

Vocational Voice

Vol. LXXII No. 2

Queens Vocational and Technical High School, Long Island City, NY 11101

Winter, 2007



Cosmo students lend their services to the elderly.

Seniors Helping Seniors Students Serve the Local Community

by Jacqueline Concepcion

The senior cosmetology class went to the Sunnyside Community Center on Monday, December 11, to provide facials, manicures, haircuts, and blow-drying for the community's senior citizens.

By providing their services, many of the cosmetology students leave the center with a sense of accomplishment. "I felt like I did something helpful. I might not have changed the world but I know that I made the seniors feel better," said Stephanie Cerqueda. Another student who was glad to participate was Alejandra Lopez. "I feel good about myself because I'm helping people. Most of them don't have family, so it's nice that we get to visit them and make them feel better and happier," she said.

The senior cosmetologists visit the center frequently to put into practice the skills they have learned in class. Twenty-two cosmetology students went to the center from 9:30 am to 1 pm. Most of the students provided cosmetology serviced to 5-7 seniors. "The students act very mature and professional," said Mr. Grochala, the cosmetology

teacher.

The center provided the students with breakfast and lunch for their hard work.

Sandy Manjarrez, a cosmetology major, said that when she went to the center, she gave manicures. She said that she learned something new while doing manicures that day. "I'm used to shaping nails as a square shape but this time the seniors wanted me to shape nails as an oval so I was able to learn how to shape nails as an oval."

Kayla White also, learned something important. "I learned that it takes patience to work with people because the seniors sometimes tell us how to do our job and they tend to be picky," she said.

Nube Condo, whose task was to provide facials and manicures said she "was able to gain more experience manicuring because manicuring is not one of my strong points."

Mr. Grochala is proud of his students. "It's good to see an interchange between teenagers and more mature people." He is glad that the visits work. "The students really enjoy it and they are anxious to go back."

Technical Certification in Electronics

by David Stanojev

Queens Voc seniors majoring in computer technology, electrical installation, and electronics can become certified in copper-based training and fiber optics training during their shop classes.

To be qualified for this program, C-Tech and EI student must be recommended by their shop teachers. Electronics students are automatically enrolled in the program because it is part of their curriculum. The program deals with the "process of making internet cable connections such as coaxial cables and Ethernet cables, according to specifications," said Mr. Ali, instructor of program.

The copper-based and fiber optics program is taught in 2 sections, each approximately 6 weeks in length. Copper-based training is one section, in which students learn how internet cable connections are made. Students must follow building codes for network cabling, located in the National Electrical Code. Copper-based training began in the 2nd marking period and ended in the 3rd marking period. The top 20 students who finished the copper-based program advance to fiber optics, which starts in the spring term.

Students in the fiber optics program will learn about safety precautions before they start working with fiber optics, since fiber optics, made of glass, can easily penetrate the skin. Students will also learn how information is transferred through the cables and how fiber optics has its advantages over copper cables.

To earn a certificate from this program, students must pass with an 85 or above. The copper-based and fiber optics programs offer a better chance for students to succeed after high school said Mr. Ali, "companies such as Time Warner and Verizon are looking for experienced personnel in this field." Mr. Ali's class features textbook use and hands-on work, which keeps students interested according to Alan Casallas. "I enjoyed the hands-on work, because it helped us get a feel on how to apply what we learned."



Students by the fireplace after ice-skating.

Senior Trip Succeeds Students Showed Spirit, had Fun

by Diomedes Gonzalez

The Senior Class of 2007 headed to the Nevele Grande Resort in the Catskills for the senior trip which was held from Friday, January 12, to Sunday, January 14. This was the first time any senior class from Queens Voc attended this resort since Mr. Vega's became the coordinator of student activities.

Students met at 11am in front of the school to head up to the Catskills. The seniors and chaperones traveled on coach buses, equipped with a lavatory, reclining seats, and climate control for each seat. This year's goal was to fill up two coach buses, which has never been done before, and break any record held by previous senior classes on the number of students attending the trip. The seniors fell short of their goal to have two buses and only 48 seniors attended this year's trip, but that didn't stop the seniors from having fun.

The cost of the trip was \$240 dollars per student, which covered the hotel rooms, food, and most activities. Students interested in paintballing had to pay an additional \$30 dollars. There were two deadlines for the trip, one on November 27 and the second on December 20. The November deadline was a \$75 dollar deposit to ensure a seat on the bus. The December deadline was the rest of the money owed, which was \$165 dollars.

Nevele Grande Resort was picked as the destination for the 2007 senior trip because Mr. Vega wanted a change in scenery from last year's trip. "It

seemed like a good deal, with the hotel and activities," said Mr. Vega.

Activities for the trip were laser tag, karaoke party, skiing, basketball, ping pong, dancing, snow tubing, ice skating, teen night clubs, tennis, indoor winter carnival, game rooms, shuffle board, a heated pool, racquetball, a health club, a make your own sundae party night, a pizza party night, paintball, and horseback riding.

A 1am curfew was established by Mr. Vega and other chaperones for the seniors to be in their section. After arriving back at the hotel from the club,



Seniors enjoying the trip.

the seniors were able to hang out in their section.

"I had so much fun chilling in the hallway, having the pillow fight, being in the pool, and going clubbing," said Ebony Strachan. Everywhere the seniors went they made their presence known. "This was the best experience of my life," Christopher Tavares. Leidy Sierra, seemed to agree. "I think everyone should experience going to senior trip, this goes out to all the juniors," she said.

Mr. Vega and the other chaperones were pleased with the behavior of the students. "The trip was excellent. I am proud of all the seniors who attended," said Mr. Vega. "We stood out as the most spirited and mature school and still managed to have a lot of fun."

What's Inside

this edition of *Vocational Voice*

Honor Trip, Spirit	2	Horoscopes, Music.....	10
Graffiti, Senior News.....	3	Inquiring Photo.....	11
FBLA, Construction.....	4	Puzzles, Websites.....	12
Principal's Message.....	5	Movie Reviews.....	13
SO, Commentaries.....	6	Inside Tigers Sports...	14
Perfect Attendance.....	7	Senior Sports Profiles..	15
Junior Shop Profiles...8,9		Tigers Sports.....	16



Students enjoy a day on the ice.

Queens Voc Puts Honor Roll Students on Ice

by Gaochao Huang

Honor Roll trips are held every year for students who have an 85 or higher average on their end of term report card. On Thursday December 7, from 8:45am to 3pm, the Honor Roll students from last June went ice-skating at Wollman Rink in Central Park and had lunch at Planet Hollywood.

Eighty-five students were eligible to attend the trip but most did not attend. Thirty-five Honor Roll students and 10 leadership students went. Mr. Vega, coordinator of student



Ms. Vittor joins the trip.

activities, organized the trip, which is paid for by the school to reward the Honor Roll students. “I think that having a trip to reward students is a great idea, it gives them something to look forward to, an commendation for their good work,” said sophomore Gregory Paul, who attended the trip.

Kevin Muñoz and Jose Ramirez twisted their ankles while skating and were taken to the hospital. “When I fell, I felt like an idiot and my friend had to help me, but I felt all right because I was used to getting sprained ankles all the time,” said Jose Ramirez

Ms. Vittor, the school principal, made a special appearance at Wollman Rink escorting, senior Kacy James, who had attended an VICA meeting in Manhattan that morning.

Eighty-five students were eligible to attend the trip but

many did not. Thirty-five Honor Roll students attended on the trip along with 10 Leadership students.

After skating, The group headed to Planet Hollywood for lunch. Some of the students were impressed by the numerous props from popular movies according to Kelvin Smartt. Grilled Chicken sandwich, classic burger/cheeseburger, pomodoro pasta, and grilled chicken salad were on the menu, all with unlimited refills of soft drinks.

Robert Cruz, a junior said that he enjoyed the fun times ice-skating with his friends. Not only was ice-skating fun, but, Ruthie Vegas said “The food was great and delicious.”

Queens Voc Wins Blue ★ Award

by Jerry Chang

At the MoneyPOWER conference held November 7, Queens Vocational and Technical High School was awarded the Blue Star Banner for its success on the Financial Literacy Certification Test (FLCT) held last May. Mr. Alohan and Mr. Persaud represented Queens Voc at the award ceremony.

The Blue Star award is given to schools that obtained at least a 75 percent passing rate among the students who took the test. Thirty-two schools including Queens Voc were awarded the Blue Star Banner at the conference, held at “The High School of Economics and Finance.”

“The twenty-two students sat for the FLC exam last May and were all successful,” said Mr. Persaud, who teaches Financial Planning, a business class at Queens Voc.

“The Financial Literacy Certification Test is offered by

WISE, or Working in Support of Education, a non-profit foundation supported banks and financial institutions, including Citigroup, JP Morgan Chase, Bank of America, Washington Mutual, American Express, The Federal Reserve Bank of New York, New York Credit Union Foundation, and a number of professional associations,” Mr. Persaud said.

“The WISE Foundation has a simple goal, to increase the number of high school graduates who are financially literate. With the basic financial literacy education, WISE hopes to provide greater financial discipline among high school students and that they will learn to save and invest money in their early age,” Mr. Persaud said.

The FLCT is offered to seniors who take high school economics and financial planning courses. FLCT covers subjects such as stock exchange (NYSE, Amex, Nasdaq), mutual funds, financial math, money and credit, and more.

The following students took the FLCT on December 19: Ruth Arteaga, Stephanie Baigue, Tricia Banos, Jennifer Cabrera, Lizbeth Colon, Linda Dutan, Angel Fung, Estefania Garcia, Claudia Gimenez, Laura Gonzalez, Carlos Guerra, Elihio Hernandez, Goa Chao Huang, Kacy James, Dairis Jimenez, Alamin Master, Sanday Manjanos, Daniel Medina, Jonathan Mejia, Joel Moreaux, Normajeon Noel, Jelissa Pena, Yessenia Perez, Alfredo Poveda, Iris Rivera, Stephanie Robalino, Aurelio Stirling, Michal Sloma, Volodymyr Sulyk, Alexander Tenf, Heriberto Velazquez, and Terel Watson. The results are not yet in.

“I think Mr. Persaud is a good teacher because he taught me the terms that are needed and if a student doesn’t understand a certain topic or question, he will give up his time to tutor you,” said Jacqueline Concepcion. “When I took the FLCT exam, I thought it was somewhat difficult.” But Stephanie Robalino, who took the test in December, said, “The test had a lot of common sense questions,” but admitted that “some questions were confusing.”



Big Win- Big Banner



Students showing off school Spirit.

Mismatches, Twins, and Some Real School Spirit

by Jennifer Cabrera

This year’s fall Spirit Week included new school spirit activities. During this week, students showed school spirit and had some fun in school. Often the school has the same themes for Spirit Week but this but this year, the leadership team decided to create some new and unusual days.

Spirit Week began on Monday November 27, and ended on Friday December 1. Monday was Q.V. Day. Students were asked to wear an SO shirt, sports jersey, or their gym shirt. Single/Taken Day took place on Tuesday. Participating students wore white if they were single and looking for a relationship or red if they were in a relationship.



Triplets day

Wednesday was Twin/Triplet Day. Participating students paired up with each other and wore the same clothes. Students bought back the old days on Thursday, November 30, ‘80s Day. Some students brought

back the skinny jeans, leg warmers, and suspenders. Friday, December 1 was Miss-Match Day. Students brightened up Queens Voc that day with unique and colorful colors.

“This Spirit Week was one of the best ever and was creative because it was included new days,” said senior Steven Vargas. While the results were good all week, two days had the best response. “Being on the yearbook staff and dealing with the pictures, I saw that the days that students participated in the most were Single/Taken and ‘80s Day.”

This year, the leadership team wanted to make Spirit Week for the ‘06-’07 year a bit more interesting, and voted to choose new themes. Other ideas were submitted to the leadership team for new Spirit Week themes such as, Disney Day, Hip-Hop day, and Nerd Day. When students voted, the theme with the most votes was the ‘80s Day.

“We came up with different themes and we asked students their opinions every time they walked into room 143,” said Loraine Alba, a member of the leadership team. Mr. Vega then picked the final themes for this fall’s Spirit Week. The leadership team wanted something new, different, and fun, not the same themes from the year before. “I believe Single/Taken Day swas the most successful day because it was the easiest day to do for people,” said Stephanie Valerio

If you have any suggestions for the spring spirit week, see Mr. Vega in room143.

Seniors Prepare for the end of HS

by Jelissa Peña

The senior trip to Nevele Grande Resort in the Catskills took place January 12-14, had to pay a \$75 deposit by November 27. The full balance was due by December 20. Students, who didn't pay by that date, were in risk of losing their seat on the bus.

On Thursday November 29, there was senior assembly during second period in the auditorium. Ms. Jean Fedora visited the school to speak about scholarships students can apply for and encourage students to apply for scholarships. She told the seniors that many students are scared to apply for scholarships because they think they are going to get rejected.

Ms. Fedora gave tips on how to write a scholarship essay. The essay should leave the reader with a lasting impression and convince the reader that the student deserves the scholarship. Ms. Fedora said that there are two main steps before mailing out the essay: give it to someone who does not know the story to determine what is and what is not needed, then give it to someone who can review it for grammar and spelling. Student who would like more information can email Ms. Jean Fedora at jeanfedora@hotmail.com.



