The Viking Voice

Wednesday, November 25, 2015 – 14 pages

Message From Principal Linkenhoker

Greetings parents, students, and community members!

Welcome to the newest edition of the Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School's newsletter, the Viking Voice! I hope you enjoyed the first edition and found its information informative and useful. This edition promises to continue in that vein by highlighting what is happening in all of our academic and vocational areas. This time of year is filled with transition and reflection as we draw to a close with Trimester 1, are in the midst of the freshmen exploratory program, while also pausing for a much deserved Thanksgiving break. Through this reflection, I want to share some thoughts on student dismissals.

We are finding many students are being dismissed without following the proper procedures as outlined in this year's Student Information Handbook. On page 14 it states:

Medical, dental, and other appointments should be made after school hours. Request for dismissal must be made in writing, signed by a parent/or guardian, and must be turned into the Assistant Principal's office before the beginning of first period (7:50am). The note must contain the time of dismissal, the reason for dismissal, the provision for transportation to the student's destination and a phone number where the parent/guardian can be reached for verification and estimated time of return.

Please ensure your child comes to school with this required documentation so we can accurately record attendance and ensure your child is ready for dismissal when you arrive. For your child's safety, I also ask that adults that arrive to dismiss your child be listed on the emergency contact information. If the adult is not listed, we may call you to verify before we dismiss your child.

I appreciate your continued support. We are off to a great start to the school year. I wish everyone a healthy and relaxing Thanksgiving break!

Sincerely,

Andrew H. Linkenhoker, Ed.D
Principal

Department News

Agriculture

It has been a busy fall for the Agricultural department, from harvesting apples from the orchard to picking sugar pumpkins from the land, all to donate to the Northampton Survival Center. These activities have kept our students engaged. Our flock of Cornish cross meat birds are growing well and will be ready for the Culinary department next month.

Our FFA teams have been very active as well. The Forestry team competed at the National FFA convention in Louisville, Kentucky in late October. They placed 25th Silver team overall with James Martin placing Gold individual, Heidi LaPlante and Jared Pease finishing Silver and Dillon Squires placing Bronze individual. Congratulations to our Dairy Evaluation Team for earning the top spot in Massachusetts. The team members include: Amanda Crowe, Barry Nadon III, Justine Braman and Katherine Cassidy. From this team, Amanda Crowe placed number one individual and Barry Nadon III the second individual for the state. In addition, Smith had two individuals who performed well in Dairy Handling competition: Barry Nadon III placed second and Samantha Stark fourth as individuals. The Smith Vocational Livestock Judging Team will compete November 24th at Tufts Veterinary School for the Massachusetts FFA Livestock CDE. Good luck to them.

As the winter sets in and the holidays approach, the Agricultural students and staff would like to wish everyone a safe and joyous holiday season.

Athletics:

This Smith Vocational Vikings broke new ground in athletics this fall. Football doubled their number of wins in their 3rd season and strongly developed their fundamental skills. They finished the regular season 2-6. Boys soccer finished the season 9-7-2 and represented SVAHS in the Western Mass tournament, losing to Granby in the first round. Girls soccer finished the regular season 11-4-3 and qualified for the Vocational Tournament for the first time in school history. The girls also participated in the Western Mass tournament, beating Hampden County Charter in the first round (3-2) before losing to Monson in the second round. The cross country team competed in their second season for SVAHS, the boys finishing 12-5 and the girls 11-6. This was a school record for both teams! Next year they will be able to compete in the Tri County League. Girls volleyball had their best season yet at Smith, finishing 6-14. This growing program also fielded a junior varsity team for the first time, ensuring a bright future for them. We are very proud of all our teams' accomplishments and we plan to continue developing a winning culture, both on and off the field. Go Vikings!

Automotive Technology

The Auto Shop is happy to report that it has acquired new classroom furniture! The new multi position desks allow the shop to use them either as standing desks or with comfortable stools. They can be used as individual workstations or moved together for group projects.

The alignment system project took a major step closer to completion this month. We have secured the funding for the new alignment system and the Board of Trustees has approved the contract for purchase and installation.

The Automotive Class of 2016 is gearing up for SkillsUSA and the Universal Technical Institute Top Tech Challenge.

