



JAGUAR NATION

NOVEMBER 2014 • VOLUME 4, No. 1

SOMERSET COUNTY VOCATIONAL & TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

SCVTHS WILL PARTICIPATE IN JERSEY FRESH FARM TO SCHOOL RECOGNITION PROGRAM

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Dear Jaguar Nation,

I extend a warm welcome back to everyone in our school community. I look forward to a positive school year, filled with many exciting learning and co-curricular opportunities. The beginning of the school year is a special time and students and staff alike are eager, enthusiastic and hopeful. I encourage students to set personal goals and to participate in clubs and activities; to get involved in school programs.

Our school community grieves a loss with the passing of staff member Tom D'Alessandro. Tom was a dedicated staff member who touched the lives of students and staff alike, and he will be greatly missed. Students in the Graphics Communication students and others are working on internal projects to honor Tom's memory.

School-wide Events to Highlight:

Our annual Holiday Food Drive, which will begin on October 20, is a time for our school community to work together and give back. This event each year reminds us to take the focus off of ourselves and to put the needs of others first. Linkages, Class Advisors and Instructors are sponsoring several activities aligned with promoting consistent Anti-Bullying messages and raising school-wide awareness in the areas of respect and kindness. In addition, students in the HOSA club have completed a Pink Ribbon fundraiser in honor of breast cancer awareness.

Remember to check our website for upcoming soccer games. We welcome you to be a part of these events in a show of support for our teams. Go Jags!



Diane M. Ziegler



(left to right): Instructors Chef Mark Mastrobattista, Erik Fargo (Agriculture Science), and Chef John Vingara

During the 2014-2015 school year, Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School (SCVTHS) will participate in the Jersey Fresh Farm to School Recognition Program, which will recognize and promote efforts to serve Jersey Fresh produce and support local agriculture. With the help and partnership of Maschio's Food Services, the SCVTHS Agricultural Science and Culinary Arts Programs will coordinate monthly events to grow and serve a variety of items on their daily lunch menu. In addition, SCVTHS will strengthen the school communities' knowledge about agriculture and nutrition, increase students' consumption of Jersey Fresh fruits and vegetables, and increase market opportunities for farmers.

Agriculture Science Instructor Erik Fargo began production on a small scale during the 2013-2014 school year and hopes to "put the rubber to the road" by increasing the output for the current school year. A variety of growing techniques will be utilized including a hydroponic system and oak pallet planters, as well as the addition of new LED growing lights. With the expansion, Instructor Fargo aims to increase his harvests and offerings by growing tomatoes, peppers, onions, carrots, leeks, lettuce, and spinach, all of which will be incorporated into

student lunches over the course of the school year. Beyond the health benefits of the program, Teresa Morelli, Supervisor of Academics at SCVTHS, was very excited about the job opportunities this program will offer to the students. "This program will open our students to many opportunities, not only now but also in the future. Students will be able to discover job opportunities they may not have anticipated are available to them."*

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



UPCOMING EVENTS

SCVTHS THEATER ARTS PROGRAM PRESENTS "Les Miserables"

Fri. - Nov. 21 at 7:30 pm
Sat. - Nov. 22 at 2 pm & 7:30 pm

BEST HIGH SCHOOLS

US News

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JAGUAR NATION

NOVEMBER 2014

SCVTHS Gifted and Talented Honors Theater Arts Program Presents *Les Miserables*

SOMERSET COUNTY VOCATIONAL & TECHNICAL SCHOOLS

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James Strickhart • *Editorial*
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Janet Cantore-Watson • *Photography*

The Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School Gifted and Talented Honors Theater Arts Program is proud to present the musical *Les Miserables*.

When asked why this specific show was selected, SCVTHS Gifted and Talented Theater Arts Program Coordinator Joseph Mancuso stated that *Les Miserables* “represents a timeless struggle for freedom and choice. A vital part of training an artist is to create a strong intellectual curiosity and profound understanding of the human condition.” Because of these and other complexities involved with *Les Miserables*, Mancuso said that this production is “by far the most ambitious production we have undertaken to date.”

“The audience can expect to experience a roller-coaster ride of emotions, as we soar through this brilliant musical score,” added Mancuso. “In the midst of the chaos and desperation of these times we also witness an emerging love story, great acts of courage and compassion, and of course, some very enjoyable diversions into comedy.”

Les Miserables will be presented in the auditorium at Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School located at 14 Vogt Drive in Bridgewater. Show times are scheduled for November 21st at 7:30 pm, and November 22nd at 2:00 pm and 7:30 pm. General admission to the show is \$10, seniors and non-SCVTHS students are \$5, and SCVTHS students and staff are free. Tickets will be available at the door, or by reserving them through the box office by calling (908) 526-8900, ext. 7125.*

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



SCVTHS Theater Arts Department presents *Les Miserables* Nov. 21–22

STUDENT OF THE MONTH Erin Kopecky

Erin Kopecky, a junior in the Culinary Arts Program, has been selected as Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School’s Student of the Month for October 2014. Erin is the daughter of Jonathan and Jodi Kopecky of Bound Brook.

Guidance Counselor Irene Ives nominated Erin for Student of the Month because she is a “compassionate, caring, motivated, high-achieving young lady who truly aspires to be the best she can be in all aspects of her life.” Mrs. Ives also spoke of Erin’s leadership qualities and her involvement in SkillsUSA, serving as the Culinary Arts Program delegate.

At SCVTHS, Erin is a High Honor Roll achiever who has won multiple awards for her hard work in the Culinary Arts Program. As a freshman, Erin was given the Outstanding Performance Award and last year took home the Overall Performance and Highest GPA awards.

Outside of school, Erin stays very busy with her involvement in 4H and church activities. At 4H, Erin works with show dogs. Through her church she is involved in her youth group, as well as working with children at the Awana Christian organization. In her spare time, Erin enjoys cooking, photography, sketching and painting. After graduating from SCVTHS, Erin would like to either pursue a career as an elementary school teacher or become a chef with a Farm to Table restaurant.*



Erin Kopecky, the 2014 Student of the Month for October at SCVTHS.