Seniors celebrate.

A week earlier, the seniors held the popular senior food festival. "The senior food festival that took place on November 21 was a great success. This year, the senior class broke the record set last year," said Yessenia Perez, student organizer. This senior food festival raised \$1,400, \$200 than last year. Yolanis Barros, the senior class treasurer, said she was "very happy that everyone contributed and we were able to have a successful fundraiser." Jennifer Cabrera, the senior class vice president was also appreciative. "I would like to thank the students, teachers, and staff for cooperating in our annual senior food festival. I was astounded

with the money that the class of '07 earned."

Seniors are not only raising money, they are working on the senior yearbook. On Tuesday, December 5, seniors reported to school at 7:15am to take the class picture for the yearbook.

Before they graduate, seniors have to meet graduation requirements. Art, Spanish, and music projects have to be done. The music project consists of 4 parts, Music Literacy, Making Connections Through Music, Community and Cultural Resources, all of which were due in January, and Careers and Life-long Learning, which is due February 7. The Spanish project, due January 5, consisted of two writing parts. A second part for the Spanish project is due May 25. The art project was due December 20 as well. The art and music projects were to be picked up from Mr. Garcia in room 325. The Spanish project was supposed to be picked up from Mr. Guerrero in room 313.

VE \$tudents in Business Plan Competition

by Argenis Abreu

A group of business students from Queens Voc chosen by Mr. Mugan from his Virtual Enterprise class presented their company's business plan to a panel of judges at Devry institute on December 15. The competition lasted from 12noon to 4:45pm.

Diverse City Wear, or DCW for short, offers its customers four distinct styles of clothing: urban, casual, alternative, and classy clothing.

Jacqueline Concepcion, one of the students who participated in the competition, said, "We presented the history of the company, its financial standing, and a SWOT analysis, the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats of the business."

Sixteen schools participated in the Queens boroughwide competition. Bryant High School came in first place, followed by Arts and Business in second, and Forest Hills in third.

The 6 students from Queens Voc who participated in the Business Plan Competition were: Jerry Chang, Jacqueline Concepcion, Brandon Drakeford, Estefania Garcia, Laura Gonzalez, and George Herrera.



Students surprised by random bag search.

Random Search Sought Graffiti Paraphernalia

by Daniel Medina

Queens Voc students found themselves in a security search at the main entrance of the school building on Wednesday, November 22. Most students thought the search was for electronics, but it wasn't.

The search was an attempt to find the persons behind the graffiti that has been adversely affecting the environment of teachers, students, and staff. Administrators along with school aides searched for markers, paper, and/or notebooks that would indicate a link between students' belongings and graffiti on school premises.

Queens Voc has constant visitors such as Washington Mutual and MTA representatives. Mr. Vela thinks that the kids behind the vandalism are limiting the chances for other students to get internships because visitors may critique students on the appearance of their school. "Graffiti affects our school because it raises bad impressions about our students; it's already bad that people prejudice adolescents, but the graffiti in the school just makes it worse," said Mr. Vela.

Because of school and state regulations, school custodians are only allowed to use a certain type of paint remover. Ms. Jarrett said that the approved remover doesn't completely remove the graffiti from the wall; instead, custodians have to wait until the end of the week until they can use heavy-duty paint remover in order to completely take all of the paint off, or to paint over the graffiti.

"We need more patrol in this school. Everybody needs to work together, teachers and students alike, and try to put a stop to this vandalism," said Ms. Jarrett. She added that the removal of graffiti is expensive, whether it's in labor hours, material expenditures, or both.

Other people believe that the school shouldn't have to pay for the expenses of graffiti removal. "Parents should pay for their children's illegal actions, it's their

responsibility and they should pay for the costs to remove it," said Ms. Kubota, an ESL teacher.

According to Ms. Vittor, the school has already taken a step forward by conducting random bag searches. "We have asked teachers to keep an eye out and note the students who leave the classroom and monitor their duration, and deans have been asked to be vigilant about student activities and students without hall passes," said Ms. Vittor.

Mr. Schimenz, a dean, believes that this fall marked the worst cases of graffiti in years, but said the searches and some good investigative work by teachers and administrators has gotten it under control.

School staff has been asked to confiscate items that can be used for graffiti or have any marks of graffiti, such as tagged notebooks, book bags, or even paper.

According to Mr. Vela, graffiti is a way for students to let out their anger. He added that sometimes students feel the joy of being sneaky and getting away with a crime such as graffiti.

In some cases, said Mr. Vela, graffiti is gang related and it's a way for gang members to communicate.

"Students deface their own school because they are boring kids who can't figure out any other way to have fun," said Mr. Schimenz. He added that all students will pay the price of random bag searches because of the actions of a few graffiti vandals.

Ms. Vittor said that students spend 6-8 hours of their day in school; it's like their second home. They should treat it like their second home, she said. "If anybody has information on our school vandalism, write an anonymous note to either me or Mr. Vela," said the principal.

"Students: vandalism is not art, it's not pretty, it's a crime, and when students get caught, I will proceed to the fullest extent of the law," said Ms. Vittor.

"Ring, Ring." Don't Worry: It's a False Alarm!

by Anadia Diaz

Ring, Ring, Ring! Students in Queens Voc are so used to hearing the fire bells ring daily, that they then listen, Mr. Vela's announcement, "Attention everyone, remain in your classrooms, this is a false alarm. Thank you!"

"The causes to the daily fire alarms were mostly because of students. And they weren't helping the situation by any means, because they see what's going on and they don't say anything about it. Students should have cooperated with the staff to help improve school safety," says Mr. Vela.

Without the help of students, the school was still able to find out some of the students who had been playing with the fire bells and suspended them.



In case of fire...

The school staff held a safety meeting to find ways to prevent the fire bells from ringing as much. The school has hired new security guards to secure our well being and keep our school under control. This has helped the school so far because we don't see as much students in the hallways anymore. Because of this, the fire bells don't ring as much anymore. Also Ms. Vittor and Mr. Vela are planning on working with contractors to put covers on the fire alarms so that it makes it harder for students to pull them Mr. Vela says.

"Other causes of these fire alarms were because there were a few malfunctions with the elevators when it breaks down, that causes the fire alarm to ring" says Mr. Vela.

"If you're not part of the solution, you're part of the problem."

FBLA Students Get a Head-Start in Business

by Kelvin Smartt

FBLA, the Future Business Leaders of America, is an organization for business students with a chapter at Queens Vocational and Technical High School. FBLA gives students an opportunity to experience the business world and take part in the different leadership roles offered.

FBLA conducts many activities such as fundraisers and group trips to movies and museums, and conduct other activities. On December 13, FBLA held its first fundraiser. They sold a variety of items such as fruit salads and baked goods. A raffle was also held. Staff members and students were able to purchase tickets for a dollar. One prize, only for teachers, was a basket with several bottles of wine. The other prize was a basket with bath and body products for students and teachers. The winners were Mr. Holder and Mr. Price.

Every year, FBLA students participate in a citywide competition around the month of February. These competitions are based on topics such as business law, business communication, accounting, public speaking, and other topics. These competitions are composed of a written and oral part. The FBLA team that wins the citywide competition, moves on to the statewide competition. The winner of the statewide competition goes to the nationals. Prizes are awarded to the winners of these competitions.

This is his first year being a part of FBLA. "FBLA is a national organization that creates links between business and education. It offers students the opportunity to interact with industry professionals and other young people with similar interest and goals," said Mr. Mugan, a business teacher and first-year FBLA advisor at Queens Voc.

"Students should join FBLA because they get to improve their business skills and public speaking skills. Also, they get to interact with new people which can lead to greater opportunities in the business world," said Jacqueline Concepcion, president of FBLA.

To be a part of FBLA, students must be enrolled in a business class, have an 80 or above average and they must be in grades 10-12. There is a membership fee of \$20. Students interested in joining

FBLA should contact Mr. Mugan or Jacqueline.

FBLA doesn't have an official time when they meet, "but for now, we've been meeting on Wednesdays at 3:30pm or on Tuesdays during 9th period. We alternate the days depending on what is suitable for the majority of the members," said Jacqueline. Meetings are held in room 416, the Virtual Enterprise conference room. During these meetings students discuss funds, goals, deadlines,

"Students should join FBLA because they get to improve their business skills and public speaking."

and other matters that pertain to the FBLA organization.

Other members of FBLA include Stephanie Cerqueda, Estefania Garcia, secretary, Alejandra Lopez, vice president, Jonathan Maldonado, treasurer, and Hugo Ronco, reporter who are active members within the organization. Registered members include Trisha Banos, Ericka Bernal, William O' Gerry, Claudia Gimenez, Allison McCarthy, and Andrea Romero.

New Faces in the Classroom

by Manjit Singh

Every year there are new people who enter Queens Voc. There are students who are new, and there are also new teachers.

Queens Voc had 13 new teachers this year, 11 of whom are still in the school. Seven teachers were interviewed for the last edition of *Vocational Voice*. In this edition we will cover the remaining four: Mr. David, Ms. Demetrius, and Ms. Gallagher, and Mr. Hector.

Mr. David teaches 10th grade Introduction to Computer Technology and a Health class. He is part of the School of Computer Electronic Engineering Technology. Prior to teaching at Queens Voc, he taught at Westinghouse HS. His experience in Queens Voc until now has been wonderful, he said, because Queens Voc has a better atmosphere than the other schools he has been a part of. He is excited to teach at Queens Voc. "Yeah! Hell Yeah! I love this school; I feel like I am part of a family," he said.

Ms. Demetrius teaches English. She is tremendously thrilled to teach at Queens Voc.

She believes that she can teach students and also learn a lot from the students and faculty members. Before entering Queens Voc, she taught 9th and 10th grades at Clara Barton HS in Brooklyn. Ms. Demetrius graduated from Hunter College with a double major in English and Psychology. She finds this school very different because the staff, administrators, and the students have been extremely pleasant and supportive of her. Ms. Demetrius said that she is very fortunate to be a member of such a prodigious school as Queens Voc. Her mantra is a quote from Sophocles is, "Look and you will find it- what is unsought will go undetected."

Ms. Gallagher teaches Living Environment and is part of the 9th grade School of Exploration and Discovery. Ms. Gallagher student-taught at Queens Voc before becoming a full-time teacher. She graduated from Adelphi University with a double degree in Anthropology and Biology. She is currently working toward her Masters in Science Education. She is very excited to work with the teachers and the students in Queens Voc she said, and that has made her experience at Queens Voc great.

Mr. Hector is a new science and mathematics teacher. He graduated from the University of West Indies. His experience in Queens Voc has been great so far, he said. He notices that the students seem to be able to focus on what's important. That is, they know what their goals are and what they need to do to achieve them. Mr. Hector was excited teach at this school because, he said, "I am always excited to be part of a school which is geared to prepare the leaders of tomorrow and students who keep it real, and gain success from hard work bravely done."

Shops Battle to Help the Needy

by Renato Lulaj

City Harvest is an organization that collects non-perishable food to feed the hungry. Each year, City Harvest collaborates with the *Daily News* and the New York City Department of Education on Kids Can Help Week, an annual food drive. According to the chancellor, last year more than 110 schools collected over 108,000 pounds of non-perishable food for hungry New Yorkers during the holiday season. Kids Can Help Week takes place every year around the holidays. This year it took place December 4 through December 8.

To encourage donators, Mr. Vega coordinates a competition called the Battle of the Shops. The winner of this year's competition of Battle of The Shops was the 11th grade electrical installation students and their teachers. The participating teachers were Mr. Abreu, Mr. Mendez, and Mr. Vega. Mr. Abreu has been participating in the competition for 8 years. "I feel that it is a good cause and very rewarding," he said. Mr. Abreu added that he will continue to participate in future competitions to help out the hungry. Annaldo Jimenez, a participating student in Mr. Abreu's class said, "The contest was a good challenge and at the same time good to help the needy." Mr. Mendez, who has been participating in the competition for 3 years, said "It always feels good to help out the hungry," and he too, will compete in future competitions. Ernest Chen, a participating student from Mr. Mendez's class said, "It gives me pride in helping others."

Other participating teachers in this year's Battle of the Shops were Mr. Bowen for electrical installation, Mr. Alohan and Mr. Persaud for business, Mr. Ali and Mr. Raushan for electronics,

Mr. Garcia for web-design, Mr. Cintron for computer technology, Mr. McCarthy for plumbing, and Miss Spallone and Miss Quartuccio for cosmetology.

All grades can participate but participation is not mandatory. The competition is by shop class grade. All the shop grades compete against each other. For example, 9th grade electrical installation competes against 10th grade electrical installation. The shop class grade that wins the competition by raising the most food (by volume) gets a pizza party as its reward.

According to a letter from Chancellor Joel I. Klein, acceptable food donations include packaged grain products, shelf-stable juice or milk products, peanut butter in plastic jars, rice and pasta, canned and packaged soup mixes, canned fruits and vegetables, pinto and garbanzo beans, canned chicken and tuna, packaged cereal, and packaged mixes. Unacceptable donations include unlabeled or dented cans, any open packaging, products that need to be refrigerated, homemade foods, glass bottles, and expired products.

Cosmo 101: A Facelift for Queens Voc



by Jeffery Troung

The scaffolding around Queens Voc. has been erected to facilitate extensive work to the older part of the school.

