

Spring 2008 SSVT Parent Newsletter

Dear Parents:

Spring is fast approaching, the second trimester report cards have been issued, and we see graduation for our seniors just on the horizon! Where has this school year gone? Should you have any questions about the newsletter content, please contact me. Enjoy the spring season!

Sincerely,
Thomas J. Hickey, Ed.D.
Principal
781.878.8822, ext 145
thickey@ssvotech.org

School Safety & Security Updates

School Security: SSVT works closely with the Hanover Police and Fire Departments to ensure that we are prepared to handle an emergency. **We will be conducting lockdown drills between now and the end of the school year.** Following a lockdown drill, I will notify you through a Connect-Ed automated phone message.

Traffic Pattern Reminder: If you pick up your child after school, please remember that the traffic flow in the front of the building is one-way only. Please enter at the west driveway (near the restaurant) and exit from the east driveway. We want to ensure everyone's safety when driving on the property.

School Improvement Plan Survey. The School Council is beginning to review data from our School Improvement Plan surveys. 440 students, 48 teachers, and 68 parents responded to the survey. The School Improvement Plan will be presented to the school committee in May.

Peer Leaders: Our Peer Leaders participated in anti-bullying training from the Massachusetts Aggression Reduction Center (MARC) on March 3rd. Peer leaders will work with the student body on promoting a positive school climate in an effort to eliminate negative student behaviors, such as bullying. Current peer leaders include: Nichole Anderson, Eric Austin, Paul Bekas, Ryan Brennan, Sharina Carroll, Melissa Chandler, Stephen Crawford, Amanda Dauphinee, Kathryn Desimone, Tom Doyle, CJ Furey, Tricia Gilpin, Maggie Horan, Michelle Hubbard, Dan Langley, Deb Langley, Austin Lindsay, Travis Little, Alicia Monahan, Sean Murphy, Nikki Newell, Anne Oliveria, Alyssa Payne, Bryan Payne, Andrea Priolo, Sinead Sheppard, Jake Simpson, Peter Spaziani, Jason Wettergreen, John Wilder. **New members are welcome!** Please encourage your child to speak with Mrs. Dow, Mr. Zahurak

or Mr. Scopelleti to get involved with this activity.

Senior Business Plan Expo Showcases Great Imagination and Vision

Congratulations to our seniors for their excellent participation in one of the Business Plan Expos that happened during the month of February. The English Department Senior Project focuses on students developing a business plan for a company they design. Students must present the plan using a web page, Power Point presentation and a three-fold presentation board at trade shows that are open to students, staff, School Committee members, Advisory Board members, and parents. The Senior Class really exemplified what SSVT represents in terms of solid work ethic, technological innovation, and finely tuned communication skills. A job well done!



Example of student business plan presentation board

Spring 2008 SSVT Parent Newsletter

SAT Prep course: There are several SAT Prep courses being offered in the area in May and June. Please encourage your child to contact our Guidance Office for more information about area SAT prep courses.

Senior Citizen Luncheon On Sunday March 2nd, SSVT Student Council hosted its annual senior citizen luncheon for 140 local area residents. Many staff members (and their family members) and students staffed the event. Thank you to those who volunteered for this valuable community service activity.

No Child Left Behind Law: Under provisions of NCLB, parents can request licensure information on teaching staff. Regulations require that parents be notified of this option. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Drama Club News

On March 1st, the Drama Club competed in the Massachusetts Drama Guild Competition at Weymouth High School. Three SSVT students were recognized for individual performances. Congratulations to Samantha Mahanna, Melissa Davis, and Mary Kate Costello!

The Drama Club holds its annual **Dinner Theatre** on **March 27-29**. On Thursday, March 27, there is a performance only at 7:30. On Friday and Saturday, March 28 & 29, the dinner seating is at 6:00, followed by a 7:30 performance. This year, five one-act plays will be performed with the theme of "Love is in the Air"

Drama Club actors include:
Seniors: Andy Oberbeck, Melissa Davis, Chris Uminski, Samantha Mahanna, Matthew Clarke
Juniors: Rachel Patton, Joe Concannon, Mary Kate Costello, Bob Manning, Taylor O'Malley, Tara O'Malley, Stephen Sawyer
Sophomore: Dan Krahe; **Freshmen :** Haley Kent, Jill Rogg...
Technical crew includes: **Seniors:** Matt Beers, Chris Mello, Nick Wilkinson
Sophomores: Martina Giannetti, Colleen Nelligan, Steven Maglio
Freshman: Dave Hamelburg

Athletics Update

Spring Sports Schedules. Our softball, baseball, and lacrosse teams' game and practice schedules will be available at www.ssvotech.org. Our Athletic Director, Joe Marani, can be reached at jmarani@ssvotech.org or by calling the school. Students interested in signing up for spring sports can do so in the cafeteria or by contacting Mr. Marani in room 206.