Speaking of U.T.I., Mr. Bodman and Mr. Fernandez attended a great workshop at the Institute on the seventeenth of October. This all-day workshop introduced the instructors to new trends in Automotive Technology as utilized by Mercedes Benz and Nissan as well as techniques used by the Ford Accelerated Credential Training (FACT) program.

Carpentry

Currently, the Carpentry and Cabinetmaking departments are exploring ways to boost interest in their programs. We are holding extra advisory board meetings in an effort to tackle this challenge. One idea that is gaining momentum is the building of a tiny house on wheels. We have been offered a trailer that Scott Miller and I, Chad Meerbergen, will be going to look at. If this trailer is road legal and structurally sound, we will most likely accept it as a donation.

We believe that a nicely designed and well-built tiny house can be towed to most of our recruiting events and will be a great visual for interested incoming students. The tiny house can be a direct collaboration between plumbing, electrical, and carpentry and a good opportunity to showcase some new technology.

The Carpentry, Cabinetmaking, Plumbing, Electrical and Criminal Justice departments are also anticipating the arrival of a new computer lab. The computer lab will be primarily used for computer-aided design classes. This is a great benefit to the shops because computer-aided design is now a very marketable skill for most construction related fields.

Criminal Justice

The Criminal Justice students have been learning about the judicial process and the various steps in criminal trials. They have been participating in mock trials as well as debates. These help reinforce concepts and show the correct way to present evidence and their viewpoints. We are excited to have purchased a retired police cruiser. We will soon be putting it to use in patrol procedure training and scenarios.

MBTA Emergency Evacuation Drill at Patriot Place, Foxborough, MA 10/15/15

Collision Repair Technology

Michael Brooks is pleased to announce the sixth annual “Monte’s March” raising funds for the Western Mass food bank. The event took place November 23-24th of 2015 and raised over $150,000. The Collision Repair department, in conjunction with Graphic Communication Technology and the Agriculture, came together to build a custom shopping cart for Monte. He pushed his cart 26 miles from Northampton to Greenfield to raise money for the Western Mass Food Bank. Each dollar he raised is worth $7.00 at the Western Mass Food bank. This year Monte is pushing his first original cart which we, Smith Vocational, built for him six years ago and called “Katniss”.

Dakota Blakesly working on Katniss 1

Along with Congressman Jim McGovern, from Springfield to Northampton on one day and from Northampton to Greenfield the next day, that is a total of 40 miles. The second cart we built with the students is called “Katniss II Catching Fire”.

Luis Acosta working on Katniss II

We are helping Monte in his efforts to raise money for that cause. Thank you to the students Dakota Blakesly, Elyssa Rodriguez, Luis Acosta, Hercules Torres, Albert Ahart, Sarah Rubner, Jesse Pikul, Miguel Pizha-Loja and Jesse Lapinski our new Technical Assistant for working long hours after school in working on Monte’s carts!

Cosmetology

This month all of the ninth grade students participating in the Cosmetology exploratory phase of their shop selection have been engaged, courteous, curious, and well-behaved. They have had an opportunity to receive salon services from our junior students who are practicing their active listening as well as their client communication skills. We hope to see interested freshmen enrolling for our Cosmetology program and look forward to helping them grow into licensed professionals.

The manicure day for the Southampton Council on Aging was a huge success in October. Clients were delighted with the manicures and massage services they received on that day, thanks to our seniors. They will be revisiting us for more services in December. The Northampton Council on Aging came in at the end of November for haircuts under the supervision of our Advisory Committee Chair, alumni and part owner of Hair by Harlow, Kendra Kaczenski. The Northampton Council will be coming back in December and January for their monthly haircuts. Kendra stopped by in October and performed talented demonstrations on cutting and styling for our students. Our recent graduate, Ryan Sanger, also came in during October and conducted a cutting and styling class. Another graduate Stephan Wright came in after finishing barbering school at Rob Roy in Worcester and provided demonstrations on a clipper cut.

At the beginning of the month we concluded yet another successful All Nutrient/Paul Mitchell styling products fundraiser. Our students will be putting their proceeds towards their Cosmetology kits that contains the tools of their trade to get them started in the industry after graduation.

