

Vocational Voice

Vol. LXXVI No. 4

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

Summer, 2011



Soon-to-be graduates are all smiles during their big night.

Seniors Celebrate their *Moment in Time* at Terrace on the Park

by Karina Villalobos

The seniors enjoyed their final night together at the senior prom, on Friday, June 3. The prom was held at Terrace on the Park, in Flushing Meadows-Corona Park, from 8pm to 1am.

There were 166 students and guests, and 18 chaperones.

Because of the senior food festivals, the price of a prom ticket was discounted for the first hundred-twenty five people who purchased their tickets. The price was \$70, and later jumped to \$110.

Preparation for this night took months according to Mr. Vega, who coordinated the prom.

The senior officers, along with seniors Vanessa Obando, Thomas Hock, Rocio Vicencio, Kevin Diaz, and Stephanie Reyes were a huge help when planning the big event, said Mr. Vega.

After students ate and danced, Mr. Vega had them settle down so they could announce prom royalty: Duke and Duchess went to Aristeo Quiroz and Sherice Berkeley, Maria Toro and Roberto Castillo won princess and prince, and Sebastion Bonilla and Florencia Oviedo won king and queen. Prom royalty is picked at random so no one feels left out, Mr. Vega said. “It was shocking,” Florencia said, “because I never thought my name would be called out of all the other girls in our class.”

Mr. Vega believes the prom is almost like a coming of age. It is the first real opportunity students have to be formal, and it gives them an opportunity to reflect on their experiences in Queens Voc. Senior Aichel Rivera said the prom “was the most incredible, memorable, and craziest night of my life.” Hugo Collado said, “It was a great experience, and the view

from the top of Terrace on the Park was beautiful.”

“I absolutely think prom is essential. You only graduate from high school once, and I think it is one of those nights you never forget,” said Ms. Burg. “Even though I only speak to a couple of people from my high school, I have the pictures and the memories. I think it is a rite of passage.”

Thomas Hock’s favorite part of the night was when everyone first arrived. “I enjoyed seeing everyone’s reaction, and taking pictures,” he said. “Of course, the dancing was fun too.”

“I’ve gone to at least 15 proms in my career and this was the nicest,” said Ms. Torres, who chaperoned the prom. “Everyone was so united, there was a real sense of camaraderie.”

Lauren Beltre said prom

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AIDS Walk: Queens Voc Students Raise \$2,000

by Daniela Heredia

Thirty Queens Voc students participated in the AIDS Walk in Central Park, on Sunday, May 15. Ms. Kurnitz, who is in charge of the GSA, along with its president, Steffi Garcia, and vice president, Juan Pablo Palacio, helped organize the participation of Queens Voc in the walk. They were aiming to get a large group from all grades, ethnicities, and sexual orientation.

The Queens Voc students raised about \$2,000 for AIDS Walk. The money is divided between about a dozen organizations, with most of the funds going to the Gay Men’s Health Crisis, according to the Aids Walk website.

Ms. Kurnitz, who has attended an AIDS walk before, registered the school online. Schools or teams of 25 people

or more that participated were given a display table and banner with the school’s name. Students met in Central Park where the school’s table was reserved.

“The AIDS walk helped put the GSA out there; we wanted to let people know that this club is for everyone who wants to join,” explained Ms. Kurnitz.

The walk started at 10am. To encourage Queens Voc students to participate in the AIDS walk, the GSA made posters and placed them around the school, and announcements were made to encourage students and staff to participate.

Sophomore Ashley DeMoss, who is a member of the GSA, attended the walk. “I felt proud and relieved to know I can be part of something so great and help people,” said Ashley, who also attended the Breast Cancer Walk.



Bad weather did not stop R=AIN from participating.

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Regents Schedule June 2011

June 15 Wednesday	June 16 Thursday	June 17 Friday	June 20 Monday	June 21 Tuesday	June 22 Wednesday	June 23 Thursday
9:15am	9:15am	9:15am	9:15am	9:15am	9:15am	9:15am
Regents in Global History & Geography	Regents in U.S. History & Government	Comprehensive English	RCT in Global Studies	Living Environment		Geometry RCT in Writing
1:15pm	1:15pm	1:15pm	1:15pm	1:15pm	1:15pm	
Physical Setting/ Physics RCT in Science	Integrated Algebra	Physical Setting/ Earth Science	RCT in Reading	Algebra 2/ Trigonometry RCT in U.S. History & Government	Physical Setting/ Chemistry RCT in Math	Admission Deadlines Morning Exams: 10am Afternoon Exams: 2pm

GOOD LUCK!

Prom

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night felt “just like a movie.” Senior Jonathan Reyes agreed saying “It was the exact senior experience you would see in the movies. I thought prom was going to be a repeat of the

luncheon, but I was wrong. Prom was in every way a new experience.”

When students first walked in, they had the option of signing up to take pictures in front of a nicely decorated backdrop. Students were given a receipt so they could see the pictures online and then decide whether or not to purchase the pictures.

Students to Attend Winning Ideas Weekend

by Daniel Corona

Armando Avila and Kevin Hernandez will attend the Free to Choose Network’s 4th annual Winning Ideas Weekend, at Peek ‘n Peak Resort in Clymer, NY, from June 23-25.

Senior Armando Avila has attended every Winning Ideas Weekend (WIW) since it was first held in New York City in



Armando shoots video. 2008. “Every year has been a fun experience and I get to meet so many people and to discuss ideas that make this country so great,” he said. Armando has met many economists, entrepreneurs, and video producers.

Two years ago, Armando went to Chicago with Mr. Schimenz, who had won an izzit.org teacher of the year award. “That was the highlight,” Armando said, “being there with my teacher and coach, to see him receive the award.” From beginning to

end, the experience was great, he said, “beginning with being picked up in a stretch limo.” Last year, Armando traveled to San Francisco for the event.

Freshman Kevin Hernandez, will be attending WIW for the first time. “I’m looking forward to it. I’ve heard its lots of fun and educational. I can’t wait to attend,” said Kevin.

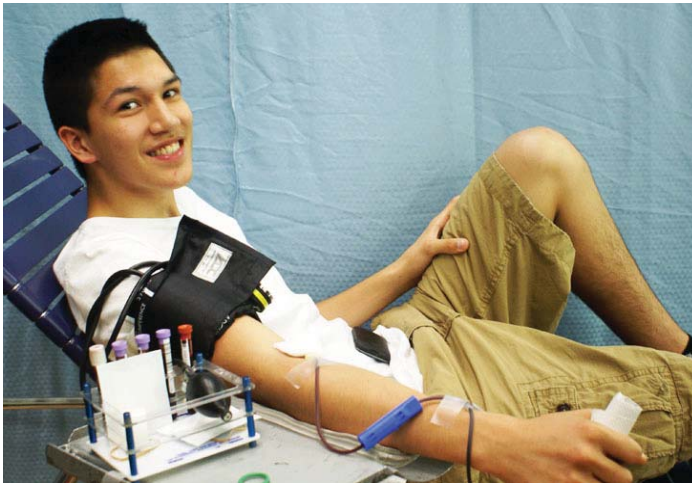
The students who attend help produce a brief documentary, participate in workshops, and learn about the free market from entrepreneurs and economists.

Like Armando, Mr. Schimenz has attended every WIW. In 2008, he put on a presentation with several Queens Voc students, including Armando. At the first WIW, Mr. Schimenz presented the izzit video, *Everyone’s Space*, a brief documentary about private space exploration.

Armando plans to keep busy the weekend before he graduates. “There is not a lot of free time,” said Armando, “they always have an action-packed weekend for us.” The weekend concludes with the David and Annette Jorgensen Award for Excellence Banquet, at which five teachers from across the country receive Teacher of the Year awards for using izzit’s classroom materials “in innovative ways and made a difference in the lives of their students.”

For more information on the Winning Ideas Weekend, visit winningideasweekend.org.

Spring Blood Drive: Sixty Units of Blood Collected



Sebastian celebrates the joy of giving.

by Kevin Peterson

Queens Voc’s spring blood drive was held on Wednesday, May 25, in the auditorium. Sixty units of blood were donated by the 69 students and staff who signed up.

Mr. Vega, coordinator of student activities, organized the event with the help of students in his leadership class. According to Mr. Vega, the blood drive is held twice a year.

Jean Caidor, a blood donor specialist from the New York Blood Center, said potential

donors must be at least 16 years of age with parental consent, 17-76 with their own consent, or over 76 with medical clearance. They also have to be over 110 pounds. After the age and weight requirement are met, a questionnaire must be completed to ensure the eligibility of the potential donors. After the questionnaire is completed, vital signs are checked, and then a blood iron test is conducted to make sure potential donors are well enough to give blood.

Twenty-one students and

staff members did not meet the minimum criteria to donate and they were turned away.

Mr. Caidor said that about one pint of blood is taken per donor and the time it takes varies because people’s bodies react differently while they are losing blood. If a donor becomes disoriented, “we have a well trained staff to assist with discomfort,” he said.

After the donation was complete, said Mr. Vega, the donors were escorted to the refreshment area, where cookies, crackers, chips, juice, and water were provided by the New York Blood Center. Donors were required to stay in the refreshment area for at least 20 minutes to ascertain that they were well enough to continue with their day.

Mert Avcu, a senior, was happy to give blood. “I’m glad I was able to help save somebody’s life,” he said.

Mr. Caidor gives Queens Voc “two thumbs up” compared to other school’s blood donations. He said he was very pleased with the generosity of the staff and students, and the organization was better too.

For more information on blood donations, students and staff can check out nybloodcenter.org.

Select Jewelry: QV Partner

by Karina Villalobos

David Seliktar, vice president of Select Jewelry visited Queens Voc’s junior graphic arts class, on Monday, May 23.

Select Jewelry is a Queens Voc corporate partner for graphic arts and web design. While at Queens Voc, the students showed Mr. Seliktar their portfolios, demonstrating the skills they had learned in previous years.

One of the students will be interning for Mr. Seliktar, so

he wanted to see the students’ capabilities.

This was not Mr. Seliktar’s first visit to Queens Voc, though. He visited Queens Voc numerous times in the past as part of the Go Green campaign. Select Jewelry promoted their Jewelry for Trees program at Queens Voc about two years ago. There was a ceremony in the front of the school at which a tree that Select jewelry donated to Queens Voc was planted.

Select Jewelry, practically the school’s next door neighbor, is located at 47-28 37 Street.



Brian Vasquez shows his graphic arts project to Mr. Seliktar.

Armando Avila Receives Award

Armando Avila receiving an award at the Queens Borough Rotary High School Awards luncheon on May 24 at the LaGuardia Airport Hotel.



Late Breaking News:

Kelly Ann Kato Wins Award for Excellence

Kelly Ann Kato was presented with the Presidential Award for Excellence at Queens College, on Monday, June 6, at 7pm.

Each high school nominated a student who exemplified a strong academic record and a strong service record complete with leadership experience in various areas.

The ceremony was attended

by faculty from Queens College who spoke about the many opportunities afforded to students attending. There was also a presentation from the Director of the MacCauly Honors College for the highest academic students.

Kelly Ann’s family and Ms. Abrams were in attendance. Refreshments were served after the ceremony.



Kelly Ann Kato



Ms. Himmel and her Poetry Slam winners.

Poetry Slams its Way into QV

by Jennifer Sanchez

After a very close competition, senior Valentina Betancourt was declared the winner of the 2011 Poetry Slam with 75 points, narrowly beating out Armando Molina, who took second with 74 points, and senior Andrew Adames, who took third place with 70 points.

"I was so nervous. I think the most nervous one of them all. I thought I was going to run out of there," said Valentina Betancourt, "It was the best feeling ever when I found out I won. I wasn't aiming to win; I just wanted to be recognized for something."

Nine students participated in the 2011 Poetry Slam, which was held in the auditorium, before a crowd of hundreds of students. The Poetry Slam was held during periods seven and eight on Friday, May 20.

According to the judges—school aide Mr. Lara, English teacher Mr. Ackerman, sophomore Ashley DeMoss,

and sophomore Khiran Samsundar—the contestants were judged on how they delivered their poems and how long they took to deliver each poem. The judges gave the contestants a score from 1 to 10, 10 being the best. Each contestant had to recite two poems, one that they liked that was written by someone else and the other had to be one they wrote themselves. The slam was divided into two rounds.

In the first round, the contestants recited a poem that they liked but had not written themselves. First up was senior Andrew Adames who recited "The First Time" by Rachel Gibbons and scored 32 points. Second to perform was senior Valentina Betancourt who recited "Piano," a provocative poem by Cash Onlii, which caused much commotion among the crowd and scored her 36 points. "Valentina's personality came through the poem she read. She impressed me," said Mr. Lara. Senior

Miguel Cruz followed up with "Alone" by Edgar Allen Poe. He scored 23 points. Next was junior Salvatore Isabella, who recited "Examination of Conscience," by Shel Silverstein, which earned him 25 points. Senior Armando Molina went next, scoring 34 points with Tupac Shakur's "Sometimes I Cry." Senior Ariel Obando scored 33 points with the poem "Loisfarbari" by Aracely Gremis. Junior Sanjeev Thapa took the stage next and recited Robert Frost's "The Road Not Taken," which earned him 23 points. Junior Jonathan Castro's recitation of "Love" by Clarence Stewards earned him 30 points. Wrapping up the first round was sophomore Marlon Paton, who recited a poem by Maya Angelou and scored 32 points.

Ms. Himmel, along with masters of ceremonies, Raymond Diaz and Jeffrey Carrion, maintained control of the crowd while the performers were on stage and entertained the crowd between the changes of periods.

Before round two began senior Trae Hall performed a rap for the audience. He received an unofficial score of 39 points from the judges.

In round two the students had to recite a poem they wrote. Andrew Adames opened up with a personal rap titled "Relationship with Music." He scored 38 points. Valentina Betancourt recited her untitled poem about the many things she wished she could tell her parents, earning her 39 points. Miguel Cruz scored 27 points with his poem "For Her." "Analysis of Baseball," Salvatore Isabella's poem, scored 28 points. Armando

Molina's rap, "I Used to Wonder," earned him 39 points. Ariel Obando scored 36 points with his "The Effect You Have on Others." Sanjeev Thapa scored 29 points with his poem, "Origin of Me." Jonathan Castro scored 31 points with "The Decision," and Marlon Paton closed out the poetry recitation by scoring 32 points with "Forgive Me First Love."

When the poets had finished there was a brief delay to count the scores and determine the

winners. After several minutes of anticipation, assistant Aichel Rivera announced the first, second, and third place winners of the slam. After the applause died down, Ms. Himmel declared an open mic, for any student who had a poem, rap, or freestyle to share with the audience. Senior Marines Lago stepped up and recited a poem she remembered from the third grade. A freshman, Isiah Lyons, recited a poem about his personal life.

Web Design Students Earn Adobe Certification

by Shiva Rampaul

This year's Queens Voc web design students achieved the highest passing scores on their certification exams, according to Ms. Ruiz, the web design teacher.

