



Vocational Voice

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

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FBLA Competitors Make it to Nationals



FBLA students after State Leadership Conference in Rochester.

by Michael Ortega

Maria Martinez and Jonathan Vargas returned from the FBLA State Leadership Conference with more than what they left with. The students returned home with plaques and with plans to compete in the national competition in July.

Jonathan, a Cisco Networking senior, placed second place in the Networking Concepts competition and fifth place in Cyber Security. Maria, a junior in business, placed second in Spreadsheet Applications. Jonathan and Maria are eligible to attend nationals in Atlanta, Georgia from June 28 to July 2. According to Mr. Garcia, the students can only attend nationals if the necessary funds are raised.

Nine Queens Voc FBLA members participated in the State Leadership Conference, which took place April 12-15, in Rochester, New York.

Kelly Ochoa and Maria competed in the Public Service Announcement competition. Maria also competed in Spreadsheet Applications. Steven Cortes, Ngawana Dawa, and Yariel Ortega competed in Publication Design. Steven and Yariel also competed in Accounting. Lyman Iyeke and Jonathan competed in Cyber Security and Networking Concepts, Alejandro Fernandez competed in Economics, and Gabriel Miller competed in Personal Finance.

Ms. Mitchell, the advisor,

worked with the students to prepare for the competitions. "We practice whenever the students are available. I test them with questions pertaining to the topic of the competition," said Ms. Mitchell. "I was satisfied to see the members use their leadership skills, interacting skills, and networking skills they gained in class," she said.

"As president it is my job to help the advisors. I am in charge of the other members, making sure that they attend their competitions, workshops, and meetings as well as answering any questions they might have," said FBLA chapter President Gabriel Miller.

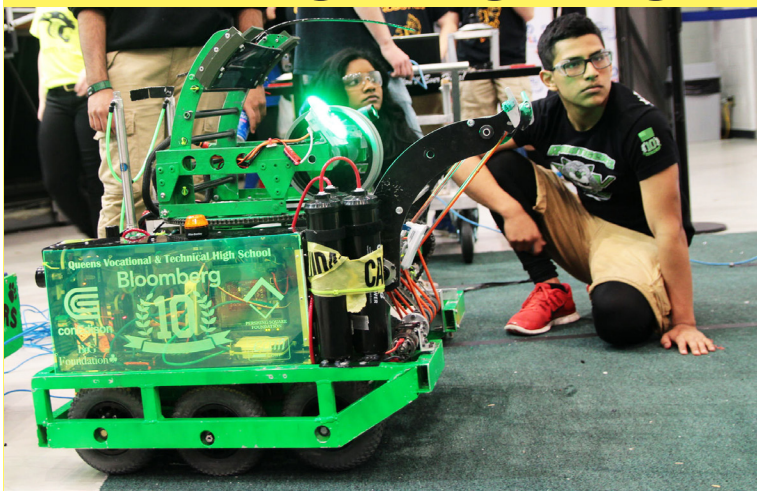
The FBLA members visit the Queens Boulevard Extended Care Facility four times a year. Their next visit will take place April 21, for their annual fashion show.

Other members in the Queens Voc chapter are: Flor Amigon, Angelica Campos, Emely Peralta, Annahi Rafael, and Mukta Roy.

Seven of the FBLA members are seniors. "You can see the growth of their business acumen once they reach senior year," said Ms. Mitchell.

"When the students first enter a business class, they don't understand what happens in a daily business operation. As they progress, they fully understand what the daily business operation is like: working with other people, and the consequences of being late and not having your assignments completed," she said.

RoboTigers going to Missouri



Anthony and Tia prepare the robot for the competition.

by Helen Eng

The RoboTigers will be advancing to FIRST championships in St. Louis, Missouri on April 27-30. This will be their fifth time advancing to championships in the 10 years the RoboTigers have existed.

The RoboTigers participated in two regionals this year, the NYC regional and the Long Island regional. The NYC regional was held March 11-13 at the Javits Center in Manhattan and the Long Island regional was held March 30-April 2 at Hofstra University.

The team of about 40 members, who worked five days

a week after school and from 9am to 6pm on weekends to build the robot, won the Chairman's Award at the Long Island regional.

"This is the most prestigious award at FIRST. It honors the team that best represents a model for other teams to emulate and best embodies the purpose and goals of FIRST," said Maricarmen Ramirez, lead of the computer-aided design team. She said the RoboTigers applied to win the Chairman's Award for the first time this year.

Co-captain Tia Singh said that to apply for the Chairman's Award, the team had to make a video, write a 10,000 word essay, and prepare a presentation that is

presented during the competitions to several judges in a separate room.

Anthony Chauca, a build team member said, "I think we were better prepared in Long Island and we presented with a television. I never imagined we would win it the first year we applied. That is unheard of."

At the NYC regional, the RoboTigers won the Gracious Professionalism award that is sponsored by Johnson & Johnson, and the team placed 10 out of 66. There were eight qualification matches and five elimination matches. The RoboTigers won six qualification matches and two elimination matches, which made them semi-finalists.

"This year's task was more challenging than in past years," said Miguel Romero, a build team member. The competition game this year is called FIRST Stronghold. According to Co-captain Guadalupe Juarez, the robot was built and programmed to pick up and shoot 10-inch foam boulders. "It is designed to break defenses, which are obstacles on the game field, and scale the tower," she said.

Miguel said they worked really hard to get the shooter and drive train together. Jacek Mrozek, a programming team member, agreed. "We had to plan strategies and give those in charge of driving the robot time. They had to figure out how to work the robot."

Guadalupe added, "Drivers had to practice driving the robot to maximize scores. At the NYC regional, however, we only had 30 minutes of practice before we went into the pit and that affected our scores." She said there were also mechanical issues at the last minute, which caused them to

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SkillsUSA Prepares for State Competition

by Gabriel Miller

Fifteen members from the Queens Voc SkillsUSA chapter went to Thomas Edison High School to participate in a citywide competition on March 5.

"Eryk Rogulski took first place for plumbing, Christian Moscoso and Lissette Vivar took second and third respectively for electrical, Samara Deokiesing and Alice Loor took first and third respectively for cosmetology, and Derek Toohey took third place in internetworking," said SkillsUSA advisor Ms. Ramdeo.

The students competed to determine who will participate in the annual state competition in Syracuse, which will be held from April 27 to 29.

"I was surprised but proud," said Alice. "Ms. Lingstuyt was a great help to me in preparing for my cosmo exam," she said.

Because there was no engineering competition at Edison, Ms. Ramdeo held an in-house engineering competition on Jan 26. "John Carlo Galvez won, but he won't be able to go to Syracuse," she said. "Andres Saenz who took second and Giovania Valez who took third

place will be going to states along with the others who won the city competition." Eighteen members will be going to Syracuse, Ms. Ramdeo said.

Stephanie Flores, the chapter president, said that there has been a lack participation in competing and planning events. "There wasn't an in-house competition because although we have 90 members, not many wanted to compete, so we told teachers to choose who to send to city conference, since there were very few people competing in each shop." Ms. Ramdeo concurred. "Planning is one thing, and putting into action is another, and that's something that's lacking."

The chapter officers plan to take their members on a trip to Six Flags. "We will only have one coach bus, which holds around 50 people," Stephanie said, "and four of those will be chaperones."

Ms. Ramdeo said, "If it were up to me I would only take those who compete, but it would be a waste of money to take 18 members when the bus holds 50 people. According to Ms. Ramdeo, if there is a trip, the members will have to pay. There is no word on when this event might take place.

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Ms. Roberts Fights Back



Ms. Roberts and her mom.

by Karla Loor

“I felt something that didn’t belong,” Ms. Roberts said of the lump she felt for over two years. It felt sore from time to time so finally, Ms. Roberts said, she decided it was time to get it checked. She was diagnosed with breast cancer April 8, 2015.

Ms. Roberts reports that her cancer is in Stage 4, that is, the cancer has spread beyond the initial site to other organs in her body. At this stage, she said, there is not much medication can do other than to slow down the progression of it. There is currently no way of overcoming this disease. Triple negative breast cancer, the form of cells she has, is the rarest form of breast cancer that represents only 10-15 percent of those diagnosed. There is only a 17 percent chance of survival within five years. Her goal, “I will be in that 17 percent”

Since there are so few people diagnosed with triple negative (TNBC), there are only a few medications available for this type of breast cancer that would allow her to ways to stop these cells from growing and spreading and therefore fewer options for treatment. Doctors however have begun to open more clinical trials to learn more about finding ways to attack these cells.

This form of breast cancer is not triggered by hormones. Ms. Roberts explains with knowledge from her research, that TNBC is most common in younger women and those of black and Hispanic descent. Treatment is difficult to get as most of the advances in breast cancer treatment today are in types with hormone receptor positive cells, hormone suppressing treatments but her cancer is not responsive to hormones, limiting the amount of medications and studies to be given to her. At this point, she is only given trial medications and has periodic scans to see the results in her body.

The Voc Voice wishes you well, Ms. Roberts!

Her first medication was Taxol. This is the first treatment most cancer patients receive. Ms. Roberts received this treatment from the end of June 2015 until October 2015. This drug is in liquid form and was infused in her every week with a break every 4th week. Her results are evaluated with scans. Side effects to the medication included losing hair, rash on the scalp, and fatigue.

Following the Taxol, she was given an investigational medication, glembatumumab vedotin (CDX011), which is a monoclonal drug that targets cancer cells that contain glycoprotein, a protein found in some TNBC cells. The side effects of this medication were more severe than Taxol. She had a rash on the face and neck, she couldn’t eat as a result of sores in her mouth and throat and a swollen tongue but it did help shrink cancer in her lungs as well as the tumors. This medication she received from October 2015 until it stopped working in February 2016.

Ms. Roberts is currently waiting to get on another clinical trial which will be researching an approved drug called carboplatin with another drug called a PARP inhibitor to study how much her body can take before the medication becomes toxic to the body as a way of trying to find a cure.

Ms. Roberts also does holistic remedies on her own. She believes in holistic treatment which focuses on nutrition and vitamins for building up the body’s immune system rather than drugs. This type of treatment she believes will bring her immune system back and better on its own. “The body has the power to cure itself,” Ms. Roberts said. Ms. Roberts has also been advised to eat healthier by her naturopathic doctor to help her.

RoboTigers

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lose. “The feeder that is supposed to shoot the boulder was jammed and they could not shoot at all. The flashlight used to aim towards the goal was out of adjustment,” the co-captain said.

However, at the Long Island regional, “Our robot did a lot better. We shot about seven boulders, but at the NYC regional, we only shot three,” Guadalupe said.

Jhun Martinez, who leads the programming team, said the programming team implemented vision tracking this year to assist in shooting boulders to the goal.

Both captains are proud of all the hard work the team put into this season. Guadalupe said the team dedicated a lot of time to contribute to the community. “We participated in walks, volunteered at soup kitchens, attended fairs to inspire

Three Hundred and Sixty-Five Students Perfect Attendance

by Cristian Chamba

Three hundred and sixty-five Queens Voc students have attended school every day, since school started on Sept. 9, through Jan. 25, according to school records provided by Ms. Ocampo.

Abbasi, Haseeb
Abney, Malcolm
Aca Sarmiento, Jonathan
Acevedo, Ashley
Acosta, Westher
Ahmed, Nolett
Alarca, Juan
Aleman Calle, Jonathan
Alfaro, Arlyne
Almonte, Jordy
Amigon, Flor
Anaya, Jordi
Arias, Adriel
Arista, Karen
Askar, Ali
Astudillo, Marlin
Atupana, Chelsea
Avila, Dominique
Avila, Myriam
Barnaby, Mariyah
Barrera, Cristian
Barrera, Danelis
Barros, Jason
Bates, Darius
Bensai, Yasmine
Beriguite, Juan
Bravo, Alexis
Bravo, Gisselle
Bustamante, Sebastian
Calderon, Richard
Calero, Brandon
Calero, Eduardo
Calle, Bryant
Calle Ortiz, Ronald
Calva Romero, Cesar
Campoverde, Nagelly
Candelario, Elias
Canela, Giselly
Canlobo Kate, Leslie
Cantos, Stephanie
Carchi, Katherine
Carchi, Omar
Cardoso, Michelle
Carneo, Michael
Carpio, Henry
Carretero, Jessica
Carroscio, Rebecca
Cartagena, Danidza
Castillo Puma, Anthony
Castro, Brandon
Cedeno, Eduardo
Cedeno, Jacob
Cena, Ashley
Cevallos, Julissa
Chalco, Nadia
Chango Cando, Luis
Chauca Aguayza, Allen
Chirinos, Aretha
Chowdhury, Kalindra
Chumber, Pinki
Cielo, Guillermina
Coh, Tyler
Coneo, Anthony
Cortes, Brian
Cortes, Henry
Cortes Molina, Anely
Cortez, Eliza
Cosme, Jennifer
Cruz, Jacquelin
Cruz, Jesus
Cruz, Roberto
Cruz, Wendy

Cuenca Cordero, Lisseth
Cuencahernandez, Carlos
Cumbe Buestan, David
Dawa, Ngawang
Dejesus, Jerick
Del Rosario, Mirian
Delgado, Ivan
Dhungana, Jason
Diakite, Fode
Diaz, Edwin
Diaz, Franshesca
Diaz, Kelsy
Diaz, Kevin
Dolma, Passang
Dutan Condo, Lesly
Elsanhoury, Said
Eng, Kevin
Enriquez, Adalid
Enriquez, Anthony
Eras, Nick
Escamilla, Jessica
Escobar, Perla
Espinoza, Jonathan
Espinoza, Juan
Espinoza Perez, Jessica
Estevez, Ruben
Fajardo, Andrea
Fang, Andy
Figueroa, Jordy
Filpo, Samuel
Flores, Crystal
Francisco, Kyle
Francisco, Leonardo
Galindo Perez, Alex
Gallardo, Miguel
Galvez, Giancarlo
Garcia, Christopher
Garcia, Daniel
Garcia, Emily
Garcia, Geraldine
Garcia, Jefferson
Garcia, John
Garcia, Lesley
Garcia, Nicolas
Ghoneim, Janna
Golda, Pawel
Gomez, Gabriel
Gonzales, Mark Oliver
Gonzalez, Christopher
Gonzalez, Kenin
Gonzalez, Luis
Gonzalez, Rodrigo
Goodluck, Otis
Goro, Ilia
Grande, Brenda
Guachichulca, Christian
Guallpa, Edwin
Guaman, Brian
Guaman, Junior
Guaman, Roger
Guanga, Ashley
Guerrero, Lesley
Guillen, Jackeline
Gusqui, Andrea
Gutierrez, Jimmy
Guzman, Saul
Gyaphal, Sangay
Hallinger, Thomas
Harris, Izarius
Hermita, Giselle
Hernandez, Daniel
Hernandez, Enrique
Hernandez, Luis Angel
Hernandez, Nancy
Hossain, Tasnim
Huerta, Jacqueline
Huerta Bravo, Alexis
Huertas, Derrick
Humala, Cristian
Hurtado, Joseph
Ibarra, Nuriel
Islam, Shaikh
Jablonski, Erwin
Jarama, Franklin
Jerez Palaguach, Sandi
Jimenez, Luis
Juarez, Evelyn
Kaur, Manmeet
Kayum, Mohammed
Ke, Peter
Kenawy, Maya
Khamis, Ahmed
Khan, Jubair
Khan, Nureen
Kouts oumaris, Yiannis
Kunsel, Tenzin
Kwunchaithanya, Disorn
Lama, Tsering