New York Stone, the company doing the outside work, re-pointing the old building and replacing its roof. Interior work is also being done. Electrical panel boxes will be upgraded, covers will be added to fire alarm pull stations, and water damage to room 416 will be repaired, according to Ms. Jarrett, the head custodian.

Re-pointing is the process of removing all the old mortar from between the bricks and placing new mortar into the gaps. The old roof will be removed and replaced and will be tied to the new wing.

The electrical panel upgrades involve installing of new circuit

breakers and replacing the wires.

The covers that will be installed on the fire alarms will prevent students from easy access to set the alarm pull stations, reducing the number of false alarms.

The work is being done after school and on weekends and holidays.

Ms. Vittor said the construction should be done by September 2008, before the new school year begins.

Do you have suggestions for articles for the next edition of Voc Voice? E-mail us at VocVoice@aol.com

Editorials

Kids These Days: What's Wrong With Us?

Some of us students in Queens Voc are accustomed to the “student-polluted” environment. We shouldn’t be. We shouldn’t have to be.

Some of us students eat, talk, and leave the lunch room as soon as the bell rings, without bothering to throw out our garbage. Some of us apparently believe that the school aides and cafeteria workers are our mothers, there to clean up after us. They aren’t.

Some of us students believe it’s cool to tag up on school property. It isn’t.

Some of us students believe vandalizing bathrooms is fun, putting our fellow students out with locked bathrooms and elementary school era bathroom logs.

Some of us students believe pulling false fire alarms is exciting. Rarely does a day go by without a false alarm.

Some of us forget that we are here to learn, to prepare for the rest of our lives. Some of us don’t think about the future. Some of us do but don’t prepare for it.

Some of us have to stop our pathetic behavior. We have to grow up. We have to realize that what makes us look “cool” now is not going to help us with our future. Simply, some of us have to grow up

Independent Study

Seniors have a lot to do. College applications and FAFSAs, internships and college classes, and independent studies. Sometimes, we don’t complete our independent projects on time. So they hang over our heads, adding pressure to our already stressful year because we still have to do them. We shouldn’t be saddled with a failing grade on our transcripts too.

A Newspaper's Role

When the editors went to the recent citiwide journalism conference, we discovered that our newspaper covers more student activities than most other paper, even those at large schools. We also learned that our school newspaper is more positive than many other newspapers. Some of the workshop leaders discussed how school papers should cover funding issues, safety, and teaching. Of course, there are times when people are not happy about what we write or write about. We try to be positive because there is so much positive to report about. Tell us what you think. We’re really interested in your views.

Do you have an opinion on any of the articles in this issue of the *Vocational Voice*?

Write to us and tell us! Be sure to sign your letter and put it in Mr. Schimenz’s mailbox.



Mr. Schimenz
Main Office

Vocational Voice

Queens Vocational &
Technical High School

37-02 47th Avenue
L.I.C., NY 11101

Tel 718.937.3010
Fax 718.392.8397

Email: VocVoice@aol.com

Ms. Denise Vittor
Principal

Ms. Radovich
AP, Humanities

Mr. Vela
AP, Administration

Mr. Rob Schimenz
Advisor

Layout Editors
Elbel Estrella
Diomedes Gonzalez
Gaochao Huang
Daniel Medina

Contributors
Arjenis Abreu
Keon Badger
Stephanie Baique
Yolanis Barros
Jennifer Cabrera
Jerry Chang
Jacqueline Concepcion
Anadia Diaz
Denise Espinal
Estefania Garcia
Carlos Guerra
Raiza Izquierdo
Kacy James
Renato Lulaj
Fernando Mendez
Gabriel Ortiz
Jelissa Pena
Yessenia Perez
Iris Rivera
Manjit Singh
Kelvin Smartt
David Stanojev
Volodymyr Sulyk
Jeffrey Truong
Heriberto Velazquez
Rayvan Walker

“Good enough”
is the enemy of
“it can be better.”

Principal's Message



QUEENS VOCATIONAL & TECHNICAL HIGH
SCHOOL

Denise Vittor, Principal

Welcome to February! Welcome to National CTE Month! This is our opportunity to shine as a CTE school and demonstrate just what students here at Queens Vocational & Technical High School really do. Your directors – Ms. Newman, Ms. Radovich, Mr. Gorman, and Mr. Garrison have arranged special events, speakers, and visitations throughout the month to celebrate career and technical education. Our purpose is to expand career exploration and allow you to share your knowledge with our parents and community.

We will have visitors in our school each day to tour and visit our programs and make presentations in your classes. Also during this month freshmen will be touring Career and Technical Education classes, and their parents will attend the CTE Showcase on February 28 from 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. This is where you will become the ambassadors and workshop trainers in the fields you have chosen. We invite you to speak to your Career and Technical Education teachers to find out what the workshop topics will be. We expect you to invite your parents to your “performance” when you run the workshops on February 28 and you teach your audience some of the skills you now possess.

It is important to share the skills you’ve learned and your successes with your parents and the entire school community. Career and Technical Education month is the perfect opportunity for you, the students at Queens Vocational & Technical High School, to demonstrate and share your knowledge with each other and the community.

Sincerely,

Denise Vittor
Principal

With Teacher's Help, Cosmo Grad gets job with Sassoon

by Gaochao Huang

Danalyn Nguyen, a 2006 graduate of Queens Voc, was hired at Vidal Sassoon Beauty Salon on 5th avenue in Manhattan.

In June, Danalyn successfully interviews with Sassoon but would not be hired without her New York State Cosmetology license or a temporary license, according to Ms. Spallone.

After hours of making phone calls in an attempt to help, Ms.

Spallone learned a NYS Licensing Board in Manhattan that could immediate process a temporary 6 month license. According to Ms. Spallone, the Manhattan office can be reached at:

NYS Licensing Department, 123 William Street, 14th floor, New York, NY 10038. The Phone number is 212-417-5747.

Ms. Spallone said that “This information will expedite out students’ ability to get jobs.”



Writers get recommendations for school papers.

Jounalism Students Attend NYCSPA Conference

by Rayvan Walker

Present and future Queens Voc journalism students attended a conference for high school journalists, on Monday, December 4. Run by The New York City Scholastic Press Association, the conference included more than 130 students from 20 schools attended.

The conference was held at Baruch College in Manhattan, from 8am-3pm. There was a continental breakfast, numerous workshops for students and advisors, a panel of professional journalists, and lunch.

Seniors Stephanie Baique, Elbel Estrella, Estefania Garcia, Diomedes Gonzalez, Gaochao Huang, Daniel Medina, and Yessenia Perez, students in Mr. Schimenz’s Journalism class, attended the conference. Juniors Steven D’Elena, Larry Pichardo, and Angel Tejada also attended the conference, as future high school journalists.

Mr. Schimenz, Queens Voc’s school newspaper advisor and a member of the board of directors of the NYCSPA, was one of the conference coordinators and conducted a workshop for new advisors.

Gaochao Huang, one of the editors of the school newspaper, said he enjoyed the photography workshop. This workshop explained how the writer and photographer both have challenging jobs. “The writer and photographer have to learn to trust each other, they have to work as a team and learn to enjoy each other’s company because they have to work together and both of their jobs are equally important,” he said.

Daniel Medina, another editor, attended a workshop in which school newspapers were critiqued by Ms. Regina Lichtenstein, the NYCSPA president. Ms. Lichtenstein reviewed various school

newspapers and discussed with the students and advisors what was good about their papers and what should be done to make them even better. “There were errors and typos in our school newspaper but overall, she was very positive about it,” he said.

At this workshop, Daniel learned a technique called the palm test. “You put your palm anywhere on a page of a newspaper. In order for the paper to pass the test, a part of your palm has to touch something other than text,” he said.

Journalism student Yessenia Perez attended a workshop about what to consider when writing an article. “We’ve got to make sure the lead has the 5Ws, make sure all questions are answered, and if they aren’t, we must research to get them answered. Journalists also must make sure their articles are fairly balanced, by including various points of views on the topic,” she said.

“The conference reinforced what we’ve learned in Journalism,” said Diomedes Gonzalez. “We also got a chance to see many other school newspapers. We’ve got a really good newspaper for a high school. You don’t realize that until you have something to compare it to,” he said.

Future high school journalist Larry Pichardo attended the conference not knowing anything about what it means to be a journalist. “This conference helped me understand what to expect if I am in journalism next year,” he said.

“Good Enough is the Enemy of it can be Better”

SO News

by Fernando Mendez

The Student Organization plans and coordinates student activities, with the assistance of the Leadership class and Mr. Vega, the coordinator of student activities.

Most events are in the planning stages such as the Valentine’s dance, trips to Medieval Times, Philadelphia, professional basketball and baseball games, and paintballing. Mr. Vega and his team are also hoping to put together some sports tournaments that will involve teachers and students.

In January, the SO coordinated a trip to a Knicks game. The tickets were sold at a discount to students.

“These events are for students, so they can get involved, to break up the stress of school, and to have fun,” Mr. Vega said.

All these activities are created and organized by the Leadership class. The Leadership class is very helpful, said Mr. Vega. They help raise money for charitable organizations, and help organize activities such as the food festival and the holiday dance.

The holiday dance was held on Friday, December 8, in the cafeteria, from 6 to 9pm. Admission was \$2 for SO members, and \$4 for non-SO members. According to Mr. Vega, about 140 students attended.

The students who attended enjoyed the dance. “I think it was good. The DJ played a lot of hip hop and reggae,” said Alex Tenf. Andres Arcila agreed, “The dance was great. The DJ was good, and I danced all night.” Freddy Cardona said he, too, had fun.

Mr. Vega, who ran the dance with the help of the Leadership students, said that “It was very good, the kids enjoyed it. They said they liked and I got good reviews from the party.”

The students in the Leadership class are Ashley Abreu, Loraine Alba, Andres Arcila, Yolanis Barros, David Bermudez, Jennifer Cabrera, Anadia Diaz, Yara Diaz, Estefania Garcia, Kevin Handy, Raiza Izquierdo, Dayana Jaramillo, Kevin Muñoz, Kearon Muzamali, Ivana Nunez, Jelissa Peña, Yessenia Perez, Junior Perez, Raydilkys Reyes, Arielle Rios, Jacqueline Sepulveda, Leidy Sierra, Christopher Tavares, Crystal Tejada, Alexander Tenf, Stephanie Valerio, Ana Kay Vaz, and Rayvan Walker.

COMMENTARIES

Time to Clean Up

by Gabriel Ortiz

Students have done a poor job taking care of their cafeteria. They dirty the tables with their lunches, spill drinks and leave the mess, and leave their trays behind as their lunch period ends.

So why don’t students pick up after themselves? What is so hard about cleaning up a mess that you made? Mr. Mugan, a Virtual Enterprise teacher who supervised the students in the School of Entrepreneurial Studies during several 5th period lunches said, “I suppose students don’t feel like it’s their responsibility to clean up after themselves. They think that it is the custodian’s job.” Mr. Maloney, the 12th grade electrical teacher who supervised the students in the School of Skilled Building Trades during several 4th period lunches said, “Students should respect the lunch room because years ago, they didn’t have such a luxury. If they don’t respect the lunch room, they should lose the privilege of eating in the lunch room.”

Ever since the new addition to Queens Voc opened in September of 2005, students have left the cafeteria a mess. When teachers have to supervise students in the cafeteria, it indicates that students are showing a lack of

respect for each other as well as for the school. If you’re inside a cafeteria with your entire smaller learning community (SLC), there has to be at least 1 person in the cafeteria who can point out people who haven’t thrown away their tray or cleaned up after themselves. And, if you knew that every student would be punished for a selected group’s laziness, I’m pretty sure you would make sure that every tray is thrown away and every mess is cleaned.

So how should this issue be resolved? First off, there should be a teacher from the SLC in every lunch period. That way, there is someone in the cafeteria to supervise the students and ensure they keep the cafeteria clean. Second, students should be called up by tables to get their food and should be called upon to throw away their trays. This will help reduce hectic lunch lines and messy tables. Students who fail to throw away their trays and clean up after themselves should not be allowed to eat in the cafeteria.

If it is too much responsibility for the students to throw away their trays and clean up after themselves, then maybe the students should go back to the old days when we ate in the auditorium with trays on our laps. I bet you that students will be more cautious about how they ate if they knew that dirtying their clothes and sitting in a messy seat would be a consequence.

No Time to be on Time

by Arjenis Abreu

To students, it’s not a problem. To teachers, it is. The issue? Students arriving late to class.

“Students who enter the class late show a lack of respect for the classroom environment,” said Mr. David, a C-Tech teacher. “They also send a bad signal to the teacher about their commitment to education.”

Students only have three minutes to get to class between bells. The administration thinks that this is enough time for students to get to class, but not everyone agrees. “There isn’t enough time to get from one class to another,” said student Anthony Davis. But it’s obvious that many students take their time walking or stop to talk to their friends in the hallway.

Regardless, three minutes is just not enough time. Students

should have more time to get to their class because enough time should be included for students to stretch and relax before the bell rings to begin class. Students would probably do much better in class if they weren’t rushed or stressed about making it to class on time.

After the first bell rings, the hallways and stairways become crowded with students trying to get to their classes. Some students have to go to the fourth floor from gym, not easy to do in the three minutes between bells. Most of the time students have to push their way through the crowd to try to make it to class before the late bell rings.