Call or email us with any questions or to book an appointment, as plans for our **"Cut-a-thon"** on **Wednesday, March 30, 2016 from 12-5pm here at SVAHS** are underway. Several alumni and local professionals have already offered their time and services to network with our junior and senior students. This is a great opportunity for our students to observe and collaborate with professionals in the Cosmetology field.

Culinary Arts

Oliver Smith Restaurant, our student-run restaurant, is open Tuesdays with a buffet, and Thursdays and Fridays with a menu. Our hours are 10:45 am-12:15 pm. Please visit the SVAHS website for each week's menu. The Juniors "Chef Harvest" went off well and the students who participated received their Junior Chef with logo spring jackets that night. Our next fundraiser will be in the spring. This is our joint effort with the FFA. We will be doing the pig roast and barbeque again this school year as well.

Electrical

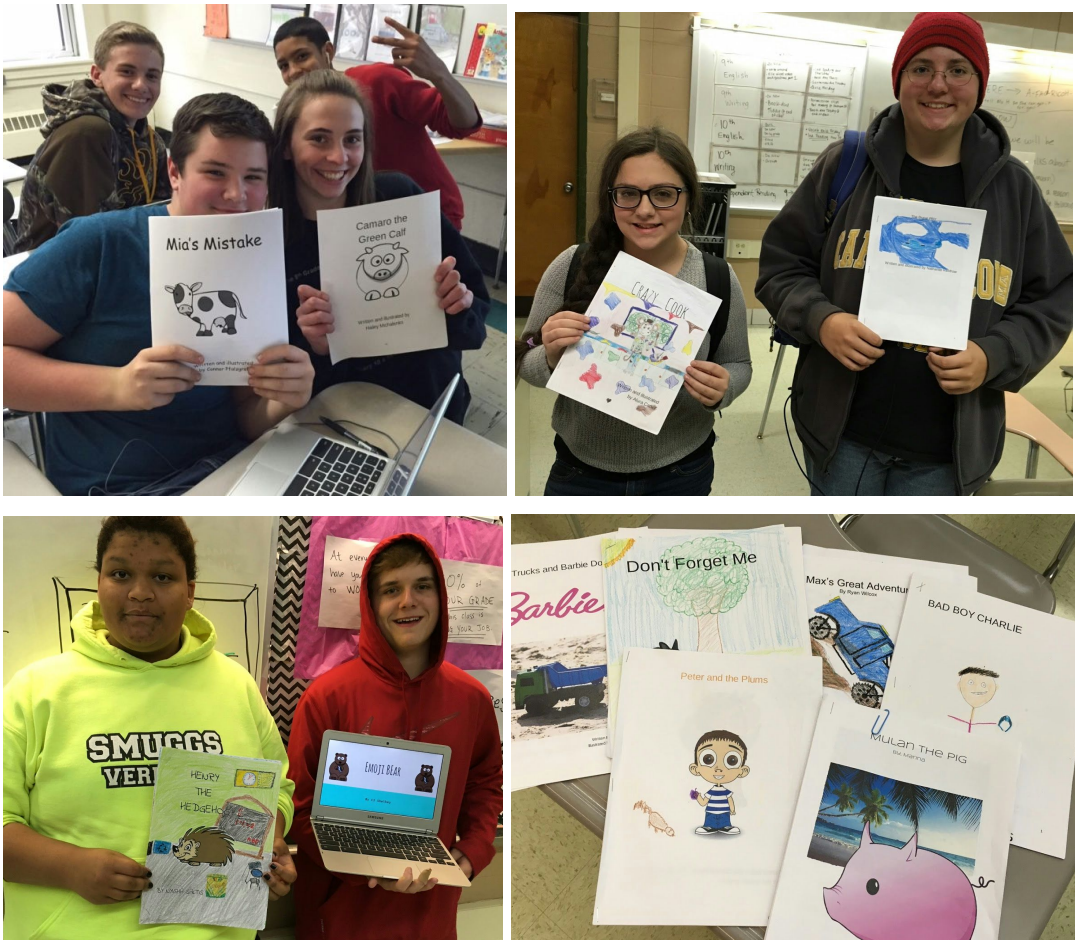
The Electrical department seniors have been working on campus work and we are hopeful there will be a new building to wire at the Forestry demonstration forest this year. All

interested and eligible seniors are working on co-op. Our juniors will continue advancing through their motor control competencies through the holidays. The sophomores have been working diligently learning residential wiring, and the freshman class is as competitive as ever as the last exploratory closes in. We have upgraded our student hand tools and have a 10% discount to offer students through Klein Tools.