Laszczych, Daniel
Ledesma, Carlo
Lee Min, Woo
Lema, Andy
Leon Chumbi, Edgar
Leon Lopez, Jessica
Lightbody, Kevon
Lim, Joonho
Llanos, Jefferson
Loja, Cynthia
Loja, Marlon
Lopez, Daniel
Lopez, David
Lopez Vega, Edgar
Macancela, Mary
Macareno, Bianca
Maldonado, Vanessa
Manley, Robert
Marcelino Tavera, Brian
Marin, Christopher
Martinez, Angel
Martinez, Daisy
Martinez, John
Martinez, Jose
Martinez Valle, Brian
Martos, Kathy
Mateos, Enzo
Matias, Bryan
Matias, Jeremy
Maynard, Krizon
Mejia, Henry
Mejia, Larry
Mejia, Nicole
Meneses, Brenda
Meneses, Rosa
Meta, Katie
Mexca, Jose
Mielcarek, Mateusz
Millan, Brian
Minchala, Michael
Miranda, Angel Luis
Mogrovejo, Steven
Molano, Maria
Mones-Tonacatl, Chris-tian
Montesdeoca, Jay
Morales Plata, David
Morocho, Joseph
Mozo, Juan
Mrozek, Jacek
Mujammil, Mohamed
Muy, Marvin
Myroniuk, Vanessa
Nahuacatl, Guadalupe
Naito, Shusei
Olivares, Jordan
Ordonez, Roberto
Orduna, Jennifer
Ortega, Jordalin
Ortiz Bello, Emilio
Ossorio, Ivan
Pacheco, Elizabeth
Padilla, Alex
Padilla, Jorge
Palacios, Paul
Palaguachi, Benjamin
Pardo, Linda
Patel, Vatsal
Pavon, Lesly
Perez, Angel
Perez, Johan
Perez, Marcos
Perez, Saul
Perez Cruz, Sandra
Phillips, Keyshawn
Pineda, Nicole
Pinos, Daisy
Point Du Jour, Emmanuel
Poveda, Viviana
Pucha, Ambar
Pulgarin, Bryan
Pullido, Ryan
Puma, Evelyn
Quiles, Nicolas
Quinde, Kevin
Quintanilla, Maria
Quintero, Maria
Quiroz Vazquez, Maria
Ramirez, Lesly
Ramirez, Margarito
Ramirez, Mayra
Razzaq, Abdul
Reyes, Alan
Reyes, Carlos
Reynoso, Jhon
Rivera, Erick
Rivera, Johnny
Rodriguez, Alex

Rodriguez, Casey
Rodriguez, Celine
Rodriguez, Edwin
Rodriguez, Guadalupe
Rodriguez, Joseph
Rodriguez, Joshua
Rodriguez, Jovanny
Rodriguez, Karen
Rodriguez, Kyle
Rodriguez, Matthew
Rodriguez, Steven
Rogulski, Eryk
Rojas, Michelle
Romero, Jessica
Rosario, Elijah
Rosario, Wilson
Rubio, Kairol
Saavedra, Marcelo
Saenz, Andres
Saguay, Anthony
Sakib, Kawsar
Sanaicela Pagua, Karen
Sanchez, Alfredo
Sanchez, Gabriela
Sancho, Bryan
Sankarsingh, Dylan
Santos, Johan
Saqueipulla, Dario
Saqueipulla, Jeff
Sarker, Shanto
Seino, Jason
Seixas, Carlos
Sempertegui, Jason
Settles, Tyler
Shairzadeh, Masoud
Sherpa, Pamela
Sherpa Lama, Jamling
Shi, Anthony
Sibri, John
Sinchi, Daisy
Singh, Ruppy
Solano, Karen
Solano, Ociel
Sookkae, Chollada
Soriano, Diana
Sosa, Kate
Suarez, Melissa
Tamang, Ashma
Tamay, Jennifer
Tanio, Andrea
Tavarez, Emely
Taylor, Nikolas
Tenecela, Christopher
Tenempaguay, Arthur
Tenempaguay, Kevin
Tenesaca, Jonathan
Timbi, Keyla
Toala, Richard
Tufino Lopez, Jose
Ulloa, Karen
Urbano, Jaquelinne
Urbina, Katherine
Urena, Nickolas
Valencia, Israel
Valiente, Gilbert
Vargas, Jason
Vasquez Casco, Eddie
Vazquez, Michael
Vazquez Flores, Nicole
Velez, Juan
Venegas, Wendy
Ventura, Grebb
Vicente, Chelsea
Vijay Rivera, Jeffrey
Vilela, Jhon
Villalva, Erick
Villashanay, Jhenifer
Vivar, Michael
Wahid, Sanjidah
Wohab, Warin
Wong, Charles
Wright, Daneillia
Wu, David
Yaguachi, Eliazar
Yaguana, Edison
Yang Jia, Chen
Yascaribay, Fernando
Yascaribay, Jonatan
Young, Marcus
Young, Stephanie
Yulo, Justin
Zafer, Rukhsana
Zaruma Yanza, Jack
Zaw Haw, Wunna
Zheng, Kevin
Zheng, Stephanie
Zheng, Xi
Zin Nyi, Min



Winners of the dance contest got a discount on prom tickets.

From the Red Carpet to a Speakeasy

by Xi Zheng

The annual Oscar Night, coordinated by Ms. DeCarlo and the yearbook committee, was held on Friday, April 8, in the auditorium, where seniors walked down the red carpet dressed up as their favorite celebrities.

Oscar Night began at 3:45pm. Seniors were awarded Oscars for various categories:	Female	Male
Most Likely to Succeed	Purnata Anwar	Vasiki Konneh
Biggest Flirt	Celine Velasquez	Miguel Marrero
Best Dressed	Purnata Anwar	Anafi Yasin
Class Clown	Katia Rojas	Jason Martinez
Teacher’s Pet	Purnata Anwar	Mauricio Bustamante
Class Sweetheart	Yatziri Mendoza	Charles Urena
Best Personality	Natalia Jimenez	Erick Peralta
Best Looking	Daniela Hernandez	Marcos Casado
Most School Spirit	Jenny Wong	Giovanni Cruz
Most Hard Working	Purnata Anwar	Mauricio Bustamante
Biggest Storyteller	Brianna Hernandez	Lincoln Speer
Most Athletic	Xi Zheng	Travis Savino
Dynamic Duo	Kateylnn Santiago and Kaden Mejia	
Cutest Couple	Sofia Vergara and Kevin Jimenez	

There were dynamic performances from several seniors. Approximately 200 students attended Oscar Night. Yearbook committee student Sofia Vergara said, “Oscar Night was a short event. The performances could have been longer, but everyone had a fun time. There was a great vibe coming from the audience as well.”

The senior luncheon was held on Friday April 15, from 12 noon to 4pm, at Bruno’s located in Astoria from 12pm to 4pm. The theme for the luncheon is The Great Gatsby and the 1920s. Two hundred forty-two seniors attended the luncheon. Discounts for prom tickets will be given to the first and second place winners of best dressed of the 1920s and various dance competitions such as merengue, salsa, and bachata. “First place winners get 20 dollars off and the runners- up get 10 dollars off their prom ticket,” said Mr. Vega. “Food consisted of a buffet, salad bar, and dessert,” he continued.

Mr. Vega also arranged for seniors to order class rings. “Approximately 20 rings were ordered,” said Katerin Coyago, senior class treasurer. “Students are allowed to customize their own ring but at a higher price,” she added. The regular Queens Voc ring costs \$89.95, but with upgrades, the cost could go as high as \$700.

The senior prom date has been changed. It is scheduled for June 3, from 7pm to 1am, at Da Mikele Illagio on Queens Blvd in East Elmhurst. “Prom tickets will be sold for \$120 until May 6. After that, prices for tickets will increase,” said senior class, Vice President Cindy Carangui. “Students also got a 50 percent discount on luncheon if they purchase both the prom and luncheon tickets at once. Mr. Vega said, “Eighty-five seniors took advantage and paid for prom early. They only paid \$15 for the senior luncheon.”

Graduation for the class of 2016 will be held at the Kupferberg Center in Queens College on Friday, June 24, at 7:30pm. Four tickets will be given to each graduate.

“Students must get their cap and gown measurements for graduation in room 143 if they have not already done so,” said Cindy Carangui.



Valerie performs as Christina Aguilera at Oscar Night.

Visiting Colleges

by Derek M. Toohey

Students in Ms. Ramdeo’s and Ms. Zagada’s junior classes have been visiting several colleges to gain insight about colleges they might want to apply to.

Ms. Karabelas, the college advisor, arranged three college trips for Ms. Ramdeo’s Pre-Engineering class.

Ms. Ramdeo split her junior class into three groups, and each group is visiting a different college.

Five students visited Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute on April 5. Sixteen students will visit SUNY Polytechnic Institute on Apr 19.

Five students were scheduled to visit Lafayette College on March 15, but the trip was postponed because of an outbreak of Norovirus on the college’s campus. The trip was rescheduled for April 18.

According to Ms. Karabelas, Ms. Zagada, a computer technology teacher, also signed up her students for three different college trips. Ms. Zagada organized the trips with a group called YCC College Tours.

Not only are students going out of the building to get information about colleges, college representatives are visiting Queens Voc.

A SUNY representative came to Queens Voc on March 23. According to Ms. K, the representative handed out maps of New York State showing the locations of all of the SUNY colleges and had students fill out forms to request information about SUNY colleges they are interested in.

A CUNY representative came to Queens Voc on April 4. There will also be a spring college fair in the auditorium for Queens Voc sophomores and juniors on June 8. A fall college fair was held in November.

In addition to events that Ms. K. arranged, the NYS Department of Parks, Recreation, and Historical Preservation held a college fair at Riverbank State Park on the Upper West Side on March 12. It was open to all students and was free to attend. The fair included presentations and workshops about financial aid, careers in healthcare, and essay writing. Over forty colleges were represented.

Applying for financial aid is the next step for students who have already applied for college. Most colleges require students and parents to fill out the FAFSA, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. Each college has its own deadline to submit the FAFSA, but the priority deadline was on March 1. Ms. K. and the parent coordinator, Ms. Baez, held a FAFSA workshop in the auditorium on Jan. 27 for those who needed assistance filling out the form.

According to Ms. Baez, approximately forty-two parents

showed up for the workshop.

Ms. Baez said that she and Ms. K. held the workshop in order to help parents. “I had many inquiries from parents about how to fill out the FAFSA,” said Ms. Baez. “We need to keep the parents educated.”

According to Ms. Baez, the workshop lasted about 90 minutes, and covered many aspects of the financial aid process, including filling out the FAFSA, and applying for the Federal Pell grant.

“There are many parts to the FAFSA, some more confusing than others,” Ms. K. added. Ms. K. also spoke to the parents about the CSS Profile, an additional financial aid form required by some private colleges.

Respect for All Starts with You!

by Jhun Rhenz Martinez

Many students and staff participated in Respect for All Week from Feb. 9-12, which promoted anti-bullying and respect for diversity and equality.

“I believe in equality,” said Freshman Daniel Ozuruonye, who supports diversity, “because your race, sexuality, income or personality should not hinder you from pursuing your happiness.”

Senior Nyi Min Zin said he participated in Respect for All Week because he also supports “diversity and anti-bullying.”

Students in Mr. Vega’s Leadership class decided on the

colors for Respect for All Week.

Wearing a specific color on a day in Respect for All week showed what one stands against.

During the week, students in Mr. Vega’s Leadership class went around the school counting students who wore the color for the day, which indicated their participation in Respect for All Week. The leadership students reported that 119 students and staff wore green on Tuesday to stand against sex-based bias, 84 students and staff wore orange on Wednesday to stand against bullying, 83 students and staff wore yellow on Thursday to stand against citizenship bias, and 104 students and staff wore red on Friday to stand against racism.

Mr. Vega said that the colored apparel must have dominated one’s outfit to count towards the number of students and staff participating.

Students and staff who did not wear the color of the day did not necessarily convey a problem with Respect for All Week. Freshman Sebastian Gomez, for example, said that while he supports diversity and anti-bullying, he didn’t participate because he “got lazy.”

According to Mr. Vega, students who participated in all four days will receive tickets to Cirque du Soleil. “I participated all four days because I support diversity in NYC and anti-bullying in schools,” said Senior Rene Espiritu, “there is also a prize I am looking forward to.”

W!se Up on Financial literacy

by Alissa Rivera

The W!se Financial Literacy Program is taught to all seniors in their economics class.

Seniors took the W!se Financial Literacy pre-test on Feb. 10 and 11. The pre-test was given online and consisted of 50 multiple choice questions. “The pre-test is given to allow teachers to see what students already know and what topics they need to cover,” Mr. MacDonald said. “Students will to take the financial literacy exam on either May 24 or 25, and make up exams will be given on the 26,” he said. Students who pass the exam will be certified financially literate.

For the past five years Queens Voc has earned the distinction of “Blue Star School,” which shows that 80 percent of seniors passed the exam. Teachers with a passing rate of 90 percent or higher are called “Gold Star Teachers.” Last year, Mr. Davidson, Mr. Mugan, and Mr. Stefanidis were named Gold Star teachers.

The Financial Literacy Program is designed to teach high school students the value of money, and ways to manage money. The Program focuses on several areas of finance such as: money, budgeting, cost of money, banking, credit, insurance, investing, money management, financial planning, and careers. The main objective of the program is to allow “students to graduate

knowledgeable in money,” according to Mr. Mugan. The program “teaches students about credit, and banks and insurance,” he added. “It also allows students to make smart decisions, like when it comes to buying a car or different credit card offers, it helps prevent them from being taken advantage of,” Mr. Mugan said. Students also gain life skills through the W!se program. According to Mr. Mugan “it’s never too early to teach students to be responsible with money, senior year is a good time because they are at the cusp of adulthood and will be making some of these decisions.” College bound students “will learn the pros and cons of student loans,” he added.

Business Students are taking part in a competition with hopes of winning a trip to Washington DC.

Currently senior business students are in the midst playing a stock market game called, “Capitol Hill Challenge.” Each participating school is paired up with a member of congress. QV is represented by Joseph Crowley. “Students were given an imaginary \$100,000 to invest in stocks, bonds, and mutual funds,” Mr. Mugan said. “It’s a country wide competition, the 10 schools with the highest profits are invited to DC,” he added. “In DC, there will be a ceremonial dinner with congress,” he said. The competition will end early May.



Think all they do is read? Book club members see the movie Allegiant.

The Story of Book Club Activities

by Vanessa Urrutia

Book club members are currently reading *The Glass Arrow* by Kristen Simmons. The book is about a society where women are sold as property, owned and bred by men. “Although the book is very radical, I find it quite an interesting read,” said Juan Pablo Prieto, a sophomore.

In February, book club members read *Eleanor & Park* by Rainbow Rowell. “I would recommend the book to anyone who is into romantic comedies,” said Lyman Iyeke, a senior. Sophomore Diana Soriano said, “The main characters are relatable to me. They’re both challenged for being different, which makes it

a good romantic story.”

Students will determine their next read through an interest survey sometime in April. Ms. Lewis, the school librarian and head of the book club, provides the students with two or three choices and the members vote on the book they want to read. Students generally read eight to nine books a year, according to Ms. Lewis.

On April 18, the club went to eat at Buffalo Wild Wings and watch the Divergent series film *Allegiant* at United Artists Movie Theater in Forest Hills. “It was nice to go see the movie because we could compare the cinematography with the literature, and recognize how the

book is more profound,” said Juan.

The club paid for the trip with funds from chocolate fundraising, selling about forty boxes of chocolate and earning \$1,200. “The remainder of the money was used towards new book club sweatshirts and spring sweatshirts,” said Sabrina Pucha, a senior.

The book club sweatshirts are exclusively for book club members and come in different colors. The book club is selling green sweatshirts that resemble Queens Voc sweatshirts. “The green sweatshirts are available for purchase by students and staff,” said Ms. Lewis. The cost of a sweatshirt is \$30. Students and staff can see Ms. Lewis to purchase a sweatshirt.

Students of the Month Recognized for their Efforts



March Students of the Month celebrate with Ms. Burg and Ms. Basirico.

by Anthony Chauca

The Student of the Month award is given to one student in each SLC on a monthly basis for demonstrating excellence in a particular field. Students receiving the award in 2016 receive a certificate and custom hoodie.

The students of the month for March were Anthony Coneo of SCEET, Katerin Coyago of SSBT, Victoria Guerrero of SES, and Chelsea Atupana of SED. These students were selected for demonstrating leadership, the theme for March.

“I think I showed leadership by always dedicating time before and after class to help out my teachers and peers,” said Katerin Coyago, a senior.

The students of the month for February were Juan Pablo Prieto of SCEET, Mauricio Bustamante

of SSBT, Lisette Acosta of SES, and Vanessa Maldonado of SED. These students were selected for demonstrating dedication.

