to the SCVTHS Graphic Communications students involved in the project.

Graphic Communications Instructors Joseph Alfieri and Linda Weber-Smith were delighted with their students' work on the community service project.

"With the addition of the Paw Prints Shop into our program, the students are acting as liaisons to outside organizations, giving them the chance to expand their communications skills and work on real-world projects," stated Linda Weber-Smith.

Next year, because of their overwhelming success, SONJ will be hosting three different 3K runs across the state of New Jersey. The students in the Graphic Communications Program at SCVTHS are already scheduled to participate in those upcoming events.*

For information on the Graphic Communications Program at SCVTHS please contact Linda Weber-Smith at (908) 526-8900, x7152 or lweber-smith@scvts.net.

For more information on Special Olympics New Jersey, please visit www.sonj.org.



Graphic Communications students Sergio Rivera and Alexis Varga show off their T-shirt design and Spirit of the Season Award.

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Duane Wallace • Editor & Designer

James Strickhart • Editorial

Sharleen Leahey • Graphic Production

Janet Cantore-Watson • Photography

VISIT OUR WEBSITE:
www.scvths.org

SCVTHS Names 2012 Business Partner of the Year

Steve Shanley, the President and CEO of American Tire & Auto Care, in Green Brook, New Jersey has been selected as Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School's 2012 Business Partner of the Year.

Mr. Shanley was selected for the award because of his active contributions and participation in SCVTHS's Automotive and Diesel Technology Programs.

Over the past five years, Shanley has consistently dedicated and volunteered his time as an advisory committee member, SkillsUSA judge, and mentor to the students at SCVTHS.

As a local business owner, Shanley has taken advantage of SCVTHS's Cooperative Education work experience program by employing SCVTHS students and giving

them real-world experience, while still attending high school.

Mr. Shanley's input and insight has proven to be of great value in updating the school's curriculum for the constantly-changing Automotive and Diesel Technology fields.*

For more information contact James Strickhart at (908) 526-8900, x7169 or jstrickart@scvts.net.