ENGLISH

Teen Authors Show Their Colors

Creating Children's Books in Writing Class



Ninth graders from Ms. Harrington's and Ms. Brown's classes display children's books they have written on topics that they choose, keeping audience and elements of fiction in mind.

Ninth graders began this project in September by studying the elements of fiction, analyzing children's literature, and considering the role audience plays when composing a piece of writing. Next, they applied their knowledge by crafting original texts geared towards a young audience. Skills included developing characters, dialogue, and illustrations that conveyed

age-appropriate topics and themes. During their creative process, students had fun remembering and discussing their favorite books from childhood. They based their own books on hobbies or interests such as fishing, bicycling, friendship, problem solving, and taking responsibility for mistakes. It's a hands-on learning process from beginning to end while sketching and typing several drafts, creating illustrations, constructing their books and finally presenting them to the class.

Students also had the opportunity to read their books to a live audience of fourth graders at the Jackson Street Elementary School on November 24.

Graphic Communications

Graphic Communications ***WRESTLES*** with New T-Shirt Idea!

The Graphic Communications Department recently stepped outside their comfort zone with the design and printing of a t-shirt for the school's new sports activity, Wrestling. The department started doing one-color screen printing on its new screen printing outfit a year and a half ago. The students were able to proceed to the next logical step and start practicing two-color printing this year and do an actual job for Jeffrey Peterson, SVAHS's Superintendent.

Mr. Peterson entrusted the students to design and print a two-color/two-sided t-shirt that the Wrestling team could wear. Mr. Peterson's own words about the shirts were, "They look amazing!" Mr. Peterson came in while seniors Rachel Rogers and Brianna McCarthy were finishing up the order to see exactly how the process worked. The students' faces lit up having him take time from his schedule to show a genuine interest in their project and offered to take a picture with them. It gave them confidence and pride to see a project they did around the school's campus and to know "Yeah, we *did* that!"

Health Technology

Highlights & Upcoming Events

Classroom work is related and shop work is in the internship area.

Grade 9 students:
Exploratory students have been enjoying the week and we look forward to our 9th grade class who chose Health Technology!

Grade 10 students:
Related: Learning vital signs: temperature, pulse, respiration, blood pressure and pain.
Shop: Working in their hospital internship areas and will be in two different sites this term.

Grade 11 students:
Related: Learning activities of daily living skills to assist residents with needs.
Shop: Practicing hands-on skills at the nursing home, obtaining hours to qualify to sit for the C.N.A. exam.

Grade 12 students:
Related: Learning about home health care, will start Phlebotomy in January.
Shop: Co-op or shop sites of individual choice.

Upcoming events: (Our students will assist with or volunteer at)

Once a month, the UMASS Nursing club brings a guest speaker or activity to encourage students interested in nursing.

Thank you to all our students, families and staff for supporting the craft fair raffles and assisting with the craft fair on Nov. 22nd-our biggest fundraiser!

Thank you to all the students and staff for assisting with the Thanksgiving basket which will be delivered on Nov. 24th to Soldier On.

The Lions Club “Ski and Swap Sale” December 4 and 5 will be an opportunity to volunteer for the community.

Our students will be signing holiday cards to be delivered to area nursing homes so no one will go without a holiday wish.