“I think I showed dedication by doing well in academics as well as staying involved in clubs,” said Juan Pablo Prieto, a sophomore.

The students of the month for January were Jasjot Parmar of SCEET, Eduardo Cedeno of SSBT, Amanda Suarez of SES, and Anhkiet Huynh of SED. These students were selected for demonstrating improvement.

“The Student of the Month award has only been around for a year, so it’s hard to tell if it’s as effective as we want it to be yet,” said Anthony Shi, an Arista student. Arista is the Queens Voc Honors society that started Student of the Month in 2015. Anthony said the Student of the Month award was created to reward the students who excel in

and out of the classroom. “I didn’t even know there was a student of the month award,” said Vanessa Maldonado, an SES freshman.

According to Jhun Martinez, an Arista student, the students of the month are picked halfway through the month and are supposed to be announced at the end of the month on the morning announcements.

According to Mr. Garcia, the SLC director for SES, the process begins with Arista sending the theme of the month to the SLC directors. Directors send the themes to the teachers under their SLC jurisdiction. The teachers send their choice of student and an explanation as to how that student fits that month’s theme to the director. Mr. Garcia said that he looks at each teacher’s entry and chooses a student based on the teacher’s explanation.

March = Leadership

Calendar of Events

compiled by Betsy Flores

- April 18: Marking Period 3 begins, VE Global Business Challenge, Period 9 Exploratory Rotation
- April 19: VE International Trade Show, Tech Open Lab
- April 20: Tech Open Lab
- April 25-29: Spring Break
- April 30: STRIVE/Starbucks Youth Resource Fair
- May 2: AP Environmental Science Exam, School Safety Committee Meeting, College Colors Day, College Signing Day
- May 3: AP Physics 1 Exam
- May 4: AP English Literature Exam
- May 5: AP Calculus AB Exam
- May 6: AP European History Exam, Professional Learning Friday
- May 10-May 12: Measures of Student Learning Exams
- May 12: Talent Show, PA Meeting
- May 16: Blood Drive
- May 17: Career Day, NOCTI Virtual Enterprise Exam
- May 18: CTE Night
- May 19: NOCTI Virtual Enterprise Exam
- May 20: NOCTI Cosmetology Exam, Professional Learning Friday
- May 21: NOCTI Accounting Exam, NOCTI Cosmetology Exam
- May 24- May 25: W!se Financial

- Literacy Test
- May 25: School Leadership Team Meeting
- May 30: Memorial Day
- June 1: Integrated Algebra Exam, Common Core Algebra II Exam
- June 2: Parent Association Meeting
- June 3: Prom
- June 6: School Safety Committee Meeting, School Leadership Team Meeting
- June 9: Anniversary Day- No Classes
- June 13: Marking Period 3 Ends
- June 14: Global History Regents Exam, Common Core English Regents Exam
- June 15: Grades Due, Living Environment Regents Exam, US History Regents Exam
- June 16: Common Core Algebra I Exam, Comprehensive English Regents Exam
- June 17: Algebra 2/Trigonometry Regents Exam, Earth Science Regents Exam, Common Core Geometry Exam
- June 20: No Students in Attendance
- June 21: Chemistry Regents Exam, Physics Regents Exam
- June 22: No Students in Attendance
- June 23: Regents Rating Day
- June 24: Graduation
- June 28: Last Day of School, Term 2 Ends



Cesar is working hard on his animation project.

QVAMA: An Artist’s Haven

by Isabel Flores

Mathew Rodriguez, a member of QVAMA, is working on his animation video “about a soldier who lost his prisoners on earth, after he was shot down by an unknown enemy,” he said.

“Students come up with a project that they want to work on and then they get help from myself or other people in the club,” said Ms. Ogunka, the advisor of the club.

The students have individual projects that they work on. They bring it to the club and different people from the club give their opinion and suggestions. Students work on projects such as drawings, animations, photography, and characters. Some of the students use the club’s time to finish extra projects from class.

“Sometimes kids don’t finish class projects, so they use the club time to work on it,” Ms.Ogunka said.

“If someone wants to learn

Adobe Photoshop and another member knows Photoshop, then the club member will sit with them each week and teach them how to use the basics of the program,” said Ms. Ogunka.

The students who participate in the club are: Krismary T. Arroyo, Jairo Hormaza, Joonho Lim, Matthew Rodriguez, Cesar Rojas, Tyrek Rolling, Hilary Rios, Karen Solano, Maxavier Stansberry, and Brian Tanio.

This club provides students with special tools and programs that students can use, to complete their individual projects.

“I come here so that I can use the tools they have to improve my animation skills,” said Joonho.

The club recently received new equipment, including a Wacom 22-inch tablet, and a 3D printer that anyone in the graphic arts program can use, he added.

QVAMA participants meet every Thursday, during period 10 and 11 in room 454. New members are welcome.

Dance Team Steps Their Way into the Talent Show



Dance team rehearsing for the talent show.
by Tia Singh Ms. Vasquez the advisor.

The Queens Voc dance team will be part of the annual Queens Voc Got Talent show on May 12. Although they are called a team, they will not be participating in any competitions this year. “The competition level is very high in other schools, and since this is our first year I would like to focus on building the team’s skills and stage presence,” said

makes me feel closer to home,” she said. Not only do the dance members see the team as a way to meet new people and experience new things, but “it’s a good way for people to stay fit,” said Tatiana Tobon, a junior on the dance team. Dance team member Bradley Moog, a senior, said, “I wish I wasn’t graduating this year because I would love to see these kids turn into a competition level team. Most of them show promise and skill.” Bradley has been dancing since he was six years old, starting with ballet eventually going into hip-hop and ballroom dancing. “Dancing has been a huge part of my life. I had no brothers and only two sisters, so dancing was a way for us to bond,” he said. Bradley is happy that the school has a dance team because, he said, “I always liked performing arts and to finally have it in this school is amazing. I remember when I was in elementary and middle school I had dance classes. In high school, it was always about classes until the dance team came along to finally instill some variety in this school.”

VE Students Prepare for Success



Mr. Mugan and his aspiring entrepreneurs at work.

by Michelle Paguay

Students in Virtual Enterprise are preparing for the International Trade Show that will take place on April 19 at the 69th Regiment Armory. “This is where many Virtual Enterprise companies from across the nation sell their products to each other,” said Ms. Mitchell, Virtual Enterprise coordinator. Students are updating product catalogs, creating flyers, and completing orders to prepare for the upcoming show. “Each day, I promote my company’s products by sending flyers and business proposals to other companies in order to increase our sales,” said Lissette Acosta, co-vice president of administration in Diverse City Wear (DCW). CEO of NY Cycles, Dahlia Capulin agreed. “All the departments are assigned to a certain task. Sales and marketing is in charge of catalogs, design is in charge of promotions, and accounting is preparing bundles,” she said. To earn money for advertising, Virtual Enterprise students in the Special Thanks and Recognition (STAR) business class held a bake sale on Feb. 12 and raised about \$506. “Using the money they raised, they are able to give away great prizes to promote their business in the International Trade Show,” said Ms. Mitchell. The Diverse City Wear business class sold candy to raise money for their giveaways and raised about \$540. “We are purchasing bracelets, necklaces, cups, and rings as our giveaways,” said Lissette. NY Cycles, the newest Queens Voc VE firm, held a bake sale on April 12 and raised \$396. “The

bake sale was to raise money to buy a prize to the raffle at the trade show,” said Mr. Mugan, Virtual Enterprise coordinator. “We purchased a virtual reality headset and anyone that purchases anything over \$500 is entered in the raffle to win the prize,” said Dahlia. Other funds from the bake sale will go toward the class trip that NY Cycles is planning to take the first week of May. “We are going to the Museum of the Moving Image and lunch,” said Mr. Mugan.

Virtual Enterprise students participated in a catalog competition on March. “The catalogs were sent to Virtual Enterprise on March 18,” Ms. Mitchell said, “and we will find out the winners when Virtual Enterprise judges them.”

Virtual Enterprise students are involved in a Business to Business Employee transaction competition. STAR took 8th place in February and 7th place in March and the DCW took 9th place in March as well. “Virtual Enterprise keeps track of business to business transactions and every month ranks VE firms,” said Ms. Mitchell.

Approximately 72 Queens Voc students participate in running three virtual firms: Diverse City Wear, NY Cycles, and Special Thanks and Recognition. Students operate a business using virtual money and promote and sell their products to other schools in the United States and internationally.

system can be affected by many factors. If a teacher opens a window to cool an overheated classroom, the open window in that classroom can lower the average and affect the entire new wing. If a teacher calls the custodial office to get a room cooled down, all the classrooms can be affected.

Many students and teachers recognize that the heating system is dysfunctional. “[T]he school’s heating system is inconsistent,



Yearbook committee hosted Oscar Night.

Senior Yearbook Nears Completion

by Andrea Zaavedra

The yearbook committee, led by Ms. DeCarlo, has produced 55 pages of the 96 that will be in the yearbook. The sections of the yearbook that have been submitted to the publishers are the staff pictures, senior portraits, baby pictures, the school’s sports teams, and the senior shops.

The yearbook committee has to submit approximately 32 pages to the publisher by May 5.

The committee started producing the yearbook in the beginning of October in the graphics art room on the third floor. They meet on Wednesdays at 4:30pm.

According to Ms. DeCarlo, events such as the prom and graduation will not be included in the yearbook since they are held after it has been completed and printed.

“The biggest portion of the yearbook will be the senior portraits,” said Ms. DeCarlo, “There are 354 senior portraits

this year.” The other categories in the yearbook include all the senior activities like the breast cancer walk and the FDR walk, sports teams, robotics, all the clubs, leadership, the shop classes, and staff photos. Students can still submit pictures to the yearbook committee using the app Replayit.

Members Karen Arista and Jessica Cardozo have experienced hardships when it comes to collecting pictures for the yearbook. “It’s hard to get the pictures from students, and it’s a little harder to get enough pictures for each page of the book,” said Karen. Jessica said, “Each person is assigned a certain amount of pages. We have to make sure we have enough pictures and that the layout matches the variety of pictures.”

The students on the yearbook committee are Melissa Alvarado, Karen Arista, Jessica Cardoso, Ashley Chang, Ariz Flores, Valentina Muriel, Guadalupe Nahuacatl, Chelsea Sanchez, Sofia Vergara and Joseline Yauri.

Stage is Set for May Blood Drive

by Angelica Campos

A blood drive is scheduled for May 16, said Mr. Vega, coordinator of student activities.

Mr. Vega said that Mr. Alikakos confirmed the date and the stage availability for the blood drive.

In previous years, Queens Voc held two blood drives, but because of the late date, and the waiting time required between donations, there is only going to be one this school year.

The goal is to collect 60 pints, down five pints from last year’s goal. Mr. Vega said that he lowered the goal this year because during the spring blood drive there

is a smaller turnout. One pint of blood is drawn from each donor who meets the requirements.

Mr. Vega said that he anticipates 85 students to sign up. “The goal and number of anticipated donors do not coincide because last blood drive there were about 20 donors on average who were deferred because they didn’t meet the requirements.”

The requirements to donate are based on a height and weight conversion ratio, and blood iron level. Some students who meet the requirements are turned away because they may be considered unfit to donate by blood center workers, as occurred from previous years.

because certain rooms are extremely cold and others are the complete opposite,” said pre-engineering student Rene Espiritu. Mr. Vega said, “The heat is poorly maintained in the new building. It can be very hot one moment and very cold another moment.”

More often than, not the old building is much hotter than the new building. Ms. Burg said that this is because the heating systems for the different sections of the school aren’t connected. The new

wing is heated by the units on the roof and the old wing is heated by boilers in the basement.

At the end of heating season, the boilers are shut down and air conditioners are used for the cooling season. The units on the roof, however are used for both heating and cooling in the new building.

Ms. Burg said there’s only so much that can be done without completely redoing the heating system.

Queens Voc Warming

by Tysain Shand

In Jan, room 346 became so cold that the students had to be removed from the classroom. According to the Principal Burg, this was caused by a shutdown of two units located on the roof that help regulate the school’s heating system. That problem is now fixed, said a member of the custodial staff.

The system installed in the new wing is unable to adjust temperatures on a room by room basis. “The system takes an average of the whole building and adjusts the temperature of the whole building,” Principal Burg said. The system is supposed to adjust the temperature to 65 degrees or higher, which is the guideline set by the state. According to Ms. Burg, the

Hard Work Pays Off in Construction Skills



Rabia works hard in the EI room.

by Katerin Coyago

Twenty-seven students were accepted into the Construction Skills program, “a pathway from high school straight into the union,” said Mr. Ali, SSBT assistant principal.

According to Mr. Ali, 53 students applied to the Construction Skills program. “Then it was reduced to 39 students who qualified,” said Mr. Ali. The CTE teachers looked over the list and cut the list down to 28 students. According to Mr. Ali, one out of the 28 recommended students did not make it, therefore ending with 27 students who were accepted into the program.

The students must meet the requirements in order to sign up. They must be graduating June of their senior year and their four years of math and English grades, need to be a 75 average or above

on both.

These students are now attending the ten-week pre-apprenticeship training program. According to Timothy Nolan, one of the students accepted into Construction Skills, they attend the program every Monday from 2-5pm. The program takes place in downtown Manhattan. “We do our best to go together so we are on time and don’t get lost,” said Beatriz Castro, another Construction Skills participant. During the summer, they will attend a three-week program in which they go visit three different union sites, one union site per week.

There are about 20 different trades that the students can choose from to visit during the summer three-week program. Some of them are NYC District Council of Carpenters, Electrical Workers Local 3, Plumbers Local 1,

Steamfitters Local 638, Concrete Workers District Council 16, Ornamental Iron Workers Local 580, and many more. Students in the program will pick one to pursue as a career. “The trade that I want to get into is Local 3 and I am looking forward to it,” said Edwin Diaz.

Sometimes it takes six months to a year for the union classes to start, depending on the job prospects. “During this time all the students should at least apply to college,” said Mr. Ali. Jeffery Varrel Torres says he will “plan to get a plumbing internship or a plumbing job over the six month to a year wait. This way I can improve my skills instead of not using them.”

The students accepted into the Construction Skills program are: Sahoniel Batista, Cesar Calva Romero, Beatriz Castro, Eduardo Ceden, Christian Chamba Sinchi, Anibelka Checo, Christopher Curillo, William Cusco, Edwin Diaz, Adalid Enriquez, Mauricio Gomez, Jorge Grajales, Jimmy Gutierrez, Bryan Hernandez, Diego Jimenez, Carlos Mayancela Parra, Gudalupe Nahuacatl, Timothy Nolan, Benjamin Palaguachi, Jason Pineda, Anthony Pippis, Kelvin Quiroz, Stephanie Sanchez, Luis Angel Torres, Jeffrey Varel Torres, Rabia Waqar, and Edison Yaguana.

“When I found out I was accepted, I was very excited because I put in a lot of effort into electrical installation. I also wanted to be able to work in the field,” said Stephanie Sanchez.

Sunnyside Assists College Bound Students

by Adham Kenawy

Students from Queens Voc have been preparing for college at the Sunnyside Community Services Center, located a few blocks from Queens Voc, at 43-31 39st Street, Sunnyside.

Sunnyside offers college readiness for high school seniors and juniors, including SAT preparation, SAT II preparation, and college advisement, which includes helping students select their colleges, federal student aid, scholarships and any college related questions.

The program has been funded by a state grant for the past two years. Because the grant is ending, this is the last year Sunnyside Center is offering the program for free.

Starting next school year, Sunnyside will charge students for their services. If students want to participate in the summer program they will have to pay \$450 for the two month program, which covers all the services offered. Students who sign up for the fall will have to pay \$300. Seniors will have to pay \$65 if they only want Sunnyside’s college advisement services, which start on July 1.

According Jordan Flores, this school year 72 seniors and 60 juniors are working with Sunnyside. Last school year 50 seniors and 10 juniors worked Sunnyside. Jordan also said that 75 percent of the students from Queens Voc improved 160 points

on their overall SAT scores. “All the Sunnyside mentors are college graduates with bachelors or masters degrees. They are high school teachers during the day. Three of them are accomplished writers and poets. Their head mentor graduated from Columbia University,” said Jordan Flores.

