



JAGUAR NATION

MARCH 2015 • VOLUME 4, No. 5

SOMERSET COUNTY VOCATIONAL & TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Dear Jaguar Nation,

I would like to congratulate our Social Studies Instructor, Robert Carrig, who has been selected as SCVTHS Teacher of the Year!

Open House was a great success thanks to parents, students and staff who dedicated their time to showcase all our school has to offer. Guests had a positive and informative visit to our campus.

School Spirit Alert:

- SCVTHS is gearing up for the baseball/softball season. We would like to welcome Coach Mike McClain as the new addition to the JV Baseball Team. Information on upcoming games will be forthcoming so remember to keep an eye on our website's Calendar of events.
- Theater Arts students have been preparing for their debut of the American classic play "Our Town". Opening night is February 27 at 7:30pm and additional showtimes are February 28 at 2:00pm & 7:30pm. Tickets are available for purchase at the door.
- The Winter Semi-Formal Dance sponsored by the National Honor Society (NHS) will be held on Friday, March 13th.

Sincerely,
Diane M. Ziegler



ROBERT CARRIG SELECTED AS TEACHER OF THE YEAR AT SOMERSET COUNTY VOCATIONAL & TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

Robert Carrig, a Social Studies instructor at Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School, has been selected as the 2014-2015 Teacher of the Year. Mr. Carrig is known for being a caring, influential and dedicated instructor, who consistently strives to improve the students, school, and local community.

When Superintendent Dr. Chrys Harttraft and Principal Diane Ziegler walked into Mr. Carrig's classroom with balloons and a card, Carrig was shocked. "I was left speechless. It was the last thing on my mind," said Carrig. After the announcement, Carrig immediately had to share the news with his family. "They were so excited that they greeted me at home with a cake and more balloons."

After graduating from Hillsborough High School, Carrig went on to double major in Secondary Education and History at Rider University. He subsequently obtained his Master's Degree in Education from Marygrove College. Mr. Carrig spent three years teaching at Hillsborough High School before deciding to try something different. He worked for three years in the finance field with Merrill Lynch before realizing how much he missed education. Now, after five years at SCVTHS, Mr. Carrig is being recognized for his hard work, excellent teaching strategies and mentoring abilities.

As a young man, Mr. Carrig was surrounded by teachers who he was able to confide in. They gave him great advice and were sounding boards who always made him feel comfortable. These teachers, Carrig says, eventually helped him to decide that he wanted to "be as much of an influence on others, as they were on me." Following in that spirit, Mr. Carrig gives his students one key piece of advice: "Do everything you can now to save for your future." He went on to add that this advice does not only apply monetarily, but also relates to work. "The work students put in now, will serve as an investment for their futures," explained Mr. Carrig.

Beyond his classroom, Mr. Carrig serves as a co-advisor to the TOPS (Technical Occupational Preparation for Success) Student Council. The Council is a student-run group of TOPS students who promote leadership, perform community service, and generate ideas for the betterment of



2015 SCVTHS Teacher of the Year Robert Carrig

SCVTHS and the TOPS Program. Mr. Carrig believes that the Council provides students with valuable experience and leadership skills to help them prepare for the future.

Mr. Robert Carrig is a resident of Lopatcong, where he resides with his wife Katie and their two children Abby (4 years old) and A.J. (11 months old). In his spare time, Carrig enjoys reading, golfing, fishing, playing video games and coaching his daughter's soccer team.*

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



SOMERSET COUNTY VOCATIONAL & TECHNICAL SCHOOLS
14 Vogt Drive • P.O. Box 6350 • Bridgewater, NJ 08807 • (908) 526-8900
A US News & World Report Top Ranked High School!



UPCOMING EVENTS

Theater Arts Dept. presents
"Our Town"

Feb. 27 - 7:30 pm • Feb. 28 - 2pm & 7:30pm

SCVTHS Dance AUDITIONS
March 7 - 9am • March 9 - 7pm





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SOMERSET COUNTY VOCATIONAL & TECHNICAL SCHOOLS

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THE RAINFOREST PROJECT: CULINARY ARTS

The Rainforest Project is an interdisciplinary project created and put into motion by Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School (SCVTHS) Honors Dance Department Coordinator Sheila Buttermore. Through the use of student and faculty choreography, the Dance Program is creating a rainforest themed performance. In addition, a multimedia set and lobby installation, including facts about the rainforest, are being created by several SCVTHS Career & Technical Education (CTE) programs.

Students in the SCVTHS Culinary Arts Program will have the very important task of creating and serving dinner for the April 24th and 25th performance packages. Students will create a menu with direct ties to the rainforest to raise awareness about what could potentially disappear if the rainforests are destroyed. Culinary Arts students will also be helping to decorate the TradeWins Restaurant with a rainforest theme.

The Rainforest Project will culminate with a series of performances by the Gifted and Talented Dance Program available to both the public and all of Somerset County's middle and high elementary schools. On April 24th and 25th, performances with dinner options will be held. Dinner and performance packages will cost \$20 per person with dinner scheduled for 6:00 PM and the performance at 7:30 PM. Performance only tickets will also be available for \$12 per person. Seating is limited for the dinner and reservations are required.

Contact **Mary Lynne McAnally** at mmcanally@scvths.net or (908) 526-8900, x7125 to purchase dinner theater package tickets.✽

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



Culinary Arts students (left to right) Charlee Kingman of Branchburg, Ashley Hsu of Bridgewater, Alyssa Simone of Basking Ridge, and Hanna Krilov of Bridgewater, prepare a dish during one of their classes.

STUDENT OF THE MONTH

Nicole Oliva

Nicole Oliva, a senior in the Carpentry Program, has been selected as Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School's Student of the Month for February 2015. Nicole is the daughter of Christine Montanez of Bridgewater.

Carpentry Instructor George Lee nominated Nicole for Student of the Month because "she is always attentive, shows great effort and involves herself in school activities." Nicole's other notable recent accomplishments include being chosen the Carpentry CTE Stellar Student of the Month for October 2014 and the student with the highest GPA in Spanish II.

Outside of SCVTHS, Nicole spends the majority of her time working at Chuck E. Cheese. In her free time, Nicole enjoys reading, watching horror movies and especially likes listening to music. Nicole is also learning how to play guitar and would like to one day learn how to speak German and Italian.

After graduating from SCVTHS, Nicole plans to join one of the construction unions and her long term goal is to move down South. When asked if she had anything else to add, Nicole commented, "Out of all the school's I've been to, I like SCVTHS the best!"✽



Nicole Oliva