Manufacturing

With over two months completed so far, the Manufacturing department has begun settling into our new “facelift” thanks to the state grant we received to purchase new equipment. Students are beginning to create new incredible projects with extreme accuracy while building their technical knowledge in the field of CNC machining and programming. Along with the new equipment, the new staff in the shop have created a stronger learning environment for our students. Bringing in new industry experience combined with the pride of being graduates of Smith Vocational or other local manufacturing programs has built an exciting new atmosphere for our students to thrive. Our freshmen have been excited about the all new projects that we have created for them thanks to all the new changes to our shop! The students in the department have begun machining the 2015 version of our annual Christmas ornaments. This year the students are making two different versions, a new design on the traditional aluminum ornament and a new acrylic ornament made in our new laser engraving machine. Ornaments are now for sale through the department and 100% of the proceeds go towards the students!

Math

Trimester one tests are being given this week and next week in all math classes except Math Enrichment 9 and Math Enrichment 10.

Students have been studying and preparing for these cumulative tests and demonstrating their mastery of the concepts taught this first trimester. We look forward to building on this momentum and good study practices in the months ahead. We would like to encourage parents to continue to check their student’s grades in the online portal, and contact us with any concerns you may have.

A reminder to all families to please be sure that your student comes prepared with pencils and pens to school. This continues to be a stumbling block for many of our students.

Plumbing

(Please see the Plumbing Department’s newsletter on pages 13 and 14)

Science

Last spring our Department was awarded a 2015/2016 BioTeach Laboratory Equipment and Teacher Professional Development Grant for $12,000. Mr. Savoie and Mr. Moore have been attending professional development courses and will be purchasing new equipment to add new biotechnology labs into our curriculum. In February, we hope to have our students participate in an “in-school field trip” where 10th graders will spend an extended amount of time in the science labs. During this time we will implement one of our new biotech labs. Stay tuned for details!

Social Studies

The 2015-2016 school year has been off to a great start for the Social Studies Department! All classes have hit the ground running with rich class discussions, presentations, and projects.

In Ms. Dumais' 12th grade Psychology classes, presentations on Teen Dating and Texting and Driving have been informative and well-presented by students. Recently, the 11th grade World Cultures and Geography class has started on a research project in which students look at the economic, social and political impact a current issue, such as deforestation, can have on a country and its people.

Students in Mr. Parks' 11th grade class recently wrote and sent letters to elected officials about an issue of their choice. Students were asked to introduce themselves as constituents, present facts about their issue, and conclude with a requested course of action. Letters were sent to local, state and federal officials. Some students have already received responses, which have been shared with the rest of the class. This assignment has let students practice civic engagement and citizenship.

Student Recognition

Ms. Dumais would like to recognize 9th grader Marina Caputo as a stand out student. Marina comes to class everyday with a positive attitude and a willingness to work hard, even when tasks are difficult. She works well in teams and demonstrates leadership skills.

Student Services

Student Services Presents:
Study Skills Tips

Studying not only improves your grades on tests, but it also teaches time management and self-discipline. **Here are some tips to help improve your studying!**

1. **Know your learning style** - Learning style theory suggests that generally individuals fall within one or more of the four learning styles: auditory, kinesthetic, read-write, and visual. Tailoring your study habits to the best way you learn will help you retain more information in a quicker amount of time.

2. **Find a place and a time** - Find a comfortable place with little distractions and schedule a time that you consistently sit down to go over your materials.

3. **Study a little bit each day** - If you study each day you will not need to cram and the information will better reach your long-term memory.

4. **Plan you time** - Prioritize your work and plan enough time to complete all your tasks. Remember to take breaks! Your brain needs rest when it is working hard.

5. **Review and revise** - Quiz yourself, participate in study groups, and make flashcards or study guides. The more you expose yourself to the material, the better you will remember it.

6. **Ask for help** - If you don't understand material, contact your teacher, go to afterschool help or access the internet. Use all your resources to get the information or help you need.

7. **Take care of yourself** - Your brain functions the best when you get enough sleep, eat nutritious food and are relaxed. Take care of yourself because you are worth it!

For more information about study strategies, visit your guidance counselor or http://www.youthcentral.vic.gov.au/studying-training/studying-tips-resources/top-10-study-tips

WELLNESS

The Physical education component of the Wellness course is implementing a new program to acknowledge positive behavior in class. At the end of each class, a student will be recognized as the class 'MVP' for the day and their name will be written on the board for the remainder of the week. Behaviors we are encouraging include a positive attitude, teamwork, and doing one's best. Our goal is to show that you don't have to be the best at something to be the 'most valuable' to your teammates (co-workers and peers).