“We just want the seniors to come back at least once to see how they have done. We are here to help you guys and we hope the best for all our students,” said Jordan. Davin, one of the mentors said, “I loved working with kids it was challenging in a good way, a lot of kids, a lot of essays, but it is something I love and I look forward to doing this next year.”

Carol Azanes, a Queens Voc student said, “I went to the Sunnyside Center for the SAT prep on Tuesdays and Thursdays. I personally liked the English SAT sessions the most. I felt like

I understood a lot more during these sessions. They were very persistent with us, they didn’t give up on us; they even called students if they weren’t showing up to the sessions as they are supposed to. I think they really do care because after I was done with my SAT prep I thought that was it for me with the Sunnyside Center. However they contacted me again to start working on my college applications and without them I wouldn’t have applied to colleges before the priority deadlines. I am really thankful for them because they helped me out with my personal statement, FAFSA and other financial aid applications that I was stressed about. Even after applying to colleges they wanted follow ups on what colleges I got accepted into and they have really helped me a lot throughout the past few months.”



Alana prepares the soon-to-be seniors for the SATs.

Queens Voc Can’t Party

by Kevin Henao

The Valentine’s Day Dance, scheduled for Friday, Feb. 12, was canceled three days before the dance was to take place.

The dance was scheduled for the Friday before the February break, but it was canceled because there weren’t enough people participating, said Mr. Vega.

Mr. Vega said they needed at least 100 permission slips signed and returned, but they only received 45. “There probably weren’t many people participating because they were going away for the February break,” said Mr. Vega.

SMART Boards: Costly Investments - Costly Repairs

by Betsy Flores

At the end of March, new SMART Boards were installed in rooms 302, 303, 349, 404, 407, 411, and the library, and new lamps were installed in 12 rooms.

“The complete setup of each SMART Board costs \$11,000, which includes a cart, a laptop, and installation. Each lamp alone costs \$500,” said AP Alikakos.

Before the SMART Boards were fixed and updated, many teachers had reported their broken SMART Boards but no one was repairing them. “It depends on

A Spring Fling dance, planned for April 1, was also canceled because of a lack of participants.

Yet despite the failure of dances to attract enough students, there are other activities that are supported by the students. A Spring Pep Rally on Thursday, April 7, had two hundred attendees and another hundred athletes participating.

According to Mr. Vega, the Leadership class is planning more school-wide activities for the springtime, including a blood drive and the Respect for All trip.

To avoid having to cancel another event, the Leadership class will be promoting events earlier and have each leadership member sell at least five tickets for dances, said Mr. Vega.

the damage done to the SMART Board that will determine the time it takes to fix it. Warranties do not cover damages due to vandalism or any kind of abuse,” said AP Alikakos.

“The new SMART Board in room 404 is fancier and it provides slightly more functionality than the previous one. It also saves space in the room,” said Mr. Yu.

Mr. Alikakos hopes that students stop vandalising the SMART Boards and the teachers will take better care of the SMART Boards by not leaving them on overnight.

School library Gets A Makeover



More computers are now available in the library.

by Vanessa Urrutia

received in spring 2015.

Other computers were transferred to the library during January Regents week. “Mr. Schimenz no longer needed them, and they are now being put to good use here in the library,” said Ms. Lewis.

The lounge area’s wall was painted an energetic red by our school’s fireman, Richie, over the mid-winter recess.

The library needed new flooring because its old rug was damaged, according to Mr. Alikakos, assistant principal. Ms. Burg, the principal, and Mr. Alikakos, arranged getting the floor tiling done and used school funds to cover it. The flooring was installed by the School Construction Authority, also known as the SCA.

“I visit the library often, and I’m pleased with the improvements because the room is cleaner and more vibrant,” said Saite Chen, a senior. “The new white tiling is a big difference from the old rug, and makes the room much brighter,” he said.

Brand new state of the art computers are being installed to the library’s computer lab room. Mr. Ali is in charge of this renovation, according to Ms. Lewis, the school librarian, because the school is adding AutoCad training. “The old computers from the lab room are being used in the library lounge area now,” she said.

New and colorful furniture occupies the library’s lounge area, where students are able to enjoy the space in addition to reading and utilizing the computers. “My goal is to make the library cozier, and more appealing to students,” said Ms. Lewis. “I want to make it an enjoyable lounge space for students to relax and socialize.”

Two new pieces of canvas art decorate the walls of this lounge area, and a new colorful rug matches the new chairs. The new furniture and art pieces were purchased using a \$5,000 Lowe’s Educational Grant Ms. Lewis applied for in winter 2015 and



Seniors gather for a picture after roller-skating.

Advice to Juniors: Go on Your Senior Trip

by Danish Bokhari

The Senior Trip was held at the Honors Haven Resort & Spa from Jan 15 to 17. Mr. Vega, the senior advisor, coordinated the trip for 124 students and the 13 chaperones who attended.

“Seniors got to enjoy some fun sport activities as well as different events,” said Pedro Woss, a pre-engineering student. The activities included in the \$330 price were swimming, an arcade room, laser tag, dancing, roller-skating, karaoke, and football. Paintballing, snowboarding, skiing, and horseback riding were available at an additional cost.

The resort was not exclusive to Queens Voc students. According to Omar Nooristani, a computer repair and maintenance student, “Students from Grover Cleveland and Aviation High School were at the resort.” Queens Voc students wore blue wristbands to help chaperones identify them.

Dancing was an activity

seniors participated in. Angela Ayora, a cosmetology student said, “The dance was awkward for students because no one was showing interest.” The dance party included students from the other high schools. Some students from Grover Cleveland High School tried to liven up the dance by singing competitively, grabbing the attention of students from Aviation and Queens Voc, Angela said, adding that after a while, students became “comfortable and began to unwind and dance.” Omar said he would have liked the DJ to expand the song list from Hispanic, trap, and popular culture music to, “a more diverse variety of songs like classic rock and Bollywood to entertain every student’s musical taste.”

Many students went roller-skating. “Very few students knew how to skate,” said Ariz Flores, “many students who were not good at skating held onto the railings for support.” According

to Mr. Vega, a few students were injured and taken to the hospital, with only one injury that resulted in a student leaving early. Batool Abiad was roller-skating with her friends when she tripped and twisted her leg. “It was an accident. The chaperones could not blame her injury on reckless behavior,” said Mr. Vega. She went to the emergency room after being treated by emergency medical service. “It was unfortunate her trip was cut short because the parents had to release her that evening,” said Mr. Vega, “there was nothing we could have done to accommodate her.”

The arcade and roller-skating rink are in the same building. While some students roller-skated, others played air hockey, and skeeball in the arcade. There was a prize booth so students could redeem tickets they won for prizes.

The senior trip is often called a place where memories are made. Charles Urena said that

what he will remember most is the football game between a few of his friends, David Hader, Joshua Rodriguez, and Travis Savino, and Queens Voc teachers Mr. Devaux, Mr. Garofano, and Mr. Rodriguez because he felt “the intensity between the two teams.” Two seniors were injured playing football. Travis Savino had eight stitches around his mouth, and Tysain Shand’s forehead was bruised when the two collided. Both students were taken to the hospital, treated, and resumed their senior trip activities.

Many students could not enjoy laser tag because of cheaters. “Laser tag was disappointing,” said Edwin Diaz. “It was held in a large open area but was mostly empty and it quickly became boring when students started cheating.” A few students figured out how to avoid being tagged and would wait for the other players to be tagged so they were the last ones standing. Edwin said, “The students who exploited that technique ruined the fun for everyone else.”

Some students skied for the first time. “There was an introductory class that taught us how to put on our equipment and how to fall so we wouldn’t get severely injured,” said Angela. “Mr. MacDonald had experience prior to this trip and was helping students learn how to ski,” she said. The ski lodge had another option, snowboarding. Pedro said he enjoyed snowboarding because it was a new experience for him. “I was a bit upset when we left because I was getting the hang of it after falling a few times.”

According to Ariz, students played volleyball in the swimming pool. The seniors also formed the number 16 in the pool for a photo opportunity.

A common complaint from seniors who did not attend the

trip was the cost, but Mr. Vega believes the cost of the trip was justified. He said, “Six meals a day were provided. We took luxury coach buses there. We had a coordinated dance party, a snack bar, roller skating, and a hotel room to stay in for two nights, all bundled for \$330,” he said.

Students had a variety of items to choose from for breakfast such as: bacon, waffles, scrambled eggs, vanilla yogurt, and orange juice. The lunch was a buffet of all different kinds of foods, and limited choices in beverages. The snack bar was separate from the regular meals and was available to students at the resort during the day. They served chicken fingers, French fries, hot dogs and lemonade beverages. Students were treated to a pizza party during the dance on the first day. The following day there was an ice cream sundae party, where students could make different combinations of ice cream sundaes.

Charles encourages the juniors to go on their senior trip because, “It is a lot of fun going to different events with our friends, meeting new students, and creating some great memories.”



Devaux is focused on winning.

QV’s Got Talent Show Scheduled for May

by Cindy Carangui

Twenty-three acts signed up for this year’s talent show, scheduled for Thursday, May 12, but after auditions, the judges accepted only 15.

Mr. Vega has not determined the price of tickets but said he thinks it will be three dollars.

Of those who auditioned, fifteen were individual acts, four duos, and four were group acts. Auditions took place in late February and early March.

The performances consist of singers and a variety of group dances including a hip-pop, cultural, and salsa dance.

Rehearsals began on March 15 but only a few acts have practiced. According to Mr. Vega, only one act has rehearsed multiple times, the dance team. In addition, Jessica Pichardo and another dance act have rehearsed once.

“I think rehearsals are slow going because the participants feel like they have a lot of time left until the talent show,” said Mr. Vega.

Rehearsals will go on until May 11, which is a dress rehearsal.

Each act had to have an organized performance of one minute for auditions, said Mr. Vega. Judges were present during auditions to determine if the act made it into the show or, if it was a call back. An act was told it was a call back if the judges thought it should be given another chance to audition. After a call back, the judges decided whether the act was in or out of the talent show. Two staff members and three students

were judges but Mr. Vega did not want to reveal the names of the judges for their protection.

The stage crew helps Mr. Vega set up equipment for the talent show auditions, rehearsals, and day of the event. This year the group members are Stephanie Alvarez, Jonathan Coyago, Valentina Muriel, Katia Rojas, Dylan Sankarsingh, Joseph Santana, and Jenny Wong.

The talent show participants are Paulette Baque, Jennifer Cosme, Valerie Cruz, Bryant Cuero, Ngawang Dawa, Samara Deokiesingh, Debanjali Dey

Jasmine Farrier, Isabel Flores, Paola Gonzalez, Guillermo Guzman, Litzy Hernandez, Dana Johnson, Anyah Johnson, Vasiki Konneh, Bianca Llivicota, Kimberly Maldonado, Alex Minchala, Dicensia Minchala, Bradley Moog, Valentina Muriel, Jennifer Orduna, Benjamin Palaguachi, Jessica Pichardo, Samantha Pineda, Lesly Ramirez, Selma Rivera, Mukta Roy, Kimberlin Sanchez, Natali Sinchi, Montana Stevens, Pamela Tavarez, Keyla Timbi, Tatiana Tobon, Azrielle Urena, Jayleen Valenzuala, Ms. Vasquez, and Justin Yulo.

Chess Club Builds Social Skills



Ali contemplates his next move.

by Jhun Rhenz Martinez

The chess club has recently introduced a variety of other games.

“We expanded beyond chess to facilitate friendly gaming,” said Ms. Dimech. “Among the recently added games are Monopoly, Scrabble, The Game of Life, and Risk.”

“We start by playing some chess matches and play different games afterwards,” said Luis Vasquez, a junior and new member. “It’s fun because everyone is really nice. I thought the chess club would be more intimidating.”

Chess and a variety of other board games are laid out in the library where members can choose what game to play. Members may play against each other in chess by challenging other members and taking a game to one of the tables in the library. “On the days that the members show up, they are competitive. Otherwise, it would be a regular game of chess,” said Ali Askar, a junior. Members may play in groups by playing games that can utilize more than two people, such as Monopoly.

“By introducing multi-player games, students build their socialization skills,” said Ms. Dimech. “Although I am a lover

of logic, the ability to be a smooth talker can get you far.”

Chess club officers are President Anthony Pippis, Graphic Designer Tysain Shand, and Admin Andrea Zaavedra. According to Ms. Dimech, Anthony manages and takes charge of the chess club. Andrea handles the paperwork and moderates the club. And Tysain creates the posters, announcement letters, and t-shirt designs.

Ms. Dimech said that the chess club has an open door policy but has not been actively seeking out new members. Meetings are held in the library every Tuesday, periods 9, 10 and 11. All students are welcome.

Sophomore Shop Profiles

by Maurico Bustamante

Teachers of sophomore CTE classes were asked to pick a student in the class, they believed should be acknowledge for all their hard work and dedication.

1. Why did you choose this major?
2. What do you like most about it?
3. What have you done in class that has been the most challenging?
4. Why do you think your teacher chose you?
5. Do you see yourself pursuing this in the future? Why or Why not?

John Kostalas

Electrical Installation – Mr. Cintron



1. I can see myself as an electrician. I've wanted to pick this shop since last year.
2. Learning the trade can help me in the future if I want to pursue electrical.
3. The difficulty of the jobs in creasing as I do more and more of the jobs.
4. I help him a lot. I help him clean out the closet and with job checks.
5. Yes, because I really enjoy electrical.

Vanessa Myroniuk

Cosmetology – Ms. Richards-King and Ms. Quartuccio



1. I like to experience new things. I get to do different hairstyles, apply different kinds of makeup, etc.
2. I get to do different hairstyles and we get to learn how to dye hair.
3. Being accurate with sizable pink curls, I can't part it straight.
4. Probably because I get high grades in cosmetology.

5. No, because I think of it as a backup career.

Kate Canlobo

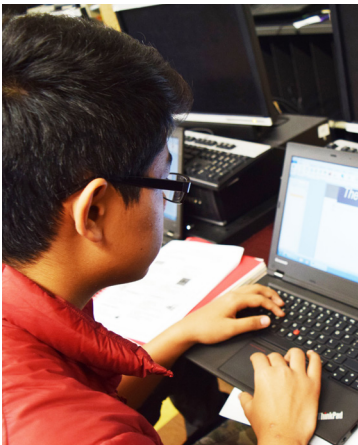
Cosmetology – Ms. Lingstuyt



1. I like working with hair and nails, and I want to learn how to cut hair.
2. Learning how to style hair differently.
3. Learning the double French-twist because I have to make sure it's even.
4. She thinks I do well and likes the way I style hair, and because I understand the concepts.
5. Yes, because I enjoy doing hairstyles on people.

Tshering Sherpa

Business – Ms. Gross



1. It's more helpful than the other shops and I don't see myself doing the other shops as a career.
2. I enjoy learning how to handle money.
3. Working in groups. Not everybody does the same amount of work.
4. Because I do well in the class by getting high grades.
5. Yes, because I want to work in finance and accounting.

Malik Bolden

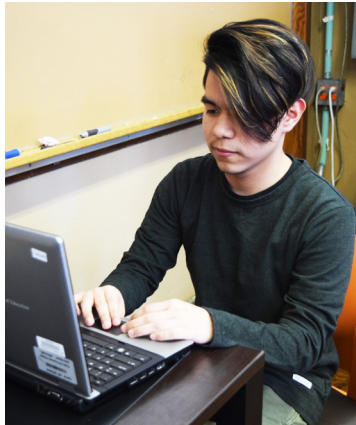
Graphic Arts – Ms. Ogunka



1. I wanted to try a new challenge and I wanted to challenge myself.
2. I get to improve my social skills and I get to learn the business perspective of graphic arts.
3. Being able to remember that I have a lot of tasks that have to be done.
4. She saw a lot of potential in me because I'm social and enthusiastic.
5. Yes, because I've been involved in art my whole life and I enjoy it. It's my passion.