If there were more time to get from one class to another, fewer students would arrive to class late and lateness wouldn’t be a problem.

COMMENTARIES



Traffic jams cause student lateness.

Crowded Hallways Need to be Addressed

by Stephanie Baique

Securing the halls at Queens Voc should be a priority.

At Queens Voc, hallways seem to lack proper adult supervision. Frequently, there are hallway disturbances that disrupt classes and interfere with teachers’ lessons. Students who do not go to class not only cut, but use the hallways to hang out, distracting classes with their intolerable behavior.

When bells ring to switch classes, students create hallway traffic because many take their time to go to class, stop to talk to friends, and arrive to class late. Hallway traffic even causes students who want to be on time to be late to class. There are not enough adults moving student along.

Graffiti has appeared on the walls, railings, and doors to the staircases. This is too because of lack of adult supervision. Students vandalize because they believe they can get away with it.

Each floor should be supervised by enough adults to quickly reduce hallway disturbances. Queens Voc has 5 school safety agents and 1 level 3 sergeant. There are enough school safety agents to cover each floor throughout the school day. If there were to be more than 1 agent on a floor, and other floors were left with none, the deans should come in and help.

“As the principal, I think we could always use more supervision, but I don’t think it should only be more school safety agents,” Ms. Vittor said. According to the principal, teachers can give up their professional assignments, if they wish to help, regulate the school. Each SLC has one meeting a day during different lunch periods. For example, the School of Entrepreneurial Studies meets daily fifth period.

If some of those teachers decided to take turns on different days during that same period to regulate halls, Ms. Vittor would approve.

Teachers have the right to complain about such hallway disturbances, just like they have the right to use their prep periods as time to prepare their class lessons. Teachers can’t be forced to patrol the halls “because their contract says that prep time is necessary time to be used to prepare for class,” Ms. Vittor said. However, teachers can do more than point out the problem, they can be part of the solution.

Teachers should be willing to volunteer some of their time to work together to control the halls. Teachers can take turns on different days and periods to watch the halls for the first and last 10 minutes of a period.

The new level 3 school safety sergeant, Mrs. Adams, has also made some changes to regulate the halls. “I am going to work together with administration to make improvements in the halls. Once the bells ring, an agent will be posted on a floor,” Mrs. Adams said. The school safety agents have been given new schedules and are responsible for checking the hallways and exits.

Mr. Rodriguez, a C-Tech teacher, is one example of how teachers can volunteer to help. Mr. Rodriguez has given up the SLC meetings he would usually attend period 7 to volunteer for cafeteria duty. “I felt students’ safety is priority,” Mr. Rodriguez said.

“As far as if there should be more teachers volunteering, absolutely. It’s obvious that there is not enough staff to keep students in check. But if we could all do a little bit more, we can resolve most of our issues. You cannot expect things to change if you’re not willing to make the changes yourself,” Mr. Rodriguez pointed out.

Club Formed for Creative Kids

by Daniel Medina

The new Creative Arts Group, a club established to promote different modes of creative expressions by students in Queens Voc, had its first meeting on Thursday, January 11, in the school library. Students in the Creative Arts Group will explore their creative skills, such as art, literature, poems, dance, and drama.

The Creative Arts Group was proposed by students, especially 9th and 10th graders, who said there was no club that offered any activities that interested them. Ms. Radovich and Mr. Garcia established the Creative Arts Group because they wanted to help students express themselves. Mr. Bowen, Mr. Ford, and Mr. MacDonald, also attended the meeting to help with the new club.

Mr. Garcia believes that some students don’t know how to express themselves. He believes that by students becoming part of the Creative Arts Group, they can enhance their skills and learn how to express themselves. “The focus of this club is to allow students to showcase their artistic skills,” said Mr. Garcia, adding that by students joining such activities, they can enhance school spirit. According to Mr. Garcia, students tend to feel good when they are part of a school activity.

After the first meeting, Mr. Garcia and Ms. Radovich, expect that students will develop workshops and run the activities themselves.

“We wanted to get feedback from the students who were interested in the new group,” said Ms. Radovich about the first meeting. Mr. Ford, a math teacher, said he is “excited to see the artistic side of our students. I also enjoy drawing and painting. This group is a great opportunity for me to experience & share my creativity along with the students.”

During the first meeting, the seven students who attended discussed how they would like the organization to be run. The students who attended the meeting were: Liliana Benegan, Kelsey Garcia, Christopher Gomez, Meghan Guzman, Fahah Islam, Alexandria Mohamed, and Omar Nieves. They discussed ideas for fundraisers, and future school activities that they would like to hold. “I believe this meeting was very productive,” said Kelsey Garcia. Kelsey said she

has been waiting for the establishment of the group ever since her admission to Queens Voc last year. “I believe that this organization is a great way for us to express ourselves and to show our school what we have to offer,” she added. Students who participated in the first meeting have been asked to spread the word about the new organization.

“I think that everyone has a creative element of their personality, and we all find ways to express that creativity—whether by writing, singing, drawing, painting, playing sports, inventing, or some other method. Sometimes people are afraid to show their creative side, but they shouldn’t feel that way. This group will give Queens Voc students an outlet to share their creative ideas, and also to learn from other students. I can’t wait to see what everyone comes up with,” said Mr. MacDonald, a new teacher who is helping with the club.

Perfect Attendance

by Carlos Guerra

According to the school attendance records provided by Mr. Daniel, the students listed below attended school every day from the first day of school, on September 5, to the last day of the term, January 22. *Vocational Voice* commends the following students for their excellent attendance.

The following students have achieved perfect attendance for the first and second marking period:

Edwin Adames
Danyah Ahmed
Master Alamin
Brian Alvarez
Azan Asmat
Maxwell Ayisah
Erika Bernal
Tevin Bradley
Cindy Bravo
Paul Cabral
Wade Cameron
Kayla Caraballo
Brandon Carcano
Jonathan Carsten
Jean Carvajal
Rosario Castillo
Julian Castro
John Catalano
Julissa Chavez
Razim Choudhury
James Clark
Jinet Collado
Melissa Collado
Bryan Correa
Steven Crespín
Christopher De La Cruz
Marabel Diaz
Brandon Drakeford
Skyfree Ferguson
Darlene Fernandez
Janio Fernandez

Paola Ferreira
John Florido
Donnel Frederick
Mark Fremista
Oliver Gaborno
Catherine Gomez
Cristopher Gomez
Freddy Gomez
Dharvin Govindeisami
Jeslenny Grullon
Wojciech Gula
Christian Hernandez
Elihu Hernandez
Jeffer Hernandez
Jerry Hernandez
Juan Hernandez
Jennypher Hidalgo
Edwin Hill
Jordan Isaza
Daniella Jean Philippe
Edwin Joa
Tyree Josey
Gurpreet Kaur
Vinny Lam
Wai Lun Lam
Dario Lazarevic
Geraldine Leibot
Cesar Liang
Vincent Lim
Ludwig Albert Loy
Samantha Lupo
George Manolas
Diego Marin
Nelson Mateo
Fernando Mendez
Tulio Mesa
Lizbeth Modesto
Jonathan Molina
Kara Ann Monzon
Eliazar Morales
Crystal Muniz
Richard Ortiz
Ruben Ortiz
Steven Pabon
Jose Palomeque
Nathalia Parada
Joel Pena
Kevin Pena
Jhonneiry Perez
Joel Pichardo
Emmanuel Portorreal
Darren Powers
Carla Puc
Pervej Rahman
Janno Ramirez
Pamela Ramirez
Francis Reyes
Michael Rodriguez
Richardo Rodriguez
Arturo Romero
Johnny Rosendo
Argenis Santos
Dev Singh
Jaspreet Singh
Ranjot Singh
Simranjeet Singh
Jayson Slovak
Bryant Smith
Crisheber Soriano
Jasmin Sosa
Denisse Soto
David Stanojev
Marcin Szatkowski
Christophe Tavaréz
Sarah Taveras
Jeffrey Truong
Dopdyel Tseten
Jonathan Urena
Leonardo Valencia
Mitchelle Vega
Cuong Tony Vu
Yuhui Wang
Jonathan Yankovich
Jeffrey Zhinin

Junior Shop Profiles

by Jessenia Perez

Plumbing - Mr. McCarthy
Gilberto Estrada

Pointing out successful students is a task teachers enjoy. The Vocational Voice helps. Teachers of junior shop classes were each asked to pick a student who has excelled and deserves to be recognized for working hard. Perhaps in keeping with high expectations of his students, Mr. Vega believes that his students are working hard but they can do better and at the time he doesn't believe they are doing their best and chose not to submit any names.

by Jennifer Cabrera

Not one to hide his talent, Junior Perez, a senior at Queens Voc, has played the guira onstage in the Queens Voc auditorium. The guira is a traditional Dominican instrument that derives from the symbol family and is used for percussion.

"My mom gave me a guira just to have it in my room," Junior said. At the age of 14, he was inspired to play. It was then when he decided to actually pick up his guira and begin to play. Junior went to the Dominican Republic and heard a Merengue Tipico band called Prodigio. Playing along with them was a well know guirero, Cristian La Guira, Junior's inspiration. Junior said he learned how to play the guira on his own. He taught himself and watched others play.

He bought merengue tipico DVDs of and watched their different moves. Everything that his inspiration Cristian La Guira would do, Junior would do too, he said.

Junior has played in local clubs in New York City and played with Toby Love this past summer. "It was an unforgettable experience because I felt like a star," he said. Along with other Queens Voc students and Mr. Rodriguez, the computer technology teacher, Junior has been part of Grupo QV for four years.

Mr. Rodriguez learned of Junior's talent when Grupo QV was being formed and Junior, a freshman, went to audition for the guira position. From that day, Mr. Rodriguez knew Junior was highly talented. "Junior is outstanding and has a lot of potential," he said. Mr. Rodriguez sees a good future for Junior and believes that he should expand his talent vocally. Junior is planning to stop playing the guira and start singing full time. He actually had some experience singing in Grupo QV's performance in November, for Hispanic Heritage Month. "I really enjoyed hearing Junior sing, he has a very melodic voice," said Raydilkys Reyes.

1. What is the biggest change from your sophomore shop class to your junior shop class?
2. What do you expect to learn this year in your shop class?
3. What do you like most about your field?
4. What made you interested in the field?
5. What makes your field better than the others?

Cosmetology - Ms. Quartuccio
Cynthia Molina

1. This year we get to work on more jobs and more hairstyles.
2. I expect to learn hair coloring, fancy up do's, and different styles of cutting hair.
3. I get to create different styles and enjoy doing hair.
4. Loving to do hair! It's a creative major, not a "brainstorming" major.
5. Well you don't really have to think too hard.



Cosmetology - Ms. D'Onofrio
Shamel Lobban

1. The biggest change to me would be the amount of jobs we have to do. It's a little challenging but if you get it done, then you'll be able to complete them all.
2. I expect to learn how to relax, color, and take care of chemically treated hair.



3. I like that you can express your own style in your hairstyles. So everybody ends up with a different type of style even though it's the same hairstyle.

4. My mother does hair, so I would like to follow in her footsteps.

5. This field is better than the others because it's so diverse. You can do hair, nails, and even skin care. So it's basically what I am interested in.

C-Tech - Mr. Cintron
Steve Pinell

1. In my junior shop class we have started assembling and disassembling computers. We have finally started doing hands on work on computers, fixing computer system technical problems. Also how to successfully troubleshoot computers with common as well as rarely occurring problems.
2. I expect to learn all the in's and out's to building a well balanced computer system
3. It's a field with a high demand of workers due to rapid growth in the computer industry.
4. Computers in general. The way they help people through everyday life.
5. Everything in one way or another connects to the computer field. Without computers or their accessories it would be like living in the past all over again.



1. In my junior shop class I get to do more work and I also learn more.
2. I expect to learn more on how to fix the streets and homes for the city.
3. What I like most about this field is that we are always working.
4. I was interested in the field because it requires a lot of work but it's rewarded at the end of my senior year.
5. I preferred this field from others because salary I will gain after I graduate from high school.



Electrical Instalation - Mr. Mendez
Angel Tejada

1. Everything is bigger, and more complex. Last year board was enlarged, so this gives us more working space.
2. I expect to learn work that will help me in the future. I expect to learn more than I did last year.
3. The hands-on approach enlightens me a lot. I'd rather work on electrical installation over any other major in this school because at the end of the day I enjoy what I'm doing.
4. What made me interested in this field was the fact that it had so many benefits at the end of my high school career, like going into a union.
5. I'm very into it, I don't let any little pain or bruises stop me from proceeding with my work.



Electronics - Mr. Ali
Leonardo Mora

1. This year, electronics is based purely on electronics. Last year was a mix of c-tech and electronics.
2. Hopefully, a bit more soldering.
3. Electronics is diverse. Electronics applies to many things today.
4. I want to gain more hands on and theory knowledge.
5. Many different things to focus on, not only one, like plumbing or electrical installation



Plumbing - Mr. Garrison
Jason Demilt

1. There's a lot less people in the junior shop class but we have shared it with seniors. This year we take theory, something we did not learn last year.
2. I expect to learn construction skills that will help me in the future.
3. I enjoy working with water, it's fun.
4. The fact that this field gets a lot of money.
5. I feel that this shop class is better than others because I have a laid back teacher, and he is not strict as other teachers. The work is complex but we have fun doing it.