The Adobe Certification Associate Exam in Dreamweaver and Adobe Certification Associate Exam in Photoshop were the two certification exams taken by web design students. The exams "validate one's proficiency in Adobe digital communications tools," according to Adobe.com. Both exams require a score of 600 to pass, out of a maximum 900.

Students took the Adobe Certification Associate Exam in Photoshop during February, in room 454. "Thirty out of thirty-one students passed with an average score of about 820," said Ms. Ruiz. The Adobe Certification Associate Exam in Dreamweaver exam was taken in April with 24 of 31 students passing with an average score of 740.

Students who passed the

Adobe Certification Associate Exam in Dreamweaver were: Fernando Acevedo, Andrew Adames, Maria Amay, Jessica Angel, Armando Avila, Mayra Bajana, Julissa Ballesteros, Johnny Chino, Shennel Cole, Andrea Cordoba, Esther Enriquez, Steffi Garcia, Erika Guaman, Edwin Herrera, Jairus Hizon, Wendao Liu, Alan Merchan, Alex Molina, Kelly Ramirez, Jonathan Reyes, Emilee Rosa, Alexis Smith, and Catherine Velasquez.

Students who passed Adobe Certification Associate Exam in Photoshop were: Melanie Acevedo, Robert Agui, Nicole Alvarez, Dorothy Bailey, Kimani Brown, Federico Castillo, Laura Duarte, David Escobar, Raigine Folk, Ruth Galarza, Wendy Garcia, Shehab Gazi, Raymond Gomez, Jessika Guerrero, Leiry Jaquez, Dayvon Jones, Saul Llapa, Stephanie Maldonado, Judy Moy, Seida Muratovic, Samantha Ojeda, Catherine Ortiz, Alondra Payan, Alison Perry, Marlen Ramirez, Nathaniel Rodriguez, Michael Roman, Priya Seejoor, Karena Tangarife, and Johanna Torres.

SCEET Proves Physics Can Be FUN

by Armando Avila

Many people go to amusement parks to go on rides. Going to an amusement park to learn physics? That's unheard of.

One hundred students from SCEET, and some Skills USA participants, attended Physics Day at Six Flags Great Adventure, on Friday, May 6.

Every Friday from April 29 to May 27, Six Flags held physics, math, and science days. Ms. Maraj, coordinator of SCEET, came up with the idea to have students attend Physics Day. Mr. Alikakos thought the idea was "a very creative way of having students learn physics

hands-on."

According to Ms. Maraj, 10th and 11th grade SCEET students "who showed outstanding grades in physics or math" were selected by their teachers, and invited to attend the trip. "Skills USA participants were also invited. This was my way of congratulating them on their hard work and success at the state competition," said Ms. Maraj. Also, about 10 SCEET students from the senior photonics class attended.

The buses departed for Great Adventure at 7:30am, but because of bus malfunctions, the buses didn't arrive at the park until 11am and the students missed the physics presentation

at Six Flags at the amusement park.

"Students were given workbooks that corresponded with the roller coasters at Six Flags on their way to the amusement park," said Ms. Maraj. "Students did the work at their own convenience," she added. The workbook focused primarily on concepts of Newton's Laws of Motion; force and acceleration; kinematics; rotational and circular motion; work, power, and energy; and conservation of energy and momentum.

"The packet helped us learn about the rides at Six Flags," said junior Chorten Dolma. "The problems were based on basic physics. I found it very interesting," she added.

According to Mr. Alikakos, \$6,380 was spent on the trip. \$1,870 went towards



Students enjoyed their educational trip to Six Flags.

transportation and \$4,510 went to students' Six Flags admission tickets and lunch.

"We were very fortunate to fill a request a teacher had. Many times we don't have the resources to provide for these trips," said Mr. Alikakos. "Ms. Maraj did a wonderful job

getting the trip organized with so many kids," he added.

"It was a lot of fun," said Elixandra Brienza. "Pretty cool," she added.

"It would be a good idea to do this trip again next year. It is very educational," said Chorten.



El readies students for Construction Skills.

Seniors Prepared for Union Opportunities

by Larry LeBeau

One of the reasons students attend Queens Voc is to learn a trade they can use the rest of their lives. Every year, the most qualified plumbers and electricians are chosen to attend Construction Skills 2000, “a pathway for students to enter directly into the work force and city jobs,” Mr. Ali said.

According to Mr. Ali, of the 300 or so students in SSBT, only 18 students were chosen to participate. One student was chosen from SCEET.

“To be qualified, students must have a 75 on the English Regents and a 75 on any math Regents, as well as have a good cumulative average,” said Mr. Ali. Mr. Maloney, the senior EI teacher said, “We pick a lot of students for the program but unfortunately due to grades, some were eliminated from the application process. Those who were accepted deserved the opportunity they were given.”

Construction Skills is a two part program. According to Mr. Ali, 18 of the 19 students who participated completed the first part, which was attending a class every Monday for 10 weeks at the program’s training facility

in Manhattan. “The first hour of each three-hour class was math, because measurements are important to the trades. During the next two hours, the teachers, Jim and Bill, lectured about life in the unions and about the different trades,” said Shanice Xochmitl, an electrical installation student.

During spring break the students had to visit two unions for a symposium. EI student Sergio Martinez said his “favorite symposium was the operating engineers, the union I want to join, because it looks fun and they pay well.” Among their choices were the plumbers, steamfitters, painters, operating engineers, heat and frost insulators, tile, marble and terrazzo, mason tenders, iron workers, and structural iron workers unions. Every student was also required to visit the carpenters union because they were having a competition of current apprentices.

The last week of class, the students took a final exam, consisting of ruler measurements, fractions, and reading blueprints, and a final exam for the lecture section.

Part two is a three to four week internship over the

summer, which will give the participants a lot of hands-on experience. Tristan Ponce, a plumbing student, said “I think the summer internship is going to be long and hard, but a good way to prepare us for the unions.”

Mr. Ali said he opened the program to students in the other SLCs “because it’s fair. One student in SCEET, Florenica Oviedo, decided to take this path,” he said. Florenica said that “Mr. Ali told my class about the program. I guess I was the only one who took advantage. As an electronics student, I am prepared for the construction industry. My shop class does a lot of math, which is important in the unions, and my 60-hour internship has prepared me too. I installed lights and antennas in taxis, and made different types of cables,” she added.

Because of the recession, the unions aren’t as quick to hire new apprentices. According to Mr. Ali, the electrical union has a two and a half year waiting list, and the plumbing union has a one year wait list. Because of the long wait list for the electrical union, many students chose different unions so they could go straight to work. Mr. Maloney isn’t worried about his electrical students. “The students we send have proved they have the hand skills to work with tools, so they can learn any new trade.”

The 18 students who completed part one are: Mert Avcu, Raymond Diaz, Denisse Flores, Jonatan German, Roger Haynes, Natalie Kavral, Lawrence LeBeau, Sergio Martinez, Maximo Muniz, Dennis Ortega, Florenica Oviedo, Kevin Peterson, Tristan Ponce, Henry Rivas, Jose Rosales, Jennifer Sanchez, Maria Toro, and Shanice Xochmitl.

These 18 students will take part two of the program during the summer.

NOCTI Exams Demonstrate Student Career-Readiness

by Freddy Flores

In May, 37 senior cosmetology students took the cosmetology NOCTI exam and 47 junior business students took the accounting NOCTI exam. [The results for the exams are not yet in.]

NOCTI stands for National Occupational Competency Testing Institute. The exams are used to measure the competency of the students in their respective subject.

Cosmetology

According to Ms. Quartuccio, one of the cosmetology teachers, the cosmetology NOCTI exam is a two-part examination that “compares our students’ skills with students across the nation.”

This examination is divided into two parts: a written part and a practical part. Both parts were given in the second week of May. The written part consists of multiple-choice questions testing on all the subjects learned in the cosmetology class from the 9th grade exploratory program to the 12th grade.

The practical is the hands-on part that tests on all of the learned skills, such as hair-cutting and hair-styling. Each part was three hours long.

“The students seemed very confident about the exam,” said Ms. Quartuccio. In preparation for this exam, the students reviewed the content learned throughout all four years. “The passing rate has usually been around 85%,” said Ms. Quartuccio. She believes that this year 90-95% of her students might have passed.

Samantha Puig, a senior cosmetology student, said that the test was “very simple. I was very confident, and I think for sure that I passed it.” Among other things, Samantha had to do some hair-cutting, one of the skills that Ms. Quartuccio said might have been more

challenging.

Students who fail the cosmetology NOCTI exam will not receive their certification, and not earn an endorsed diploma.

Accounting

The accounting NOCTI exam took place during the fourth week of May. Ms. Mitchell and Mr. Alohan are the two teachers who train the two junior classes for this exam.

According to Ms. Mitchell, the exam is divided into two parts: a performance part and a written part. The performance portion consists of the filling of business paperwork, like worksheets and balances. The written part consists of 169 multiple-choice questions.

During test preparation for this exam, Ms. Mitchell observed that her class was “well focused,” and is confident that her students did well.

One of Ms. Mitchell’s students, Yanil Ortiz, said that she felt very confident leading up to the exam. “I received good training from Ms. Mitchell, and even though the exam is very challenging, I believe I’m going to do well,” she said.

The exams were shipped to NOCTI on June 1. It takes 14 business days for them to be graded and returned to the school.

The accounting NOCTI exam is one of the requirements that business students need to pass in order for them to receive an endorsed diploma.

Results Approach A+ C-Tech Seniors Take CompTIA A+ Certification

by Alex Molina

Senior C-Tech students have completed their CompTIA A+ certification, which “validates foundation-level knowledge and skills necessary for a career in PC support” according to Mr. Rodriguez.

“The A+ Certification exam questions students from the basics of computer repair to advance security and networking,” said Mr. Rodriguez. The A+ Certification is the starting point for a career. The certification proves

competence in areas such as installation, preventative maintenance, networking, security, and troubleshooting.

Michael Dowlatram, who took the exam, said he “felt prepared for this test.” Another test taker, Fredrick Jah, said that “studying has its rewards. My advice to next year’s test takers is to pay attention in class and study hard; do not slack,” he said.

The A+ Certification is broken into two sections. The first section is called CompTIA A+ Essentials, or exam code

220-701. The second section exam is called CompTIA A+ Practical Application, or exam code 220-702. The exams test the students’ knowledge of advanced computer assembly and repair, advanced networking, and software-related installation and troubleshooting. As a whole, said Mr. Rodriguez, the A+ certification reflects the skills of a technician with years of experience.

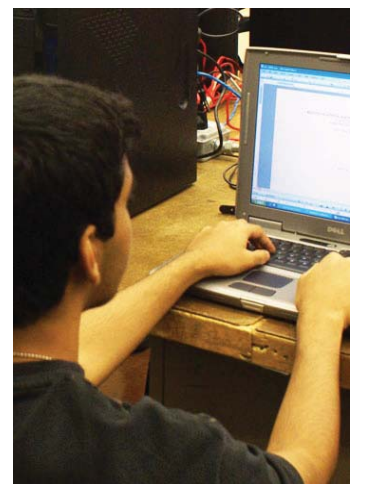
This year, according to Mr. Rodriguez, approximately eight-five percent of the

students passed the first section. Results of students passing the second section are still pending. Students who took either section and failed “can, with some restrictions, retake the exam three times in a calendar year. If a student fails the first attempt, he or she can immediately retake the exam within 24 hours. If a student fails in a second attempt, he or she will have to wait 30 days to retake the exam,” said Mr. Rodriguez.

Mr. Rodriguez said he was “expecting a higher passing rate. As a teacher, I gave it my best to teach everything I knew and give them what I could within my resources.”

Next year, Mr. Rodriguez

will not be teaching the senior C-Tech class; that responsibility will be taken on by Mr. David. Instead, Mr. Rodriguez will teach the incoming freshmen.



Working on certification.

Senior Year Winding Down

by Thomas Arbelaez

Graduation rehearsals will be held in the Queens Voc auditorium the week of June 20, Regents week, according to Mr. Vega. Graduation will be on held on June 27, at LaGuardia Community College.

The prom took place on Friday, June 3, at Terrace on the Park, from 8pm to 1am. According to Mr. Vega, the prom theme was “Our Moment In Time.” At the prom, a “royal court” was selected. It included a king, queen, prince, princess, duke, and a duchess. According to Mr. Vega, all seniors were nominated for selection and names were drawn randomly. The selected students were given sashes saying “Royal Court Prom 2011.”

On Friday May 20, a ring ceremony was held for the 15 seniors who bought senior class rings.

Speakers included Ms. Burg, Mr. Vega, and Mr. Jose Marine, from Herff Jones, the ring company. After they spoke, each student was called up to receive his or her ring. “My parents went because they wanted to experience a memorable moment before my graduation,” said Kevin Peterson. Kevin said he was excited to receive his ring because it was a symbol of his high school memories. He said it was about \$300, but worth it. According to Mr. Vega, the families of Valentina Betancourt, Thomas Palermo, and Kevin Peterson were there for the event. The following



Senior officers cut the cake.

students bought school rings: Amreen Akbar, Valentina Betancourt, Floyd Desouza, Francesca Duarte, Samantha Green, Erika Guaman, Thomas Hock, Brandon Navarrete, Louis Pacheco, Thomas Palermo, Kevin Peterson, Laurosa Smith, and Aneita Torres.



Seniors show off their high school rings at the senior ring ceremony.

OSHA Ensures Safe Career For SSBT Students

by Florencia Oviedo

For the past three years, seniors in SSBT have been required to get certified in the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulations and compliance. Plumbing students who pass the certification get the OSHA 10 card, while the electrical installation students get the OSHA 30 certification, which requires more work.

OSHA training requires students to take notes from PowerPoint slide show modules on OSHA.gov. Plumbing students must complete nine modules and electrical installation students need to complete 16 modules. Students need a 75 or higher on both the module exams and on the final to get certified.

“Currently in NYC, construction sites require a minimum certification of 10 hours of OSHA training,” said Mr. Bowen, OSHA instructor and electrical installation teacher. The OSHA certification teaches students safety standards. “It is nice to know safety measures and rules,” said Jeffrey Carrion, a student in electrical installation. “I wish I had the opportunity



What not to do.

to get OSHA certified because my shop deals with electrical and mechanical equipment, and we should have had the chance to learn about these safety precautions,” said Ala Alhanshali, a student in electronics.

“The OSHA training should be given to all students because we’re a CTE school and safety is important,” said Mr. Ali, director of SSBT. More teachers are being certified with OSHA within the next school year to help more students get certified in other shops. Mr. Ali added that C-Tech, electronics, and cosmetology students should also be certified with an OSHA 10 card.

Financial Literacy Outcome Shows Positive Results

by Dilpreet Singh

Throughout the week of May 16, 197 of 211 Economics students took the Financial Literacy Certification test; and 159 students, 80.7%, were certified. The average score of all students taking the certification exam was 72.9%.