Shop Updates. Here is a selection of activities going on in our vocational programs:

Health Careers:

The juniors are taking their state certification exam for nursing assisting in late March. The seniors will be making their Senior Project Presentation in the beginning of May. The HCT Senior Project involves extensive research followed by a Power Point presentation to an audience of faculty and peers.

Carpentry & Electrical outside crew students are working on our off campus project. They are building and wiring a house on Old Washington Street in Hanover behind the Salvation Army. The Hanover Mariner recently did a story on the students. This project truly showcases the amazing skills of students receiving a top notch vocational education!

Automotive

Automotive students will be taking the ASE (Automotive Service Excellence) tests in early May. There are eight ASE test areas. After successfully completing all eight, the individual is considered to be a "Master Technician." Students who will take the tests include: Nick Omelia, Shawn Burke, Chris Sullivan, Evan Folsom, Mike Galluzzo, Andrew Stalker, Frank Corriea, Drew Paglia and Chad Stockbridge. This past fall, Shawn Burke and Andrew Stalker passed the ASE brakes test!

Spring 2008 SSVT Parent Newsletter

Shop Update: Cosmetology

Our Cosmetology students are participating in an in-house community service project by being part of the American Cancer Society's "Wig Bank" which provides wigs for people with hair loss due to cancer treatments. For additional information, please contact Claire Milligan, Cosmetology Department Head at 781.878.7421

Robotics Competition

Mr. Vincent Barba, Electronics instructor and Mr. Gene Hickey, Precision Machine instructor have worked tirelessly to prepare our Robotics Team for the FIRST Robotics competition at Boston University on March 28-29. Robotics Team participants include: **Juniors** Matt Clarke, Jr., Taylor Davidson, Mike Foshey, Bobby Patrick, Josh Stenstrom; **Sophomores** Joe Lindberg, Zach Schultz, John Wilder, Kenny Lowe, Mark Curtis, Steve Doucette, Kyle Keegan, Cameron Barron, James Young, Todd Emanuello; **Freshmen** James Boyle, Clayton Parfumorse, Cody DeCoursey, Justine Laakso, Joe Lindberg, Zach Schultz,

This competition would not have been possible without the financial support of our Parents Association and the Phoenix Lodge of Hanover, who have made very generous donations to defray costs. Thank you!

OSHA training

As part of the state curriculum requirements for vocational-technical students, all of our sophomores are taking part in OSHA safety training that will lead to them earning a 10-hour OSHA safety card in either general industry or in construction. We have four certified OSHA instructors (Mr. Foshey, Metal Fab Welding, Mr. Haskins, Automotive, Ms. Downey, Drafting, and Mr. Zentz, Carpentry) running the training. Some students are completing the training online at www.careersafe.com

May 9th: Prom!!!

This year's prom is on May 9th at Halifax Country Club. Prom advisor Toni Bourgea would like to extend an invitation to parents to attend the Grand March at 5:30 at school. Mrs. Bourgea is also looking for parent volunteers to help with the design and set up of the Grand March. Please contact her at tbourgea@ssvotech.org if you can help out!

SkillsUSA Competition on March 13th

SkillsUSA advisor Sally Colarusso, our library media specialist, reports that 69 SSVT students will be heading to Greater New Bedford VoTech for the SkillsUSA District Competition. This group is the largest team ever assembled by SSVT. The competition consists of a test

of trade questions, employability and OSHA safety. Students will compete against 7 other vocational schools. The top 3 winners in each area go to the state SkillsUSA Olympics in May. Participating students include:

Drafting: Andrew Oberbeck, Steve Maglio, Alysha Thorton, Kenneth LaVertue, Joseph Concannon, John Fallon

Automotive: Andrew Keegan, Tom Anderson, Chad Stockbridge, Shawn Burke, Andrew Stalker, Drew Paglia

