



Honors American Government students celebrate their performance.

Mr. Davidson’s Students Know their Rights Constitution Team Takes First in Due Process

by Antonio Parada

On Jan. 11, at Martin Luther King Jr. High School, Mr. Davidson’s Honors Government class competed against students from James Madison, Midwood, Townsend Harris, Forest Hills, and Truman high schools in the We the People competition.

Queens Voc came in fifth place overall city wide. “I’m proud of the students who put in a lot of effort into their work,” said Mr. Davidson.

Queens Voc’s Unit 3—Wenli Chen, Natalie Martinez, and Kenneth Marin—successfully beat five other schools in their category, Due Process of Law. “One of the students in the group cited the court case, by citing specific information that impressed the judges,” said Mr. Davidson. Wenli said, “I was proud of how my group presented, yet I didn’t expect to win.”

Eileen Herrera, one of the participants from Mr. Davidson’s

class, said, “It was a magnificent experience. I have never been able to compete in a Constitution-based competition. I learned a lot of new things.” Gabrielle Butler, another participant, said, “The competition helped enhance my presentation abilities.”

Preparations for the We the People competition began in October. The students began researching their topics and answering the questions that related to them. The students worked within their groups to answer the questions, while incorporating historical contents, people, and cases.

The We the People competition tested students on their understanding of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. Prior to the competition, schools were provided with two questions in each of six units. The competing classes were divided into six units. Each unit had a panel of judges who evaluated their unit for all

participating schools.

On the day of the competition, members of the units were told which one of the two questions they would have to answer. The question that was not asked at the city competition will be used in the state championship. The judges scored the units on their presentations. The two schools with the highest number of points qualified for state competition. James Madison HS took first place and Forest Hills HS placed second.

QV Goes to Nationals

by Iveth Duran

At the SkillsUSA national competition in June, Miguel Garcia placed third in Residential Systems Installation and Maintenance and Krzysztof Jakubowicz placed ninth in Plumbing. “Their success was a great achievement for the school,” said Mr. Rivera, a plumbing teacher.

Miguel and Krzysztof, both Queens Voc seniors, traveled to Kansas City, Missouri, to compete in the national championship along with 5,600 other winners throughout the country.

In the state competition, held in Syracuse, NY, Miguel placed first in Residential Systems Installation and Maintenance and Krzysztof placed first in Plumb-

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Seniors Aglow at Neon Jungle Night

by Xiomaira Inga

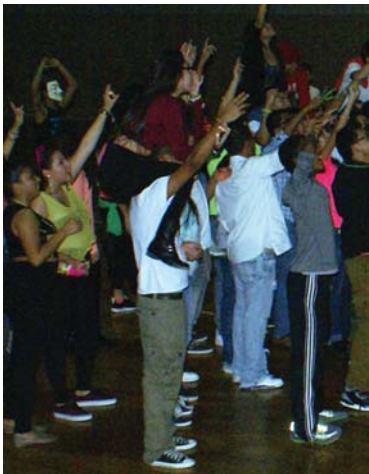
Seniors’ Neon Jungle Night took place in the cafeteria from 6:30pm to 9pm on Friday, Nov. 22.

“Everyone seemed like they were having a good time,” said Ms. DeCarlo, who, as yearbook advisor, coordinated the event.

“Neon Jungle was live,” said Suzzette Perez. Michelle Pereda, a yearbook club member, said, “Neon Jungle was a success. It was exactly how the yearbook club planned it for all of us to have fun and share memories as a class.” Dino Zambrano agreed. “Neon Jungle was a good night. It felt like all the seniors were together as a group,” he said.

About a hundred-sixty seniors participated in Neon Jungle Night. Pizza, Gatorade, and lemonade were served. Glow sticks and glow necklaces were handed out, but neon paint wasn’t, because last year the paint got on the floor, and it wouldn’t wash off people’s clothing.

The DJs were graduates from last year. “They offered to come



Waiting for the 2014 picture.

play music for us,” said Ms. DeCarlo. Michelle said, “The music was good but they should have played variety of music.”

“For the most part, students were cooperative, however we didn’t get to take the yearbook picture as a 2014 shape,” said Ms. DeCarlo, “Students were too impatient. They weren’t listening to directions. One reason for Neon Jungle was to get the senior class together for the yearbook picture.” Instead of a 2014 shape, the seniors were all bunched together lifting their glow sticks or necklaces in the air for Mr. Schimenz to take the picture. “The students didn’t seem to understand. They had a lot of fun but it’s the first class picture in the shape of a blob,” he said.

The dance was supposed to be held until 10pm, but a scheduling conflict with an adult basketball league in the gym led to a rushed photo shoot, “and it seemed a good time to dismiss the students,” said Mr. Schimenz. Ms. DeCarlo said the school was able to move the adult basketball league to 9:30pm.



Dance began in the cafe.

