



ATLANTIC COAST CHAMPIONS 2005

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SOUTHERN LIGHTS



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF SOUTHERN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Southern Lights

Fall 2005



The Twelve Dancing Princesses was the featured fall performance of the Southern Regional Theatre Company in November. Students and community members of all ages enjoyed this fairy tale adapted by Richard Helleesen from *The Story of Brothers Grimm*. The story, recognizable to any defiant teenager or exasperated parent, showed the walls people build between each other and how the power of love and communication can tear them down. Under the direction of drama teacher Jim McCabe, the cast included the following students from his Advanced Improv class: Theresa Ahearn, Jacquelyn Alvarez, Kristin Benzinger, Nikki Bonica, Kaitlyn Clark, Dana Frack, Ashley Furlong, Thomas Kankowski, Krystal Kmiechick, Lillian Kuti, Elizabeth Law, Lauren McNeal, Daniel Navas, Erica Rohloff, Aaren Sinor, Jannah Tabbacchino, Michael Wymbbs, and Caitlin Tanner.



Southern Regional High School Peer Leadership program continues to set the standard in the county for what peer leadership truly is." Student Youth Leadership Experience (STYLE) students presented the program "Dating Violence and Risk Reductions," as part of the Focus on Domestic and Sexual Violence program presented by the Southern Ocean County Domestic Violence Task Force. They performed scenarios on dating abuses and then answered questions from the audience while remaining in character. Carol Schoenberger, Southern Ocean County Hospital (SOCH) Health Resource Manager, noted, "The district can be very proud of the way STYLE students represent both Southern Regional and the community."

Students Share Expertise with Community

Southern Regional student groups shared their expertise with both students and adults in the community at several different fall events.

Students in the Peer Leadership program, under the direction of Bob Dolan, presented the workshop "Building Bridges: Peer Leadership" at the Empowering Teens as Community Partners Summit hosted by the Ocean County Library Toms River Branch. Judy Macaluso, the Teen Services Coordinator for the library, commended the students for conducting the workshop on their own and modeling true leadership to all who attended. She stated, "The

For the seventh year, junior and senior STYLE peer leaders worked with the Ocean County prosecutor's office and the county superintendent's office to present a 24 hour program, Safe Night. This weekend training event involved about 200 students from eighteen area middle schools who received special training from the SR student leaders to develop action plans to prevent violence in their schools and promote tolerance in their communities. STYLE students set up the program and spent the 24 hours working directly with these middle school students. Joining Bob Dolan were Katie Massimiano and Mike Armstrong. Leslie Terjesen of the Ocean County Health Department praised not only the program but also the

Students in Patty Penn's Clothing Construction class entered school this year with Hurricane Katrina on the news. So the Family and Consumer Sciences teacher and two of her sewing classes had the idea to create quilts for the victims using donations of new, flat sheets from faculty and students along with remnants from past projects. Some were done as a team of two or three students. Others were done individually. Penn noted, "The results were magnificent. They reacquainted themselves with the sewing machine and sharpened their sewing skills while doing something that will be beneficial to others. I am very proud of my students' commitment to help others."

Students Quilt for Hurricane Victims

Students agreed that making the quilts was a great idea. Melinda Danko and Maria Giunta felt the "most rewarding part was the simple fact that something so easy for us is going to make a great difference in others' lives." Cheryl Marchese added, "Making the quilt made me realize how much a piece of cloth could turn into something so beautiful and help the ones who suffered stay warm."

The following students worked on the

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Students Place Wreath at Tomb

In November, 384 eighth grade students and 46 faculty members spent two days in Washington, D.C. experienc-



ing first-hand the landmarks, buildings, and memorials that commemorate our national history and culture. This event helped them to make the connection between what they study in their eighth grade American history classes and the past. The itinerary included visits to sites that support the curriculum. A tour of the Holocaust Museum and one to the top of the Washington Monument were highlights of the trip. Students also visited the Lincoln, Jefferson, Korean, Viet Nam, FDR, WWII, and WWI memorials as well as the National Cathedral and National Archives where they saw the U.S. Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and the Magna Carta.

As representatives of each eighth grade Middle School team, Brian Murphy, Emily Hoffman, Robert Parise, and Lara Hasney were honored to place a wreath from Southern Regional Middle School at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier during a special ceremony in Arlington National Cemetery.