Junior Shop Profiles

Business - Accounting - Mr. Alohan
Nathalia Parada

1. The biggest change was that sophomore year we only had one business class during two periods, but this year I have three different business classes during different periods.
2. This year I want to learn how to file my own income tax and I also want to learn bookkeeping.
3. I like working on the computer and learning how to run my own business online.
4. I have always loved to work on computers.
5. It's better because now everything is done in computers so we are getting ready for the future.



Business - E-Commerce - Ms. Newman
Sarah Calle

1. The biggest change from my sophomore shop class to my junior shop class was that now I have more classes that deal with web design, how to manage money, and business on the internet.
2. I expect to learn web design, how to start a business on the internet, and how to start my own business.
3. What I like the most about my field is that it deals with computers.
4. What made me interested in the field I am in is that we could start our own business.
5. What makes my field better than the others is that it's an easier way to have a better future.



Business - MOS Access - Mr. Persaud
Stephanie Gonzalez

1. Shop classes are a little more challenging and harder to pass, once you lose focus you are pretty much lost.
2. I expect to learn how to act in certain situations in a professional matter.
3. I like participating in trade fairs to represent our school of entrepreneurial studies.
4. In the future I plan to follow my father's steps and fulfill business management along with computer science which is why I chose this program.
5. In business you have a professional environment; it helps you for the future and also prepares us for the real world of business.



Business - VE - Mr. Mugan
Jorge Herrera

1. The biggest change is being in virtual enterprise which I didn't take as a sophomore.
2. I expect to learn how to do business plans, web designing, and accounting.
3. I get to work with people, and I get to gain experience in running my own business.
4. What really made me interested in this field was that in business there is a lot of money, and in this world everything deals with business.
5. I sit in an office and don't get my hands dirty doing hard work, like other fields.



World Recipes

compiled by
Jelissa Pena

Country: **Guyana**

Recipe: Roti

Ingredients:

3 cups whole wheat flour
1 tablespoon of melted butter
½ cup of warm milk
1 cup of warm water or as needed
1 tablespoon of sugar
1 tablespoon of salt

First, combine flour, melted butter and sugar in a large bowl. Then make a well in the center, add warm milk and water by mixing them with the flour until the dough is soft and well made. Once the dough is made, dust kneed it on the board and place it on the board for at least ten minutes or until ready. After the ten minutes, cover dough with wrap and let it rest for about an hour. Afterwards, divide the dough into three-inch balls and then flatten the balls into 6-7

inch circles. After that's done, heat a cast-iron skillet over high heat. Then place the balls on the iron-cast skillet, top side down and let them cook for 30 seconds or until firmly done. After 30 seconds, turn over the roti and let it cook for another minute until small air pockets come into sight. Turn the roti over one more time for another 30 seconds. After that's done, press on the roti with a lightly-wet towel so it can be able to develop more air pockets. Then it is ready to serve.

Country: **Italy**

Recipe: Crock Pot Lasagna

Ingredients:

1 pound chuck or ½ of pound chuck
½ pound ground turkey
1 tablespoon of Italian seasoning
1- 28 ounce of jar spaghetti sauce (your favorite)
1/3 cup of water
8 lasagna noodles
1- 4 ½ ounce of canned mushrooms
1 -15 ounce carton ricotta cheese (optional)

2 cups filled with shredded mozzarella cheese

The first step is to season brown meat and seasoning, and then drain it. Mix the spaghetti sauce with the water. Boil the uncooked noodles for at least 15 minutes. Then, place 4 uncooked noodles in a lightly greased crock pot. Fill in the top of the first layer of one noodle with beef, sauce, and mushrooms, use as much as u want. If using ricotta cheese, spread it evenly among the layer and sprinkle one cup of mozzarella cheese. Repeat these steps until you have finished making the lasagna. Let it cook on high for at least one hour.

Country: **Jamaica**

Recipe: Curried Shrimp

Ingredients:

2 pounds of medium shrimp shelled or de-veined
2 tablespoons of curry
2 cloves of garlic
2 cut medium onions
3 sweet pepper diced (1 red 1 green 1 yellow)
3 tablespoons of oil
1 tablespoon of salt

1 tablespoon of cornstarch
3 stalks scallion crushed
1 green scotch hot pepper finely chopped
1 medium potato
½ of water
1tablespoon of jerk sauce or meat seasoning
½ pound of tomatoes cut in wedges

The first step is to heat oil in a frying pan, and then add crushed garlic and curry. Stir-fry until the mixture begins to shimmer and smell. Afterwards, add salt, scotch hot pepper, jerk sauce. Use a scallion to fry for one minute. After all that is done, add water and potatoes, until they are cooked then add the shrimp. Let it cook for 5 minutes, no longer. Then, add the diced onions, sweet pepper and cornstarch by mixing them with a tablespoon of water, which is part of the entire mixtures above. Keep cooking until the gravy gets thick, and if it gets too thick add a little bit more water. Finally, mix in the potato wedges and serve.

These recipes came from Cooks.com

Restaurant Reviews

by Heriberto Velazquez

There are many restaurants in Queens but it's hard to choose which one to go to. When selecting a restaurant, most people take into consideration food quality, quantity, and cost.

In Woodside, on the corner of 48 Street and 48 Avenue, there is a small Mexican Café called The Haab. Their specialties are authentic Mexican dishes, waffles, and French toast. This restaurant uses ingredients straight from Mexico so that the food has an authentic Mexican taste.

I ordered gorditas because of the description and picture on the menu. The dish came with 3 medium-sized, thick, round, hand-made tortillas with toppings. It is first covered in refried beans, they then add your choice of meat: steak, chicken, Mexican beef jerky, or Mexican sausage. Chopped lettuce and tomatoes are put on top with a spiral of sour cream. Chipotle sauce is available if you want to add a bit of spiciness and pickled jalapeño peppers to make it very spicy. I suggest choosing the chipotle sauce. The restaurant has Mexican soft drinks that include a tamarind-flavored soda. This restaurant is good and the food isn't expensive. I paid \$7 for the gorditas and the rest of the menu doesn't go over \$12. I recommend this restaurant if you are looking for a filling meal that tastes great and doesn't cost a lot.

Another good restaurant is La Pollera Colorada, which specializes in Colombian food. La Pollera Colorada is located on Greenpoint Ave. between 41 and 42 Street. The most popular dish is Plato Montañero or Plato Tipico. It is packed with so much food you won't see the bottom of the plate. The dish includes white rice, beans, grilled or ground steak, a slice of avocado, a strip of chicharron, a slice of sweet plantain, a rice cake, and a sunny side-up egg. It is a great tasting dish with a lot of flavors. They have a good selection of Colombian sodas and milkshakes. The restaurant dishes aren't expensive at all. I paid \$13 for the Plato Montañero and the other dishes don't top \$20.

If you try these either of these restaurants, let us know what you think by emailing us at VocVoice@aol.com.



Horoscopes

by Elbel Estrella

Aquarius

(Jan 20-Feb 18)



Pursue your goals with fierce determination. Distractions have no place in your life at this moment; all you can think about is the desired outcome. With that kind of attitude, success is pretty much assured.

Pisces

(Feb 19-March 20)



Reduce your frustrations. Sure, talking about resentments helps defuse them, but you have to know when to say when. Sometimes what you need to do is take decisive action to really deal with the situation.

Aries

(March 21-April 19)



You want the communication between you and a certain someone to really spark, but misinterpretations on both sides are simply creating flames instead of heat. Now is an opportune moment for a time-out.

Taurus

(April-May 20)



Getting straight to the point has its place, but sometimes it makes circumstances a bit more dramatic than they have to be. There's a special kind of beauty to more receptive energy. Learn to apply it appropriately.

Gemini

(May 21-June 20)



You're a champion at managing social situations, and you're not too shabby at coordinating them either. The guest list is the least of your worries; when you're on the planning committee, everybody wants to show up.

Cancer

(June 22-July 23)



Today you will face numerous challenges, nevertheless keep your head up and keep moving forward there is no one that could stop you when you are focused that is your most powerful attribute. Appreciate the people around you because even though you are the one who makes the decisions, it would be very hard to achieve your goals on your own.

Leo

(July 23-Aug 22)



True friendships are a gift, and right now your social life is simply an embarrassment of riches. Make sure you honor them in the ways they deserve. Your time, focus and wisdom all enliven the situation even more.

Virgo

(Aug 23-Sept 22)



Strike a balance between paying attention to the facts and listening to your instincts in this matter. Although you feel strongly about this person, you have to look at their actions before you make up your mind.

Libra

(Sept 23-Oct 22)



It's a special talent, knowing when to face a situation and when to leave it alone. This set-up requires your careful handling and attention to detail. When your intentions are good, the results will be great.

Scorpio

(Oct 23-Nov 21)



Make the most of every social opportunity that comes your way, especially if it's been a while since you've felt that little "zing" in your heart. These moments may not be obvious, so stay on your toes and make sure this moment doesn't pass you by.

Sagittarius

(Nov 22-Dec 21)



There's power in numbers. Usually, you like striking out on your own, but today you see the joy of a group effort. It's not blending with a crowd; it's more like maximizing your talents in conjunction with others.

Capricorn

(Dec 22-Jan 19)



Making a discreet exit could be a lifesaver. Some people just don't know when to be quiet; there's nothing you can do about it, either. Leave them to their bad manners and carry on with your own life. What doesn't kill you makes you stronger so take as much as possible.

Music Reviews

by Estefania Garcia

Xtreme: *Haciendo Historia*

Xtreme, an R&B/ Bachata group released their new album *Haciendo Historia* on November 21, 2006. This CD includes 17 tracks, 14 songs, and 3 skits, one of them a comical piece making fun of their rivals in the Genre, Aventura. The songs are dull and non-commercial compared with their earlier work. It is a mediocre album except for some songs such as "A Broken Heart," "The Way I Feel," "Shorty Shorty," "Si La Vez," "A Donde Se Fue," and "Es Amor."

Although the album is not up to the group's potential, its songs are melodic and have a soothing sound catchy to the ear. The songs deal with relationships and the same old heartbreak story, but they all have the same sentimental/romantic tone. "A Donde Se Fue," in particular, has a very calming beat and expresses the poignant moments experienced when a couple breaks up. The lyrics of the songs follow the artist's style of writing, the same style Xtreme has always used in previous albums.

Another song that really caught my attention was "Her Broken Heart." It too shows a great deal of sentiment and has a laid back, calming tone. But it's the lyrics and melody that captures the true essence of what this group is known for. The song details the story of a girl who has had one too many experiences in love and relationship so she decides to give up on love and go solo. All the while, the guys of Xtreme persuade her that she shouldn't base love on her past heartbreaks and give it another shot. It is for that reason that this song is significant and unique from all the other songs. It is a motivating song that sends a positive message to all women, to keep strong and not to think that life is over because of a heartbreak. Overall, Xtreme fails to come with anything that will sell millions but they do succeed to keep the style that has made them who they are today.

Laguna Beach Soundtrack: *Summer Can Last Forever*

The Laguna Beach Soundtrack is a collection of songs by various artists, whose songs are used on one of the most anticipated MTV shows, Laguna Beach. This Rock/Pop

soundtrack was released on November 7, and has sold over 300,000 copies.

While I'm not into rock and pop and I'm not really into the TV show, I like some of the songs on the CD.

"You and Me," by Lifehouse, one of the songs on this album, is about a guy who finds his true love and seems to disregard everything that happens in the world as he only focuses on his feeling toward her. It has an acoustic sound and a romantic vibe.

Another good song is "It Ends Tonight" by The All-American Rejects. The lyrics are about a man trying to figure out why his girlfriend is breaking up with him. He feels like a falling star with no hope. The beat is slow rock and the tune is catchy. It's a sad tone and the All-American Rejects sing with a lot of passion.

Bobby Valentino: *Special Occasion*

R&B singer Bobby Valentino is a soulful singer. He has a new album, *Special Occasion*.

"Turn the Page," my favorite song on this album, has a catchy beat and Bobby Valentino's voice is very melodious. This song is about not giving up on a girl you really like. "If I Had My Way" has a very catchy beat and remorseful lyrics. He regrets his actions, such as hurting his ex-girlfriend and letting her go. He wants her back. In general, the CD is very romantic.

Aventura: *K.O.B. Live*

Aventura has shown why they reign the Bachata genre with the CD *K.O.B. Live*. This stellar CD includes three disks. The first is composed of 13 tracks that include 5 new studio songs and 8 from their live performances. The second disk also includes 12 from live performances around the globe. The final disk is a DVD that includes 1 music video and clips from 3 live performances. The songs included on the first two disks are from the previous albums but the 5 new studio songs are what caught my attention.

"Mi Corazoncito" in particular is one of my favorite songs on the CD. It's romantic sound had a big commercial appeal before the CD hit the stores. The unique style this song has is unmatched by any other artist in the genre. It has a good beat and the regular swing of a bachata song. The powerful lyrics demonstrate Aventura's ability to maintain their catchy style of music. The most politically controversial song on the album is "Jose." It addresses the war in Iraq and it

is particularly aimed for minorities who have relatives serving in the forces. Notably featured in the song is the violin accompaniment of Miri Ben-Ari, who was featured in Twista and Kanye West's summer hit "Over Night Celebrity."

