

TECH TALK



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Ocean County Vocational Technical School will host the Regional Competition of the National SkillsUSA organization at the Brick Center, 350 Chambers Bridge Road, on Saturday, December 11, from 9AM to 1PM.

Students from throughout the OCVTS district will compete in career trade areas such as Automotive/Motorcycle Service Technology, Culinary Arts, Construction Trades, Residential Wiring, Cosmetology, Photography, Marine Service, Electrical Trades and Web Design.

SkillsUSA is a partnership of students, teachers and industry working together to promote the growth and development of a skilled workforce in America. Many of the regional winners will move on to statewide competition in May.

Activities will begin at 9AM and continue until 1PM. In addition to the contests in individual career programs, there will be skills demonstrations, business and program displays, prize drawings and refreshments available throughout the day.

OCVTS programs and services will be on display and admission representatives will be available throughout the day.

This event is an outstanding opportunity for prospective students, as well as business owners from throughout the county to see our students performing at their very best. These students represent the future of Ocean County business and industry – they are tomorrow's workforce.

Registration has already begun for next year's classes! Stop in and discover how OCVTS can be part of your future!

For more information visit us at www.ocvts.org or facebook.

OCVTS RECEIVES 'GO GREEN GRANT' FROM OCEANFIRST FOUNDATION

The Ocean County Vocational Technical School was one of twenty shore-area schools to receive a \$2,500 grant from OceanFirst Foundation to pursue green projects and programs. The Agricultural and Environmental Science Program located at the OCVTS Jackson Center received the grant for their proposal to upgrade the program's greenhouse and establish a hydroponics growing laboratory.

According to OCVTS Instructor Kim Szulecki, "the challenges we face today with diminishing land access and a need to reduce the use of chemicals creates the need to explore new sustainable agriculture initiatives. Hydroponics allows us to grow crops with water as opposed to soil. Crops can be grown organically, and in a much more controlled environment. The students are learning first-hand about sustainable agriculture."

The OceanFirst Foundation was established in 1996 and provides grants to organizations that meet community needs

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NOVEMBER 2010

SKILLSUSA COMPETITION AND OPEN HOUSE

Saturday December 11, 2010

9Am - 1PM

at the OCVTS Brick Center

350 Chambers Bridge Road

Go to www.ocvts.org for directions

OCVTS HALLOWEEN FLOATS FEATURE MOVIE FAVORITES

Students and staff from the OCVTS Brick and Jackson Centers designed and constructed two floats for the 73rd Annual Toms River Halloween Parade.

The Jackson Center's 'Wizard of Oz' float, complete with the Emerald City, big ruby red slippers and a whole cast of characters took First Place Honors this year in their division.

The Brick Center's 'Toy Story 3' float took Second Place. The float featured a large toy box, a playground and child's bedroom

filled with toys and plenty of children, students and staff dressed to impress!

The Toms River Halloween Parade, hosted by the Toms River Volunteer Fire Company No. 1 is reported to be the second largest in the world by the Guinness Book of World records. There were over 6,000 participants and over 100,000 spectators.

Final preparations are completed as floats await start of parade.



OCVTS STUDENTS EMBRACE THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT

Once again preparations are underway at the OCVTS Brick Center for the annual community service project, "Feed the Need." Their goal was to prepare over 1,500 Thanksgiving meals for needy families throughout Ocean County.

Students from various programs organized fundraisers and holiday food drives. Faculty and staff reached out to local businesses for their support. Students and staff from throughout the district gave generously. Through a grant awarded to the project from the Ocean County Foundation for Vocational Technical Education necessary supplies were purchased. Funding for this project was also made possible through donations made in memory of OCVTS Culinary Arts Instructor Josephine Vastano.

Under the direction of their Culinary Arts instructors, students roasted over 160 turkeys, as well as prepared traditional side dishes including: mashed potatoes, fresh vegetables, stuffing, gravy and cranberry sauce. Meals were packaged and distributed to local social service agencies identified by the Ocean County Hunger Relief program, such as the Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS), Preferred Behavioral Health, and Dottie's House.

This community service project began ten years ago when 38 meals were distributed. Over the years the demand has grown and with it the determination of the students and staff to help as many people as possible.



What does it take to prepare 1500 Thanksgiving meals for needy families?

BY THE NUMBERS...

- 2400 lbs. of turkey
- 400 lbs. of stuffing
- 500 lbs. of yams
- 400 lbs. of mashed potatoes
- 300 lbs. of green beans
- 50 gallons of gravy
- 250 lbs. of cranberry sauce

OCVTS students spend days preparing for Thanksgiving.

THE PERFORMING ARTS ACADEMY Presents 'COCKTAILS WITH MIMI'

The Performing Arts Academy (PAA) presented two performances of "Cocktails with Mimi," a classic comedy of mistaken identities and confusion which focused on love, pranks, and the relationships between parents and children. The play was written by American playwright Mary Chase.

The matinee, on Friday, November 12, was presented free of charge to Ocean County high school English classes. The Saturday evening performance was well attended.



Directed by Laura Grandi-Hill, PAA Theatre Instructor, the show included a cast and crew of over 40 students, staff and volunteers.

MATES SCHEDULES WINTER OUTREACH PROGRAMS

The Marine Academy of Technology and Environmental Science (MATES) will offer After School Outreach Programs in January, February and March. Each session consists of three meetings during the month on Wednesday. The Outreach Program is designed for upper elementary and middle school students (grades 5-8). Topics to be covered in each session are: Fish and Fisheries, Sustainable Oceans; Water Pollution and Oil, the Filter Challenge!; and Terrapin Time! Terrapin Activities.