In addition to an extraordinary educational experience, students also benefited socially from this trip. Included were events such as a dinner dance at the Marriot Hotel, lunch at ESPN Zone and Union Station, and a group picture at the Grant Memorial.

Sister-school Partnership Offers Rare Opportunities

Nine Southern students and their Japanese teacher used part of their summer vacation to attend school – in Japan. Tom Garneau along with seniors Caitlin Clarke, Chris Kaye, Garrett Nieddu, and Ed Zebrowski and juniors Glenn Armstrong, Lauren Cottrell, Brendan Genna, Barbara Heimall, and Greg Hidlay spent three weeks in Japan as part of Southern Regional's ongoing sister-school partnership with Sosa High School. Since summer vacation does not begin until late July there, SR students were able to experience life in a Japanese high school while following their host student's schedule of classes. Each Southern student went to a separate home stay for five days, getting a firsthand experience of Japanese family life as well. The remaining time was spent touring famous sights.



L to R: Greg Hidlay, Ed Zebrowski, and Chris Kaye enjoy boating on Tokyo Bay.

The next student exchange is scheduled for 2007. The Sosa students will be visiting Southern for home stays and classes in March of that year while Southern stu-

dents will be going over in the summer. On both sides, many students are already eagerly planning for the trips. Brendan Genna sums up this reaction best with his statement. "Only weeks after returning home did I really appreciate how much I did while we were in Japan. It was three month's worth of exposure in three weeks and a lifetime of memories."

Learning Labs Benefit Southern Students and Preschoolers

The Child Development Learning Lab classes focus on a variety of activities in academics, art, music, dramatic play, and block play. These activities develop fine as well as gross motor skills and compliment the unit that the preschoolers are currently learning. Southern students in the Child Development and Advanced Child Development courses teach the classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays under the supervision of Catherine Latshaw and Holly Kropinack. Morning or afternoon sessions are offered. The program, which takes place at SRHS, is open to residents of the SR district and its sending districts. Children must be three years old by October 1 of the current school year and not yet in kindergarten. For more information, interested parents can call 609-597-9481, Ext. 502.



After reading "The Napping House" to preschoolers, Keri Biggins (SR student instructor) helps preschoolers with a story stretcher to reinforce the story they have just heard.



Preschoolers sponge paint Adobe Houses after discussing the different types of houses people live in. L to R: Sam Skodi, Benjamin Ridgeway, Danielle Cestaro (SR student instructor).

In the Classroom

Seven students are enrolled in a choral independent study program with HS vocal teacher Carolyn Placa. She stated, "All these students wish to pursue music and education so it is a great way to experience all the planning and preparation that a teacher is required to do." The students have started working with small groups and now are starting to instruct parts of the choral lesson with breathing warm-ups and rhythm reading exercises. However, as the year progresses so will the students' responsibility in the classroom. Students are also learning various teaching techniques. Placa concluded, "They are truly getting a hands-on experience and will know how to direct, conduct, and organize a class of adolescents."

Tauro Becomes Top Runner in NJ



Junior Danielle Tauro competed against 177 runners to win the cross country Meet of Champions (MOC) in Holmdel. She ran the 3.1 mile course in 18:03, which was the fastest winning time since 1988. This victory also made her the first Ocean County girl to win the MOC in its 34 year history. Additionally, Tauro won the Group IV title at the state cross country championships. She ran the 3.1 mile course in 18:06, the third fastest time ever at Holmdel Park, the site of the state championships since 1976. Other wins this season include the Shore Conference Championship and the South Jersey Sectional Championship.

The color version of the newsletter is available on the SRSD web site along with additional information about the district.
<http://www.srsd.net>

A Message about the 2006-2007 Budget

The 2006-2007 school budget vote will take place on **Tuesday, April 18, 2006. Since this date falls during spring break, school will not be in session on April 18, 2006.** All registered voters who will not be able to come to the polls to vote are encouraged to obtain an absentee ballot application and cast an absentee ballot. An absentee ballot application can be downloaded from the Ocean County Clerk's web site at <http://www.oceancountyclerk.com/election/frame.htm> or obtained by calling Election Services at 732-929-2153.