Overall, *K.O.B.* is a very good demonstration of what Aventura is capable of and how far you can really take the Dominican genre that is Bachata. Aventura, with this CD, avoids the mundane style that Bachata songs are known for with their Rock/Hip Hop fusion. Track for track, *K.O.B. Live* is the must have album of 2006 not only because of the 2 disks and DVD included, but because of the value and sentiment in the new songs.

Do You Believe?

by Renato Lulaj

These "facts" were found at the Topfive website (<http://www.topfive.com/arcs/t5050302.shtml>), which represents these as "facts."

Vocalional Voice makes no claim that these are actually "facts."

- In the weightlessness of space a frozen pea will explode if it comes in contact with Pepsi.
- The increased electricity used by modern appliances is causing a shift in the Earth's magnetic field. By the year 2327, the North Pole will be located in mid-Kansas, while the South Pole will be just off the coast of East Africa.

- Smearing a small amount of dog feces on an insect bite will relieve the itching and swelling.

- Manatees possess vocal chords which give them the ability to speak like humans, but don't do so because they have no ears with which to hear the sound.

- SCUBA divers cannot pass gas at depths of 33 feet or below.

- You *can* get blood from a stone, but only if contains at least 17 percent bauxite.

- Approximately one-sixth of your life is spent on Wednesdays.

- In 1843, a Parisian street mime got stuck in his imaginary box and consequently died of starvation.

- Watching an hour-long soap opera burns more calories than watching a three-hour baseball game.

- Until 1978, Camel cigarettes contained minute particles of real camels.

- Seven out of every ten hockey-playing Canadians will lose a tooth during a game. For Canadians who don't play hockey, that figure drops to five out of ten.

What do you think? Tell us at VocVoice@aol.com.

Inquiring Photographer

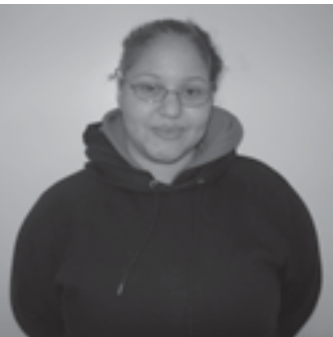
compiled by Iris Rivera

Everyone has their embarrassing, horrible, or even funny experiences. We asked students at Queens Voc, “What is the most exciting experience you have ever had?”



Daniel Maysonet
Freshman, Exploratory

“The best experience I ever had was being able to compete in a national tennis tournament. I was able to play other kids in New York. I played for McKinley Park and got third place.”



Lizbeth Colon
Senior, Business

“The most exciting and memorable experience that I ever had was meeting my first love Mahendra. We met here in Queens Voc during our junior year and we enjoyed each others company. We became an item in January of last year and we are still together. He means so much to me and we celebrated our one year anniversary in January.”



Ariela Rodriguez
Freshman, Exploratory

“The most exciting experience for me was coming to Queens Voc and experiencing the Hispanic festival and the holiday dance. The Hispanic festival focused on every Spanish culture and I enjoyed it. I danced to Grupo QV’s songs and I really enjoyed experiencing the festivities.”



Mahendra Jagdharry
Senior, Computer Technology

“The most exciting experience I ever had was meeting Lizbeth for the first time. We had so much in common and we laughed about everything. I am glad that I met her. We celebrated our one year anniversary January 13.”



Josue Manzanares
Sophomore, Electrical Installation

“When I was a freshman, the Make-a-Wish Foundation gave my family and me a free trip to Disney World. We had the flight from LGA to Orlando, rental car, and the hotel paid for us. The Make-a-Wish Foundation also gave us free fun passes and money to spend on ourselves. That was the most exciting experience I ever had.”



Yvonne Johnson
Sophomore, Cosmetology

“The most exciting experience I ever had was when I went on a cruise and it was the best time of my life. My teacher went on the cruise as well and I was a teacher’s pet. I went to Miami then to the Bahamas. My parents left me on the boat with the teacher and it was so much fun. That was my best experience ever.”



Oluyemisi Stroman
Junior, Cosmetology

“The most exciting experience I had was when I started working at a hair salon because it gave me a rush in my heart to do something that I love in a professional atmosphere. When I arrived at the salon to start my job, I was very happy and I had butterflies in my stomach from accomplishing one of my set goals.”



Jonathan Carsten
Junior, Business

“When I went to a concert for Ringo Starr and his All Star Band with Edgar Winter, Richard Marx, Sheila E., and other great musicians. The music was powerful, loud, and I loved it when they played my favorite classic hard rock tone, ‘Frankenstein.’ It was a great concert and it was a very exciting time for me.”

Ask Niecy

by Denise Espinal

Dear Niecy:

I have a boyfriend who I’ve been with for 4 years and I cheated on him 1 month ago with his best friend. I like him but I don’t want to hurt my boyfriend. Should I leave my boyfriend or what should I do? I don’t know please help.

A Guilty Cheater

Dear Guilty:

Okay, first of all, once a cheater always a cheater. I don’t care how much people claim they can “change,” whether or not you get caught or not, sooner or later you’ll cheat again. And if your partner found out and forgave you, he’s basically giving you the green light to do it again and you will, unless you dedicate your life trying to prove me wrong. If you do prove me wrong then congratulations, but

that’s rarely the case. So it’s been 4 years and you don’t want to hurt your boyfriend. You’re already doing it so why not finish the deed? It’s a pretty messed up thing to say but you might as well leave him. If there was a reason to cheat then you probably shouldn’t be together. You’d be doing him a favor because the longer you procrastinate the more it’ll hurt him in the end. Temptation is out there and not everyone is strong enough to stay away. You can’t get any lower than cheating and it stinks for the both of you. I don’t know how he treated you, or if he deserved something like this, but if he didn’t than you’re a jerk because for him, being with you turned out to be a waste of time. What goes around comes around – karma- and this will eventually catch up to you. Sometimes people get caught up in their own things and are just too self-centered to realize how serious a person’s emotions can be and the kind of effects their actions have on them.

Game Reviews

by Jerry Chang

Shadow of Colossus

Towering mythical giants walk the earth, and it is the gamer’s job to destroy them in Shadow of Colossus, a long waited PlayStation 2 adventure from the team that created ICO. This game puts the player in an epic combat against some of the largest foes ever on a television screen.

The game begins with footage of an unknown character. This mysterious character comes to an ancient temple with the hope of bringing back a loved one. The voices in his head call to him and draw him to this ancient temple. As he lays her on a stone table, voices tell him that if he wants to bring her back, he’ll have to destroy the 16 “Colossi” that wander the land. So armed with his sword, bow, and wits, and accompanied by his horse, Argo, our hero rides off in search of these beasts.

The game’s simple: find the colossi and slay them, but killing them will be a challenge. Each monster has it own weak spot that the gamer must find and get to in order to inflict any damage. But to do so, the player must find a way to get to their weak spot. Figuring out how to get there will require thinking and planning.

The controls within this game can be a bit of a pain. Controlling the horse is a problem because it won’t go straight and the camera gives bad angles. This

can be controlled by centering the camera angles within the game.

The graphics are beautiful and well-detailed; the environment looks realistic with the clouds moving and birds flying around chirping. The characters are well-developed and have real motion like feeling shaky after jumping from cliff to cliff.

What makes Shadow of Colossus a fun game is what you will feels after defeating a giant rock monster by climbing all the way up to its head and, with a sword, skewer its head. Besides the colossi, there aren’t any enemies. But for most gamers, Shadow of Colossus provides one heck of an adventure. I rate this game a 10 out 10.

Chaos Legion

How would you like to be a swordsman, a knight of the Dark Glyphs, armed with the power to summon an army of chaos to aid you in battle? In Chaos Legion, you will unleash the power of the Dark Glyphs and wipe out an army of foes with monsters that listen to your every command.

Chaos Legion is one heck of an adventure, a story of forgiveness, deception, and betrayal. This game is not a walk in the park; you have to fight armies of enemies everywhere you step.

During the game you will come across monsters known as “Legions,” these legion will be obtained after finishing a level. What gamers complain about is that the gamer is only allowed to carry two legions on each mission, but after the mission you are able to switch legions.

Overall the game is similar to Devil May Cry, but harder. The graphics are beautiful and the characters are well-crafted. The controls respond to the buttons well and the camera angles are excellent. I rate it 8 out of 10 because it might be too hard for some players. If you love Devil May Cry, you will love Chaos Legion.

Valentine's Day

Bash

Friday, February 9

6pm - 10pm

\$3 for SO Members

\$4 for others

For more information see Mr. Vega in 143

Word Search Puzzle

by Kacy James

N V O I T I F F A R G Z A Z P O Y M L Q I P P G R
V Z S P I R I T M C Y P N H D Q N E O R E J V S R
G G E A C C R C P O G W Z H Y A T G Z V E Z L A F
B J C O M P U T E R J P O M G Y I J N J S G A T N
P F O Y S X A I I T Z C M L O E W M N I V G L R E
D T E L H O Q I L N U C H R L W C B S I B D O A E
B N K W D G D M R O Y K N E O E G T S X I M H A R
H S D A V F K P E E W T C M T W Y A K C W N U V G
V D R T L J H P C W T T X K E L J J M O T N F L Z
K L Y E B E N W X O R E Q I M F P G X B F O R Z P
A A H R S Z O M C O L N F T S M C Q O E I I S E U
D N L M N S X D N S H Y P A O Q Z V L Z O T V G V
R O T M E J X I F J U F V T C S J E G Q H A I M R
B D I F E N C G Z S O S P F I P C G N Y S I G O V
L C A I U S E C R E U J P A B T O D L M V V L T N
T M Z E Q A Y V P E D B X E R W X X Q E M A E B A
H H B M J T E G E K B A W I N S E Y Q N P Y A B I
S M H X M S F C A S B M C A H S S W G H S A B U D
I F F A H N P Z N Z M I O V Y L I O E S V R V S G
N Q L O C K E D B A T H R O O M C O H Y D P P I P
K M F I M I V S X Y V W D M L R E O N X I S Q N G
Y C O O N H O L K Z Y D I J Y B N G F J H R A E D
D C Z H O J I K W I E I A P M H O D I U W I H S C
M S V N Q R G S A F E T Y A G E N T D U L A U S D
Y X L Z Y J C I N A P S I H N Z F E W T B H Q Y U

BLOOMBERG
YELLOW
GREEN
CAFETERIA
COMPUTER
COSMETOLOGY
ELECTRICITY
PLUMBING
WATER
HAIRSPRAY
SAFETYAGENT
LOCKEDBATHROOM
GRAFFITI
ADVANCE
SUSPENSION
AMBITION
SPIRIT
SUBWAY
ELECTRONICS
SEVEN
QSIXTY
MCDONALDS
AVIATION
QUEENSBLVD
BUSINESS

Websites of Interest

compiled by Kacy James

Ever since the mainstream introduction of the internet in the late 1990s, many people have been drawn away from their TVs and to their computer desks. Internet websites showcase the wealth of information on the internet. The following websites are a testament to the power of the internet.

Local News

ABC 7 Eyewitness news-----<http://www.7online.com>
New York 1 news-----<http://www.ny1.com>
Fox 5 WNWY-----<http://www.fox5ny.com>
CBS 2 WCBS-----<http://www.wcbs.com>
NBC 4 WNBC-----<http://www.wnbc.com>
The New York Times-----<http://www.nytimes.com>

National and International news

Cable News Network (CNN)-----<http://www.cnn.com>
Fox News-----<http://www.foxnews.com>
MSNBC-----<http://www.msnbc.com>
The Onion-----<http://www.theonion.com>
The New York Times -----<http://www.nytimes.com>

Search Engines

Ask-----<http://www.ask.com>
Google-----<http://www.google.com>
Yahoo-----<http://www.yahoo.com>
Dogpile-----<http://www.dogpile.com>
Answers-----<http://www.answers.com>

Entertainment

G4TV -----<http://www.g4tv.com>
Ebaum’s world-----<http://www.ebaumsworld.com>
Music Television-----<http://www.mtv.com>
Video Hits One-----<http://www.vh1.com>
Yahoo Games-----<http://games.yahoo.com/games/front>
YouTube-----<http://www.youtube.com>

Major Sports News

ESPN-----<http://www.espn.com>
National Basketball Association-----<http://www.nba.com>
National Hockey League-----<http://www.nhl.com>
National Football League-----<http://www.nfl.com>
Major League Baseball-----<http://www.mlb.com>
Major League Soccer -----<http://www.mlssnet.com>

Tech News

Cnet-----<http://www.cnet.com>
Engadget -----<http://www.engadget.com>
Wired-----<http://www.wired.com>
Tech Republic-----<http://techrepublic.com.com>
Gamespy-----<http://www.gamespy.com>
Gamespot-----<http://www.gamespot.com>
IGN-----<http://www.ign.com>
Game Revolution-----<http://www.gamerevolution.com>
Game Rankings-----<http://www.gamerankings.com>

Netwoking

MySpace-----<http://www.myspace.com>
Xanga-----<http://www.xanga.com>
Migente-----<http://www.migente.com>
Sconex-----<http://www.sconex.com>
Match-----<http://www.match.com>