Go to www.ocvts.org for more information and to download an application.

MATES SUPERVISOR NAMED 'MARINE EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR'

John Wnek, Supervisor at the Marine Academy of Technology and Environmental Science (MATES) was named 'Champion of the Ocean, Marine Educator of the Year' by Monmouth University's Urban Coast Institute. He received his honor at the 6th Annual *Future of the Ocean* event in held in late October on the college campus.



Mr. Wnek received a Bachelor's Degree in Biology as well as his Master's Degree in Education from Monmouth University. John also recently received his Doctorate from Drexel University.

Mr. Wnek has been employed with the OCVTS district since 1994 and was instrumental in the development of the MATES program. What began as a shared-time Marine Science program has grown to a highly recognized specialized high school in New Jersey.

John also is the founder and research coordinator for Project Terrapin, an ongoing initiative dedicated to education and conservation of the terrapin.

MATES TEACHER OF THE YEAR



Michael McNamara, Spanish instructor at MATES, was honored as an outstanding educator at the annual Ocean County Teachers' Governor's Recognition ceremony held earlier this year. Mr. McNamara has been with the district since 2002.

According to Mike, his teaching philosophy can be summed up simply as "I make a difference - I teach." He displays this slogan above the doorway to his office. "I firmly believe that what has made the US great and will continue to make it great is its commitment to education. We should never underestimate the value of what we are doing in the classroom for teachers truly shape the future." Sincere congratulations to Señor McNamara.

**Editor's Note: Mr. McNamara was inadvertently omitted from the Governor's Recognition article in the October issue.*

PAA GRADUATE CONTINUES HER QUEST FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Submitted by Robin DeRosa, PAA Guidance Counselor, edited by Jean Sullivan

Brittany Santos of Toms River, a 2008 graduate of the Ocean County Vocational Technical School's Performing Arts Academy (PAA), was honored recently at the Rider University Founder's Day ceremony. Brittany, a junior in the musical theater program at the Westminster College of the Arts at Rider University was one of only eight students recognized for her outstanding academic performance, placing in the top one percent of the student body. She has been chosen for this honor for the second consecutive year.



While at the Performing Arts Academy Brittany excelled academically and graduated third in her class. In regards to her high school experience she has said, "The small academic class size was a very important factor for me. I got used to asking for help when I needed it, which is exactly what I am encouraged to do as a college student. The overall community at PAA is probably what I enjoyed the most. Among students and teachers there is room for creativity, self-expression, and fun."

It should also be mentioned that Brittany Santos was the recipient of the nationally renowned Gates Millennium Scholarship as a high school senior at the Performing Arts Academy. This highly selective and extremely competitive award given to only 1000 students nationwide annually provides for the full cost of tuition, room, board and expenses for a Bachelor's degree in any field, as well as a Master's and Doctorate in specified fields as long as the student maintains at least a 3.5 GPA.

(Go Green Grant Continued from page 1)

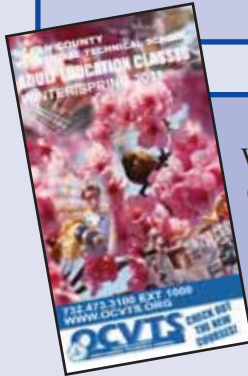
within the OceanFirst market area. According to Katherine Durante, Executive Director of the OceanFirst Foundation, “We recognize that our future depends on protecting well-being of our children and planet and so we want to give students and educators the tools they need to be innovators in solving green challenges.”



The grant was presented by OceanFirst Bank Senior Vice President Nina Anuario, at left above, to OCVTS Superintendent William P. Hoey and Instructor Kim Szulecki at the October Board of Education meeting. “The OceanFirst Foundation is dedicated to providing support to students and educators who are focused on developing solutions for our future generations. We look forward to seeing this plan for a hydroponics lab become a reality,” said Ms. Anuario.

OCVTS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December 11 SkillsUSA Regional Competition at the OCVTS Brick Center



The OCVTS Adult Education Division Winter/Spring Course Guide will be delivered to Ocean County households soon. *Over a dozen new courses and seminars have been added to the course offerings.* Visit www.ocvts.org for registration information.



OCEAN COUNTY FOUNDATION FOR VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL EDUCATION

**SAVE THE DATE!
MARCH 7, 2011**

The Foundation will host
The 15th Annual International Chef’s Night Out
at the Poland Spring Arena, Toms River, NJ
TICKETS ON SALE NOW!
Call 732.240.6414 x3327 or
email acastaldo@mail.ocvts.org
www.ocvts.org/foundation
GREAT IDEA FOR HOLIDAY GIFTS!

OCEAN COUNTY VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL

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This e-newsletter is published monthly by the Ocean County Vocational Technical School District. Comments and/or suggestions may be sent to Jean Sullivan, editor, at jsullivan@mail.ocvts.org.



ADMISSIONS INFORMATION

- Adult Education Office732.473.3100 x1000
- CNA Information732.473.3100 x3135
- High School Admissions732.473.3100 x3122
- After High School Admissions . . .732.473.3100 x3144
- Academy Admissions732.473.3100 x3065
- Practical Nursing Admissions . . .732.473.3100 x3145
- Cosmetology732.473.3100 x3128
- Financial Aid732.473.3100 x3139

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