According to Mr. Davidson only one student received a 95% or above on the test, Cristofer Rodriguez. “It was nice that I was the only person who received this” Cristofer said. According to Mr. Davidson, Cristofer is considered a scholar because of his score and was honored, along with students from other schools who scored a 95% or better, at the Museum of American Finance, on Wednesday, June 8.

In Mr. Davidson’s H8PH-01 class, all 32 students in the class took the test, and 30 of them passed, a 93.8% certification rate. The average score was 79.0%. In Mr. Davidson’s other class, H8C-01, all 34 students took the exam, and 32 of them passed, a 94.1%, certification rate. The class average was

79.4%. “I was pleased with the results, it showed that the students are financially literate,” Mr. Davidson said.

In Mr. Zambrotta’s H82-01 class, 28 of 34 students took the exam, and 21 students, 75%, earned their certification. The class average was 70.9%. In his H82-02 class, 27 of 28 students took the exam, and 20 students, 74.1%, earned their certification. The class average was 71.5%. In Mr. Zambrotta’s H8E-02 class, 29 of 33 students took the exam, and 22 of the students, 75.9%, were certified. The average score of the class was 69.3%. According to Mr. Zambrotta, “the test was fair; anyone could have passed the exam if they did the work that was given. Because it was my first time teaching the exam, having around a 75% passing rate was pretty good. I feel more could have passed if they took the work seriously.”

Mr. McDonald and Mr. Schimenz taught one Economics class together, H8EPT-01. All but one of the 27 students

took the exam, and of those 26 students, 22 students, 84.6%, were certified. The average score was 73.4%. “This test is a great way for students and teachers to know how financially literate the student is,” said Mr. MacDonald, “especially with kids having to be in charge of their own money soon, it’s a great way for students to start.”

Mr. Stefanidis had 21 of 23 students take the exam, and 12 students, 57.1%, earned their certification. The average score was 62.0%. “The results reflected how the students were doing. The curriculum was very useful to everyone and the knowledge the students gained is something everyone should know. The only thing I didn’t like was that I received the curriculum in the middle of the term and therefore didn’t have much time with it. I’m looking forward to having more time teaching it next year,” Mr. Stefanidis said. “In my opinion it wasn’t if you passed or failed it was how much you improved from the pre-test, and my

students improved 10%-20%,” he said.

WISE, Working In Support of Education, a nonprofit organization that promotes financial literacy to high school students, administers the test. The purpose of this exam is “to certify that students are financially literate. Passing the test suggests that students know how to handle money. Many essential skills that are very important for students to have are taught through this program,” said Mr. Davidson who has been in charge of administering the test for Queens Voc the past two years. According to Mr. Davidson, “a student who passes the exam benefits in more ways than one. It looks good on a college application, resumes, and it suggests that the student knows how to manage money.”

“Students are able to benefit from this because they become more financially literate, and learn to make wise, informed decisions about their personal finances,” said Ms. Newman.

During the week of Feb. 28, students took the pre-test to determine what they already knew about financial literacy and what teachers should emphasize for students to pass the certification exam, which was administered online during the week of May 16.

Another lesson in the Financial Literacy program is the ‘Stock Market game’ which helps students think about the world economy, shows different ways to make money, and exposes them to different industries, Mr. Stefanidis explained.

According to Mr. Davidson, the passing score for the certification test is not given out. The WISE program awards the “Blue Star Distinction” to participating schools that provide personal finance instruction to the majority of their students on a grade level and has 75% or more of these students pass. Teachers who have a 90% passing rate in their class become “Gold Star Teachers.”

SLC News

by Henry Rivas

SSBT

SSBT, the School of Skilled Building Trades, held an awards ceremony on Wednesday, June 1, during periods two and three, to honor the academic achievements of the students in electrical installation and plumbing majors. Awards were distributed to those with perfect attendance up until the 5th marking period and to those who were best in class and most improved chosen by the subject teacher. During the ceremony, the SkillsUSA was highlighted for their achievements, and honored Natalie Kavral, a plumbing senior, who placed first in the SkillsUSA statewide competition held April 13-15, in Syracuse, NY. Natalie will attend the SkillsUSA National competition from June 20 to 25 in Kansas City, Missouri.

Mr. Maloney, the SSBT coordinator, is planning to run a three-on-three basketball competition for the students in SSBT in the second week of June, "now that the gym floor is temporarily fixed," he said.

SES

SES, the School of Entrepreneurial Studies, had an award ceremony held on Wednesday, May 11, during period 4, to honor the academic achievements of those students in the honor society, maintaining an average of 85 or above for the 5th marking period, in graphic arts, cosmetology, or business majors. To honor these students, 84 honor students were invited to the luncheon/barbeque held in Queens Voc's handball courts during period 5.

According to Mr. Garcia, the SES coordinator, 8 students from Queens Voc's web design class were invited to attend

an award ceremony held at Queens Borough Community College on Tuesday, May 24. Maria Amay, Esther Enriquez, Wendao Liu, Edwin Herrera, and Jessica Angel, all web design seniors, attended "to be recognized for completing the secondary portion of the Career Pathways Program in web design," said Ms. Ruiz, the web design teacher. Wendao Liu received an award for Highly Creative in web design, Jessica Angel received an award for Excellence in web design, and Armando Avila got an award for Team Leader in web design, but did not attend because he was at the Queens Borough Rotary Club Awards Luncheon with Ms. Abrams, receiving an award for leadership and community service.

SCEET

Six Flags Great Adventure hosts educational days for students to learn about physics and math. The students in SCEET took a trip to on Friday, May 6, Physics Day at Great Adventure as a reward for those who excelled in their science class. Sophomores and juniors along with 10 seniors and 14 members of the SkillsUSA club headed there in a chartered bus paid out of Queens Voc's transformation funds.



Wendao is highly creative.

Computer Tech seniors are taking their A+ exams to earn their endorsed diploma in fiber optics and copper network.

According to Ms. Maraj, the SCEET coordinator, Queens Voc was certified as administer the ETA (Electronics Technician Association) International certification exam through the electronics program.

Kelly Ann Kato, an electronics junior, placed 1st in the SkillsUSA statewide competition for Electronics Application, and Stephanie Gonzalez, electronics senior, placed 3rd in the Electronics Technology competition.

SED

SED, the School of Exploration and Discovery, had an end of the year dance on Wednesday, June 8, in Queens Voc's Cafeteria from 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm. The charge was \$3 per person. "This will be one of the last times the freshmen students will have together because next year, they will each pick their major and will not have as many classes together," said Ms. Ferrara, the SED coordinator.

SED, School of Exploration and Discovery, had an award ceremony held on Tuesday, June 14 during period 8, to honor the academic achievements of those students in the honor society, maintaining an average of 85 or above for the 5th marking period. Awards were distributed to those with perfect attendance up until the 5th marking period.

Advance

According to Mr. Hammond, the coordinator of Advance, advance had a barbeque held on Friday, June 10 at Astoria Park as a class trip to celebrate the end of a successful school year. "Advance teachers treated the students for all their hard work," Mr. Hammond said.

Teachers Write about a Singing Revolution

by Daniel Corona

Ms. Wasilewski and Mr. Schimenz took their classes to see the New York premier of *The Singing Revolution*, a documentary about the Soviet occupation of Estonia. That trip, Ms. Wasilewski's first-ever as a teacher, was four years ago.

Many of the students who went are seniors now. And while most students in high school never hear of Estonia or its "singing revolution," these students saw what happened in the little country of Estonia. At the end of the film, the producers held a question and answer session in the packed theater—an audience that comprised over 60 Queens Voc

students.

The Tustys said their mission was to document this important time in Estonia and to show others the brutal history and the significance of the non-brutal path Estonia took to freedom.

"We feel the Estonian Singing Revolution is an extraordinary story about what human beings are capable of enduring and, more importantly, capable of achieving under the most oppressive of circumstances," said Jim Tusty.

The film shows how Estonia used music to sustain the Estonian culture and heritage, all while being terrorized by the Nazis and Soviets. What makes this revolution so unusual is that the Estonian people protested

peacefully.

Fast forward to this year, when the Tustys decided to produce a collection of lesson plans to go with the three-DVD educational version of their film. They wanted to do more to get Estonia's story taught in schools in the United States. Jim Tusty contacted Mr. Schimenz and asked him to head up a team of teachers to write lesson plans that could be used in a variety of classes. Mr. Schimenz agreed, saying that "too often, we teach the horrors and devastation of Nazism, while teaching that communism is 'just another economic system.'"

Mr. Schimenz got some recommendations from Candy Mead, of izzit.org, and the two, along with the Tustys, settled

Collecting Senior Memories

by Kevin Sasuman

"It was fun working with the class of 2011 and it was definitely a memorable year. The yearbook staff put in hard work to make the yearbook a great collection of memories. We are happy with the results," said Ms. DeCarlo, one of the yearbook advisors.

The 96-page senior yearbook costs \$75, but this price was included in the senior dues, according to Ms. DeCarlo. One hundred and eighty-five yearbooks were printed, said Mr. Vega, based on the number of seniors who paid their dues.

The yearbook staff took pictures of senior activities throughout the year. The yearbook includes pictures from senior movie night, senior elections, senior trip, Oscar night, glow out, as well as the breast cancer walk, and, sporting events. The yearbook also contains pictures of the graduating seniors, funny pictures, staff, teams, and clubs and activities the seniors were involved in. "It was fun being at all the events and supporting our teams because in a sense it really made our group closer with each other," said Aristeo Quiroz.

The editors used a program called Yearbook Avenue to layout the pages. Each page

was individually designed with its own background and theme. After the editors finished all the pages, their work was sent to Jostens to be published. According to Ms. Green, the other yearbook advisor, the yearbook took a collective effort from the editors to make it special.

The cover of the yearbook was designed by Chaimae Benali and drawn by Christian Saquicela. The cover features different tigers representing the SLCs and the majors within the school. The yearbook staff had several options for the cover, and chose the tigers to be on the cover.

"It was hard designing the cover, pages and finishing the yearbook because we had to make it perfect but I'm proud because it's our best work," said Chaimae Benali.

The yearbook editors were: Mert Avcu, Chaimae Benali, Fernanda Dellacrose, Kevin Diaz, Ahmed Ebrahim, Stephanie Gonzalez, Ashley Matos, Lizeth Montoya, Aristeo Quiroz, Janice Ramirez, Aichel Rivera, and Alexis Smith. The editors under the guidance of Ms. Green and Ms. DeCarlo, made the yearbook for the class of 2011.

The staff also received help from Mr. MacDonald for setting up the senior Oscar Night.



Yearbook staff ready to distribute their finished product.

on a team of five teachers who agreed to be contributors to the project. Among those teachers were two Queens Voc English teachers, Mr. Burke and Mr. Samuelson. In January, the teachers and producers met in Manhattan to plan the work ahead. The other teachers traveled from Texas, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania.

After a weekend of brainstorming and planning, the team headed home to begin work.

Five months later, the team has produced twenty-five lesson plans for social studies, English, and music classes. Many have PowerPoint slide shows, graphic organizers, and other materials to go with the

lessons. "Writing the lessons was harder than expected because I wanted to do more than just have a question sheet," said Mr. Burke.

The 25 lessons are very thorough and educational, said Mr. Schimenz. "The whole team should be proud."

Mr. Buchanan, a high school history teacher, brought his creativeness to this project. He finds the story amazing "because the people regained their freedom without shooting a bullet," he said.

The book will be published and distributed with the educational DVDs, and the lessons will also be posted online at izzit.org.

2010-2011 in Review

by Luseny Maldonado

The year seems to have gone quickly, but it was a busy year, from start to finish. Here's a brief review.

October 1: Senior Elections - Seniors elected their senior officers and the results were President Kevin Sasuman, Vice President Chaimae Benali, Treasurer Lizeth Montoya, and Secretary Maria Toro.

October 15: Hispanic Heritage Festival- Seventy-nine students attended the festival on the last day of Hispanic Heritage Month.

November 2: Glow Out- First senior event of the year seniors had a pizza party, a dance, and then went outside to the hand ball court and made a human "2011."

November 3: The boys' soccer team defeated Frederick Douglass Academy in the playoffs by a score of 3-1.

November 10: The girls' bowling team won in the playoffs against Richmond Hill HS, 2-1.

November 15-19: Spirit Week- Students dressed up for different themes throughout the week to show their school spirit.

November 16: The girls' bowling team defeated Abraham Lincoln HS in the playoffs, 2-1.

December 3: Senior Movie Night- 61 students attended their only movie night and watched Grownups.

December 8: Food festival- 82 seniors brought food as the senior class raised \$2,100 to help fund senior activities.

December 13: Blood drive- About seventy-two students and staff donated blood and as a result, sixty seven pints of blood was collected.

December 15: Honor Society ceremony- 141 students were inducted in the Honor Society and attended the ceremony to receive their medals and certificates for achieving an 85 average on their transcript.

December 17: Holiday dance- An annual holiday dance was held in the cafeteria. About 150 students attended to have a good time with their friends.

January 7: We The People Constitution contest- Twenty-eight students participated. Queens Voc's Unit 2 won an

award and Queens Voc was in the top eight citywide.

January 14-16: Senior Trip- Seventy-five seniors went to New Honor's Haven & Spa in the Catskills for a weekend of indoor and outdoor activities.

February 14: Valentine's Day fundraiser- SO held the fundraiser and sold items such as roses and stuffed animals were delivered to students.

February 17: The girls' basketball team defeated South Bronx Preparatory HS in the playoffs, 45-18

March 3: The girls' basketball team defeated HS for Law Enforcement & Public Safety in the playoffs, 63-40

March 8: International Beauty Show- 72 cosmetology students attended the annual beauty trip at the Jacob Javits Convention Center. Students attended seminars, learned new techniques, and volunteered to be models.

March 11-13: Robotic competition- The RoboTigers participated in two regional competitions, taking fifth place in the Long Island Regionals.

March 16: School's talent show- 44 students performed at the schools talent in front of an

audience of hundreds of Queens Voc staff, family members, and friends.

March 25: Senior Oscar Night- Seniors were recognized in 16 categories including most popular, class cutie, best dressed, class clown...etc

April 1: Senior Luncheon- Masquerade Ball was the theme at the senior luncheon, which was held at Bruno's on the Boulevard.

April 6: Food festival- Second senior food festival was another huge success and raised \$2,000.

April 13-15: Skills USA Competition- 12 students participated in schools SkillsUSA competition. Senior Natalie Kavral, and Junior Kelly Ann Kato took first place in statewide competitions, and seniors Tristan Ponce and Stephanie Gonzalez took third place in their statewide competition.

April 20-21: Cooperstown baseball trip- The varsity baseball team went to Cooperstown to visit the Baseball Hall of Fame and participate in a tournament.

May 20: Poetry Slam- Students competed by reading and reciting poetry in the school auditorium. Valentina

Betancourt won first place, Armando Molina won second place, and Andrew Adames won third place.

May 26: The varsity baseball team defeated Queens HS of Teaching in the playoffs, 4-2.