Sergio Jimenez

Computer Technology – Mr. Valdez



1. I found it interesting because I enjoy technology and I thought learning how it works is really cool.
2. Valdez because he's a good teacher and the topics we learn are very interesting.
3. How to set up different commands, especially because we have to memorize them.
4. I think he picked randomly and because he noticed I finished the assignment.
5. I don't know because I'm exploring my options.

Jose Santos

Pre-Engineering – Mr. Raushan



1. I picked it for the electronics side of it and I'm interested in programming.
2. This shop goes hand in hand with C-Tech with what I want to do.
3. Group work because I'd rather do things individually because I find it easier to fix my mistakes without relying on others.
4. I try helping others and I

constantly want to improve in class.

5. In college because I want to do C-Tech as a career, but I want to learn pre-engineering in college.

Jonathan Chimborazo

Electrical Installation – Mr. Cintron



1. It seemed interesting because I like to do hands on work.
2. Doing hands on work and we're constantly learning something new.
3. Learning the safety rules because if I didn't learn them, I would be at risk of getting hurt.
4. I'm the kid who's ahead of everyone in class and I get good test grades.
5. Yes, because I enjoy it and because of me doing electrical installation in high school, I would like to pursue it.

Anthony Coneo

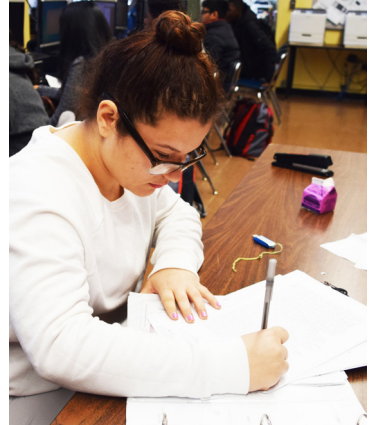
Computer Technology – Mr. Yu



1. I picked it for software engineering, which will lead in industry in the future.
2. The coding because I get to learn different types of coding languages, such as translating regular letters to binary.
3. The hardware because I'm not familiar with the hardware, I was always interested in the software.
4. I'm resilient and I do really well in class. I stand out amongst the other students.
5. As a part-time job because I'm interested in becoming a planetary astronomer.

Are you in the school paper?
Want to be?
Become a better student.
Get more involved in school activities.

Tatyanna Redillo
Business – Ms. Gross



1. I like the idea of being able to start my own business and I could do that with the knowledge I gain from here.
2. The trips because we help a lot of people and we interact with people who work for businesses.
3. Staying focused, such as when I have to work on long projects. All of the information we get has to be included in them.
4. I'm always on task, I understand what she teaches, and I help others.
5. Yes, because I enjoy doing it and it's not difficult.

Sisley Ortiz

Cosmetology – Ms. Crosbie



1. I've always been passionate about it. I always enjoyed art, which I began incorporating when I would do my nails and I became interested in cosmetology.
2. I can be creative with hairstyles. There are many methods of doing hairstyles.
3. Doing a French roll because my teacher won't let us use hairspray and she wants the hair smooth, but the hair always stuck out at the end.
4. I'm the most advanced student in the class.
5. No, because I would like to become a guidance counselor.

Note: Ms. Nunez and Mr. Bowen's class (periods five and six), Mr. Bowen's class (periods seven and eight), and Mr. McCarthy's class (periods five and six), worked on their NCCER certification and so were not included.

Mr. Raushan was unavailable as the article was being written.

In our final edition of the year, we will include junior and senior shop profiles.

Passing and Failing Regents

Passing classes while failing Regents exams is a regular occurrence at Queens Voc. But if the objective of the Regents exams is to measure the fundamentals that students should know in a subject, how can students get credit for a class if they fail to pass an exam that was developed to reflect their understanding of that class's topics? Grades should reflect the student's understanding of the subject.

One reason that students might pass a class but fail the Regents is the way they are graded. Participation is a factor in student grading. But participation grades do not necessarily indicate a student's knowledge of the material. Homework too, might not reflect the students' knowledge. Teachers' bias—their feelings about a student—can also get in the way of an objective evaluations.

Regents serve as some students' main incentive to do well in a class but when a teacher is inflating a student's grade because he is "trying his best," then that incentive subsides and the grade promotes a misleading sense of confidence. Does passing a class motivate students to work harder or does it fill them with a false sense of security? We think it can work both ways.

A false sense of security usually causes more harm than good. In an unscientific survey conducted by *Vocational Voice*, 34 percent of students who passed a Regents class but failed the Regents exam said they either felt prepared for the Regents and did not perform well on the day of the test or they did not review and study the materials for the test. One student said, "Yes my class prepared me enough for the Regents. The only problem was that I didn't put the effort to review and study my notes properly and accordingly." Another student said "I had a great teacher and all the resources; I did not take the time to learn the material." Other students who claimed they had a good teacher but still failed said they "didn't feel good that day." These students felt confident enough not to study for a Regents because their grades indicated a sufficient understanding of a topic.

Seventeen percent of students who passed the class but failed the Regents claimed they were either in a bad class or were not taught well enough about the topics included on the exam. Students' responses included noisy classrooms, "vague" content, unorganized lessons, the teacher "couldn't control the class," and the teacher "didn't go in depth with the subject." Despite by their own admission they did not learn the fundamentals for the exam, these students still passed the class. They clearly knew they were not ready for the exam yet their teachers passed them.

A solution to this problem is to place less emphasis on participation—especially participation that doesn't demonstrate true understanding—and more on merit and performance. Classwork, homework, labs, and exams are all supposed to represent a student's level of understanding. Participation grades should reflect that understanding, not mitigate the ineptitude found in a student's work. Answering 50 questions vocally in class but only getting two right should not make the difference between a passing grade and failing grade, if anything, it is a indicator that a student is not well prepared for the subject and needs more help. This is even true in college. Professors don't typically base their grades on participation, they do it on performance in assignments.

Studying a subject for an entire school year yet failing the Regents exam indicates a problem—and it is a problem that should be addressed. In a school where applying to college has become the norm, students should leave their classes with at least the minimum understanding the state requires and a work ethic that reflects their ability to succeed beyond the classroom.

Our Readers *Speak Out*

compiled by Adham Kenawy

Vocational Voice staff received feedback from many students who wrote to us about our winter edition. We have endeavored to include a sampling of comments.

The articles that received the most feedback were "Hundreds Attend Pep Rally" by Betsy Flores, "JV Boys on a Winning Streak" by Kevin Henao, "What Was the Worst Holiday Gift You Ever Got?" by Cristian Chamba, and "Clocks to be fixed in All in Due Time," by Tia Singh.

"I am looking forward for another pep rally. I hope it is good or better than the one we had this year," wrote Jaqueline Rivera. Jailene Ceran wrote, "It was good how the team sports went to support this event and how many students went from our school to the pep rally, but I didn't like the picture because it came out

blurry." Camila Restrepo wrote, "When I was looking at that night's video it looked full. People were screaming of happiness and excitement, it looked really nice."

Writing in response to "Clocks to be fixed in All in Due Time," Christian Escobar wrote that "the article was interesting because I was actually curious about what the problem was with the clocks." Mersina Radoncic enjoyed reading this article "because it made a lot of correct observations about the clocks in Queens Voc. I feel like there are just bad excuses used to avoid getting the clocks fixed." Samuel Delgado believes "Queens Voc has a lot of great things but it also has a lot to fix. The clocks are major things."

We received numerous responses to Cristian Chamba's article, "What Was the Worst Holiday Gift You Ever Got?" Lisandra Gomez wrote, "I think

Vocational Voice

Queens Vocational & Technical High School

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

Tel 718.937.3010
Fax 718.392.8397

School website:
QueensVoc.org

Online at VocVoice.org

Ms. Melissa Burg
Principal

Mr. Alikakos
AP, Administration

Mr. Rob Schimenz
Advisor

Managing Editors
Danish Bokhari
Mauricio Bustamante
Tysain Shand

Layout Editors
Angelica Campos
Anthony Chauca
Katerin Coyago
Jonathan Flores
Tia Singh

Contributors
Istiakh Ahmed
Purnata Anwar
Paulette Baque
Cindy Carangui
Cristian Chamba
Jennifer Cosme
Helen Eng
Betsy Flores
Isabel Flores
Kevin Henao
Adham Kenawy
Karla Loor
Jhun Rhenz Martinez
Gabriel E. Miller
Michael Ortega
Michelle Paguay
Alissa Rivera
Derek Toohey
Vanessa Urrutia
Andrea Zaavedra
Xi Zheng

**"Good enough"
is the enemy of "it
can be better."**

your article was funny, because I thought getting hair accessories was a bad holiday gift, but some of these gifts were ridiculous! I think Cristian should've included more about how students reacted. I think it would have made the article a lot funnier." Daisy Pinos wrote, "I found people's experience to be very entertaining and amusing. Your worst gift was a bracelet with your name misspelled. I'm sorry your dad forgot your name. However, your article was very amusing."

Lisette Fuentes wrote in response to the article "Leadership Class Delivers Holiday Cheer" by Angelica Campos. Lisette thinks "Operation Santa is a great idea, it's a very thoughtful thing to do. I think the leadership class should also give food for the homeless and the needy. Hopefully I can help out next year by giving back. Knowing that someone is going to be thankful for it and brought a smile to their face makes me feel better about myself."



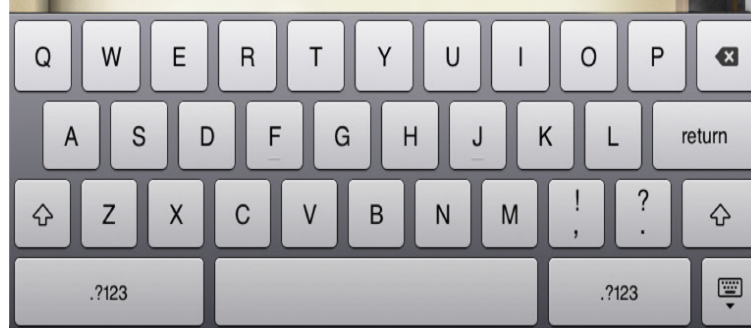
Melissa Burg
Principal

Life is a marathon, not a sprint. I know it's hard to think that way, especially if you're young, but it's important to keep in mind as we make decisions. Choices we make today affect our tomorrow for better or worse. You probably won't win all the time and, at times, even though we want that quick win, you must keep your eye on the prize as they say-the end game, the long term goal.

Other times we wish our time away. We can't wait for the next weekend, vacation, or school year. We become so focused on the future that we forget today. Before you know it a year has gone by. Then we look around to see that we haven't spent time enjoying the present.

Finding a way to create a balanced life can be challenging but rewarding. I strive, most days unsuccessfully, to live a balanced life. As I write this, I am certainly looking forward to our spring break, but am also working on enjoying all the moments in between. I can honestly say that I have no idea how many school days are left until summer vacation. As you look toward the future, be sure to, as the poet Robert Herrick wrote, "Gather ye rosebuds as ye may."

Melissa Burg



**Do you have an opinion
about any of the articles
in this issue of
Vocational Voice?
Write and tell us!
Be sure to sign your
letter and put it in
Mr. Schimenz's mailbox
in the main office.**

Readers can also write us at Editor@VocVoice.org



Forever

Mr. Schimenz
Main Office

Feel the Bern!

by Tysain Shand



Graduating QV

Ten Years later

Students Rack Up College Credit in College Courses

by Paulette Baque

One hundred and five Queens Voc students are enrolled in College Now courses held at Queens Voc and at LaGuardia Community College, an increase of 47 percent from the number of students enrolled in the fall semester.

Students can earn three college credits if they pass their class, except for College Focus classes, which are primarily designed to prepare students to pass the CUNY Assessment Test. Students can take one college credit-bearing each semester and earn a maximum of 12 credits throughout high school. Each course is averaged into the student’s transcript and is equivalent to an honors class with an extra 5 percent added to their final grade.

at their sites. Students must submit their official transcripts of all completed coursework before a final determination is made by the college. Credits can then be transferred or taken as elective credits into some CUNYs, SUNYs, or even private universities.

College courses held at Queens Voc are Composition I with Ms. Rejalaga on Mondays and Wednesdays from 4:15pm-6:15pm; Critical Thinking with Ms. Ridge on Mondays and Wednesday from 6:40am-7:40am; General Psychology with Ms. Ocampo on Mondays from 4:01-7:01pm; and Literacy and Propaganda with Ms. DeCarlo on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4pm-5:30pm. All four courses offer three college credits and one high school elective credit.

perspectives,” said Ms. Ridge. “The idea of critical thinking is really just breaking things down into smaller components and perspectives and students do so by speaking and writing.”

The MAT 200-Pre-Calculus, BTC 100 Computer Applications and Technologies, and College Focus Math courses were canceled due to low class enrollments and scheduling problems with Queens Voc students.

College Now courses at LaGuardia Community College include Literacy and Propaganda, College Focus, Computer Applications and Technologies, Composition I, College Algebra and Trigonometry, Introduction to Sociology, and General Psychology, which are taught on Mondays and Wednesdays; Critical Thinking, Global Politics, and Cultural Anthropology are taught on Tuesdays and Thursdays; Topics in Biological Sciences and Topics in Physics are taught on Saturdays. Weekday classes began Monday, March 7, and weekend classes began Saturday, March 5.

Senior Yulia Valerio takes the Composition I class at LaGuardia. “Taking a course at LaGuardia allows me to experience how college is really like,” she said. “I will have an advantage when I go to college because I feel like I’m already on my college path to success.”

Ms. Carpino, the secretary who helps coordinate the program at Queens Voc believes that “Most of the students are delighted by the experience and the responsibility that it takes to complete the courses.”

In April, a list of College Now offerings for summer and fall will be advertised.



Ms. Ocampo teaching her Psychology College Now class.

Assistant Principal Ocampo coordinates College Now programs at Queens Voc. “College Now is targeted for juniors and seniors to prepare them at a college level,” she said. In order for students to receive transfer credit acceptances in colleges, that course must be equivalent to a course offered

Courses started the week of Feb. 2 and will end the week of June 6.

Ms. Ridge teaches the Critical Thinking class at Queens Voc. She said that she likes teaching the course because “It is not just about reading and writing; it involves a lot of speaking. Students are able to view arguments from multiple

Lab Squad Training Future Scientists



Mr. Rosenthal instructing lab squad members.

by Purnata Anwar

Cleaning lab equipment and helping to set up experiments may not seem like fun to everyone, but it is to Ashley Cena, a member of Lab Squad. “This is my third year in Lab Squad and I enjoy it a lot. It gives me a glimpse and background of what I’ll be learning in college since I want to major in biology,” she said.

There are currently 11

members in Lab Squad, a group of dedicated science enthusiasts who donate their time to the school’s science department to help create better laboratory experiments, said Mr. Rosenthal, lab specialist, who coordinates the squad Monday to Friday, first, fifth, and sixth periods in room 206.

“At Lab Squad I clean and sanitize the laboratory and lab equipment. I also organize and file data, label equipment, and prepare

paper work for weekly labs,” said Regina Bartels. Additionally, members have the opportunity to take care of living specimens such as algae, amoeba, and daphnia, said Mr. Rosenthal.

Lab Squad was created four years ago when Mr. Rosenthal became Queens Voc’s lab specialist. “It’s in the lab specialist’s contract to create and maintain a lab squad. It’s also a great opportunity for students who love science to interact and learn more about the subject,” he said.

“I enjoy Lab Squad because I enjoy science as well as being around the people in Lab Squad, especially Mr. Rosenthal,” said Maya Kenawy.

Lab Squad does not have activities outside as a group, “however, I am thinking about outside activities, such as trips to the Hall of Science, to make the squad more cohesive,” said Mr. Rosenthal.

Members of Lab Squad include Mariah Barnabe, Regina Bartels, Dahlia Capulin, Ashley Cena, Marc Hallinger, Vallencia Hossain, Maya Kenawy, Ilda Limon, Sandra Perez, Tyrek Rollings, and Lin Yue.