The Golden Rams Marching Band participated in the

Tournament of Bands Atlantic Coast Championships, competing against 24 other bands from the Northeastern US. Southern tied for first place, the first time this has happened in these championships. This outstanding feat has earned Southern three consecutive years of first place, more than any other band in the championship history. Congratulations to Mike Longdo, his staff, and the students who worked so hard for this achievement.

The Southern sounds of Christina Skleros, Kristina DeBiase, Ashley Hoffman, Sarah DeGenova, Mandy Majkutowski, Rebecca Pasquale, Dan Navas, and Tom Skleros will be heard in the 2005-2006 All-Shore Chorus. These SR choral students, ranging from grades 9 through 12, successfully auditioned to earn membership in this year's All-Shore Chorus. The choir consists of 150 students from both Monmouth and Ocean County. The group practices for several hours a day twice a week at various high schools to prepare for two choral concerts.

The High School Vocal Ensemble was selected to perform at the 37th National Conference of the National Staff Development Council at the Marriot Hotel in Philadelphia in December. Under the direction of Larry DelMasto, the group was selected by audition by the host committee of educators from across New Jersey and Pennsylvania. The outstanding work and talent of area students will be showcased throughout the conference.

Quilts

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quilts: Vatazia Ames, Nicole Andreotta, Stephanie Cook, Kristen Durborow, Jillian Harth, Amanda Hoover, Krista Langworthy, Brittany LaRoche, Jessica Leikauskas, Annaliese Luft, Erin O'Connor, Kasi Smith, Arielle Barone, Melinda Danko, Tonya Dunkin, Christina Gherardi, Maria Giunta, Katy Jobson, Jasmine Johnson, Angela Licciardello, Jessica Mannarino, Cheryl Marchese, Jenn Barnes, Michelle Hutchinson, Katy Kunze, Sherri McKenna, Kerry Shinn, April Stewart, and Lynn Tallman.

In all, the class presented 18 quilts to the Salvation Army for distribution. Board member Major Coles accepted them on behalf of the Salvation Army.



Amanda Hoover sews finishing touches on her quilt.

Great American Smoke Out Comes to Southern



First place winner Natalie Reale (right) from the Seven Seas team shares the winning slogan on her T-shirt, *Don't Be Jokin' About Smokin' - It Kills*, with Lorraine Airey, MS Principal (left).

SR Middle School participated in various activities to celebrate Great American Smoke Out Week. For the past seven years, the Great American Smoke Out (GASO) has been brought to seventh graders through the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse. The Council funds all Municipal Alliances throughout the state of NJ. The GASO was paid for by Stafford Township Municipal Alliance's grant funds and was co-sponsored by Southern Ocean County Hospital and Second Voice Speakers Group.

Gail Bott, director of the Stafford Township Municipal Alliance, kicked off the event in the MS library. Many concerned community organizations also took part in the programming: Carol Schoenberger, Southern Ocean County Hospital; Jason Plaia, American Cancer Society and a 1995 graduate of SRHS; and Leslie Terjesen, Ocean County Health Department.

George Cocking from the Ocean County Nu Voice Club was the guest speaker. He presented a vivid picture of life after a laryngectomy caused by smoking. Students were made aware of the problems he has eating solid food and of his inability to boat, shower, swim, whistle, and smell.

Student winners of the Great American T-shirt Design Contest were announced at the kick-off event. First place winner Natalie Reale from the Seven Seas team stated that she was surprised to see her design on this year's T-shirt, which was given to all seventh graders. Natalie also received a \$50 gift certificate. Amy Burkhard, also of the Seven Seas, placed second, and Taylor Jennings of the Waves received the third place award.

Mardi Gras Event Generates Amazing Response

Board member Major Charles Coles accepts check for Hurricane Katrina victims on behalf of the Salvation Army.



Middle School students and staff, under the direction of English teacher Scott Cooper, raised over \$13,000 for Hurricane Katrina victims through a series of Mardi Gras themed events with 100% of the proceeds going to the relief effort. For one week in September, the sights and sounds of this festival transformed the halls. Students sold and wore beads and masks. Physical education classes taught dances. Zydeco music was played in between classes, and the school's Jazz Band greeted students with "When the Saints Come Marching In." Students filled a huge ceramic bowl with spare change that tallied up to \$928.89 by the end of the week. A Mardi Gras Dance attended by over 650 students concluded the fund raiser. It turned out to be quite an event. In addition to dancing, they ate and drank in a "Cafe du Monde" restaurant set up and run by teachers and even had the opportunity to get their pictures taken in front of a colorfully painted backdrop of Bourbon Street. Cooper remarked, "I think the students were surprised at just how much money we were able to raise in one week. I know I was. They also learned an important lesson about caring and helping others in need, and they learned that they can make a difference in their world."