May 31: Cosmetology Pin ceremony- Cosmetology students received pins in recognition for completing 500, 750, or 1000 hours of clinic experience.

May 31: The varsity baseball team defeated Lab Museum United in the second round of the playoffs, 5-0.

June 1: SSBT & SkillsUSA awards ceremony- Students received awards for recognition of their achievements, including most improved, honor roll, perfect attendance, and best in class.

June 2: The varsity baseball team defeated Brooklyn Studio Secondary School in the playoffs, 4-3.

June 3: Senior Prom- 178 seniors attended their prom on Terrance on the Park.

June 7: The varsity baseball team lost to Martin Van Buren HS in the semifinals, 7-2, to end the season.

June 27: Graduation- Seniors will graduate at LaGuardia Community College at 4pm.

OPINIONS

Queens Voc *Can* be Improved

by Jessica Angel

Queens Voc has a great environment. But can the school be improved? Of course it can.

One of the ways that Queens Voc can be improved is by replacing some of the old equipment in the school. For example, the weight room has two machines that are damaged and one of the bicycles is missing a seat. By replacing this equipment, more students would be able to use the weight room and stay in shape.

The school could also fund the school teams better and purchase some equipment and supplies the students have to raise funds for. As it is now, funds are going to be reduced for the school teams. The school teams help keep students working to pass their classes. If funds are reduced, fewer students might join teams because of the added burden of fundraising.

Mr. Alikakos, assistant principal of organization, has already begun updating the technology in Queens Voc. The

Web Design classroom, room 454, has old PCs that don't work so well. Mr. Alikakos has a new set of Mac computers waiting to be installed. This is a good example of having spent money to benefit the students.

Besides using money wisely, the school can be improved with the help of the teachers. They need to be stricter with their students and challenge them more. There are students who think they can just pass by doing the minimum amount of work—and they do. They don't push themselves to work

harder in school. The teachers can improve our school by preparing the students for the reality that comes after high school. Otherwise, the students won't be able to keep up in college and they won't be ready for the real world that lies ahead.

Queens Voc can also be improved by having more teams and clubs available for the students. The teams and clubs are what keep the students interested. Perhaps a track team can be added, or maybe a girls' soccer team. Clubs that are

more art related can be added as well, such as a music club, where students would be able to share their talents, such as playing instruments or singing. Even a chess club can be added for those students who enjoy it the thinking and strategizing that are part of the game.

Queens Voc is a good school. But good enough is the enemy of it can be better.



Letter from the Senior Class President

by Kevin Sasuman

Dear Class of 2011:

This past year—our final year of high school—has been a wonderful success. I can't believe that four years just flew by. I still remember when I was in ninth grade, just a freshman who didn't know anyone in Queens Voc. I hated the place, but the next thing I knew, I made a couple of friends. As the years passed, that couple of friends turned into a bunch.

I'm glad I got to know most of you. I had fun spending time with you and hope the feelings are mutual. We had some conflicts and occasionally misunderstood each other, but we managed to solve our problems. We believed we were going to make this year special and I think we accomplished that. You should be proud yourselves for what you have achieved. Be proud, be courageous, and most importantly be proud to be a



QV Tiger!

Writing this letter took a lot out of me. I would stare at a blank page for hours thinking "what should I write?" It was hard because I would just replay fond memories I had. I never liked goodbyes and

farewells, so let me take this chance to say that this isn't a goodbye but rather a see you later. Our memories will last a lifetime. As we go on our separate paths, remember to keep pushing and don't let anyone or anything get in the way of your positive goals.

I would like to thank you for electing me as your class president. It has been an honor serving the class of 2011. Thank you for all the support that you all have shown for our class. Thanks to all the teachers, staff members, school safety agents, and others who had the patience to teach me and guide me toward the right path. I couldn't have gotten

here if it were not for these very dedicated individuals. Lastly, I would like to thank Mr. Vega, Mr. Abreu, Mr. Schimenz, Mr. Maloney, and Mr. Lerro for being my role models, for showing me how to truly succeed and believe in myself. With that, I part with my wolf pack with a quote that Oscar Wilde once said, "Be yourself; everyone else is already taken."

From class president,
Kevin John Sasuman



Editorials

Ms. Burg

At the beginning of the school year, we found out that Ms. Vittor would no longer be the regular principal and that Ms. Burg would be the new one. With the changes taking place so suddenly, we might have expected there to be a lot of turmoil. But there wasn't. The school has run smoothly. Ms. Vittor has helped Ms. Burg assume the duties of principal, and Ms. Burg has taken on those duties with a can-do attitude. She has listened to the students and staff, and has made some changes, all while continuing the traditions that Ms. Vittor and previous principals began.

Ms. Burg has had a very successful year and we congratulate her for that.

Don't Cut Sports Funding

Since Queens Voc has become a transformation school, taxpayer money has been given to us to improve the school and the graduation rate. But the money being received has not reached the sports teams that keep many students working to pass their classes.

With all the extra money being spent, why were almost no funds allocated to the interscholastic teams?

The latest agreement on team funding is that teams will receive \$10 for each player on a roster, and that fundraising dollars will be matched, dollar for dollar. It's not that athletes are now going to be asked to fundraise. It's that now, their teams are going to start out with far fewer funds provided by the school. These students already raise funds to purchase new equipment and uniforms, and to pay for referees or umpires for non-league competition. The bowling teams even have to rent lanes to practice. Now, all athletes are being asked to do more.

Sports teams keep students physically active and focused in school. Students have to keep their grades up and have good attendance to participate in sports teams. The excuse we have heard, that teams are not a priority on the school's budget, fails to take into account the benefits to the school that come from sports teams.

The school should include sports teams in its budget. And this newspaper should not be the only advocates for our sports program.

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



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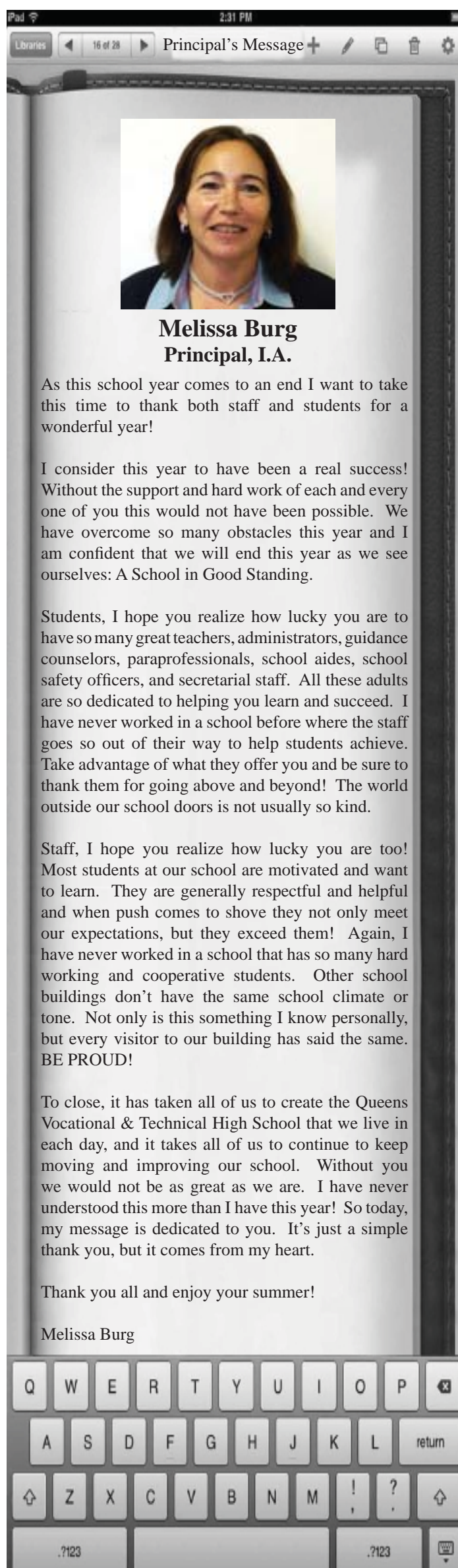
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“Good enough” is the enemy of “it can be better.”



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Mr. Davidson: Queens Voc’s Veteran Teacher

by Dario Javier

Mr. Davidson, a social studies teacher and the school’s program chairman, is the longest serving teacher at Queens Voc. Mr. Davidson has been teaching at Queens Voc since 1983 and has filled the role of program chairman since 1995. Plumbing teacher Mr. McCarthy and EI teacher Mr. Maloney were seniors when Mr. Davidson began teaching at Queens Voc. He has taught Global History, U.S. History, American Government, and Economics.

“My duties besides teaching have been programming the entire school, producing report cards, and transcripts,” said Mr. Davidson. In addition, Mr. Davidson is also the school’s testing coordinator, data specialist, and mock trial, and Constitution coach. “The Constitution contest was established and funded by Congress since 1987 to mark the two-hundredth anniversary of the U.S. Constitution. Congress wanted to mark this historic event by establishing a contest nation-wide. It’s something I truly enjoy doing,” said Mr. Davidson.

“Since the mid 1980s I have been the school’s testing coordinator, scheduling students for Regents exams. This is my second year as the official data specialist. Before I did it, but unofficially. As data specialist,

I provide the school and teachers with statistical information, such as number of students in each CTE program, Regents statistics, and anticipated enrollment.” said Mr. Davidson. He also produces the school’s SLC monthly attendance chart.

“Queens Voc has gone through many changes. “The most obvious change this school has had is the new wing, which opened in September 2005,” said Mr. Davidson. “Before, classes and halls were very crowded, there was no gym, students ate lunch on their laps in the auditorium because there was no lunchroom, there were no elevators, and the earliest classes started at 7:25am and latest at 4:30pm.”

According to Mr. Davidson, there was very limited room before the new wing. Many academic classes were taught in shop rooms. For example there would be a math class in an electrical room. “When I came to this school, room 301 was a nursing room. The room had two beds, and was also the room in which I taught Global History in. It wasn’t easy to teach students who were



Teaching Eco: Today, it’s communism vs capitalism!

distracted by the beds.” “Once upon a time, the principal Mr. Serber, thought it would be a good idea to increase the number of students attending the school from 1200 to nearly 1600. The school was built for less than a thousand if there were a class in every room, so we had to go to a 12-period day. There were five different teacher and student sessions, some students had periods one to eight, two to nine, three to ten, four to eleven, and five to twelve. To his credit, Mr. Serber realized it wasn’t such a good idea. Our small size was a big asset. I think the fact that the school was small made it seem more like a family,” said the veteran teacher. “The daily schedule soon went back to eleven periods and then to ten periods.” Mr. Davidson has also seen a change in focus. “Before,

there weren’t as many students going to college but that changed soon after the state requirements changed, which encouraged students to take more challenging classes,” he said. Before, “the shop equipment was much more antiquated, making it hard for students to keep up with the latest advancements. Even though learning the history of your career area is also beneficial, you have to be ready to operate the equipment you will use four years from now,” he said. “One of the things I would like to see change about the school would be to encourage more students to do things right the first time instead of helping them to catch up after they fail. It’s better to prevent. The school could then spend more money on improving instruction which it now has to spend on make-up programs,” said Mr. Davidson. Mr. Davidson has seen changes and has helped usher in changes. The school’s grades weren’t always entered on computers. “Students had a card with all their courses written on it and teachers

entered their grades by hand on the cards. The official class teacher would then write out the students’ report cards by hand, copying all the grades. The good thing about this system was teachers got to know each other very quickly, so within two months, I knew all the faculty,” he said. Soon after, teachers began bubbling in students’ grades, which were then scanned. As program chairman, Mr. Davidson led the way for teachers to enter grades and comments in Excel files, rather than on bubble sheets. “Today there is not as much communication between teachers because the school is structured differently. One is that there are fewer opportunities for face to face contact among staff as a whole. Secondly, SLCs has brought the teachers within the SLC closer, but gives less opportunity for contact with teachers in other SLCs,” he said. “One of my favorite memories working here would have to be when the graduating class of 87 held their twentieth reunion in the school so I got to see students who graduated twenty years ago, and I got to see former faculty members including the former principal, Mr. Serber, who made me program chair. I also conducted a tour of the new wing for the alumni who attended the reunion. It was a very positive experience,” said Davidson.

Summer plans

by Emilee Rosa

Whether they’re going to a concert, on a cruise, off to college, or staying in NYC, Queens Voc students have many activities planned for this summer. Here are some students’ plans for the summer vacation.

Freshmen

Michael Feliz – “I’m planning to work for a month. I plan on going to the pool and beach with my friends. I also want to get back into break dancing. I’m hoping to get out of the country too.”

Kayhla Gonzalez – “I’m going to the UK with my family to see a concert. I’ll be spending my entire summer there.”

Luiny Monegro – “My plans for this summer are to keep playing baseball. Since I have a lot of free time I’ll keep practicing.”

Luisa Paz – “I’m going to Spain to visit my aunt. I’m doing a lot of traveling. I’ll be going to the Bahamas, Miami, and

Colombia to visit my mom.”

Sophomores

Marilynn Bonilla – “I want to get a job. I’m going to volunteer at an animal shelter. I’m going to study for the SATs. And I’ll be spending time at the beach.”

Francisco Cornier – “I’m going to Florida to visit my sister. I might get a summer job at Greater Ridgewood Youth Council.”

Kiara Delarosa – “I’m going to Six Flags. Sometime in August I’m going to Puerto Rico for a week.”

Samuel Meza – “This summer I plan to enjoy it by doing activities such as travelling to Hawaii, going to the beach, and partying.”

Juniors

James Batista – “For this summer I plan to go on a cruise to the Bahamas. My family from the Dominican Republic is coming over and we are going to party on a boat.”

Christine Hawkins – “I am going to the Dominican Republic with my family. I’ll

be going to universal studios in Florida with family and friends. I’m also doing an internship in Electrical Installation for my 60 hours.”

Lisbeth Marmolejos – “I’m going to do an internship for my 60 hours for EI. Hopefully I get a job. In August, I may go to the Dominican Republic to visit family.

Javier Pasarin – “I will probably go to Cuba. I plan on going to the beach and spending time with my family in Cuba.”

Seniors

Fernanda Dellacroce – “I got my job back at the NY Aquarium. The Wildlife Conservation Society gave me this job last year as an intern; this year I’m going back. In August, I’m going to Aruba with my best friend.”

Paola Hernandez – “My plans are to get a job to save up for college. I also plan to go to Puerto Rico for two weeks.”

Edwin Herrera – “In July, I plan on going to the beach with

family and friends. I’m going to parks to play football, soccer, and baseball. I also plan to exercise. I’ll also be going to a few parties. And to wrap up my summer, in August I’ll be going to Colombia.”

Alan Merchan – “I am going to look for a job to buy necessities for my college dorm. I’m going to a Kid Cudi concert on July 6th in Brooklyn. In August, I’m going to the college I got accepted to, Finger Lakes, located at Canandaigua, NY.”