Shopping

Macy’s-----<http://www.macys.com>
JCPenney-----<http://www.jcpenney.com>
Footlocker-----<http://www.footlocker.com>
Finishline-----<http://www.finishline.com>
Champs Sports -----<http://www.champssports.com>
Modell’s-----<http://www.modells.com>
Eastbay-----<http://www.eastbay.com>
Ebay-----<http://www.ebay.com>
Radioshack-----<http://www.radioshack.com>
Wal Mart-----<http://www.walmart.com>
Kmart-----<http://www.kmart.com>
Target-----<http://www.target.com>
Circuit City-----<http://www.circuicity.com>
Best Buy-----<http://www.bestbuy.com>
J and R-----<http://www.jandr.com>

Sudoku Puzzle

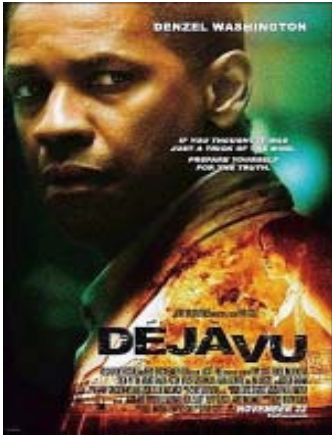
by Volodymyr Sulyk

Easy		3	6						
	7							2	9
	5	9		2	8				
			9		2			8	
	6		5		1		2		3
		2			6		1		
					5	1		4	2
	8	6							7
							9	3	8

Hard						1			
			7		9				2
	6	5	3			7	4		
		2							8
	9		1		8		3		4
	3							6	
			6	9			7	5	3
	2				6		9		
				3					6

Movie Reviews

by Yolanis Barros



Dejà vu

In this action-packed thriller, Denzel Washington plays ATF agent Doug Carlin. His latest investigation is about the explosion of a New Orleans ferry in which hundreds of people died. While looking for evidence, Carlin finds the corpse of a beautiful woman whose death was different from the other people on the ferry. Carlin makes it his business to find the details of this woman’s death. An FBI agent also working on the case asks for Carlin’s help and tells him of a new technology that the FBI developed to see images of events that happened four days before. Carlin believes that by using this technology, he can change the events of the past.

The movie was filled with action scenes and included a thrilling car chase in which Carlin chases a car in the past while he’s in the present. It has everything you expect from a Denzel Washington movie: action, thrills, and emotions. The movie is a little confusing at times but it keeps the viewers guessing and figuring out the details along with Washington’s character.

★★★★☆



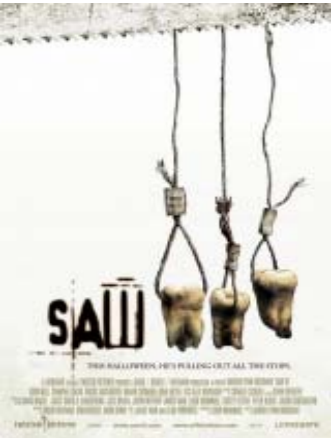
Blood Diamond

Blood Diamond is the story of Danny Archer, a South African smuggler, played by Leonardo Di Caprio, and Solomon Vandy, a fisherman who was taken from his family and forced to work in the

diamond fields in Sierra Leone, Africa. Archer gets jailed for smuggling and while in jail finds out Vandy found and hid a rare pink diamond. The two start a trek through rebel territory to save Vandy’s family and get archer’s life back on track.

The movie was set during a civil war in Sierra Leone in the 1990s. Even though the setting of the story is tragic and the previews set it up as a controversial, tear wrenching story, it fails to reach any of these expectations. The story has too much unnecessary violence and at times seems to go off the topic. It failed to keep my attention and it’s hard to get through the whole thing.

★★★★☆



by Anadia Diaz Saw III

Saw II ended with a suspenseful ending. Everyone left with a great curiosity of what’s going to happen. In Saw II, Jigsaw was left in critical condition and needed the best medical attention he can get. The story continues in Saw III, when Jigsaw’s partner-in-crime, Amanda, kidnaps Dr. Lynn into the abandoned warehouse where they had been staying. Dr. Lynn must keep Jigsaw alive in order for her to stay alive as well.

As the story continues, Jeff, another of Jigsaw’s victims, must complete three tests in order to meet face to face with his child’s murder. In each test, there are three people who are being tortured and Jeff has to be the one to help them. The twist is, each person is his enemy, and he has to help them survive. Together, Lynn and Jeff struggle to complete their assigned tests, unaware that Jigsaw has a surprise waiting for them.

This movie caught me by surprise. Usually sequels end up ruining the first or second film. But Saw III just made Saw I and Saw II even better. It made me go home and watch the other two movies. The way each person was being tortured, was incredibly disgusting, but it made me watch it more. I kept asking myself, why everything happened the way it did, and at the end, it answered all my questions.

★★★★★



Borat: Cultural Learnings of America for Make Benefit Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan

Kazakhstan’s TV reporter Borat Sagdiyev, played by comedian Sacha Cohen, is sent to America to make a documentary on the greatest country in the world. While filming the documentary, Borat gets more interested in finding and marrying Baywatch babe Pamela Anderson. In his quest to find her, Borat gets himself in crazy, laugh-out-loud situations.

It’s a hilarious comedy that’ll have you laughing from beginning to end. It is full of racial slanders and discriminatory comments, but it’s all in good fun and should not be taken seriously. The goal is just to have fun, and the movie definitely reaches that goal. It’s the kind of movie that has you laughing a week later when you remember episodes from it.

★★★★★

People Magazine’s Top Ten TV Shows

by Kelvin Smartt

1. Lost

Airs: Wednesdays at 8pm
Channel: ABC 7
Status: Returning Series
Show Category: Drama, Action/Adventure

After a plane crash lands stranding a group of people onto an unknown Pacific Island, their only task is to survive and, they hope, to be rescued. Along their exploration of the island, they discover secrets that may change their lives forever.

2. Grey’s Anatomy

Airs: Sundays at 10pm
Channel: ABC 7
Status: Returning Series
Show Category: Drama, Comedy

A group of interns are faced with the everyday challenges of the medical world. Being first year surgical interns, they learn to balance their personal lives with their competitive professional lives. Grey’s Anatomy shows the struggles that most doctors face on an everyday basis.

3. Prison Break

Airs: Mondays at 8pm
Channel: FOX 5
Status: Returning Series
Show Category: Action/Adventure, Drama

Lincoln Burrow who is played by Dominic Purcell, is on death row for the murder of the Vice President’s brother. He insists he’s innocent, but no one except his brother Michael Scofield who is played by Wentworth Miller believes him. Michael, who was hired to renovate the prison where Lincoln is being held, takes drastic measures to help him escape. But in the escape plan, many things go wrong which makes the escape more risky and dangerous.

4. House

Airs: Tuesdays at 9pm
Channel: FOX 5
Status: Returning Series
Show Category: Drama, Comedy.

Dr. Gregory House is a disease specialist who challenges the medical world through unconventional means of medical diagnosis. He solves cases that other doctors cannot understand and because of this, some people feel he’s gone a little crazy with these findings.

5. Supernatural

Airs: Thursdays at 9pm
Channel: CW11
Status: Returning Series
Show Category: Science-Fiction, Drama

Supernatural stars Jensen Ackles and Jared Padalecki as Dean and Sam Winchester are two brothers who travel the country looking for their missing father and battling evil spirits along the way.

6. Heroes

Airs: Mondays at 9pm
Channel: NBC 4
Status: New Series
Show Category: Drama, Action/Adventure, Science-Fiction

A group of people have just found out that they have incredible powers. In Japan, an office worker can teleport at will. In New York, a struggling artist can paint the future. In Los Angeles, a cop can hear the thoughts of others. Heroes follow the lives of these people and the lives of others like them

whose destiny is waiting to be uncovered.

7. Veronica Mars

Airs: Tuesdays 9pm
Channel: CW 11
Status: Returning Series
Category: Drama

Veronica Mars is a smart and fearless 18-year old who lives in the town of Neptune. She is a private investigator dedicated to solving Neptune’s mysteries. Veronica used to be one of the popular girls until her best friend Lilly was murdered, and her father Keith, who was sheriff at the time, was removed from office for naming Lilly’s rich father as the lead suspect. During the day, Veronica is like any other average student in high school. But at night, she helps with her father’s new private investigator business and what she finds may tear the town of Neptune apart.

8. Desperate Housewives

Airs: Sundays 9pm
Channel: ABC 7
Status: Returning Series
Category: Drama, Comedy

The show portrays the lives of five women who live in a town called Fairview, which has many secrets, stories, and betrayals that could destroy the neighborhood and unlock the many mysteries that surround this little suburban town.

9. Dancing With The Stars

Airs: Tuesdays at 8pm and the follow up show on Wednesdays at 8pm
Channel: ABC 7
Status: Returning Series
Category: Reality

Dancing with the Stars is a series that pairs a celebrity with a professional dance partner as they train and then compete in front of a studio audience in a televised dance competition. The pairs will be judged by a panel of experts and also by viewers at home, with one couple being eliminated each week.

10. Everybody Hates Chris

Airs: Sundays at 7pm
Channel: CW 11
Status: Returning Series
Category: Comedy

In Everybody Hates Chris, comedian Chris Rock (inspired by his childhood experiences) narrates the hilarious, touching story of a teenager growing up as the eldest of three children in Brooklyn, New York, during the early 1980s. Chris, who is played by Tyler James Williams, struggles to find his place while keeping his siblings in line at home and overcoming the challenges of being in junior high school.



Inside Tigers Sports



EaTiN' HeAltHy

by Stephanie Baique

Food is what keeps us alive. Eating healthy can help us cure illnesses, reduce weight, and decrease stress. Healthy foods increase people's energy levels and extend people's lives.

Drinking a lot of water is also important. Water is an important component in staying fit, especially for those who do not exercise on a regular basis.

To begin with, it is important to eat a healthy breakfast daily. People have often been misled into believing that eating bacon and eggs is unhealthy. But according to Mr. Boyle, bacon and eggs are fine to eat. There is a big difference between eating bacon and eggs once in a while and overdoing the consumption of bacon and eggs daily. "Every person digests food differently. Eggs have a lot of protein. Protein can be good for certain people," Mr. Boyle said.

Fast food lovers should stay away from food that will deplete more nutrients from your body than it puts in. According to

Mr. Boyle, the hamburger buns from McDonald's are made with unbleached flour. Unbleached flour has its husk removed, which contains a lot of nutrients. By eating these buns, people won't get the necessary nutrients their system needs.

"This day and age, the health professions are recommending organic foods. Organic foods contain more nutrients," Mr. Boyle said. Vegetables, fruits, and grains are perfect examples of organic foods.

Snapple contains 15 teaspoons of sugar in a 16 ounce bottle. Soda such as Coca Cola and Pepsi all are similar in that they have high percentages of sugars. Consuming a lot of these drinks is bad for the human system in that high sugars found in the body can cause diabetes. Diabetes can then cause other illnesses such as blindness, heart disease, and kidney disease.

"If anybody wants to really understand how evil fast foods can be, watch the movie *Supersize Me*, Mr. Boyle said.

Varsity Baseball Readies Season

by Kelvin Smartt

As the baseball season approaches, the Queens Voc Tigers boys' baseball team has begun to prepare themselves for the start of a new baseball season. "Most of us participate



Rookie Danny Ortiz

in the conditioning club to stay in shape for the upcoming season," said 4-year veteran and team leader Dio Gonzalez.

"For now, we are trying to prepare ourselves mentally and physically for the challenge ahead," said Elbel Estrella who is also a 4-year veteran and a team leader. "There is still a lot of work to be done," he added. "Baseball is a tough sport. You have to put in 100% in everything you do. You have

to drink, eat, and sleep baseball."

Since the PSAL realigned their division, "This season is going to be much harder because we have tougher competition with Bowne and Flushing, while Renaissance was removed," he said.

Once the season begins on March 1, the team will practice 6 days a week. "These practices are usually strenuous, but it's worth it to know that we are well prepared and ready to play," said Danny Medina, a 3-year veteran and team leader.

The first league game is March 20 against Frank Sinatra at Flushing Meadows Park. The team has 16 league games and usually schedules over 20 non-league games.

But baseball is not all that this team is about. To foster school spirit, the boys' sold Queens Voc Baseball t-shirts to teachers, and current and former baseball team members. The t-shirts sold for \$10 each. "It was a huge success because we sold over 140 t-shirts. Because of the response that we got from students, the team is now selling t-shirts to

Varsity B-Ball Team Fights to the Finish

continued from back page

"We need to come together as a team to win and make it to the playoffs" said Nikolas Nissirios, the Tigers starting guard, after their 64-51 loss to the Academy of American Studies on January 8. "We need to improve our fundamental skills and if we achieve that, we will start winning games" said Keon Badger.

Three days later, in a non-league game, the Tigers beat the High School for Construction, 51-35.

Initially, Coach Maloney anticipated that the veterans would lead the team to a strong record. "4 out of the 5 starters have played together last year and have built up some chemistry on the court" said Mr. Maloney. This year's team is more experienced than last year's, when they finished with a 12-8 record and went to the playoffs.



Carlos, Leo, and Keon lookin' tough.