Not So College Ready

January Regents results

by Purnata Anwar

EXAM	YEAR	ENROLL ED	# TOOK	# PASSED	% PASSED	# COLLEGE READY	% COLLEGE READY
CC ELA REG	2015	4	3	3	100%	1	33.3%
	2016	132	76	47	61.8%	16	20.1%
COMP ENGLISH REG	2015	388	215	128	59.5%	45	20.9%
	2016	150	46	21	45.7%	6	13.0%
GLOBAL HIST REG	2015	125	83	27	32.5%		
	2016	85	37	11	29.7%		
U.S. HIS REG	2015	230	117	29	24.8%		
	2016	198	113	23	20.4%		
CC ALGEBRA 1 REG	2015	242	175	39	22.9%	0	0%
	2016	609	273	89	32.6%	21	7.7%
INT. ALGEBRA REG (FEB.)	2015	722	377	268	71.1%	38	10.1%
	2016	30					
GEOMETRY REG	2015	6	4	2	50.0%		
	2016	9	4	2	50.0%		
CC GEOMETRY REG	2015						
	2016	8	3	0	0%		
ALG 2 TRIG REG	2015	236	152	8	5.3%		
	2016	238	142	17	12.0%		
LIV ENV REG	2015	157	107	19	17.8%		
	2016	177	122	39	32.0%		
EARTH SCI REG	2015	12	6	0	0%		
	2016	12	8	0	0%		
CHEM REG	2015	1	0	0	0%		
	2016	4	2	1	50%		
PHYSICS REG	2015	3	1	0	0%		
	2016	1	1	1	100%		

Where’s the Water?

by Jennifer Cosme

“Students make it difficult for their classmates to use the water fountains when they pour cereal, candy, or even chips, damaging them,” said John Perrier, the night custodian. His boss, Mrs. Holland the school’s custodian engineer agrees that students cause the problem. “All water fountains worked but the ones that are not working now were vandalized by students,” said Mrs. Holland.

Mrs. Holland said she is trying to get the water fountains fixed as soon as possible. The water fountains are supposed to be fixed by the Department of Education and Mrs. Holland said she has submitted the necessary work request.

The repair department of the DOE came to the school to check on the water fountains the week of March 28. There are currently 20 water fountains in

the school, 12 are working and eight are waiting to be fixed. Mrs. Holland is still waiting to hear back from them.

Two water fountains in the old wing are missing. The only one in the old wing that works is on the first floor by the auditorium. Most of the water fountains in the new building work.

But even some that work seem to be a problem. The pressure in the water fountains has been turned down due to the amount of spilling, Mrs. Holland said, but the low pressure interferes with students’ ability to drink.

Some students aren’t pleased with the fountains around the school. Jennifer Tamay, a sophomore said, “I wouldn’t drink from the water fountains, some of them are dirty especially the ones in the old building.” But Mrs. Holland said that “Every water fountain gets cleaned after school every day by the custodians.”

Inquiring Photographer

by Xi Zheng

We asked students, “If you were one of the teachers in the school, who would you be and why?”

Joe Temlopez
Freshman



I would be Mr. Samuelson because he’s funny, but can be serious. He also gave me a jalepeño one time.

Betsy Bravo
Junior



I would be Mr. Garofano because he is outgoing and a chill teacher. At the same time, he can maintain an orderly class and run the gym smoothly.

Maria Forero
Senior



I wouldn’t want to be any teacher because I would want to have my own take on being a teacher.

If you were one of the teachers in the school, who would you be and why?

William Viera
Freshman



Ms. Mendez, because she intrigues the class. The way she teaches allows everyone to participate and that is a great.

Pedro Zumba
Sophomore



I would be Mr. Miller because he’s a great teacher and he motivates the class a lot.

Daneillia Wright
Sophomore



I would like to be Mr. Samuelson because he is a cool teacher and he’s humorous.

Joshua Hernandez
Freshman



Mr. Bahrenburg, because he is a laid back teacher who is funny.

Eleni Nicolovienis
Sophomore



Ms. Crosbie because she’s very good at cosmetology, talented, and always on top of her teaching.

Davier Simmons
Senior



Ms. Mohan because she’s very kind and soft spoken. We also have similar personality traits.

Benjamin Del Carpio
Junior



Mr. Valdez because I like the way he teaches us and he’s very open to our class.

Selena Morales
Freshman



Ms. Nunez, because I like her attitude towards her students and she’s a cool teacher.

Yianni Koutsoumbaris
Junior



I would be Mr. Schimenz because he is always keeping busy with teaching and baseball. He’s always on task with what he is doing.

Triston James
Senior



I’d pick Ms. Wilson because she teaches the subject that I really enjoy and she makes me want to teach that subject as well.

Lizabeth Espinal
Junior



I would like to be Ms. DeCarlo because she’s a good teacher, has a good sense of humor, and makes the class fun and exciting.

Gurman Bhumak
Sophomore



I would be Mr. Elfreich because he’s really a laid back person and his teaching methods are amazing. He also has a humorous personality and connects with me well so he can teach me better.

Elier Ozuna
Sophomore



If I were to be one of the teachers in the school, I would be Mr. Cintron because he’s the funniest, most interesting, and kindest teacher I ever had for exploratory last year. He was the reason why I choose EI as my shop class.

Bradley Moog
Senior



Mr. Ali because he’s an AP and he will be retiring in a couple of years. He also teaches engineering, which is something I love.

If you have a question that we should ask for the next inquiring photographer article, please feel free to let us know:
Editor@vocvoice.org

The VocVoice staff wishes our readers an enjoyable spring break

Know someone who would be a good guest speaker for Career Day?
Information is available at QueensVoc.org

What to Watch

by Alissa Rivera

Once Upon a Time

The second half of the fifth season is now underway, and new episodes air Sunday nights at 8pm, on ABC.

“Once Upon a Time,” more affectionately referred to as “Once” by fans, is a fantasy drama that incorporates classic fairy tale characters in a real life setting. The story follows protagonist Emma Swan, a young woman who has spent her entire life looking for her parents, as she comes to terms with being the daughter of Snow White and Prince Charming, her role as the savior, her ability to use magic, and her role as a mother to

her young, estranged son. Season one introduces viewers to Storybrooke, a fictional town, created by the Dark Curse cast by the evil Queen Regina, in an attempt to take away Snow White’s happy ending. Several fairy tale characters live in this town but have no memory of who they were, and no way of leaving. Emma escaped the curse and is the only one able to break it. Her son Henry runs away from Storybrooke in an attempt to find her and get her to break the curse. Little by little, viewers are exposed to flashbacks that explain why Regina cast the curse and how Emma can break it.

This show allows fans to imagine what happens to their favorite fairy tale character after the story ends, while also adding its own fresh spin to classic stories.

These fairytale characters include: Snow White, Prince Charming, Peter Pan, Rumpelstiltskin, Elsa, Anna, and more. The show also introduces brand new characters such as Emma Swan; Neal Cassidy, the son of Rumpelstiltskin; Ingrid, the aunt of Elsa and Anna; Cora, mother of the evil Queen Regina; and others.

“Once Upon a Time” will leave you speechless with its superb action scenes, believable special effects, and your favorite fairytale characters coming to life on screen.

Fuller House

“Full House” fans, your wishes have been answered. “Fuller House” is now available for streaming on Netflix, and has been renewed for a second season.

The first episode of “Fuller House” welcomes back classic

“Full House” characters Danny Tanner, Joey Gladstone, Uncle Jesse Katsopolis, Rebecca Donaldson, DJ Tanner-Fuller, Stephanie Tanner, and Kimmy Gibbler. “Fuller House” introduces new characters, Jackson Fuller, Max Fuller, Tommy Fuller Jr, DJ’s three sons, and Kimmy’s daughter Ramona. But one familiar face is missing, Michelle Tanner, Danny’s youngest daughter, was not in the show.

“Fuller House” follows recently widowed DJ Tanner-Fuller and her struggles coping with being a single mother. After her husband’s death, DJ moved in with her father in an attempt to get back on her feet. Danny is preparing to take a new job that would move him to Los Angeles. Upon hearing her concerns of being on her own, her sister

Stephanie and her best friend Kimmy offer to move in and assist her in caring for her children.

“Fuller House” incorporates a lot of classic elements that made “Full House” great, such as the parent child relationship and the sibling rivalry. Old catchphrases make a return such as DJ’s “Oh Mylanta,” and Stephanie’s “how rude.” But many fans will be disappointed by the somewhat dirty jokes thrown in and the love triangle that spans almost the entire season. Overall though, if you loved “Full House,” and desperately wanted a spin off, “Fuller House,” is exactly what you’re looking for. If you’ve never seen the parent show, “Fuller House” still offers hilarious one liners, physical humor, and all around family fun.

Horoscopes

by Angelica Campos

Aries

(March 21-April 19)

You are questioning the decisions you’ve made, although you should keep in mind that you are a natural born leader you tend to take charge. Although others may not like it, you should not let this get in the way of your leadership. Your hard work will soon pay off and the rewards will be exceptional.

Taurus

(April 20- May 20)

There have been many issues on your mind recently and you may be unsure of how to move forward. Keep in mind that you pride you know what is right for you and this will give you the confidence to take the right path.

Gemini

(May 21- June 20)

Start believing that you are capable of deciding what to do without the need of another person’s input. Your future will be brighter when you start believing in yourself. You lose yourself in your uncertainty.

Cancer

(June 21- July 22)

Stop complaining and turning to others for the answers you seek. In the end it is your life that is being affected. Look in the mirror and ask yourself if you are happy with what you are, only then will you be able to move forward.

Leo

(July 23- Aug. 22)

Invest your time in something that will make you happy. This should be your only goal once you realize it your focus will be sharper and

clearer. Happiness is truly that best medicine in your case.

Virgo

(Aug. 23- Sept. 22)

You’ve made radical changes in your life and you may start regretting them but think about how great change can be. Once you embrace this idea it will help you realize that you needed the change. Being stuck in a cycle is not ideal for you and it has never been.

Libra

(Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

You believe that the decisions you’ve made were best for those around you. It is best to believe this for your own sake, but you may have hurt someone by doing this. Deciding for someone else is not ideal, take this into consideration when making a decision that will not only affect you.

Scorpio

(Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

You are by nature a loving person and do not question the intention of others but someone around you may take advantage of this. Do not change because of this but be mindful that you should guard yourself against those who would like to hurt you.

Sagittarius

(Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

You may have been struggling in the past but that will soon be over as you will receive a lifeline. You will be too stubborn to take it but keep in mind that you cannot go through life without some help from others. You will view this as a sign of weakness, it however does not reflect upon you.

Capricorn

(Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Everything is in order for you, you’ve planned out the next five years effectively, although you

should keep in mind that plans don’t always follow through. Learn to accept the unexpected, changing your plans will not be the end of the world.

Aquarius

(Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

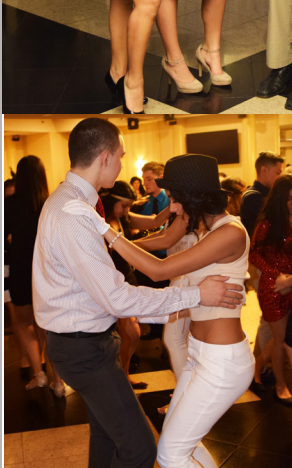
You are full of joy and tend to demonstrate that through your playfulness. Remember that people around you are different. This trait of yours may get you in trouble learn to see the boundaries of others and realize when it is time to stop playing.

Pisces

(Feb. 19-March 20)

You are a follower and people around you have noticed. Do not let your weakness define you, learn to allow your voice to be heard. Find yourself before someone else determines who you are. You will realize that speaking up was the key all along.

Pep Rally



Senior Luncheon

Advice Column

by Danish Bokhari

Dear Danish: How do I tell my parents that I want to go away for college?

Dear Worried Student: If you were accepted to a college you are excited to attend, my advice to you would be to present the best features of that college to your parents. They might be afraid to send you away, so prove to them that you are responsible and reassure them that you will stay in touch. Parents wish the best for their children.

Dear Danish: I’m a junior and haven’t taken the SAT yet. Is it too late to take it?

Dear Junior: It is not too late to take the SAT, however, you are cutting it close to deadlines. If you did not register for the SAT by April 8, then you should apply for the late registration before April 26. To apply online, go to the college board website and select register now. It is advised to take the ACT / SAT towards the end of your junior year. You can also take the test in the beginning of your senior year. Study for the test and good luck on your exam.

Dear Danish: I find it difficult to be social. Any suggestions?

Dear Social Clam: Speaking to strangers is often difficult. Work on projecting your voice and practice speech patterns in the mirror. Be confident. Speak your mind, and listen and respond

to others. Human interaction is spontaneous. When approaching someone, do not be afraid to speak or interject when you hear something that interests you. Find a common interest by asking the other person questions. Talking about your similar interests can help you socialize.

Dear Pastry: How should I decide which presidential candidate to vote for?

Dear Concerned Citizen: Are you registered to vote? In New York, you can register to vote online on dmv.ny.gov, in person, or by mail, but you must register at least 25 days before the next election.

If you have not followed the presidential race until now, research on the primary candidates and their political views. Regardless of the political party you favor, your choice should represent the views that you think would benefit the country. Talk with people with various beliefs who challenge your political views until you can align yourself with a candidate.

Dear Breakfast: My girlfriend’s best friend is a guy I don’t like. How should I tell her?

Dear Insecure Boyfriend: Communication is always important in a relationship. You should mention how and why you feel uncomfortable around her friend. Talk to her before it becomes a bigger dilemma than it currently is. If you truly want your relationship to work, you will compromise about disliking her friend.

Recommended Reading

by Michelle Paguay

The Program

The Program, a teen fiction novel by Suzanne Young, portrays a world where suicide has been declared an international epidemic. Living in a society where teens are under constant surveillance, 17-year-old Sloane Barstow struggles to keep up the facade that she is okay. Just like every other teenager, Sloane knows that any sign of being emotionally unstable can land her in The Program, an intense six-week process that causes a loss of memories. After having lost her brother to suicide and a best friend who forgets her because of The Program, Sloane fights to keep any dark emotions in check by confiding in the only person she trusts, her boyfriend James. James is Sloane’s rock and his promises of protecting both of them is Sloane’s only consolation. Once James falls into depression, Sloane begins to struggle against depression as well.

Sloane eventually becomes depressed and is turned in by her parents and taken away by the handlers. Inside The Program, Sloane struggles to keep her memories, but six weeks later she becomes like every other teen that went through The Program, a person with no memories of her past. Sloane and James eventually meet again but have no recollection of what they once

meant to each other. Although they have no knowledge of their past, Sloane and James begin discovering the love they once held for each other. Breaking all the rules, Sloane and James embark on a journey together as they turn away from The Program and run towards rebellion.

The Fifth Wave

The Fifth Wave by Rick Yancey takes place in a time when humans are no longer the superior race. In the middle of the woods with only the trees as company, 16-year-old Cassie Sullivan lives in a tent with a gun as her best friend. It’s the dawn of the fifth wave and Cassie runs from the people who look like humans who are anything but that. The alien invaders known as The Others make their first appearance as a flying saucer in the sky but besides that make no communication. The first wave is a power outage that leaves everyone in darkness and wipes out half a million people. The second wave is a great natural disaster that wipes out more than seven cities. The third wave is a pure blood bath where a deadly virus is spread by birds and takes out most of the world’s population. The fourth wave is the hunting of any remaining humans. Now that the fifth wave is coming and Cassie is determined to save the only person she has left, Sammy, her little brother.

Evan Walker is unlike any

“Celebrities” at Queens Voc

by Jennifer Cosme

Bradley Moog - Senior



Timothy DeLaguetto
“People say I look like Timothy DeLaguetto, a YouTuber because we are both Filipinos and have the same hairstyle.”
Zuri Miranda – Freshman



Maite Perroni
“My friends tell me that I look like Maite because of my hair and the way we talk, also because we are Hispanic.”
Davier Simmons - Senior



Drake
“My friends say I look like Drake, they always tell me my face looks like his when he was younger.”

Kelvin Quiroz - Senior



Raphael Varane
“I think I look like Raphael Varane because we are both tall and play soccer. Also because my friends tell me we look like brothers.”
Bryan Pulgarin - Freshman



Justin Bieber
“Everyone says I look like Justin Bieber because we are both white and have the same haircut. They also say we dress the same.”
Ana Victorino - Junior



Vanessa Hudgens
“People say I look like Vanessa because of our skin tone, hairstyle, and especially our smile.”