Aneita’s Artwork: The Mushrooms



Queens Vac Seniors

by Elizabeth Pimentel

With the school year almost over, most seniors at Queens Voc have already made plans for their future. Some students are making plans to go to college, others are planning to get jobs in their field of study, and others are still undecided about what to do next. The seniors below have been accepted to the colleges listed. The college in bold indicates the college the student has chosen to attend. Those without any bold names are undecided or are still waiting to hear from colleges.

Fernando Acevedo	Borough of Manhattan Community College LaGuardia Community College
Andrew Adames	Florida International University Queensborough Community College
Johnny Adames	Queensborough Community College New York City College of Technology LaGuardia Community College Borough of Manhattan Community College
Amreen Akbar	Farmingdale State College New York City College of Technology Buffalo State College
Stephanie Alcaide	Queensborough Community College New York City College of Technology LaGuardia Community College
Bryan Aldaz	New York City College of Technology Queensborough Community College
Ala Alhanshali	Queensborough Community College New York City College of Technology
Juan Almonte	LaGuardia Community College Queensborough Community College
Pablo Alvarado	Queensborough Community College New York City College of Technology LaGuardia Community College Borough of Manhattan Community College
Jose Alvarez	Borough of Manhattan Community College Alfred University Queensborough Community College Farmingdale State College
Jessica Angel	Queens College Hunter College St. John’s University Brooklyn College Queensborough Community College
Thomas Arbelaez	LaGuardia Community College Borough of Manhattan Community College New York City College of Technology
William Arenas	LaGuardia Community College Hostos Community College Bronx Community College Queensborough Community College
Carolina Artiles	York College Medgar Evers College Hostos Community College Queensborough Community College
Armando Avila	New York City College of Technology Fordham University Queensborough Community College St. John’s University Elizabethtown College
Frank Ayala	Queensborough Community College Borough of Manhattan Community College
Mayra Bajana	College at Old Westbury Fashion Institute of Technology Medgar Evers College New York City College of Technology Purchase College
Julissa Ballesteros	Queensborough Community College Kingsborough Community College John Jay College Borough of Manhattan Community College
Reynaldo Batista	Queensborough Community College Bronx Community College
Jennifer Bedoya	Lincoln Tech Institute
Karolina Beltran	Delhi College Borough of Manhattan Community College

Lauren Beltre	LaGuardia Community College Queensborough Community College Berkeley College Mercy College
Chaimae Benali	Borough of Manhattan Community College New York Institute of Technology LaGuardia Community College Delhi College
Sherice Berkeley	LaGuardia Community College Queensborough Community College Berkeley College
Alvaro Berrio	Queenborough Community College
Anthony Biondo	City College of Technology Polytechnic University
Kathleen Borba	Borough Of Manhattan Community College LaGuardia Community College Queensborough Community College
Michael Bravo	Queensborough Community College Borough of Manhattan Community College
Josuar Brito	Queensborough Community College
Devante Brown	Hostos Community College Borough of Manhattan Community College
Jeffrey Carrion	Hunter College Borough of Manhattan Community College New York City College of Technology LaGuardia Community College
Margaret Castellanos	Queensborough Community College
Roberto Castillo	LaGuardia Community College Queensborough Community College Borough of Manhattan Community College
Anthony Catano	Queensborough Community College New York City College of Technology LaGuardia Community College
Sabrina Cayetano	Hunter College LaGuardia Community College
Gilbert Cepeda	Lincoln Tech Institute
Shane Chandan	Baruch College Queens College York College John Jay College
Jason Chen	Hunter College Farmingdale State College York College
Sang Chen	Kingsborough Community College LaGuardia Community College Queensborough Community College
Johnny Chino	Medgar Evers College John Jay College Borough of Manhattan Community College
Jose Chiriboga	LaGuardia Community College Queensborough Community Colleg New York City College of Technology
Ernest Cieslak	LaGuardia Community College Queensborough Community College
Shennel Cole	Borough of Manhattan Community College
Stewart Cole	Hostos Community College Queensborough Community College Kingsborough Community College
Andrea Cordoba	New York City College of Technology City College of New York Queensborough Community College LaGuardia Community College Borough of Manhattan Community College
Joseph Corsale	Borough of Manhattan Community College Queensborough Community College LaGuardia Community College
Jonathan Cortes	New York City College of Technology
Luis Cuenca	St. John’s University LaGuardia Community College New York City College of Technology Queensborough Community College
Christopher Dasilva	Queensborough Community College
Fernanda Dellacroce	Farmingdale State College Borough of Manhattan Community College Queensborough Community College Florida State University

to College Freshmen

Floyd Desouza	Queensborough Community College
Tanman Dey	Queens College Farmingdale State College New Paltz University New York Institute of Technology
Kevin Diaz	Queensborough Community College
Raymond Diaz	Borough of Manhattan Community College Queensborough Community College New York City College of Technology
Michael Dowlatram	New York City College of Technology
Valeria Enea	City College of New York New York City College of Technology College at Old Westbury St. John’s University
Kimberly Espinal	University at Albany John Jay College Farmingdale State College
Melvin Estevez	Borough of Manhattan Community College Queensborough Community College Kingsborough Community College
Ana Estrada	Borough of Manhattan Community College Queensborough Community College
Pasquale Fevola	College of Staten Island Medgar Evers College
Denisse Flores	New York Institute of Technology New York City College of Technology LaGuardia Community College
Diana Flores	LaGuardia Community College Queensborough Community College
Estefani Flores	Borough of Manhattan Community College Queensborough Community College LaGuardia Community College
Alexandra Fuentes	York College Queensborough Community College
Jonatan German	New York City College of Technology
Andrew Gonzalez	LaGuardia Community College Queensborough Community College Borough of Manhattan Community College
Matthew Gonzalez	Queensborough Community College Borough of Manhattan Community College LaGuardia Community College
Stephanie Gonzalez	Delhi College Alfred State College Queensborough Community College New York City College of Technology Hostos Community College
Erika Guaman	LaGuardia Community College Queens College Borough of Manhattan Community College
Christian Gutierrez	Queensborough Community College
Mallelyn Gutierrez	Borough of Manhattan Community College Queensborough Community College LaGuardia Community College
Roger Haynes	LaGuardia Community College
Daniela Heredia	Bronx Community College LaGuardia Community College
Paola Hernandez	Alfred State College Farmingdale State College
Steven Hernandez	LaGuardia Community College Queensborough Community College Borough of Manhattan Community College
Yaneet Hernandez	Berkeley College
Edwin Herrera	Borough of Manhattan Community College Queensborough Community College LaGuardia Community College
Isaac Hidalgo	Monroe College
Jairus Hizon	Queens College York College Queensborough Community College
Thomas Hock	LaGuardia Community College Queensborough Community College Kingsborough Community College
Daisy Huiza	Queens College Queensborough Community College LaGuardia Community College Borough of Manhattan

Fredrick Jah	Queensborough Community College New York City College of Technology John Jay College New York Institute of Technology
Dario Javier	New York City College of Technology York College Queensborough Community College
Yasin Khan	Queensborough Community College Queens College City College of New York New York City College of Technology
Lawrence LeBeau	LaGuardia Community College Queensborough Community College
Wendao Liu	Baruch College
Ricky Macklin	Queensborough Community College Borough of Manhattan Community College Delaware State University Nichols State University
Luseny Maldonado	Canton College Mercy College Medaille College York College Queensborough Community College LaGuardia Community College
Andrea Marca	Queensborough Community College Borough of Manhattan Community College LaGuardia Community College
Rosa Marte	Queensborough Community College College at Old Westbury Hostos Community College
Yanelli Martinez	Devry College
Daniela Mejia	Queensborough Community College
Vanessa Mejia	Mercy College New York City College of Technology LaGuardia Community College
Alan Merchan	LaGuardia Community College Finger Lakes Community College Queensborough Community College New York City College of Technology Borough of Manhattan Community College
Alex Molina	Hunter College John Jay College LaGuardia Community College
Lizeth Montoya	Fashion Institute of Technology
Francesca Mujica	LaGuardia Community College
Maximo Muniz	Borough of Manhattan Community College Queensborough Community College
Steward Naula	Monroe College
Ariel Obando	Queensborough Community College LaGuardia Community College
Vanessa Obando	Queensborough Community College John Jay College LaGuardia Community College Borough of Manhattan Community College
Stephanie Ortiz	Queensborough Community College Borough of Manhattan Community College LaGuardia Community College
Florencia Oviedo	St. John’s University New York City College of Technology Manhattan College Iona Colleg Le Moyne College
Louis Pacheco	Alfred State College New York City College of Technology Queensborough Community College Borough of Manhattan Community College
Thomas Palermo	Queensborough Community College New York City College of Technology
Kirk Palmer	Hostos Community College Queensborough Community College
Kurt Palmer	Queensborough Community College Hostos Community College
Nayan Patel	Southern State Community College
Alba Pavia	Queensorough Community College Borough of Manhattan Community College Kingsborough Community College

Queens Voc Seniors to College Freshmen
Continued

Michael Pazmino	LaGuardia Community College Queensborough Community College
Kevin Peterson	LaGuardia Community College Brooklyn College New York City College of Technology College of Staten Island Hostos Community College
Elizabeth Pimentel	Queensborough Community College John Jay College
Samantha Puig	Bronx Community College LaGuardia Community College Queensborough Community College
Erik Quintuna	Queensborough Community College
Aristeo Quiroz	Hunter College Queens College Queensborough Community College LaGuardia Community College
Janice Ramirez	Borough of Manhattan Community College
Kelly Ramirez	John Jay College Kingsborough Community College LaGuardia Community College
Leidy Ramos	City College
Noemi Ramos	Queensborough Community College Borough of Manhattan Community College Medgar Evers College
Shiva Rampaul	Queensborough Community College Queens College LaGuardia Community College City College of New York Hunter College
Raquel Reyes	Berkeley College
Stephanie Reyes	Borough of Manhattan Community College Queensborough Community College Hostos Community College Kingsborough Community College New York City College of Technology LaGuardia Community Colle
Henry Rivas	Farmingdale State College College at Old Westbury Maritime College New York City College of Technology New York Institute of Technology
Aichel Rivera	Miami Dade College
Cristofer Rodriguez	LaGuardia Community College Queensborough Community College
Marcos Romoleroux	City College of New York Queens College LaGuardia Community College Queensborough Community College
Emilee Rosa	College at Old Westbury Buffalo State College Kingsborough Community College City College of New York New York City College of Technology
Jose Rosales	York College
Kevin Rosario	Borough of Manhattan Community College New York City College of Technology LaGuardia Community College
Jennifer Sanchez	Queensborough Community College York College John Jay College Queens College
Boris Sarmiento	New York City College of Technology Queensborough Community College
Jhonatan Sarmiento	LaGuardia Community College
Kevin Sasuman	LaGuardia Community College Queensborough Community College Hostos Community College
Ambar Sencion	Borough of Manhattan Community College Queensborough Community College Kingsborough Community College New York City College of Technology
Carla Siguenza	City College of New York Queensborough Community College

Dilpreet Singh	University at Albany Hunter College Queensborough Community College York College Stony Brook University Queens College
Esteban Soler	Alfred State College John Jay College Queensborough Community College Cobleskill College
Nayomi Spencer	Eugene Lang College
Janet Tellez	Hostos Community College Queensborough Community College Borough of Manhattan Community College
Stefan Thompson	Berkeley College
Maria Toro	Lehman College City College of New York
Luis Torres	Borough of Manhattan Community College Queensborough Community College LaGuardia Community College New York City College of Technology
Meliton Vasquez	LaGuardia Community College John Jay College Queensborough Community College
Frederick Vega	Borough of Manhattan Community College Queensborough Community College
Natalie Vegas	Queensborough Community College
Catherine Velasquez	Devry College Borough of Manhattan Community College Queensborough Community College New York City College of Technology
Karina Villalobos	Queensborough Community College Kingsborough Community College
Annie Virella	Queens College Queensborough Community College
Umar Waheed	LaGuardia Commmunity College Borough of Manhattan Community College Queensborough Community College
Takiera Wilson	Fulton-Montgomery Community College Schenectady County Community College Borough of Manhattan Community College Hostos Community College
Jingjie Wu	York College
Shanice Xochmitl	LaGuardia Community College Queens College New York City College of Technology

Video Producers Speak to Journalists



Barbara Potter and Jim Taylor, founders of Resolution Productions, Inc, speak to Journalism students about their experiences traveling the world. The guest speakers have produced many documentaries, TV shows, and classroom videos. The guests stopped by Queens Voc on May 26 while on a business trip.

WHERE SHOULD THE SCHOOL FUNDING GO?

by Rosa Marte

Andrea Marca
Senior

I think that the school should spend more money on more PCs. The school should have more advanced technology.

Yessenia Torres
Junior

The school should spend money on computers that will definitely help the school improve.

Jonathan German
Senior

The school should spend more on supplies and maintenance of shop classes. For example, electrical installation my shop class could use more materials to work with.

Monica Pusparasi
Freshman

Sports;theyshoulddefinitely have more sports. We should also different classes in which we can learn, for example, a different language or music, in other words more clubs.

Luiny Monegro
Freshman

More money should be spent on sports and other after school activities; more clubs that will keep the students involved and entertained after school.

Quinten Diego
Sophomore

The school should provide better technology to the students, like better quality computers.

Amrita Saini
Sophomore

To improve, the school should spend more money on computers. New computers should be available for the students to use.

Raul Rosario
Sophomore

Money should be spent on up-to-date technology for the students. For example more computers, more smart boards, etc.

John Tosado
Junior

School equipment, we need

better computers that have up-to-date programs that we should learn how to use.

Alexis Crespin
Junior

Money should be spent on better school supplies, general supplies that are sometimes missing in the classes, like construction paper when we do small projects.

Omar Matos
Junior

I think the school should spend more money on clubs. There should be more after school activities to keep the students involved.

Gregory Rousseau
Junior

In order to improve, the school should spend more money on sports. I think that more sports should be offered for students to join.

Noheli Vasquez
Junior

To improve the school needs more school supplies, for example, more and better books.

Aristeo Quiroz
Senior

The school should spend more money on the food, because it's bad.

Robinson Adames
Freshman

To improve the school should spend money on supplies. More and better supplies should be provided for both the teachers and the students.

Carlos Fernandez
Freshman

More school supplies for the school.

Kevin Olivares
Freshman

There should be more gym supplies for example, more equipment in the weight room.

Valerie Lara Lopez
Sophomore

The school needs more air conditioners. When the summer time arrives there are many rooms that don't have air conditioning and the room is hot and uncomfortable.

Natalie Vegas
Senior

The school should spend more money on technology for the students to use, and also the school should get new teachers.

Tanman Dey
Senior

The school should get more school supplies, such as printing

paper, pens, pencils, markers, more books and smart boards.

Lisbeth Marmolejo
Junior

The school should fund new sports. There are many new sports that the school should have. Also more tools for the shop classes.

Vanessa Obando
Senior

More air conditioners in the summer time. To add on, more supplies like textbooks.