According to the PSAL website, the team consists of seniors: Jesus Alonso, Keon Badger, Matthew Cabrera, Paul Carino, Leonel Garcia, Oscar Hernandez, Lamar Jenkins, Nikolas Nissirios, Daniel Sanchez, and Jeffrey Truong; juniors: David Bermudez, Andrew Ferguson, and Christo Luna; and sophomores: Skyfree Ferguson, Jerrell Hampton, Edwin Hill, Mingmar Lama, Carlos Mason, and George Serna.

Daniel Sanchez, a rookie senior, starts and the coach believes he is a big contributor. "First year starter, Daniel Sanchez, is solid in the middle, said Coach Maloney earlier in the season."

The coach expects a lot from the players on the team, in addition to just playing hard. "I expect them to pass all their classes, come to practice, and stay focused when playing basketball, he said. I expect them to have fun because basketball shouldn't be stressful, only the coach should receive the stress".

The teams in the Tigers division are Aviation, Wagner Jr., Info Tech, American Studies and Newcomers.



Jeffrey takes a shot.

[Editors' Note: The basketball season was scheduled to end during the layout of this edition. We will include a season recap in the next edition.]



Players who tried out for varsity baseball at Clean Up The Park Day.

students interested in purchasing one," said Elbel. This year, the t-shirts were designed by Elbel with the help of Mr. Garcia, who is a Graphic Arts and Web Design teacher. "I tried to create a shirt that was unique and would catch the attention of everyone," said Elbel. "Mr. Garcia's help was invaluable," he said.

So far, baseball equipment has been ordered and received. The team has sold candy to raise funds for the SO, which supports the team. "We get our

equipment from Mr. Vega and he also supplies the guys with long sleeve mock turtle neck shirts, pays for umpires for non-league games, and always seems to be there when we need help," said Coach Schimenz.

The team has also established a website, www.QVTigers.org. It includes their complete schedule, previous award winners, and numerous other pages. Once term grades are in for the players, baseball uniforms, which cost \$145, will be ordered. The team will also

fundraise to purchase team jackets and duffle bags for new team members. Further, the New York City Parks Department has invited the team to a reception in April honoring park volunteers, for their work at the It's My Park! Days, held several times each year.

"There's a lot of new players on the team this year and when all the players come together and help out, we'll play as a team. We all have to help one another, said junior Angel Tejada, a second-year veteran.

SENIOR SPORTS PROFILES

by Denise Espinal

Nachelle Colin



Age: 17
Team: Girls' Varsity Bowling
Position: B team
Years on team: 1

"She had a unique way of keeping the team happy, and keeping the spirit alive."
- Lorena Bonilla

"Nachelle was a great asset to the team. Even though she did not play on a consistent basis, whenever the team needed her, she was always stepped up and played well."
- Mr. Garofano

Raydilkys Reyes



Age: 18
Team: Girls' Varsity Bowling
Position: B team
Years on team: 1

"She got better over time and towards the end turned out to be one of the better players."
- Yara Diaz

"Raydilkys immediately became one of the team's top bowlers. She bowled for the A and B teams and was a great competitor."
- Mr. Garofano

Jennifer Cabrera

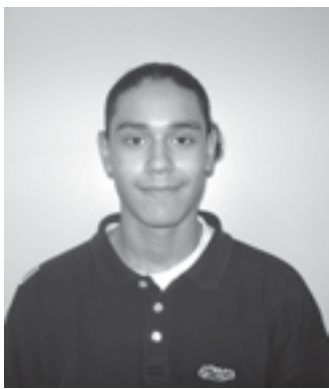


Age: 17
Team: Girls' Varsity Bowling
Position: B team
Years on Team: 1

"Jennifer is an outgoing person, she never gave up, always tried harder, and cheered the team up."
- Dayana Jaramillo

"Jennifer steadily improved during the season. Her hard work earned her a position on the B team. Jen was always willing to listen and work hard."
- Mr. Garofano

Jose Diaz



Age: 17
Team: Boys' Varsity Bowling
Position: B team
Years on Team: 1

"Jose is a good player and always came through when we needed him."
- David Bermudez

"I wish he would have been on the team years ago. He's an anchor for the B team."
- Mr. Devaux

Christian Jadan



Age: 17
Team: Boys' Varsity Soccer
Position: Defense
Years on Team: 4

"He plays good defense and is developing his speed."
- Michael Ruiz

"Very good defense player that loves the game and plays to his best ability."
- Mr. Ali

Girls' Softball Team Looks Forward to Fresh Start

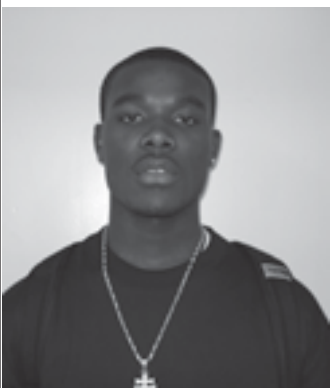
by Elbel Estrella

After a disappointing 2006 season, the girls' varsity softball team is looking to have a successful 2007 season under head coach Mr. Michael Boyle. In their 2006 campaign, the girls finished with a 3-10 league record, losing 9 out of their first ten games the girls were not able to recover from the rough start. Despite their record, however, the girls enjoyed playing, said Cristi Hernandez, a junior and returning veteran. "Even though it was a tough year for our team, we had a lot of fun and practiced hard, and we gained valuable experience that we are looking forward to putting into practice this upcoming season."

Returning to play this year are 8 veterans, only two of them seniors, and there is a bulk of girls looking to try-out. This is ideal for the fresh start Coach Boyle is looking for.

In addition to Cristi, the returning veterans are Lorena Bonilla, , Nelissa Fernandez, Dayana Jaramillo, Dairis Jimenez, Estephany Jimenez, , and Magdaline Rodriguez. The returning players are exited

David Lawrence



Age: 17
Team: Boys' Varsity Soccer
Position: Midfield/Forward
Years on Team: 4

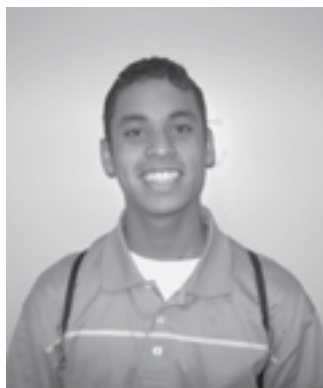
"David was a good player, he inspired the team. It was good to have him on the team."
- David Bueno

"A very aggressive player who takes the game to heart but needs to control himself on the field."
- Mr. Ali

about the opportunity to have a young team, said Cristi Hernandez. "The experience we gained during last year's season is valuable because now we veterans can help the new players improve."

Even though the season is still a month away, conditioning has already started. Some girls run in school and attended weekly December clinics at Queens College, in which they were taught batting, fielding, pitching techniques, and

Freddie Cardona



Age: 17
Team: Boys' Varsity Soccer
Position: Midfield/Forward
Years on Team: 1

"He's good at defending the ball, more than retrieving it. He shows he likes the sport and is why he's good at it."
- Beshion Bailey

"A nice guy who needs some improvement with ball control and will do better with more practice."
- Mr. Ali

conditioning for sports. The clinics took place every Saturday in December, 9am until 12 noon. Only the veterans attended the clinics and they and their coach are hoping for good results from these clinics to have a rebound 2007 season.

Coach Boyle feels this new start will attract younger players. "The trend in the past has been a team laden with seniors, hopefully this trend will help develop players for the future," Coach Boyle said. "It's

Jay Ocampo



Age: 17
Team: Boys' Varsity Soccer
Position: Forward
Years on Team: 1

"Jay's a leader, he never gives up. He's a great player and I'm honored to play with him."
- Alex Penaloza

"Extremely talented and should do well in soccer if he puts his mind into it in the future."
- Mr. Ali

is only natural that as players go through high school being part of the team, their experience, vision, skill and team camaraderie increase, which could lead to a possible future in college athletics." The players are comfortable with Coach Boyle,

Byron Pineda



Age: 18
Team: Boys' Varsity Soccer
Position: Defense
Years on Team: 2

"He's a good defender and he's a strong player."
- Diego Marin

"A nice player, who plays with his heart and will do very well in all sports."
- Mr. Ali

said Melissa Fernandez, one of the two seniors on the team. "He's a very good coach and I am confident with his abilities to coach. He has good characteristics: he has a lot of patience, he is fun, and has a great sense of humor."

LISTEN FOR UPCOMING ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR SOFTBALL TRYOUTS

TIGERS

SPORTS

Girls’ Basketball Upgrades to Varsity

by Diomedes Gonzalez

After a single developmental season, the Queens Voc girls’ varsity basketball team was moved into the Queens B-2 division, and despite their valiant efforts, the season hasn’t gone as many would have hoped.

The Lady Tigers won their first game of the season on January 6, against Newcomers High School (31-28), after 7 straight losses. So far that has been the only game the girls have won. “We’re doing badly, but we give every game 100%,” said veteran Christi Hernandez. “We started off losing big, but as the season progressed we had two really close games and we are doing better as a team,” she added.

Part of this problem is that the girls’ varsity team is shorthanded. “We need more girls to come out for the team; that right now is the goal for next year,” said veteran Ivana Nuñez. Having a limited amount of players takes a toll on the girls. Constantly



having to play with little time to rest and few choices on who to sub in is hard on both the players and Coach Devaux.

According to the PSAL website, the team consists of 10 players: Melissa Alzate, Catherine Gomez, Karolin Gorna, Quiniesha Harris, Christi Hernandez, Samantha Lupo, Samantha Mendez, Michelle Monsalve, Ivana Nunez, and Magdeline Rodriguez.

Having a longer and harder season with more practices should help the girls improve for next season, said Christi. Most of the current players should be back next year since there are no seniors on the team. This should give an edge to the team because the veterans will know how the team is run, what areas they have to work on, and what adjustments should be made to avoid another poor season.

This season, The girls learned how the varsity division differs from the developmental league. As a developmental team, the girls’ were 5-2. Now in varsity, they are 1-9 and know that the level of competition they face isn’t to be taken lightly. Their opponents in the Queens B-2 Division are American Studies, which is in first place (8-0), Grover Cleveland, Info Tech, Newcomers, Sinatra, and Wagner. Newcomers is in last place in the division with an 0-9 record. The Lady Tigers helped put them there.

Varsity B-Ball Team Fights to the Finish

by Heriberto Velazquez

The Tigers varsity basketball team got a good start to their season when they beat Newcomers High School 62-35 before a home crowd on November 29.

“There were several potential ESPN top 10 highlights during the game,” said the coach, Mr. Maloney, after their first game.

The tigers won their next two games against Academy of American Studies (68-57) and Information Technology (78-48).

After their solid start, the Tigers lost the next 5 in a row. As of January 26, their league record was 4-8 , and the team was in fifth place in their division.

continued on pg 14

Boys JV Basketball Debuts at Queens Voc

by Keon Badger

Queens Vocational and Technical High School now has a junior varsity basketball team, the first JV basketball team Queens Voc has ever had. The junior varsity basketball team is for 9th and 10th grade students to give them a feeling of the game and show them the style of the game, according to Mr. Garofano, the new team’s coach.

The JV team is in the developmental division this season, a stage every new team entering PSAL goes through to get into the league, and to see in which division they will be placed. According to the PSAL website, the team consists of 9 players: Jheferson Aldaz, Esteven Giraldo, Anthony Hughes, Justin Kroon, Kareif Mckoy, Gregory Paul, Joel Pichardo, Amritpal Singh, and Ranjot Singh.

The team’s record was 1-5 as of January 26. Despite being in the Developmental Division, the team has had to play established teams such as Aviation, Bryant, Flushing, Forest Hills, Grover Cleveland, Lane, and Newtown, rather than other developmental teams. But the team has stayed positive, without worrying about their record.

“I am playing either forward or shooting guard, but I’ve been playing shooting guard so far,” said Gregory, a sophomore on the team who also plays for the school’s varsity soccer team. Gregory said he loves playing basketball. “I’ve had a basketball in my hand since I was a toddler watching Barnie and the Teletubbies,” he said.

Mr. Garofano said he was “honored to be the JV basketball coach,” and that “having new sports teams is good for the school.” Mr. Garofano coaches other teams in the school, as well. He’s been coaching girls’ bowling for 5 years and boys’ JV baseball for 2 years. He has a lot of experience coaching, but said that until now, he had never coached basketball. “But,” Mr. Garofano said, “I’ve been around the game a long time. I played in high school and other leagues. I know the game well.”

Joel Pichardo, a 6-foot sophomore, plays center. “Mr. Garofano is doing well. He’s practicing us and he’s been great coaching,” Joel said. “I can see the players on the team love playing basketball as I much as I do. That’s good for a team,” Joel said.



The first JV game was December 7, against Flushing High School in the Queens Voc gym. “It was very exciting,” said Mr. Maloney, the varsity basketball coach. “They were down the whole game and then they made a great come back. The team started to play with confidence and good opportunities to score were evident,” Mr. Maloney said.

Anthony Hughes, a forward on the team, who contributed with 20 points and 25 rebounds, said, “the Queens Voc crowd gave us even more strength to win.” Anthony, who was also the number 1 bowler in the city this past season, said of his JV basketball experience, “My first game was great. Playing for Queens Voc for the first time was great. It is what I always wanted. I love it,” he said.

TIGERS SPORTS CONTINUED INSIDE