Students of the Month

September

Grade 9	Katie Vitulli
Grade 10	Elizabeth Trotta
Grade 11	Jon Faronea
Grade 12	Allen Walski

October

Grade 9	Andrew Kinzler
Grade 10	Sarah Hoppe
Grade 11	Michael Berry
Grade 12	David Stockton

November

Grade 9	Miriam Zavala
Grade 10	Nichole Celauro
Grade 11	Nicole Barragan
Grade 12	Tiffany Urea

Lighthouse Initiative Offers Happy Trails

The Lighthouse Initiative continues to provide students with opportunities to become involved in programs that foster self-improvement and personal responsibility. The newest addition to Lighthouse programming is Walk and Talk. Students meet twice weekly and follow a simulated walking trail from lighthouse to lighthouse in New Jersey. Students record their progress on a lighthouse mural with pictures of each lighthouse. The program's walking and talking component between faculty and student participants gives students the opportunity to discuss anything on their minds from problems at school to world events. The initial session included 13 walkers with additional sign-ups weekly. Middle School teachers Lori Sefcik and Katie Shearer organized this initiative.

Another element is the Middle School Game Day, reorganized by health and physical education teacher Lee Ann Carney. Students are encouraged to become involved in board game action on Tuesdays after school. Along with the organized games, students often find a listening ear to encourage them.

STYLE

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team effort. She commented, "Each year we see kids whose lives, I know, we touch in some positive way." On February 9, 2001, Safe Night was recognized by the National Conference for Community and Justice at Princeton University as an "outstanding program."

Several STYLE students, along with Mike Armstrong, participated in Healthy Choices, a program for mothers and daughters organized by Carol Schoenberger, of SOCH. STYLE's role was to provide information on communication skills geared toward enhancing mother/daughter relationships and to explore the warning signs of dating relationships that might turn abusive. They accomplished this through two informational presentations followed by some role-plays. For the role-play, students not only acted out the situation but they also stayed in character to answer questions from those in attendance. Armstrong commented, "There were about 100 mothers and daughters in attendance, and the program was well-received by the audience and the organizers of the program."

Home and School Association Increases Mini-Grants

The Southern Regional Home and School Association (SRHSA) awarded grants of \$250 each to eight teachers to help fund school and community programs that would benefit a broad range of students within the district. Co-spokespersons Stacey Adams and Dee Dzielewski announced, "Due to the success of last year's initial effort, the SRHSA decided to expand the program and approved grants to eight very worthwhile activities." To be considered for the money, the teachers had to be a member of the SRHSA and complete an application describing their project. The following were recipients: Lynn Lapsley for the SRMS Lightning Team's Veterans Appreciation Breakfast, Sam Fierra to help organize a Community Turkey Trot benefiting local food banks, Kim Fonteix for REBEL (Reaching Everyone By Exposing Lies) to help educate elementary students through workshops on the effects of substance abuse, Darren Dorris for the SRHS Fishing Club trip, Suzanne Spirito for the Special Education Prom, Ruth Tummey for the Future Educators of America Club, Robert MacMaster for Biology II students to attend a program at the New Jersey School of Conservation, and Eileen O'Neill for SR students to attend the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Academic Bowl.



L to R: REBEL members Kristina Skidmore and Justine Henderson hang signs for the Great American Smoke Out.

Through its membership and major fund raising events, the SRHSA endeavors to positively affect as many students as possible and has added the mini-grant program to its significant yearly donations to grades 7 through 12, class activities, and Project Graduation.