Gabriela Sanchez - Soph.



Jada Pinkett Smith
“Some of my friends say I look like Jada, the actress because of our hairstyle and also our fun attitude towards everything.”
Erick Mathus - Junior



Lohanthony
“People say I act like Lohanthony, a YouTuber. I think it’s maybe because the way I act and my face expressions.”
Jocelyn Navarro - Senior



Selena Gomez
“I always get that I look like Selena Gomez, because of my face shape and eyes.”

person Cassie has ever met. He saved her life but a cloud of mystery surrounds him and Cassie becomes confused over her feelings for him. Her distrust of Evan does not go unaccounted for as she soon learns who he truly is. Evan is different from anyone she’s ever known and promises to help her and keep her safe. Together they fight to save her little brother from the camp he’s being held in. Cassie discovers how determined Evan truly is and what she is capable of when everything is on the line.

The Brave and the Bold

by Helen Eng

The scariest and craziest thing I ever did was bungee-jumping.
- Mr. Devaux

I threatened someone with a knife over a plastic spoon that came from a cereal box.
- Dante Vanderpool, senior

I biked downhill once and the chain broke while it was happening. I

jumped off and saw my life flash before my eyes.
-Jonathan Gomez, junior

When I was younger, I went to an abandoned amusement park.
- Lisette Moscoso, junior

In Florida, I rode on the world’s tallest skycoaster.
- Ms. Poltawsky

My sister cut off my left pinky and I had to get it reattached.
- Mr. Muzamali

I went river rafting with my family and it was six miles long. I saw people climb up the rocks and jump into the river so I tried it, too.
-Passang Dolma, senior

Asking out a girl in front of all my friends.
- Harnoor Bhumak, senior

I went into an abandoned building.
- Abelardo Perez, freshman

I scooted downhill in Ecuador.
-Nagelly Campoverde, freshman

I went to a cemetery at night.
-Mary Macancela, freshman

In Ecuador, I went on an aerial lift that ran above mountains and the woods. It was just plastic chairs with a damaged seat belt. The line looked like it could snap at any second.
- Nolett Ahmed, senior

The scariest thing that I did was jumping off a bridge in Ecuador. I was with my family and only 5 at the time.
- Gabriel Vaca, sophomore

When I was 7, the worst thing happened to me. I got a fish hook stuck in my finger. I tried to throw a fish hook into the water like my uncle did and it went in my finger on my right hand.
-John Garcia, sophomore

I rode the Kingda Ka at Six Flags Great Adventure.
- Jeff Acosta, junior

I jumped off a cliff.
- Ms. Shimizu

by Gabriel Miller

The Good Dinosaur
The Good Dinosaur, directed by Peter Sohn, is one of Pixar’s latest films. The story is about a timid Apatosaurus named Arlo trying to get back to his home after being separated from his family during a storm 65 million years ago. On his way to find his family he befriended a cave boy whom he named Spot. Together they travel through the harsh landscape where Arlo learns from Spot the meaning of courage.

Arlo witnesses Spot standing up for himself and Arlo during several altercations. At one point in the film, Spot is kidnapped and Arlo has to make a choice to either save his friend or continue on his journey home. Feeling conflicted, Arlo remembered all

of the moments when he was too afraid to do anything, but Spot on the other hand took action, inspiring him to rescue his friend. Arlo made the choice to not let fear consume him anymore.

The animation is stunning and the settings that were created had a large amount of detail, which made the movie seem as though it wasn’t in a theater, but as if it were being watched through a window. The voice actors gave a lot of emotion to the characters that they played, giving more feeling to the movie. Scenes in which animals eat each other, however, are a little graphic for younger audiences. Overall, The Good Dinosaur will take its viewer on a thrilling emotional journey that they can enjoy.

The Revenant
The Revenant, directed by Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu, tells the story of a frontiersman

named Hugh Glass, portrayed by Leonardo DeCaprio. The setting is an unorganized U.S. territory, which later become the Dakotas, in 1823. Glass, his men, and son were attacked by Arikara Native Americans while they were hunting for animal pelts. Once they escaped, Glass scouted ahead to find food. He is then attacked by a bear and is nearly killed. His son, Hawk, and two other men from the group are left behind while the rest go went on to their camp. Glass then helplessly watched as his son was killed by one of them and was later abandoned by the same people. He then does whatever he can to survive and get revenge.

The action, drama, and hardships make this film a truly thrilling experience. DeCaprio’s performance made it seem as though he were really in pain and that nothing would stop him from

avenging the death of his son. The locations for the film were perfect for the gritty narrative shown, adding the feeling of suspense and danger. The Revenant was also the reason DeCaprio won his first Oscar. That being said, this movie is great for anyone who is a fan of action and adventure.

Deadpool
Deadpool, directed by Tim Miller, is Marvel’s newest film. Many fans of the popular comic book character would be very pleased with Ryan Reynolds as Deadpool, especially after the heroes terrible depiction in *X-Men Origins: Wolverine*. *Deadpool* is about Wade Wilson, a former special forces operative who became a mercenary, finding out that he has cancer. While at a bar, Wilson is approached by a man who claims that he can cure him and agrees to undergo the treatment. Wilson realized that

it was a mistake when he realized that he was taken to the lab of evil scientist Ajax, who wanted to turn Wilson into a living weapon. Ajax put Wilson through a series of gruesome experiments to expose his mutation, found deep within his DNA. Once Ajax succeeded, Wilson fought his way out of the lab and burned it to the ground, but Ajax escaped. Realizing that his abilities were enhanced, Wilson, now going by the name Deadpool, along with two members of the X-Men, Colossus and Negasonic Teenage Warhead, went on the hunt for Ajax.

Deadpool was played almost exactly how he was supposed to be, which is why so many people gave it such praise. He had all of the witty and crude humor from the comic books, it made the film a hilarious action-comedy film that a wide variety of people can enjoy.

Students’ Plans for Spring Break

by Karla Loor	“Dubai for three soccer games I have with some of my selected team members. I’m pretty happy to go because I haven’t traveled this far to play.”
– Jennifer Villashanay	– Jesus Cruz
“Bowling. It’s going to be a hella of a time.”	“I’m going to see my boyfriend Jose. We’ll be playing soccer and I’ll be bringing the snacks.”
– Edgar Lopera	– Angie Onofre
“I’m going to Florida. I plan to enjoy myself and relax at the beach.”	“I will spend it working. I have responsibilities to do and I’m getting money.”
– Andres Lopera	– Joselin Heredia
“LA to visit my uncles. It’s my first time going. I’m excited to go and meet my uncles and get to know the area.”	“I haven’t seen my godmother in a long time. I’m planning to spend the week with her.”
– Jonathan Velazquez	– Chelsa Ortega

“I’ll be going to the Holiday Youth Convention of my church. The young people of my church go to this convention that takes place in a different state every year. There’s preaching and raffles where we win prizes like T-shirts. We also enjoy different places to eat around the area that are great. It costs around \$100 for three days with chaperones from the church. It’s an awesome experience.”

– Mike Cando
“SAT Prep. I will be surrounding myself in a room full of SAT books.”
– Marcos Perez
“I’m going to North Carolina to play laser tag with my friends.”
– Yulia Valerio
“I will be coding using websites such as Codeacademy and GitHub. I use these websites to practice my coding skills. I feel happy doing this as it’s something that excites me as I do it.”
– Jewel Clarke-Henry
“I will be going to try different restaurants. My goal is to try

to eat at least two dishes from several different countries I have yet to decide on.”

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– Jewel Clarke-Henry
“I will be going to try different restaurants. My goal is to try

“I will be attending a video game tournament for Smash4. It’s going to be pretty exciting.”
– Niraj Sookdeo
“I’m going to go into a long sleep. I’m not going to wake up until school starts.”
– Isaiah Johnson
“I’m going to Dominican Republic for the water parks. The water parks in the United States are nothing compared to those in the Dominican Republic.”
– Hamza Hassan
“I will be going to the State Championships for Robotics in St. Louis, Missouri. I’m excited and am currently looking for items I may need for the trip.”
– Alin Yue

The Teacher I’d Hang Out With...	- Rukhsana Zafer, Senior
by Pamela Tavaréz	“Mr. Mendez. He’s really sweet and caring.” - Jenny Wong, Senior
We asked some students: If you could hang out with a teacher, who would it be and why?	“Mr. Yu. He plays a lot of video games like me so he’s pretty cool. He’s also the advisor of the gamers club.” - Ilia Goro, Junior
“Mr. Vega. He’s awesome. Spending time in leadership has made me get to know him more.” - Josue Pina Senior	“Ms. D’Astolfo. She’s my son! She’s sarcastically funny. I love it.” - Emmanuel Burgiest, Junior
“Mr. Valdez. We have similar personalities and I enjoy all his jokes in class.” - Ryan Ramirez, Sophomore	“Ms. R Nunez. She’s one of the nicest teachers in this school. You can always open up to her if you have any issues. She’s like a friend.” - Kate Canlodo, Sophomore
“Mr. Ali. He’s really funny and interesting. It’s amusing trying to understand his humor.” - Maricarmen Ramirez, Junior	“Mr. Esguerra. He’s really chill. I already hang out with him on my free time. He’s definitely different than all the other teachers.” - Luis Jimenez, Junior
“Ms. Ramdeo. We worship her. I actually enjoy measuring voltages in her class.” - Ian Iyeke, Junior	“Mr. Devaux. He’s a lenient teacher, and he knows a ton about basketball.” - Jovanny Rodriguez, Junior
“Ms. Lewis. She’s very understanding. I can always talk about any issues with her. She’s also really funny.”	“Mr. Bahrenburg. He’s a lit teacher! He makes class really fun and actually enjoyable so imagine outside of the classroom.”

Mythical Monsters Word Search

by Andrea Zaavedra		
S N R K U M M D S L N F W P D N H X Z A H N R V N G K F O P W Z K I Y Y R E V A L K Y R I E O I B I D R Y P L O E A P I M P N C U V D K D V B H A Y F W N H V I L M R A N P G D E Z N X P X R P P Y C F E O L G G Y B C E D H Y I P F U I E L H A Y T B I X Y F E R H F B E W P E G A S U S C T H X T Q P R N U A H C E R P E L O I O J Z E O O O Q K T V L G R J B X B L C G B H J L R J W K I I C R O L L R Z N O G A R D L M Q U B Z F H Q S N X Z K N A U O F N U F W H K T O O S V H J A A I V V I R D A M E T F S R S I I B J R Z S I W Z P L I B Z P T B C R T X S E I R I A F J T R C O O G G I P F F O I B H W M U T Y T E F H A V Q H W B Z T S H U N E P M L O E Q V C Q L F F V A I K X K X O A G I S O E G O K J V L D F I A D U M J C Q F O B B M U F J T V C I D C H Z R H Q I E R U K A J I G F S U B U L T P S R O E J S H M R H B B N N D L P Q X E C Y Q G J G G V J D D C A D I P H M S T D Z U Y W E Q E F Q F H K Z M U E C J X X E Y Y I C T S M I N X Q R E L J X J C Z W L G L U V T A E E A K C O T E C I F B E W S X Z W A N T Q L M C S Y A T D S A U O T D Y V R G D W Z O E N E R I S T G P M Z G U S L U H P W J Z L X X Z Z V E Q L R P F G P K B R A O A G R H C G B E O B N M G I A N T I P K C S L I H W A O W O Y V A G V Y V T T C U P C V W D L S J I B U Q G		
- Jayleen Valenzuela, Freshman	AEGLE APIS BASILISK CENTAUR CHIMERA DRAGON ENYO EPHIALTES FAIRIES FREYBUG GIANT GRIFFIN HYDRA IMP	LEPRECHAUN MERMAID MINOTAUR NYMPH PEGASUS PIXIES SAYTR SIREN TROLL TYPHON UNICORN VALKYRIE WENDIGO ZOMBIES

SENIOR SPORTS PROFILES

by Pamela Tavarez

Alicia Lucero



Girls' Varsity Softball
Years on team: 4

"Alicia is very athletic. She's a really good second base player and has awesome sportsmanship."

- Diana Woloszyn, Freshman

"She's been a great starter in the last two years and is a four year veteran."

- Coach Poltawsky

Katelynn Santiago (Captain)



Girls' Varsity Softball
Years on team: 4

"Katelynn is really great at sports in general. She's a great captain and manages to give us helpful feedback to make us improve."

- Sofia Garcia, Freshman

"She's a four year veteran and has improved tremendously over the last for years. She's become a great captain on the team."

- Coach Poltawsky

Thiralyn Objio



Girls' Varsity Softball
Years on team: 4

"Thiralyn is always breaking her ankle! It shows her dedication to the sport and how hardworking she really is. She's a really fun teammate and has a great arm."

- Victoria Guerrero, Junior

"She has awesome athletic ability. She's definitely one of our best hitters."

- Coach Poltawsky

Katerin Coyago



Girls' Varsity Softball
Years on team: 4

"Katerin is an awesome sport. She's super dedicated and always shows up to practice, despite her injury."

- Stephanie Young, Junior

"She's a four year veteran. She's dedicated and determined and shows up to every game and practice."

- Coach Poltawsky

Jaelene Valladolid



Girls' Varsity Softball
Years on team: 3

"Jaelene is really friendly. She's a really skillful player."

- Sofia Garcia, Freshman

"Jaelene actually quit last year but it's really great to have her back. She's a big help on the team."

- Coach Poltawsky

Andrea Zaavedra (Captain)



Girls' Varsity Flag Football
Years on team: 2

"I think Andrea is an inspiration and really someone I can look up to. She's a great role model since I can go to her for pretty much anything and an awesome captain."

- Jordalin Ortega, Junior

"She's a great player and has awesome leadership skills as the team captain."

- Coach Garofano

Paulette Baque



Girls' Varsity Flag Football
Years on team: 2

"Paulette is one of the most helpful and encouraging mates on the team. She helps us improve on our defense and gives us a lot of helpful advice."

- Kate Canlobo, Sophomore

"Paulette is a great defense player and is a great leader."

- Coach Garofano

Xi Zheng (Captain)



Girls' Varsity Flag Football
Years on team: 3

"Xi has amazing skills and she really knows how to speak to people in a calm yet helpful manner. She's also very serious when it comes to playing which is always a plus."

- Ana Victorino, Junior

"Xi was also named team captain this year. She's a fantastic athlete, and plays both offense and defense."

- Coach Garofano

Jennifer Cosme



Girls' Varsity Flag Football
Years on team: 2

"She's really funny and is a good team player."

- Krismary Arroyo, Sophomore

"Jennifer is a returning player and a great defender."

- Coach Garofano

Isabel Flores



Girls' Varsity Flag Football
Years on team: 1

"Isabel is super athletic and a very fast player. She's a great teammate and tries her best to be there for us."

- Gabriela Sanchez, Sophomore

"She's a great starting defensive player and a productive leader."

- Coach Garofano

Lizbeth Huitzil



Girls' Varsity Flag Football
Years on team: 2

"Lizbeth is a great teammate and tries her best. She's always trying to help others when they need it."

- Gabriela Sanchez, Sophomore

"Lizbeth is another returning player who's a great teammate and a skillful defender."

- Coach Garofano

Dana Johnson



Girls' Varsity Flag Football
Years on team: 1

"She's a good team player, runs fast and can receive the ball well."

- Krismary Arroyo, Sophomore

"Dana is a phenomenal player. It's her first year and she already became a starter."

- Coach Garofano

Beatriz Castro



Girls' Varsity Flag Football
Years on team: 1

"Beatriz always shows up to practice and has a lot of potential."

- Xi Zheng, Senior

"Beatriz is a great addition to the team. She has awesome leadership skills and has picked up quickly as her first year on the team."

- Coach Garofano

Rugby Team: Goodwill Yet Plays Hard

by Istiak Ahmed

After finishing with a 10-8 record in the fall season, the rugby team coached by Robert Mesika, Rosalind Anderson, Toby Butterfield, and Michael Kengmanal look to continue the momentum for the spring season.