Carpentry: Ed Hubbard, Derrick Sibbald, Kevin Johnson

Machine: Justin Caswell, Kevin Belmore, John Wilder, Michael Foshey, Matthew Hunt, Emily Burns

Autobody: Robert Martell, Stuart Hardie, Brad Donovan

Culinary Arts: Ashley Damon, Ashley Guzman, Travis Little, Richard Beaulieu, Mark Hennebery, Alex Moon

Welding: Michael Lally, Joseph Molineaux, Thomas Richardi

CIT: Matthew Beers, Taylor Eastman, Andrew Clifford, Nicholas Silva, Vincent Giannetti, Andrew Rinella, Nicholas Wilkinson, Daniel Krahe, Jesse Ferland, Rob Baar, Jake Collins

Cosmetology: Sinead Sheppard, Kayliegh Mills, Jamie Rogers, Sharina Carroll, Alana Oksanen, Jamie Gauthier, Holly Davis, Allegra Silva, Taylor Millar, Melissa Chandler, Molly McKenney, Sarah Carpenter

Spring 2008 SSVT Parent Newsletter

SkillsUSA participants (continued)

Electronics: Ian Duncan,
Mark Curtis, Kevin Odem

Graphic Communications: Alex
Thomson, Christine Sandner,
Taylor O'Malley

HVAC: Michael Scopa, Ryan
Macaluso, Ryan Brennan

Residential Wiring: Stephen
Wallace, Jake Simpson,
Nicholas Stearns, Stephen
Crawford

School Window Project

Update: Phase 1 of the window project will be completed in April. The windows were replaced in the 100 wing, the guidance office, the main office. In a promising development, school officials met with the state School Building Assistance Authority on February 29th to hear about the possibility of receiving state aid to partially fund phases 2 and 3 of window replacement as well as a new roof for the school. More information will be available this fall.

Health Room Tips

Our school nurse, Suzanne Thompson, has suggestions for parents dealing with sick children at home:

- If your child is running a temperature, s/he should remain at home.
- If a child has Strep throat, s/he must be on antibiotics for 24 hours before returning to school

Other helpful tips:

- **Asthma:** Students may carry an asthma inhaler in school, but a Doctor's note must be on file in the Nurse's Office.
- **Medications:** If medications are to be given during the school day, a Doctor's note must state the dosage and time of the medication, and written permission for a parent or guardian. Medication should be in the original pharmacy bottle that included the child's name.

Mrs. Thompson can be contacted at 781.871.0263.

Parental Contact Information:

SSVT needs your accurate contact information. If you have changed addresses, phone numbers, please contact our guidance office at **781.871.4153**. If you have a new email address, let us know. Connect-Ed messages can be emailed, which may be more convenient at work

VIKING GREEN: Environmental Update

SSVT continues to make energy efficient and environmentally conscious decisions in its overall facility operations. In the last 3 years, we have done the following:

1. *Cut cost of cleaning chemicals by using automatic dilution stations with environmentally preferable products.*
2. *Installed hands free faucets, towel dispensers and toilets.*

3. *Replaced lighting fixtures with energy-saving T-8 fluorescent tubes.*
4. *Recycled paper and ink cartridges.*
5. *Replaced all vacuums with clear air HEPA filter machines.*
6. *Updated our HVAC system and replaced filters to ensure maximum energy efficiency.*

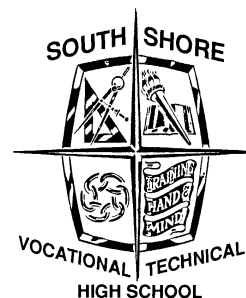
Thanks to Director of Buildings and Grounds **Bob Moorhead** for his leadership on this issue:

SSVT Alumni Wanted: Do you know any SSVT graduates? If so, please ask them to contact our receptionist **Tracy Perakslis** at ext 113 or go to our alumni link at www.ssvotech.org.

Yearbooks: 2008 Yearbooks are still available. Cost is \$90. Contact Mrs. Merrick in the main office for more information

Mark Your Calendars

Mar. 25-27: Gr. 10 English MCAS
April 8: Early Release, 11:00
May 9: Early Release, 11:00
Prom at Halifax CC
May 21-22 MCAS Math test
May 27 MCAS US History test
June 3-4 MCAS Biology test
May 30: Last Day for Seniors
June 6: Graduation
June 11: Night of Excellence
Student Awards Night



More updates to come in our
Summer 2008 Newsletter!

Spring 2008 SSVT Parent Newsletter