Ivonne Cruz
Freshman

The school should fund more trips for the students.

Monica Vega
Sophomore

To improve, the school needs more equipment for gym.

Jazleen Intriago
Freshman

The school should spend money on organizing more fundraisers for the students to get involve and be together.

Steve Escorza
Sophomore

We need better computers, better quality computers. So that way students will be able to use programs more better.

WHAT IT TAKES TO PUBLISH THE SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

by Louis Pacheco

The process of writing a newspaper requires the cooperation of many people, the dedication of the journalists, and discipline of the editors. Only then will the newspaper be good enough to print.

When the Journalism class begins the process of producing a newspaper, the first step is to brainstorm topics that would inform and interest readers. Teachers are also asked to submit their ideas for newspaper articles. The articles should cover interesting events or activities happening throughout the school. Editor Armando Avila says that one feature of a good school newspaper is that "it has to be up-to-date on school events. The journalists writing the paper cannot be afraid to address or confront any newsworthy concerns within the school. Jarius Hizon says the types of articles that interest the reader "depend on the reader. I'm a sports enthusiast. After I get the paper, I turn to the back page where sports starts and read it from there."

The ideas are condensed and determined as primary or secondary articles, based on the importance of the topic. The students select the articles

they will write, but because they need to be objective, the students usually aren't allowed to write about an activity they participate in.

Once they have selected their articles, usually two per edition, the journalists begin to research. The journalists know they have to answer some basic questions: who, what, where, when, why, and how. Interviews are the most important sources for most articles. The journalists have to develop interview questions that will help obtain the best and most accurate information. Asking good questions is what makes a good article," says Rosa Marte.

Journalist Elizabeth Pimentel believes that "it's important to research the topic to inform the readers. The article should include different points of view from those involved." Rosa says that "articles should have facts that back up any claims."

Once the interviews are done and the information is collected, the journalists type a first draft. There is no handwritten work collected in

this class! There are usually four drafts submitted before the articles are ready. Some articles take more effort than others. When the articles are returned, there are a lot of suggestions, questions, and recommended changes. Dilpreet Singh says he that when being critiqued, "my articles get bashed, even when I think they're perfect and I can't find any mistakes, Mr.



Pages are corrected before being sent to the printers.

Schimenz finds 20 new ones!" Luseny Maldonado says her articles "aren't criticized that badly, it's mostly my grammar and my run on sentences, but

my information is pretty good." Jessica Angel says "my leads always get criticized, along with my grammar and punctuation." To Mr. Schimenz, it's not criticism, "it's feedback; that's how people learn."

Once the article is returned, the journalists may need to conduct follow-up interviews. While the articles are being revised, the staff also has to

take photos for the paper.

The layout comes next. This process consists of taking the articles from MS Word and placing them into Adobe

InDesign. The volunteer layout editors have to learn to use the layout program, and how to layout a page that is attractive. "Basically, we have to figure out how to make the articles and pictures fit onto the standard newspaper page. We make all the articles fit into columns to make them easy to read and to follow," says journalist Larry LeBeau. Daniel Corona, a junior who assists as an editor, says that "charts and tables created by journalists are about the most difficult files to put into the paper." The layout is usually done on the weekends, from 8am to 8pm, and finished off on a few nights after school. Once the articles are in, then the layout editors have to create headlines and captions for the articles. "That's the hardest part of the entire process," says Armando, who has worked on the paper for four years.

When the pages have been reviewed for errors in text or layout, the pages are converted into PDFs and then combined into one file. Once the paper is delivered from the printers, they are bundled and delivered, usually to English classes. Then the process begins again for the next edition.

Senior Shop Pro

by Valeria Enea

- (1) What made you interested in your major?
- (2) In the years you have been in your major, what has been the hardest skill you have learned? Why was it hard?
- (3) Of the skills you have learned, what is your favorite?
- (4) Are you planning to pursue this major after high school?

Elizabeth Pimentel - Cosmetology - Ms. Quartuccio (Morning)



- (1) I always admired how cosmetologists were able to do makeovers at salons, so I thought it would be fun to learn and try it for myself.
- (2) Finger waving, because I was never taught until 12th grade. It was very hard for me to make the ridges even without having spaces.
- (3) I love hair coloring and bleaching because a simple color can make you look so different. I also like that you can play around with colors to give the hair a better effect.
- (4) Yes I do, I'm determined to

get my license and even though the career I want doesn't have anything to do with cosmetology, I want to open a salon in the future.

Ambar Sencion - Cosmetology - Ms. Guzman (Afternoon)

- (1) Ever since I was young I was always interested in hair, nails, makeup, basically all things related to cosmetology so when I found out about this school, when I was in Jr. high, it just seemed like the right thing to do.



- (2) I think one of the hardest topics I learned in cosmetology was hair coloring. There are so many complications to it, rules and styles when it comes to hair coloring. Especially when it comes to color correction. So many girls think they can switch from color to color without knowing the damage they cause to their hair and the chance of uneven results.

- (3) Even though hair coloring is difficult, it's still my favorite skill along with haircutting. I've always been the type to love a challenge and because hair coloring is so tricky I'd like to become an expert at it.

- (4) After high school I plan on working in a salon part time while attending college. It's something I enjoy doing but it's not the only thing. I have plans for another career ahead of me but nothing is impossible maybe I can do both so we'll see how it goes.

Jessica Angel - Business - Ms. Ruiz



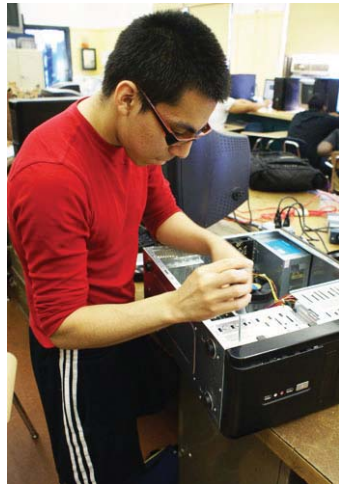
- (1) I chose business because at the time, the major sounded interesting. I thought I was going to learn a lot about the business field and I wanted to see if it was a field that I would pursue after high school.

- (2) The most challenging skill that I learned in business was related to web design. I had to learn the basic coding for web pages and sometimes it got complicated because one error would cause the images to not display correctly.
- (3) I liked the skills that were

taught while using the Dreamweaver program. I think that this was the most useful skill that I learned because it is something that can help me obtain a job. Being able to know how to create websites can come in handy.

- (4) I plan to pursue a career in the business field. I am thinking about studying accounting or learning more about web design.

Freddy Flores - C-Tech - Mr. Rodriguez



- (1) The lack of experience. I knew nothing about computers yet working on them was fun and interesting. I wanted to learn more.

- (2) The hands on portion. I was always scared that I would short out or damage computer equipment because of my clumsiness. When we built out computer in class. I was nervous because I thought I would damage the equipment. It turned out to be simple.

- (3) I think my favorite skill was problem solving. Throughout the year, my instructor would

give us jobs to complete, involving us looking for answers online. Not only did I learn that each question was necessary and involved a series of steps to be completed, but I also learned that there are usually trouble scenarios that many people have with their computers. I think it's awesome to be able to look up the information needed to solve a problem and, even better, to explain it to someone else.

- (4) Definitely. Recently I passed the A+ Certification, which is the basic certification for a qualified technician. In the future I plan to get certified in different "branches" of computer technology.

Chaimae Benali - Graphic Arts - Mr. Garcia

- (1) Since I was little, I was always inspired by art. Graphic Arts seemed very interesting and grabbed my attention compared to all other shops.

- (2) I think the hardest skill I had to learn was designing your artwork on a computer. It's different than using a paper and pencil. You would have to use different techniques and layers just to put the image together.

- (3) The best skill I enjoyed the most was combining different types of images into one. As well as using typography to make a text stand out.

- (4) After high school I want to be an architect, but graphic arts will carry on with me. I will use the skills I learned to design skyscrapers one day.



Natalie Kavral - Plumbing - Mr. Rivera



- (1) I wanted a class that would allow me to work, and be active and independent. Plumbing is a skill that will always be needed, so I figured why not learn to do it myself.

- (2) I think the hardest thing has to be soldering copper joints together, because when you're soldering something it contains a lot of heat and it's something that once you do it there is no turning back. You can go back and fix it but it's very difficult.

- (3) I like to have knowledge before doing something. I

know how to pipe for the flow to be successful.

- (4) Yes I do. I plan on joining the union and work my way up to be the "big man" on campus.

Ana Estrada

EI/Practical - Mr. Maloney



- (1) To tell you the truth my older brother came to this school and took the major so I decided I wanted to be better at it than he is. This is the reason I chose this major.

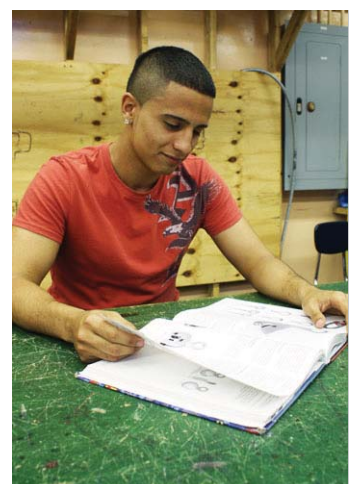
- (2) I haven't had a really hard skill that I've learned, but there have been certain things I've had trouble with.

- (3) I don't have one.

- (4) Yes, I want to go to the union for a couple of years, but I don't plan to do this for the rest of my life.

Anthony Catano

EI/Theory - Mr. Bowen



files

Jose Alvarez - Electronics - Mr. Ali

(1) At the beginning of freshmen year I was in computer technology, which I was going to stick with. But in sophomore year they gave us the chance to take half a year of computer technology and half a year of electronics. That's when I realized that electronics was the shop class for me.

(2) The skill that has been the hardest for me is using the oscilloscope because it has a lot of buttons that can be confusing.

(3) The skill that I like best is building circuits on a breadboard. I learned that this year, but I enjoy it, for example making an AM radio transmitter on the breadboard.

(4) I plan on continuing my shop after school because I am going to QCC, which offers a \$6,000 scholarship a year for people majoring in electronic engineering or fiber optics lasers.



MEMORABLE MOMENTS AT QUEENS VOC

by Janice Ramirez

As this school year comes to an end, students can look back and reminisce about the memories they'll take with them. With so much going on in this school there are plenty of best memorable moments in Queens Voc.

Maria Perez, Freshman
Major: Cosmetology

"My favorite moment in 2011 was a trip I had with my class to the Museum of the Moving Image. It was very interesting because we saw the first cameras ever made and we learned about the history about television and art."

Christopher Perez, Junior
Major: Computer Technology
"My favorite moment in 2011 was when I went to Six Flags, for a physics day trip. It was very memorable and exciting. I was able to have a great time with my friends and teachers, and for some people this was their first time there. It was a break from the same old book work and sitting in class. We also got a free ticket to go back, which was cool."

Johnny Chino, Senior
Major: Business
"My favorite moment in 2011 was when I performed with my dance team "Outburst" in New Jersey Park Performing Arts Center. It was an amazing experience being on stage with them dancing, having fun and expressing ourselves, and overall spending time with them was the best."

Vanessa Obando, Senior
Major: Cosmetology

"My best moment in 2011 was when I received my cosmetology license. I felt very accomplished because I worked really hard for four years, and finally received what I was working for, and it was a nice moment to share with my other classmates that also received their licenses."

John Makiling, Freshman
Major: Computer Technology
"A memorable moment for me in 2011 was when I went to El Museo Del Barrio New York, in Spanish Harlem. From this trip I learned a little more about the Spanish culture and traditions, which was very interesting and fun. Afterwards we all went to the park and got to relax and play."

Eliot Ortiz, Freshman
Major: Electrical Installation
"My most memorable moment in 2011 was performing in the school talent show, because everyone was cheering me on. It was a really good feeling and my parents were there. I also danced to Michael Jackson which is my idol."

Bianca Martinez, Freshman
Major: Electronics
"My most memorable moment in 2011 was going to Rockaway Beach Memorial Day with my family. It was a beautiful day to be outside and I was able to enjoy the nice weather and spend some quality time with my family."

Freshman Thoughts On First Year In Queens Voc?

by Natalie Kavral

We thought we'd find out how our newest students found their first year at Queens Voc. We asked some of them about their experiences during the year.

Questions:

- 1. Was Queens Voc what you expected?
- 2. What was the most exciting moment for you this year?
- 3. In exploratory, which shop class did you least enjoy?
- 4. How did you like the teachers you had this year?
- 5. Now that you completed your freshmen year, do you feel comfortable on attending Queens Voc for the next three years?
- 6. Was 9th grade harder, easier or the same as 8th grade?
- 7. What advice would you give for the future freshmen coming in?

Ashley Espejo

- 1. Queens Voc was not what I expected.
- 2. The most exciting thing this year had to be meeting new friends.
- 3. My least favorite shop class had to be business because I had to take it twice.
- 4. I really enjoyed my teachers this year, they were good.
- 5. Yes, I do feel comfortable attending Queens Voc for another three years. I feel very comfortable here and I like the school.
- 6. I think 8th and 9th grade were about the same.
- 7. I would say stay focus and just do what you need to do.

Vanessa Castano, Sophomore
Major: Cosmetology

"My most memorable moment was joining the varsity girls' volleyball team. I always wanted to join the volleyball team because I've been playing ever since the 7th grade. It was a great experience and would like to join again next year."

Tanya Lopez, Sophomore
Major: Business

"My most memorable moment in 2011 was when I had my candy land themed sweet sixteen party. It was a really special moment for me because all my closest friends and family members were there, and I was able to share this moment with them. I also got a lot of presents and money, it was a day that I will never forget for the rest of my life."

Jocelyn Talavera

- 1. Queens Voc is what I expected.
- 2. The most exciting thing this year must have been playing on the volleyball team.
- 3. I took cosmo the whole year so I didn't get the chance to explore any other shop.
- 4. I like some of them, not all of them were good.
- 5. Yes, I really like cosmo.
- 6. I think the 9th grade was easier than the 8th grade, because in the 8th grade we took a lot of tests.
- 7. My advice would be to take exploratory instead, so you can be sure of what you like.

Monet Mabra

- 1. Queens Voc was not what I expected; I thought there would be more activities in the school.
- 2. The most exciting thing has to be meeting my friends.
- 3. I only took cosmo.
- 4. Most of my teachers were really nice.
- 5. I do feel comfortable here; overall it's a good school.
- 6. I would say it was about the same.
- 7. My advice would be to not slack in the middle of the year. Come in strong and finish strong.

Shannon Sornoza

- 1. Yea I didn't expect it to be anything else.
- 2. The dance.
- 3. Business, I didn't really like the teacher.
- 4. I like most, but they still get on my nerves.
- 5. Yes, I like Queens Voc.

Sindi Rodriguez, Junior
Major: Cosmetology

"My most memorable moment in 2011 was going to the Jacob Javits Center for the Internal Hair Show. It was my first time going and I saw a lot of new hair techniques, new products and shows. It was inspirational."