The rugby team tied with Monroe High School at the Queens Voc gym for their first scrimmage. The team played against Bronx Lighthouse, a charter school on April 17 at Randall's Island in their second scrimmage. The team will face Manhattan U16, a rugby club, on April 22 for their third scrimmage.

The rugby team will also play in the AIG Cup on June 6 at Randall's Island. "It's a very important tournament to us because we are competing against other teams in the city. It's going to be intense," said Anafi Yasin, senior and rugby player. Mr. Mesika is confident in the team but said that "one thing that the team can improve on is to have the discipline required to play in large rugby tournaments."

The rugby team practices

every Wednesday in the school gym from 6:30 to 7:30pm. "The team practices by playing scrimmages and running through various drills," said Mr. Mesika.

There are 16 boys and girls on the rugby team: Brigitte Barcos, Michael Bennett, Jefferson Castillo, Ahmed Elkady, Jason Gualpa, David Hader, Dario Morocho, Michael Ortega, Alex Pastuizaca, Emanuel Rios, Brandon Rivera, Jerry Riveria, Wilson Tejada, Luis Torres, Karen Ulloa, and Anafi Yasin.

The rugby team is still open to new members. "There are no requirements to join the team. Girls and boys can play. All that is asked of you is show up to practices and give it your all. Everyone who practices will have an opportunity to play scrimmages and tournaments," Mr. Mesika said.

"Anybody who wants to join the team should just do it. The older players are nice to the new people and help them improve. The coaches are amazing and it's just like a family," said Michael Bennett, a senior and one of the captains.



Jose Batista ready to drive in for a basket.

JV Basketball Wins Division

by Cristian Chamba

The junior varsity basketball team took first place in their division and went to the playoffs for the first time in its nine year history.

The team finished the regular season 9-1. They beat the Louis Brandeis Bulldogs in the first round of the playoffs 52-49, but

lost in the second round to Truman High School, 80-40.

“We knew it was going to be a difficult game,” Coach Karcher said. “Truman was a high seeded team in their division.”

Donte Carruth, the team’s small forward said, “Truman had a tall group of guys. Some individuals had good plays that game but as a team we could have

done better.”

The JV basketball team ended its regular season with only one loss against Aviation with a score of 58-56. “Aviation had new players and our lack of defense hurt us in that game,” said team captain Rejon Johnson.

Earlier in the season the Tigers lost two key players, Tyler Settles and Juan Beriguete. Tyler became ineligible and Juan moved away. “Juan was a big part of our team,” said the coach.

“There was never a dull moment,” Ms. Karcher said. “We had a really good season and I am proud of the team for coming so far. I expect the sophomores to keep their grades up and be ready for varsity next year.”

The roster included Jose Batista, Donte Carruth, Fode Diakite, Jamayel Hussain, Zuhayer Hussain, Rejon Johnson, Muamer Ljesnjanin, Vince Alle Ngigit, Jordan Olivares, Randy Paulino Munoz, Edison Rodriguez, and Kevin Tlapanco.

Rough Season for Varsity Basketball



Coach Maloney's positive attitude points to improvements.

by Kevin Henao

The boys’ varsity basketball team ended its second consecutive season in the Queens A West division with a 4-12 record.

“It was a disappointing season. I thought we could have improved in terms of wins, but we had a lot of fun,” said Coach Maloney.

Compared to last year, there were improvements in attendance, confidence level, and skills, said Mr. Maloney, the veteran basketball coach. Yet it wasn’t enough to have a better season, he added.

Andrew Garcia led the team in points-per-game (15.1), Dylan Sankarsingh in rebounds-per-game (6.9), and Marcos Casado in assists-per-game (3.6), according to PSAL.org.

The team’s main struggle this

year was their small size, said Coach Maloney. “We are a small team and we can’t handle the bigger teams. We can compete with teams around our size, but the bigger ones intimidate us. Other schools have guards the size of our center,” said the coach. Lincoln Speer agreed, saying, “We were getting intimidated by the size of other teams, and the criticism of our team by our school and other schools influenced us negatively.”

According to Coach Maloney, the team stuck to what they do best, which is shooting the three and running the fast break. These were the team’s main strengths, yet “when we got away from those two aspects, we struggled badly,” he added.

“Something I have to stop taking for granted is that they can

play the game,” said the coach. To have a more successful season, he added, “I have to focus more on the fundamentals of the game next year.” The fundamentals of the game are passing, dribbling, shooting, defense, and offense.

Coach Maloney is expecting all his juniors, especially Ali Askar and Anthony Cabrera, to come back and be ready to play. “They need to adjust to playing high school basketball, not recreational basketball,” he said. The coach said he has also been scouting some of the sophomores on the JV team to possibly join the varsity team next year.

The members of the team were Malcolm Abney, Ali Askar, Anthony Cabrera, Marcos Casados, Brandon Fernandez, Andrew Garcia, Michael Kammerer, Christopher Morocho, Kevin Penafiel, Joshua Rodriguez, Jovanny Rodriguez, Seamus Ryan, Dylan Sankarsingh, Travis Savino, Lincoln Speer, and Charles Urena, according to PSAL.org.

The teams in the Queens A West division are Aviation High School, Flushing High School, Forest Hills high School, Grover Cleveland high School, John Bowne High School, Long Island City High School, Newtown High School, Queens Vocation High School and William C. Bryant High School. John Bowne High School are the Queens A West division champions.

coach, when the team has its practice they work hard and do well. “Most of the time practice has to either be indoors or cancelled because of the weather conditions,” said Mr. Garofano.

Returning members on the team are Paulette Baque, Kate Lesli Canlobo, Jennifer Cosme, Lizbeth Huitzil Paleta, Vanessa Myroniuk, Andrea Zaavedra, and Xi Zheng. New members on the team are Krismary Arroyo, Beatriz Castro, Isabel Flores, Dana Johnson, Jordalin Ortega, Ana Angela Victorino, and Salma Zaracho.



Dana and Xi converge on opposing player trying to score.

Flag Football

continued from back page

they won nine of 10 games.

Mr. Garofano expects the girls to make it to playoffs. “This year we have a good team, but they can be better,” he said. Sophomore Kate Lesli Canlobo agrees with the coach. “There are several things we can work on to make the team better,” she said. Sophomore Vanessa Myroniuk said, “The team is doing great. We are working on our strengths and weaknesses.

The team has practice four times a week. According to the

Sports Game Schedules

Compiled by Xi Zheng

Boys’ Varsity Handball

04/18 @ LIC
04/20 Aviation @ Queens Voc
04/21 Newcomers @ Queens Voc
05/02 HS for Arts and Business @ World’s Fair Playground

Boys’ Varsity Baseball

04/18 Wagner @ FM #11
04/20 Wagner @ FM #10
04/22 Chelsea CTE @ FM #10
05/02 Collaborative Ed @ Randall’s Island Field 41
05/04 Seward Park Campus @ FM #10
05/07 @ Far Rockaway HS Field (Dbl Hdr)
05/09 Maspeth @ Maurice Ave Field #2
05/11 Maspeth @ FM #10
05/14 @ John Adams HS (NL)
05/16 @ Murry Bergtraum HS

Field
05/18 Washington Irving @ East River Park #6

Girls' Varsity Softball

04/21 @ Bryant
04/26 HS of Complex @ Bush (NL)
05/02 Maspeth @ Juniper Valley Park #3
05/03 Maspeth @ Bush
05/05 Grover Cleveland @ Bush
05/06 Newtown @ Bush
05/10 @ Newtown

Girls' Varsity Flag Football

04/22 Maspeth @ FM #2
05/03 HS of Complex @ Bushwick Inlet Park
05/04 American Studies @ Murray Playground
05/06 John Adams @ FM #2
05/11 TV and Film @ FM #2
05/12 @ John Adams

Boys’ Baseball

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According to Mr. Schimenz, “a big problem with practices is that there are not enough fields for all the teams. The problem with scrimmages and games is that games are supposed to start at 4pm, even though most of players get out at 4:15pm and they still have to travel.”

“I’m not a position coach; I put kids on the field based on eligibility, commitment, attendance, and skills to a certain degree. If a kid is struggling in one position, then we will put him into a position he is comfortable with,” said Mr. Schimenz. The coach said that having players try different positions allows them to contribute the most they can on the field.



Yiannis sets up at short.

“The season is going great so far. I think I’m improving each game I play,” said freshman Joshua Hernandez. “I joined the baseball team because I have played baseball since I was four years old. It’s something that I loved since I was a kid,” said Joshua, who likes that the team does more than just play baseball.

The team hosted its annual pool tournament on Feb. 26, which had over 30 current and former baseball players get together for a fun afternoon. The winners of the tournament were sophomore Jose Batista and alumnus Brandon Taveras (’14).

The Tigers will be participating in the Parks Day clean up on May 15, which is the team’s twelfth community service event of the year. At the end of the season,

the team will hold its annual team dinner, and is planning to update the Queens Voc promotional video they produced six years ago with Queens Voc alumnus Tanvir Toy. “Tanvir Toy is a videographer who was the first player inducted into our Baseball Hall of Fame,” said the coach.

Mauricio Bustamante is the captain of the team for his third year. “Being captain has been a good experience because it has helped me become responsible and develop communication skills. It also helped me understand how much of a family we are on this team,” said Mauricio.

According to the coach, “Mauricio Bustamante won a \$2,000 scholarship from the Action Team for leading community service projects over the past three years. He was recognized for planning, organizing, and leading the team efforts at Poppenhusen Institute and Flushing Meadows Park. Mauricio has done a great job running our community service projects and it’s nice to see him recognized for his efforts. His positive attitude and his ability to work with adults in various organizations have helped him and the team tremendously.”

On April 11, Mauricio co-hosted a national Action Team conference call to discuss his efforts as an Action Team captain. Mauricio did well, said his coach. “The effects he and the team put in have helped us because naturally recognized for our work,” he added.

Mauricio suggested that if you are going to be on the team, you have to have the heart and motivation. “Be a team player and do more for the team than for yourself,” said Mauricio.



Mauricio enjoying the season.



Girls’ Softball Team Makes the Dream Work



Thiraly winds up for a strikeout.

by Mauricio Bustamante

Halfway through the season, the girls’ softball team has 3 wins and 3 losses.

The team’s coach, Ms. Poltawsky, is thrilled. “I think we’re doing well this season, especially because we’re in a new, tougher division.”

The team was placed in Division Queens B II and won its first and second games against Bryant HS with scores of 22-8 and 27-14, and won its third game against Grover Cleveland 29-5. But the team lost its fourth game

against Maspeth 10-9, its fifth game to Grover Cleveland 30-29, and its sixth game to Newtown 22-10.

“We lost our games because we made errors on the field and had trouble scoring because we’re not used to pitchers at the level of Maspeth’s and Newtown’s pitchers. They were pitching really fast and the girls had trouble hitting. Also, the absence of our starting pitcher and other players really affected our ability to play well in the games,” said the coach. Some of the players miss games and practices because of college

class or SAT prep. “In order for us to win and do well this season, we need to be dedicated and give 100 percent all the time,” said Coach Poltawsky.

Captain and four-year veteran, Katelynn Santiago, agrees. “The absence of certain players has affected the way we play. Some of the girls have other priorities and miss games or practice,” she said.

According to the coach, Katelynn was appointed captain because, “she stepped up and took on a leadership role. She organized the bake sale, is a great motivator, and has a great relationship with her teammates.” “I felt shocked and honored when I was appointed as captain of the team because I wasn’t sure if Poltawsky saw me as leadership material. I know she wants me to lead the team as a good example, make sure everyone is motivated and dedicated, and that everything is well organized,” said Katelynn.

There are 12 players on the roster: seniors Katerin Coyago, Alicia Lucero, Thiraly Obijo, Katelynn Santiago, and Jaelene Valladolid; juniors Victoria Guerrero, Valeria Murillo, Amber Rivera, and Stephanie Young; sophomores Arlyne Alfaro and Tatyanna Redillo, and Bertha Romero; and freshman Diana Woloszyn.

the teams’ lack of height led to them struggling to get rebounds. Their tallest player was their center, Victoria Guerrero, who was 5’6. The team was shorter compared to other teams.

The only regular season loss was to Maspeth.

“There may be people who have more talent than you, but there is no excuse for anyone to work harder than you,” said Xi Zheng, captain of the team.

The three seniors on the team, Katelynn Santiago, Samantha Perez, and Xi Zheng, were vital to the teams’ success, said Coach Devaux. “Kate and Xi played for four years and Samantha for two years. I don’t want single anyone out because basketball is a team sport and one person can’t do it alone,” he added.

The members of the team were Kate Canlobo, Anely Cortes, Victoria Guerrero, Ziaire Morgan, Vanessa Myroniuk, Jordalin Ortega, Samantha Perez, Tatyanna Redillo, Amber Rivera, Valeria Sanchez, Katelynn Santiago, Ashma Tamang, Diana Woloszyn, and Xi Zheng according to PSAL.org.

Tigers Sports Continued Inside

Baseball Season: So Good So Far



Edison waits for his pitch.

by Istiaikh Ahmed

The boys’ varsity baseball team started strong with six straight wins. But on Friday, April 15, they lost to Baruch Campus HS, 6-4 in extra innings.

In their first game of the season, The Tigers defeated Academy for Careers in Television and Film 10-0. They then defeated Academy for Careers in Television and Film 19-1, defeated Frank Sinatra 13-7 and 20-2, defeated Info Tech 6-0 and 11-1.

“The first Info Tech game was our best game so far because it was competitive and we made few mistakes,” said Mr. Schimenz, who has been the coach of the baseball team for two decades.

“Our loss to Baruch was more of a giveaway,” he said.

The team has “played a lot of non-league games and that has helped us get players into positions and helped the guys learn to work together. We’ve had some problems with the idea of team players, which hurt us in the beginning, but we’re working together now,” said Mr. Schimenz.

The Tigers generally play two league games a week unless they play crossover games against Manhattan teams, when they play three. Rain-outs impact the number of games per week, but the team has worked hard to keep the fields playable said the coach.

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Girls' Flag Football has High Hopes for Playoffs



Xi sprints to get the girl's flag to prevent a touchdown.

by Jonathan Flores

The girls’ flag football team went to Bryant High School on Friday, April 15 and with a 19-18 win, brought their record to 3-1.

Two days earlier, the Lady Tigers defeated Bryant 13-12. In their second game, on Monday, April 11, at Flushing Meadows Park against Queens High School Complex. The girls lost 0-38. Their first game on Friday, April 8 at Murray Playground against Academy for Careers in Television and Film ended with a 13-0 win.

The girls have six games remaining. Mr. Garofano, the coach, said he didn’t schedule any scrimmages this year because he did not want to. Their next game will be on Friday, April 22 at Flushing Meadows Park against Maspeth High School. Other teams in their division are John Adams and Academy of American Studies.

Last year, the team won six of their 10 games and the year before they won nine of 10 games.

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Girls’ Basketball Team Wins Division Championship



Lady Tiger, ready and focused.

by Kevin Henao

The girls’ varsity basketball team ended its season as champions of the Queens West B2 division with an 11-1 record. The girls won the first two rounds of the playoffs before being eliminated.

The team was the seventh seed in the B Division and received a bye in the first round. They defeated High School of Info and Network Technology in the second round, 49 to 38. They were eliminated in the third round by Millennium High School, 41 to 21.

“We have high expectations every year and I think we met them. We won our division

and qualified for the playoffs. We fell short of winning the championship, but we advanced to the quarter finals,” said Coach Devaux. “Our ultimate goal is to win the championship for Queens Voc,” he added.

Xi Zheng led the team in points-per-game (13.8), Victoria Guerrero in rebounds-per-game (10.4), and Anely Cortes Molina in assists-per-game (2.5), according to PSAL.org.

Practice, said the coach was the key this year. According to Coach Devaux, the team would either practice or play basketball games Monday through Saturday. This helped the team form good team chemistry.

“They played really well together. The girls knew where everyone was on the court. They were all friends on and off the court. We played together as one and we covered each other when someone made a mistake,” said Coach Devaux. “They all got along and were especially close with each other,” he added.

Samantha Perez, a senior on the team, said, “I think the team did an amazing job this year because we had better chemistry. Everyone helped one another to make sure that we all understood what we were practicing.”

According to Coach Devaux,