Southern Time and Talent Help Safe House



L to R: Adele Berardi, Emily Stadthaus, Mike Helle, Jenn (Plumley) Miller

At their Eleventh Annual Celebration of Survivors in October, the Providence House of Catholic Charities presented a plaque to Southern Regional High School for their important role in helping victims of domestic violence and for their vital role in the community of Ocean County. Art teacher Jenn Plumley-Miller, health/physical education teacher Peg Malley, and special education teacher Adele Berardi along with a few students were asked to attend as representatives of SRHS because they have worked on different projects at Providence House with students over the past several years. Mary Pettrow, program director, stated, "Year after year your staff and students have explored innovative ways to help our clients at the safe house and seem to have an endless supply of new ideas." Miller was honored for the redecorating of the playroom, the teen room, the kitchen, and the dining room in their safe house through her Interior Design class. Malley worked with freshmen on their community service day to clean the safe house yard and sheds and to perform various other clean-up tasks. Berardi's class beautified the safe house grounds by thoroughly cleaning it and planting a garden in the front yard.

Programs Encourage Community Learning



Instructor Sherry Cox (center) checks Maggie Hundley's (left) stitches in the Intermediate Knitting Class while Michelle Miller (right) looks on.

The Southern Regional Adult School (SRAS) has undergone some reorganization this year, and a few of the names have changed. Joining SRAS Principal Jan Kristbergs is Susan Craig, Adult School Coordinator, and Mike Armstrong, Adult School Counselor. Joining Professional Assistant Reina Levy is Cheryl Barrett, who staffs the evening office in the 11-12 Building of SRHS. Nonetheless, the program continues to offer an array of comprehensive educational, enrichment,

career, and trip opportunities that serve the varied needs of the community.

The Evening High School Diploma program anticipates approximately 25 graduates again this year, and over 3000 participants will register for the enrichment courses and excursions. That does not include the nearly 140 students presently registered in the GED and English Foreign Born/English Second Language programs conducted in partnership with the St. Francis Counseling Center. These well-attended courses serve as an inspiration that it is never too late to learn.

The community enrichment course selection continues to present diverse and wide-ranging offerings. From computers to cooking, from boating safety to ballroom dancing, there truly is "something for everyone." Over 100 course selections, ranging from one-night seminars to 10-week programs, are inspiring community members to learn, to socialize, and to have fun. The trip program sponsors about 25 excursions each semester. From Broadway shows to West Point, these trips are usually sold out.

The numbers tell the story. Southern has become the educational center of the community. Both Kristbergs and Craig noted, "To achieve this outstanding level of service to the community requires not only community endorsement but also the support of the Board of Education, the Adult School Advisory Committee, the adult school instructors, the adult school administrative team, and professional assistants Reina Levy and Cheryl Barrett. The Adult School also appreciates the services of John Schroeder, Security, as well as the team of custodians."

The Southern Regional Adult School Spring Brochure will be delivered to mailboxes and posted on the district web site (www.srsd.net) shortly after the New Year. Be sure to look for it so you don't miss the exciting and valuable information it is guaranteed to offer.

Eyeglass Project Makes a Difference



After counting new donations of eyeglasses, Jonathan Hussain fills in the number on the class graph as Kim Ring checks to see how close the class is to their goal of 50 pairs.

Elaine Triano's self-contained class collected old eyeglasses as a project for National Make a Difference Day. They donated the eyeglasses to Lens Crafter who sorted all the eyeglasses into prescriptions and distributed them to people in need in developing countries where it can take an entire month's

salary to buy a pair of glasses. The students counted them and graphed the results on their bulletin board on a daily basis. They collected 57 pairs.

Did You Know?

The **Middle School A-Team** conducted a **food drive** in October to help replenish local pantries that are low because of the many donations to areas hit by hurricanes. In three days, they collected a large pyramid of food that was delivered to the **St. Francis food pantry**.

Science teacher **Darren Dorris** launched a new **Fishing TV show**, "New Jersey Angler Video Magazine," on local cable. It is the only fishing show that is filmed in NJ about NJ. It airs every Sunday on Channel 27 (Ocean County) at 10:00 a.m. Dorris has been the salt water editor for the *New Jersey Angler* fishing magazine for the last several years, and this is his first video venture. He is also the co-advisor for the SRHS Fishing Club - The Fishing Rams.

The **National Junior Honor Society** inducted **59 eighth graders** in a formal **candle-light ceremony** in October. The first activity for the group is the annual holiday wreath sale

that raises money for the SRHS scholarship fund. Other activities for the year include peer tutoring, maintaining the flower beds around the school, sponsoring the MS February dance, and setting up the luminary bags at the Relay for Life. Advisors are Kathy Hillblom and Johanna McCauley.