STUDENT CLASS ACTIVITIES NEWS

Class of 2016: Class advisor Nelson Lacey will return to work on December 4. Please direct any Class of 2016 related questions to him.

Class of 2017: The annual Snow Ball Semi-Formal Dance will be Saturday, January 30, 2016 from 6-10pm. It will be held at the Elks Lodge in Florence, MA. Ticket prices to come!

Class of 2018, 2019 and JABOP: We would like to thank all staff, custodians, and students for making Smith's 1st Annual Homecoming Dance a huge success. The advisors would also like to thank the student volunteers for their time helping to set up and promote the dance.

THE PLUMBING PRAVDA

Habitat For Humanity

Amherst Project

The Smith Vocational & Agricultural High School's Plumbing Department has been installing the underground plumbing for Amherst's Habitat for Humanity project located at 235 East Pleasant Street. The project introduced the students (classes 2017 & 2018) to real world deadlines, project testing and the intricacies of standing for inspection. The Juniors (shown above) and Seniors (below) worked with Mr. Armand Lamour (class of 2002) to complete the underground plumbing.

Isometric drawing

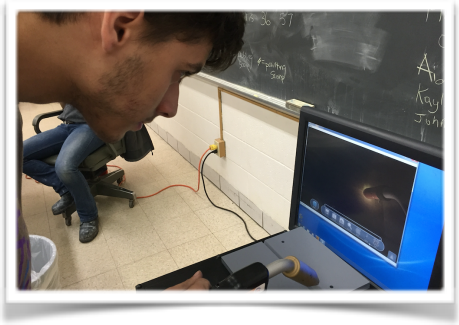
The Junior class is currently involved in a project where they are required to convert an orthographic plan view to an isometric depiction of the projected forestry land building to include all piping required, a material list, and a cost projection of materials and labor.

Co-operative placement

The Plumbing Department currently has 56% of their seniors on co-operative placement in trade related environments.

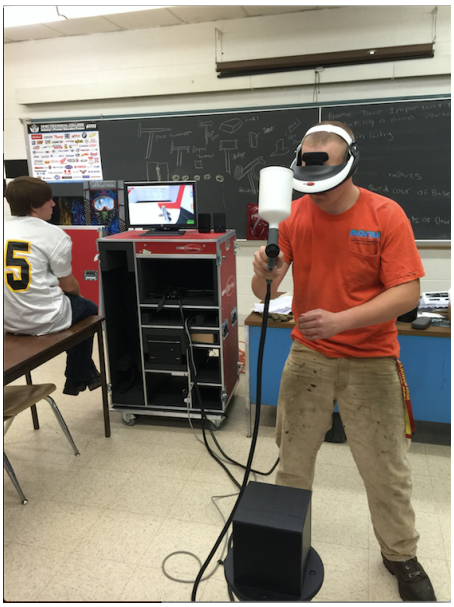
Campus work

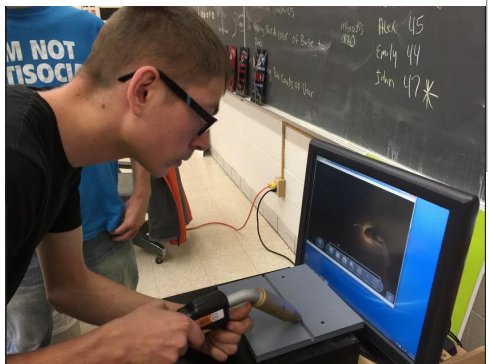
The plumbing class of 2017 was asked to winterize the Sports Broadcast Tower. Valuable instruction in using air to force water from lines and the proper sequence for winterizing drainage were employed.



Integration!

Friday the 13th of November the Plumbing Department's class of 2017 (left) visited our friends in Collision Repair for an integration project where the students tested there virtual abilities on the paint spraying and mig welding simulators.



Fish Shirt Friday!

Where is it written that school can't be fun? Students Ryan Geary, Tim Girouard and Darron Mayew joined in on the fun with Mr. Paterson's *Fish shirt Friday.*