Jessica Polanco, Junior
Major: Business

"My most memorable moment in 2011 was the talent show. I was in a Hip Hop dance number, it was such a fun experience to do, my family went to see me and it brought me closer to everyone that performed in the talent show. Overall it was a really fun experience."

Andrew Vallario, Sophomore
Major: Business

"My most memorable moment

- 6. It was about the same.
- 7. I would tell them to not have their hopes so high about the school.

Jorge Estrada

- 1. I think Queens Voc was better than I expected.
- 2. The most exciting moment for me this year was when I joined plumbing.
- 3. The shop class I least enjoyed had to be robotics.
- 4. I had some good teachers I really liked and some bad ones too.
- 5. Yes, I do look forward on it.
- 6. In a way it was easier because I felt like high school gives you more freedom and it's all up to you to do good.
- 7. I would advise them to always try their best and never give up.

Isiah Lyans

- 1. Yes, it was exactly what I expected.
- 2. Joining graphic arts.
- 3. I wasn't in exploratory; I went straight into graphic arts.
- 4. They were all excellent, especially Mr. Stuart.
- 5. I feel absolutely positive about staying for another three years.
- 6. It was completely the same.
- 7. To stay to themselves and do all your work.

Delan Delgado

- 1. No, I expected more people.
- 2. The most exciting thing had to be meeting new people.
- 3. Robotics. I didn't really get it and I don't like working with wires.
- 4. Not really.
- 5. I wasn't at first but now I am.
- 6. I believe 8th and 9th grade are about the same.
- 7. I would tell them to focus on their own stuff and they'll be fine.

in 2011 was going on a cruise to Cancun, Mexico for spring break. I went with my two cousins and had a blast. I went swimming and partying a lot, it was such a great experience for me and had a lot of fun."

Sanjeev Thapa, Junior
Major: Computer Technology
"My most memorable moment in 2011 was the poetry slam, I was very honored because I was chosen to read my poem. It was a great way to express myself and had a lot of fun overall."

Alex Peña, Sophomore
Major: Electrical Installation
"My most memorable moment was the winter dance. I had such a great time. There was good music, a lot of dancing and pizza. I was able to just let loose."

I Made a Fool of Myself...
Students' Embarrassing Moments

by Mayra A. Bajana

From walking into the poles on the street to slipping on the cafeteria floor in front of a crowd of people, we all have embarrassing moments. Some are more humiliating than others, but the story is usually worth telling.

Catherine Ortiz, is a sophomore with a story she said was very embarrassing. She got teased about it months afterwards. "I had gotten pantsed last year in gym and everyone saw my underwear! For a while, everyone was calling me blue," she laughed.

Andres Agudelo, a junior, shared a similar story to Catherine's. "A kid had pulled down my pants during gym class," he said. "Everyone saw everything!"

Valentina Betancourt, a senior, had an embarrassing moment that would make any person turn bright red. "I was dancing at a club with someone and the floor was slippery. Before I knew it, I slipped back and the person I was dancing with looked at me and just walked away."

Andres Eras, a sophomore, seemed to have forgotten what day it even was! I thought I was running to school late. When I walked inside the building, security asked me what I was doing here. She told me I was crazy for coming! It was spring break and there was no school."

Nashly Mercado, senior, had a moment that would make any girl want to hide under a rock. "In junior high school I was running after my friends

and I tripped on a doorway. It looked like I was sliding for home plate. When I looked up, the guy I liked was standing there. I decided to run away from everyone and hit a pole. I had a nice day," she concluded sarcastically.

It seems that some people have been pantsed by a friend or several! Jarvis Perez, a freshman, was no different. "It was with the baseball team. We were doing community service and I was wearing sweats," he laughed. "Out of nowhere, I got pantsed."

Steven Rojas, a sophomore, seemed to have had one crazy night. "I woke up in my friend's house with his clothes on. There was throw-up all over the place and girls giving me wedgies."

Dayna Brito, a junior, was having a nice day at the beach. But, then something went wrong. "My top fell off in the beach while I was hanging out with the guy I liked."

Ariseto Quiroz, a senior, seemed to not have been able to control himself from something he probably ate. "I pooped in the snow," said Aristeo.

Lots of people have moments when they fall asleep on the train or bus and there they sleep with their mouths open! Yahirt Steven Artunduaga, a junior, has a story that's a little different. "I was on the train one time, tired from soccer practice, and I was listening to music. I fell asleep on a woman's lap! I woke up and everyone on the train looked at me laughing."

Our embarrassing moments give us all something to laugh and tell. What's yours?

Word Search

by Daniela Heredia

Find these terms that are associated with Queens Voc:

- | | | | |
|-----------------|------------|------------|----------|
| • Bowling | Baseball | Boys | SCEET |
| • Electrician | Designer | Wrestling | Handball |
| • Volleyball | Advance | Technician | Business |
| • Softball | Tigers | Soccer | SSBT |
| • SES | Basketball | Girls | SED |
| • Cosmetologist | Plumber | | |

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

Whose Line is
it Anyway?

by Elizabeth Pimentel

See if you can guess whose lines these are.

1. This Electrical Installation teacher loves saying, "You know what they call that? A bummer."
2. This cosmo teacher can't help but say this when she sees a couple kissing or hugging in the hallways. "Are you kidding me? Guys, it's not Valentine's Day!"
3. "Show me your toys" is a typical phrase this English

teacher says when students have electronics out.

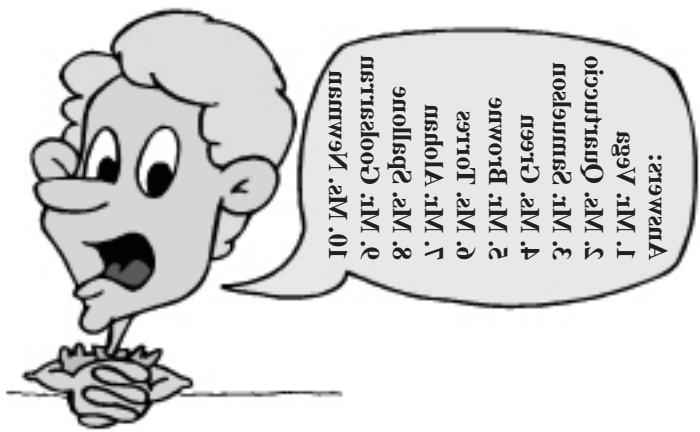
4. This English teacher surely knows how to motivate her students. Whenever they are stuck on something, she says, "Come on homie."
5. He's not a teacher, that's for sure, but have you ever heard him say, "thank you for coming to work," in the morning?
6. "If you keep doing the same thing over and over, you'll get the same outcome," is what this cosmo teacher says whenever her students make the same mistakes.

7. He may joke around by saying that he has 16 kids, but profanity is something he won't joke around with. "Hey watch your language!" is something this teacher yells out whenever a student curses.

8. "Who could tell me?" is what this cosmo teacher asks her students everyday when asking a question.

9. This Living Environment teacher spends most of his time on the first floor. "You're suspended, you are in precinct 109," he tells the students who are sent to that room.

10. "You never know where it's going to lead you," is what this SES assistant principal tells students when they go on trips and interact with other people.



The Vocational Voice wishes
all our students and staff a
great summer vacation!

by Mayra A. Bajana

If you had the chance to be any celebrity, who would it be?

Inquiring Photographer

Alan Merchan
Senior



"I would want to be Kid Cudi because he makes good inspirational music."

Andrew Medina
Junior



"I would be Bruce Lee because he's an outstanding fighter."

Jonathan Avila
Junior



"I choose Antonio Valencia because he is one of the only Ecuadorian players that have made it far."

Juan Velez
Sophomore



"I would be P. Diddy because he's from New York and somehow his life was like mine before he was famous."

Venancio Flores
Freshman



"I would be Drake because he gets to rap. He was in a TV show and now he's famous."

Edwin Guaman
Junior



"I would be Luis Nani because I like the style he plays in, in Manchester United."

Andrea Cordoba
Senior



"I would be Angelina Jolie because I like the fact that she had adopted so many kids and has provided shelter for those who need it."

Alba Pavia
Senior



"Lucero, she's a Mexican singer and actress and she helps a foundation for incapacitated

children in Mexico."

Jonathan Reyes
Senior



"I would be Kanye West because no one envisions music the way he does. So to see music through his eyes, it would be an honor."

Kevin Hernandez
Freshman



"I would be Vin Diesel because he has been in many action movies."

Charles Hughes
Freshman



"I would be Michael Jackson because he contributed a lot to the world and music."

Cristal Flores
Freshman



"I would be Bill Gates because he's smart and has money. He isn't rich because of art or anything."

Mario Niola
Junior



"I would be Leonardo De Caprio because he's an outstanding actor."

Isiah Lyons
Freshman



"I would probably be Lil' Wayne because he can rap and because he has dreads."

Stephanie Reyes
Senior



"Tyra Banks because she went through a lot just to model and traveled the whole world. Now she's a celebrity."

Lenin Sales
Freshman



"I would be Katt Williams because he's hilarious and mad cool."

Johanna Torres
Sophomore



"I guess I would be Johnny Depp because he's a really good actor."

Jessica Alcaide
Sophomore



"Lady Gaga because she's crazy and cool."

Alondra Payan
Sophomore



"Selena Gomez because she's the most innocent Disney star."

Bianna Garcia
Junior



"I would be Christina Aguilera because she could freaking sing!"

Who would you be?

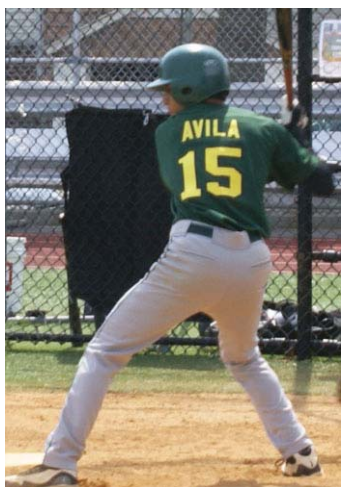
Let us know. E-mail us at
Letters@VocVoice.org

Inside Tigers Sports

Varsity Baseball

continued from back page

The varsity baseball team will also be losing Armando. “This season has been one of the toughest, and as mighty Tigers we kept fighting,” Armando said. “I’m proud to say I’ve helped lead my team to the playoffs all four years



Mando up to bat.

as captain.” Shortstop Luiny Monegro, a freshman rookie, said that “Armando has been

a good leader and someone to look up to.”

“It will be different without Mando, the kid knows how everything has to be done and how to do it; when he comes up to bat, he fights each pitch. He’s been a great captain and I’ve watched him grow into a dynamite baseball player,” said Coach Schimenz. “Next year will be so different without Armando, Larry, and Jose.”

Two-year veteran Bryant Cartagena said he thinks that “next year we have the talent to be successful, but we will need to fill the void of Mando’s leadership, Larry’s pitching, and Jose’s talent.” Many of the players, however, will be returning next year, as the team members are mostly juniors and sophomores. Daniel said that he “will continue to guide the team, working hard to make sure the team does what’s right.” Coach Schimenz hopes to continue to work closely with Dan and Kevin next year, as

well as with anyone who wants to step up. But stepping up has to be consistent, not just when it’s convenient. Kevin said that “Next year, I wish to earn the team’s respect, but I still have a lot to learn and as time goes on I will become a great leader like Armando.” Armando said Kevin and Daniel are hard workers and he hopes they will continue to work well with each



Speedy Bryant on the bases.

other next year. “Only a few players are leaving, and those who remain will step up and we will still be



Tigers received support throughout their playoff run.

a good team,” Luiny said.

With summer near, returning members will work to improve for next year. “I want to improve on the defensive aspect of my game and step up as a leader,” Bryant said. Rookie outfielder Jose Cabrera wants to improve on his swing, and be more consistent in his fielding.

In the middle of July, the Tigers will work along with the New York Mets in Central Park, conducting youth baseball clinics, according to Coach

Schimenz.

The members of the varsity baseball team this year were: Henry Alvarez, Jose Alvarez, Armando Avila, Jose Cabrera, Bryant Cartagena, Andy Collado, Daniel Corona, Luis Gonzales, Daniel Henao, Kevin Hernandez, Lawrence LeBeau, Jose Monegro, Luiny Monegro, Radison Moronta, Diony Perez, Jarvis Perez, Jason Perez, Carlos Rodriguez, Nathaniel Rodriguez, Gary Santos, Brandon Taveras, Joseph Taveras, and Cristian Trujillo.



Young players look forward to next season.

JV Baseball

continued from back page

While the coach says he’s satisfied with the team’s development, one of the captains said he’d just like to have a better record this year. “I want a better record this year, because the record before was 5 & 5 and I want at least 6-4 also to improve for varsity,” said Erik Castro, who the coach describes as a “very serious player.”

Ismael Ruiz, who the coach describes as a good fielder and a fast runner, said “I’m on the JV baseball team because I am hoping to join the varsity team

next year. Right now, I know I’m not ready. I want to sharpen my skills, because I know Mr. Schimenz is a tough coach.”

The team’s last two games were on Thursday, June 9, and Friday, June 10. For their final record and stats, see PSAL.org.

The team members this year are: Robinson Adames, William Callanan, Roeny Castillo, Erik Castro, Saul Cruz, Carlos Fernandez, Anderson Moran, Osvaldo Nunez, Kevin Olivares, Hommy Pena, Steven Polanco, Raul Rosario, Ismael Ruiz, Mario Salcedo, Jesse Santander, Terrell Smith, and Leonardy Urena.

Cheerleading

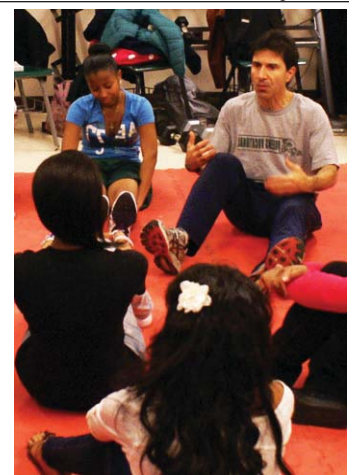
continued from back page

six weeks. “The girls seemed motivated during practice,” he said, adding that they were very helpful to their teammates. Members who caught on to routines faster than others would take time to go through them again. “After the first couple of practices my expectations for this team was very high,” he said enthusiastically.

But on Jan. 14, Mr. Lerro cancelled the team after only 10 weeks in existence. Although this year’s plan for cheerleading

didn’t go well, Mr. Lerro said if the students express interest in starting the team, he will be willing to give it another try. “If they seek me out I will be willing to start with a clean slate,” he said.

The girls who handed in paperwork and part of the team were: Rachel Ackerman, Sofia Bonilla, Kimberly Caceres, Janaya Celestine, Yanni Cotacachi, Ragine Folk, Sahury Gonzalez, Kayla Gonzalez, Hassly Marquez, Charlene Meza, Victoria Noel, Gianne-



Mr. Lerro encourages girls.