The **Beach Haven Exchange Club** is again sponsoring their **Youth of the Month** program. Students are selected for academics, character, and service. Six seniors are chosen to be honored at a dinner with the club. These students complete an application and an essay. One will be chosen as the Youth of the Year with scholarship potential at the local, state, regional, and national level. **Ryan Gross** was chosen as the Youth of the Month for **October**, and **Brian Baum** was chosen for **November**.

Science teacher Susan Craig wanted to provide backpacks for students displaced by the hurricanes. Her request to the Southern staff for **unused backpacks for students who were victims of the hurricanes** resulted in over **100 donations**. She went to a disaster relief site on the web and discovered a list of elementary, middle, and high schools still in need. The donations were divided and sent to 10 different schools. Craig was overwhelmed by the response and was also pleasantly surprised that many of the bags were filled with school supplies.

The Helm Chapter of the **National Honor Society** inducted **58 juniors** and **15 seniors** in a formal **candle light ceremony** in November. Members are currently involved in a peer tutoring program. Additional projects for the year include a school service day, a visit to a convalescent center for Valentines Day, and a Christmas stocking project. Erik Tramontana is

District Spring Musical Set for March

The Southern Regional Theatre Company, under the direction of Carolyn Placa, is busy preparing for its annual district spring musical. *The Sound of Music* is scheduled to be performed on March 1 and 2 at 6 p.m., March 3 at 8 p.m., and March 4 at 8 p.m. with the Dinner Theatre at 6 p.m. It is the 40th anniversary of the show and promises to be an evening of fine Southern entertainment. Mark your calendars!

Conte Farm Hosts Harvest Trip

Intergenerational Council held its first activity of the year in October when SRHS students and adults traveled to Conte Farm to pick apples and pumpkins. Upon their return to the school, they assembled and baked apple crisps together. In November the group gathered once again for a Thanksgiving dinner complete with turkey and all the trimmings. Each member contributed to the feast by making a favorite recipe and bringing it in for all to enjoy. Family and Consumer Sciences teacher Sharon Lenahan is the advisor and has many more exciting activities planned for the year.



Adults and students prepare apple crisps with apples they picked earlier that day at Conte Farm. L to R: Mary Lou Fitzgerald, Brittany Tompkins (junior), Carolyn Steffy, and Rachael Russell (sophomore).

Spirit Week Ends with Homecoming



Homecoming Court - L to R: Kurt Covine, Megan Hauer, Lynn Tallman, Robert Ryan, Tim Hogan (King), Lauren Carlo (Queen), Sarah Hahn, Dave Melusky, Jannah Tabbacchino, and Pedro Aguilar.

Spirit Week promotes school unity, school pride, entertaining activities, charitable contributions, and crazy attire - in just one week. During the week of October 25, SRHS Student Council sponsored a week of spirit building activities beginning with Penny Wars on Monday and ending with the kissing of the ram at the homecoming game on Saturday. Other activities included dress-up theme days, wall decorating,

the ring ceremony, and the homecoming dance. The Marching Band traveled through the school during last period on Friday as a send-off for the homecoming tailgate party and game Saturday.



Wall Decorating - (Top) L to R: 2009 - Colleen Somers and Alexis Houck, 2008 - Michelle Serpico and Kacey Bush; (Bottom) L to R: 2007 - Michael Helle and Chris South (class advisor), 2006 - Megan Andermanis and Chrissy Cochran



As the winner of Penny Wars, the Freshman class selected teacher Sandy Mackay to kiss the ram.

Penny Wars raised over \$700 which was donated to the Simon Ferber Foundation for Autism.

the advisor.

Jerry Tabbacchino's period 1 **Advanced Woodworking class** recently completed 12 projects that they auctioned off. Among the pieces on display in the 9-10 library were dry sinks, grandfather clocks, small entertainment centers, cedar benches, and a pine hall table. Staff members had one week to view the furniture and place their bid. Pieces were awarded to the highest bidders. All proceeds were donated to the **American Red Cross Gulf Coast Relief Fund**. On the items auctioned so far, \$750 has been raised; however, several additional projects still need to be auctioned.