



# JAGUAR NATION

JANUARY 2015 • VOLUME 4, No. 3

SOMERSET COUNTY VOCATIONAL & TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

## SCVTHS 15TH ANNUAL FOOD DRIVE AIDS FIFTEEN LOCAL FAMILIES

### PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Dear Jaguar Nation,

The holiday season is in full swing as many classes and clubs are sponsoring fundraising events, community service projects and school spirit activities. In addition, members of the Pupil Services Department, along with a team of Student Ambassadors, have been visiting area middle schools and spreading the word about all that SCVTHS has to offer.

Also, a special shout out to our Senior Soccer players whose season ended with a banquet in our cafeteria on November 13: Carlos Cabral, Andrew Grimaldy, Kevin Santiago, Julia Heller, Karen Huang, Hanna Krilov, Amanda Mendez, Emily Molfetta, and Emily Wasik. Go Jags!

#### School Spirit Alert:

- Class Advisors are sponsoring Spirit Week! 12/17 - Crazy Hair/Hat Day; 12/18 - Pajama Day; 12/19 - Tacky Twin Day; 12/22 - Ugly Sweater Day; 12/23 - Class Color Day;
- Freshmen (red), Sophomore (blue), Junior (yellow), Senior (green)
- The Rotary Club will be holding its Annual Soccer Tournament on December 23 from 10:00-11:00am. Pep Rally and class activities will follow.
- SCVTHS is hosting a Holiday Basketball Tournament featuring the Boys' Varsity Basketball Team on December 27, 29 & 30. Games begin at 11:00 am in our gymnasium.

On behalf of Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School, I wish everyone a happy, healthy and safe holiday break.

Sincerely,  
Diane M. Ziegler



Diane M. Ziegler



Members of the SCVTHS Sophomore class pose with donated food items.

(left to right, front row): Stephanie Coppola, Kristen Fernandez, Ruchi Patel, Chloe Jen, Brianna LaFace, Liz Perez, and Michelle Fishbeyn; (left to right, back row): Krishna Polavarapu and Sophomore Class Advisor Ed Graf.

Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School continued a 15 year tradition by holding their Annual Holiday Food Drive and creating food baskets to support local families in need. Efforts for the drive were led by the Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School's SkillsUSA Chapter and Principal Diane Ziegler. 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 779 food items, which were included in the baskets. Sophomore Class Advisor Ed Graf was very proud of his students and commended them on their efforts.

After the initial donations were collected, fifteen families in need were provided baskets filled with a complete Thanksgiving meal including a turkey, fresh pie

created by the Culinary Arts students and all the trimmings. In addition to creating the baskets, SCVTHS continued the food drive and all donations were then given to the Food Bank Network of Somerset County.\*

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



### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### DANCE DAY

FRIDAY - JANUARY 16, 2015 • 12 - 4 pm

Open to Somerset & Hunterdon County  
8th Grade & High School Students

BEST HIGH SCHOOLS

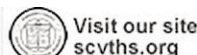
US News & World Report

BRONZE

### SOMERSET COUNTY VOCATIONAL & TECHNICAL SCHOOLS

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JANUARY 2015

## VETERANS VISIT SCVTHS FOR AN 'ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE' EVENT

### SOMERSET COUNTY VOCATIONAL & TECHNICAL SCHOOLS

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### JAGUAR NATION

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

On November 25th, the Linkages Department (funded by the NJ Department of Children and Families), as well as staff and students at Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School, welcomed American veterans to an event entitled, "An Attitude of Gratitude."

The event was organized by Linkages staff members Elaine Howe, Jason Cohen, Samantha Saks, Earnestine Qiu and Social Studies Instructor and Army veteran Ed M. Graf.

Students created thank you cards for the group of veterans as well as interacting with them at the event. Some of the thank you cards were distributed at the event itself and others were delivered by Linkages to Lyons Hospital. In addition to the event, students from the Culinary Arts Program created and served a meal for the veterans in the TradeWins Restaurant.

Veterans attending the event were from the local American Legion who served in various branches of the military in different wars. Veterans in attendance included: Charlie Capaccio, Dick Brownbridge, John Renzulli, John Blank, Steve Krok, Dan Sickles, Richard Daniels, Ed P. Graf, and John Shaud.

"The veterans talked with the students about the importance of our country, our Constitution, the freedoms we have and why it's important to care for injured veterans," said Mr. Graf. "The students were captivated by the conversations they had with the veterans. Both the students and the veterans greatly benefited from their interactions," he added.\*



(back, left to right): SCVTHS students Kevin Pidan of Bridgewater, Kristen Fernandez of S. Bound Brook and Social Studies Instructor & Army Veteran Ed M. Graf. (front seated, left to right): WWII Navy Veteran John Shaud and Vietnam War Army Veteran Ed P. Graf.

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

## STUDENT OF THE MONTH

# Madalyn Arcurio

Madalyn Arcurio, a sophomore in the Academy for Health and Medical Sciences, has been selected as Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School's Student of the Month for December 2014. Madalyn is the daughter of Bruce and Amy Arcurio of Flemington.

Academy for Health and Medical Sciences Social Studies Instructor Dr. Tokarsky-Unda nominated Madalyn for Student of the Month, stating: "Madalyn is attentive, inquisitive, and best of all, a free spirit. Her freedom of expression and love of learning show in her writing style and unique approach to answering essay questions. She exercises her creativity and problem-solving ability inside the class, but also through participation in Odyssey of the Mind (a creativity competition requiring teams to write, direct, engineer and perform an 8 minute skit that creatively solves a 'problem' assigned by the Odyssey of the Mind organization). She earned first place at Odyssey's regional level three times, first and second place at states, and last year was awarded sixth place at the world competition. She also currently is assisting in the initiation and direction of an Odyssey of the Mind club at Bear Tavern Elementary School."

Outside of school, Madalyn enjoys spending her time fencing at her district high school, taking voice lessons, singing in a choir called the True Voice Project, participating in Girl Scouts and volunteering through opportunities offered by her church youth group.

Because Madalyn has strong interests in psychology and neuroscience, she plans to continue her education to one day become a behavioral neuroscientist.\*



Madalyn Arcurio