Michele Swann, Jenifer Suarez, Nijah Taylor, and Lourdelyne Victor.

and coordinated by Queens Voc’s parent coordinator, Ms. Baez.

The free nutrition workshops, which lasted approximately an hour and a half on eight Tuesdays, open to all parents, demonstrated the proper way to eat healthy. The workshops taught parents about basic nutrition, portion size, food safety, menu planning, food shopping and budgeting, food preparation, and physical activity.

Pictured above are: Ms. Baez, Ms. Altagracia Gomez, workshop nutritionist, and the parents who completed the workshop training.

For more information about “Steps to A Healthier You” go to www.MyPyramid.gov.

Yum, Nutrition Workshops!



by Alex Molina

Eating healthy is an essential part of life. That’s what more than a dozen parents learned by taking part in nutri-

tion workshops at Queens Voc. The workshops began Tuesday, April 5 and ended on June 7.

The workshops were run in conjunction with Cornell University Cooperation Extension,

Senior Sports Profiles

by Lizeth Montoya

Jose Alvarez



Team: Boys' Varsity Baseball
Age: 17
Position: First Base, Pitcher
Years on team: 3
"Alvarez has been great at first base, he is funny and he always keeps the team hyped."
- Jose Cabrera

"Jose has been a quiet, steady contributor to the team for three years. This year, were it not for his hard work and his skills, we wouldn't have gone very far at all."
- Coach Schimenz

Larry LeBeau



Team: Boys' Varsity Baseball
Age: 17
Position: Pitcher, Third Base
Years on team: 4
"On the field, Larry is a good leader. He's a good pitcher who brings the team together and is always there to cheer the team."
- Luis Gonzalez

"Larry came to the team as a freshman and developed into a dynamite pitcher, a solid third baseman, and one of our best batters. He has been a major force on this team and will not be easy to replace."
- Coach Schimenz

Armando Avila
4-year Team Captain



Team: Boys' Varsity Baseball
Age: 17
Position: Outfielder
Years on team: 4
"He is a four-year veteran captain who leads the team as a great examples. He is a hard worker, a great student, and a great captain." - Daniel Corona

"Mando, over the course of four years, turned into a very solid baseball player. And he has been working hard for this team since he was in 9th grade. Armando has been a major force behind every one of the team's successes. He hasn't been a self-promoter, he has been a self-starter and a quiet leader. He's one of the greatest Tigers ever."
- Coach Schimenz

Tigers Sports Recap

by Jairus Hizon

All good things must come to an end. The 2010-2011 is finally over. The season brought playoff berths, heartbreaks, disappointments, and "ooooo soooo close" moments.

Varsity boys' soccer won all of their regular season games going 12 & 0 winning the division. Some would call this a triumphant return for last year's PSAL Champions, but the playoffs are a whole new season, whole new story. The team earned a bye-week after winning the division. They won their second round game against Frederick Douglass Academy 3-2. In the third round, the Tigers played Hunter College High School. The game was close and tied 1-1 by the end of regulation. In overtime, the team was still energized and playing well, but the wind started to pick up its energy as well. The wind blew harder and caused a ball that normally would have been blocked to be pushed higher by the wind and out of the reach of Goalie Alexandros Kiourkenidis. This resulted in a goal for Hunter and ended the Tigers season.

The girls' volleyball season however can be seen as the complete opposite. "It was a heartbreaking season," Mr.

Boyle said. "We lost almost all the games by 2 scoring 23-25, 24-26, 23-25, it was just such a heartbreaking season." Matches are won by whoever scores 25 first and are win by two. "We were so close in every game, so close to winning games, sets, and matches," he pointed out. On a positive note, the team won its final game of the season, beating Aviation and ending the season with a 1 & 12 record.

"Boys' varsity bowling had a rebuilding season this year" Coach Devaux said. "Last season we had a senior-filled team. They knew how to prepare themselves for the game and I mostly played a psychological coaching role. This year I had to teach them how to hone and develop their skills. It takes time to develop skills, especially with bowlers." "Thomas Hock was our best bowler," Mr. Devaux said. He is a four-year veteran and will be graduating this year. Coach Devaux said he expects returning players to step up and expects Angelo Andino to be a leader for next season. The team lost the last game of the season falling short of the playoffs with a 5 & 7 record.

The girls' varsity bowling team, like the Soccer team also had a perfect season, going 12

& 0 and winning the division. This is the second straight 12-0 season for the girls, and their third straight division championship. The girls defeated Richmond Hill HS in the first round of the playoffs and Lincoln HS in the second round, before losing to New Dorp in the third round.

Winter sports usually have more of a home-court advantage because home games are held indoors in the school gym. This year, however, Queens Voc's home games were played either at the Boys and Girls Club in Astoria, the YMCA in LIC, Aviation High School, or the opponent's home court because of the unrepaired gym floor.

The girls' varsity basketball lady tigers won the division with a 14 & 2 record. They won their first two playoff games against South Bronx Preparatory and HS for Law Enforcement & Public Safety, before losing to Manhattan Village Academy in the third round quarter finals.

The boys' varsity basketball team had a successful season with a 10 & 4 record. They lost, however, in the first round of the playoffs to Millennium HS. "Whenever you have an over

Sports Dinner Cancelled

by Julissa Ballesteros

The Sports Awards Dinner was supposed to be on Thursday, June 9 at Bruno's on the Boulevard. But on Monday, June 6, Mr. Lerro, the athletic director, cancelled the dinner because of the poor response. "A lack of interest," Mr. Lerro said. Only about 25 of more than 175 students on interscholastic sports teams had paid.

The cost of the sports dinner was \$28, which included a seven course buffet of penne ala vodka, chicken scarpello, eggplant rollatini, pepper steak, rice pilaf, paella with chicken & seafood, garden salad, and desserts such as fresh mixed fruits, and various types of cake.

Earlier in the spring, Mr. Lerro distributed permission slips to all team coaches, to give out to their players. He also printed flyers and had them posted up around the building.

All parents and team members were invited to the dinner. But few team members responded.

The sports dinner at Bruno's started eight years ago. Last year, Mr. Lerro and the coaches ran a BBQ by the handball courts. This year he decided to return to Bruno's on the Boulevard. "We had seven successful dinners at Bruno's, and I think it honors the athletes in the best possible way for their accomplishments," Mr. Lerro said.

Students who already paid for the dinner will have their money refunded, he said.

Mr. Lerro ordered 218 trophies to be given out at the dinner. Now, he said, they will be given to the coaches to distribute. The trophies cost about \$1,800.



.500 season, it's a good season," Coach Maloney said.

The boys' junior varsity basketball team had a disappointing season going 0 & 14. "Some players couldn't play because of grades, others just never came back. I commend the players that stuck it out and didn't quit even with the record that we had. We started with 15 players and halfway through the season we only had seven players who stuck it out: Phillip Gooding, Carlos Ramos, Amin Al Sayed, Harsimar Jassar, Rick Lim, Yanniss Pascal, and Esteve Escorza."

The boys' varsity wrestling team moved to the A-division this year. "We expected a tough season," Coach Zambrotta said. The team ended the season with a 5 & 5 record. They were one win away from a wrestle-off. The winner of the wrestle-off would have made it to the playoffs. "Our goal was to have a winning season," Coach Zambrotta said. "I was very happy with their ability to turn around the season after starting slowly. Considering the move to the A-Division, it was definitely a successful season," he said.

The girls' varsity softball team had a rough season. The Lady Tigers went 6 & 10 in a distraction filled season. "Our players had good grades, so some players had college classes, SAT classes or other academically related activities

that kept them away from the team aside from injuries," Coach Boyle said. "Grades were good, chemistry was bad. Many little things added up and I hope this doesn't happen again next year."

The boys' varsity handball team had a winning season with a 6 & 4 record. "Anytime you have a record over .500, its successful," Coach Maloney said. With their 6 & 4 record, they made it into a Play-in game that decided their playoff fate. They lost that play-in against Leon M Goldstein HS For Science ending their season.

The boys' junior varsity baseball had a tough season this year. After winning their second game of the season, they lost five straight games, eliminating them from the playoff race. Their record stands at 2 & 6, with two games to go.

The boys' varsity baseball team had a great season going 11 & 5. They won their first six games of the season and clinched a playoff berth their eighth regular season game, the middle of the season. While the team finished third in their division, they defeated HS of Teaching in their first playoff game. The team then defeated Lab Museum HS in the second round, and Brooklyn Studio in the third round. Their fourth round loss to Van Buren ended the season, but not before the team had their second-best post-season record ever.



TIGERS

JV Baseball Builds Solid Players

by Shennel Cole

This season marked a new look for the Queens Voc JV baseball team, from new uniforms to a fresh new outlook on how the team will be running from this year forward.

As the season winds down, the Tigers are struggling to finish a season that has been plagued with rainouts. Their condensed schedule had them trying to play all 10 of their league games within a month. As of June 7, their record was 2 & 6 in the Queens West division.

The team has seventeen players, nine are sophomores and eight are freshmen.

Erik Castro, Osvaldo Nunez, and Jesse Santander are the team’s captains. “All three of these players are very hard-working, and they take initiative. When they know something has to be done, they don’t wait for me to tell them,” said Mr. Cintron. They help keep the team organized, and they have stepped up a lot. Jesse is the only veteran of the three captains, having been on the team last year as a freshman. “He learned a lot last year, and came in this year taking initiative. He’s a good leader,” said Mr. Cintron.

The team is motivated, but the coach said that his job is to motivate the team even more. “I like to get the team excited,” the coach said, “I tell them that this game is ours and that ‘WE ARE TIGERS!’ But the captains have a lot to do with motivating their teammates also,” he added.

The team hasn’t played many games but the highlight of their season has been when they beat Beach Channel 15-0 on May 14, said Mr. Cintron. The Tigers defeated Beach Channel a second time on Saturday, June 4, this time by a score of 10-8.

“The season has gone well,” said the coach, “but I learned that we need to have a lot more practice games because in the beginning of the season the boys were very nervous.”

“We have a lot of freshmen, and most of them are strong and work well with the sophomores. Steven Polanco has done a good job as a pitcher. He’s been a big help,” said Mr. Cintron.

continued on page 18

Whatever Happened to the Cheerleading Team?

by Ricky Macklin

Give me a Q. Give me a V. Give me a commitment, said Mr. Lerro. What happened to the cheerleading? It was all a “lack of commitment,” he said

The much anticipated addition to the school’s sports activities was expected to big boost to school spirit. “I was pleased to hear of a QV cheerleading team at the start of this school year because I believed it would bring much excitement to our school,” said Ms. Green, an English teacher and yearbook advisor.

“It felt good to hear the girls practicing their cheers outside of the gym during basketball practice,” said Kirk Palmer, a senior on the boys’ varsity basketball team.

Even with the school’s three basketball teams unable to play home games at because of the damage to the gym floor, the cheerleaders still expected to be “a part of the school’s spirit during the 2010-11 year,” said junior Nijah Taylor.

The girls had chosen their own uniforms and were measured, and they had begun to talk about fundraising. But then, attendance problems began. “After six weeks of practice the attendance level began to drop severely,” said Mr. Lerro, who tried reaching out to members of the team when he noticed the decline in attendance. Some stated that their parents did not want them staying late after school and others said that they had other responsibilities.

Even though PSAL does not consider cheerleading as a sport, Mr. Lerro ran the squad just as any other team in Queens Voc. “There were eligibility rules, and there was a chance that some of the girls could fail off,” said Mr. Lerro.

But some cheerleader said organization was the problem. “I stopped going to practice because the squad lacked structure,” said freshman Gianne-Michelle Swann.

“I’ve been here 18 years and within that time an English teacher, Ms. Dell’omo, and I tried to begin a cheerleading squad and each time the turnout of girls was poor,” said Ms. Bloom. Mr. Lerro said that this time around the turnout of girls was very acceptable; there were 15 students who attended practice regularly for

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SPORTS

Varsity Baseball Team Gets to Semifinals

by Stephanie Gonzalez

For the tenth year in the row, the Tigers varsity baseball team made it to the playoffs, which began on May 26.

The Tigers, seeded 23rd out 32 teams, went all the way to the fourth round, the semifinals. Their three-game win streak began with a first-round upset against the #10 seeded Queens HS of Teaching. The game went into extra-innings and ended 4-2 in the 9th with Armando Avila driving in the winning runs. The second game, against Lab Museum, ended 5-0 with the pitcher, Larry LeBeau, striking out five while allowing only three hits. In their third and final playoff win, the Tigers defeated #2 seed, Brooklyn Studio. Armando Avila scored the go-ahead run in the sixth inning. The game ended 4-3. The Tigers were finally defeated in the semi-finals by Van Buren HS, by a score of 7-2, despite taking a 2-0 lead in the top of the 4th inning. “This is our second-best playoff record ever,” said Coach Schimenz, who attributes much of the team’s success to the three seniors on the team: captain Armando Avila, first baseman Jose Alvarez, and pitcher Larry Lebeau.

“These were the best games we played this year because we played with our hearts,” Armando said. Daniel Corona, a three-year captain, said the team’s playoff run “was exciting, yet the end was heartbreaking.” The coach initially “had had enough,” he said. “Entering the playoffs I wasn’t particularly happy, I was looking for one and out. But when Mando came up to bat in the first round, with the go-ahead runs on base, I wanted him to get that hit and win the game for the team,” said Coach Schimenz. “It was his last year and it was something he deserved. After four years of working hard for the team, Armando had a great season. Being an integral part of the playoff wins was a crowning achievement,” the coach said. Armando was first appointed captain as a freshman. “He is the only four-year captain in Tigers history,” Mr. Schimenz said.

The team finished the season third in their division with an 11 & 5 record.

Although achieving a solid record, the year was not easy for the varsity baseball team. The Tigers were inconsistent in season games, which led to some uncertainty of a tenth consecutive year in the playoffs, said Armando. “I wasn’t sure of what to expect for the playoffs,” said Armando. As the season continued, getting the team to work as one was a challenge for the



Larry, pitching ace.

senior captain.

“We had a good record this year but we didn’t work together as team and we didn’t play well as a team, not as well as we should have,” said Coach Schimenz. “We were third and not first because of behavior issues and key mistakes.” The coach said he expected veterans Radison Moronta and Bryant Cartagena to have stepped up more. But he’s not complaining, he said. Kevin Hernandez, following in the footsteps of Armando and Daniel, stepped up and quickly earned his “C” as a freshman. Kevin Hernandez said this year was “full of surprises” since becoming captain and with the team entering the playoffs. “I felt the team was hard to get together but we pulled through and got the farthest we could,” he said.

The Tigers will be losing four-year veterans Larry LeBeau and Armando Avila, and three-year veteran Jose Alvarez. “It was a pleasure to be part of this team for the past three years,” said first basemen Jose Alvarez. “This team has developed into a family, and I will miss it.” Larry LeBeau concurs. “The last four years have been something I’ll never forget; I will miss this team, they were my second family,” said the pitcher and third-baseman.

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Hank, ready to field.

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