Regents Schedule

compiled by Htet N. Aung

Jan. 27 Monday 9:15am	Jan. 28 Tuesday 9:15am	Jan. 29 Wednesday 9:15am	Jan. 30 Thursday 9:15am
RCT Global Studies	RCT Writing	RCT Science	RCT U.S. History
Living Environment	Global History & Geography	Geometry	Integrated Algebra
1:15pm	1:15pm	1:15pm	Admission Deadlines
Comprehensive English	RCT Mathematics	RCT Reading	Morning Exams: 10am
Physics	Algebra 2/ Trigonometry	Chemistry	Afternoon Exams: 2pm
		Earth Science	

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this edition of *Vocational Voice*

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-ing. Mr. McCarthy and Mr. Rivera, plumbing teachers, accompanied Miguel and Krzysztof to the national competition. The students competed for two days and attended training and workshop sessions. “The nationals was a real eye opening experience,” Mr. Rivera said. He added that the two students realized where they needed to work harder, making it better for teachers to train their students. The students did not pay for the trip. The NYC Department of Education paid for all the contestants from NYC to attend nationals. The cost was \$4,000 per student, said Moses Ojeda, Area V administrative trustee.

Summer School Changes Lead to Return of Semesters

by Edwyn Flores

Queens Voc is no longer annualized because of changes in DOE regulations. In 2012, the summer school credit policy was updated by the NYC Department of Education. Students in summer school can now earn only one credit per class instead of two. In an annualized year, students

60-Hours to Prepare for the World

by Lesly Vivar

To graduate Queens Voc with a Career and Technical Education endorsed diploma, students must complete a 60-hour voluntary or paid internship related to their major. Ms. Gross is now the coordinator for the WBL program, replacing Ms. Spallone who retired in June. “Being the new Work Based Learning coordinator is exciting and a good opportunity to work more with students and use my prior experience in the work field,” said Ms. Gross, who will speak with employers to open up more internships for students. “With internships, students



There’s nothing like reading a book for the fun of it.

Book Club Membership Outgrows Books

by Sebastian Lupercio

Book club members are currently reading *Hate List*, said Ms. Lewis, the school librarian and book club advisor.

Ms. Lewis said that *Hate List* is the third book the club has read this year. The first was *The Fault in our Stars*, and after that they read *Dead to You*. In November, before the

Thanksgiving break, the book club went to see the movie *Catching Fire*, a sequel in the *Hunger Games* series. Ms. Lewis said that they will soon read the book, and will be able to compare the book and the movie. Book club members also ordered hoodies with their book club logo printed on the front. The order has not yet come in. The members don’t just read. They have notebooks in which they are expected to write down their thoughts on the book they are reading, and any other ideas they may have while reading. Members of the book club are given two quizzes each month by Ms. Lewis to make sure everyone in the book club is actually reading the book. Ms. Lewis said that she is planning another trip in the spring, but has not yet announced the details. According to Ms. Lewis there are more members than

anticipated. That has led some book club members to attend sporadically because they are unable participate due to a lack of books. Ms. Lewis said she is trying to find a solution to this problem. “The book club is great because it allows student to open up. For example, *The Fault in our Stars* deals with kids with cancer. While discussing the book, someone might share a story of a family member who has cancer. So the conversations are not limited, which is great because other, more personal topics might be brought up while discussing the books,” Ms. Lewis said. There are 30 official members in the book club, but many more members come from time to time, the librarian said. It’s too late to join the book club for this school year, but students can sign up for next year’s book club.

earn two credits per year-long class at the end of the school year. Now, the school year is separated into two semesters; students earn one credit at the end of each term. Principal Burg said that for the past seven years, Queens Voc used an annual year system. If a student did not pass a class for the year, the student would be given zero credits and be able to earn their two credits in summer school. Since the DOE has changed its summer school credit policy, a student will not be able to

get two credits in summer school preventing them from moving on to the next grade. Queens Voc’s change to semesters allows students to earn two credits if a course is failed one semester and passed another semester, the failed one can be made up in summer school. If a course is failed in the fall, the credit can be earned in the spring. If a course is failed in the spring, the credit can be earned in the summer. “Students need to be aware of

graduating on time. We can give all the opportunities in the world to graduate, but they need to do their job,” said Ms. Burg. Anthony Osorio, a senior, said he failed several courses and had to attend summer school for Physical Education and Earth Science. He needs two more credits for Phys. Ed to be able to graduate, but because of the new summer school regulations, he was only able to earn one credit. The second has to be earned in Saturday school. Had

the summer school regulations stayed the same, Anthony would not have to take Saturday school for Phys. Ed during the fall. Ms. Burg said the decision came after several meetings with Mr. Alikakos, assistant principal of security and organization, and Ms. Ocampo, assistant principal of pupil personal services, to talk about the possible change. “Annual was beneficial before, but not anymore due to the change in regulations,” Ms. Burg said.

School Organizations

compiled by Dillon Lalchand

Clubs/Organizations	Advisors
Business.....	Ms. Newman
Book Club.....	Ms. Lewis
Chess Club.....	Ms. Dimech
College Now.....	Ms. Newman
Cosmo Clinic.....	Ms. Quartuccio
FBLA.....	Mrs. Mitchell
Gay-Straight Alliance.....	Ms. Elbettah
Mock Trial Team.....	Mr. Davidson
MOUSE Squad.....	Ms. Zagada
Poetry Club.....	Mrs. Himmel
Robotics Team.....	Mr. Ali
School Newspaper.....	Mr. Schimenz
Senior Class.....	Mr. Vega
Senior Yearbook.....	Ms. DeCarlo
SkillsUSA.....	Ms. Ramdeo
Student Organization.....	Mr. Vega
Virtual Enterprise.....	Mrs. Mitchell
We The People.....	Mr. Davidson
Work Based Learning.....	Ms. Gross

Sports Teams	Coaches
Boys’ Varsity Bowling.....	Mr. Devaux
Boys’ Varsity Soccer.....	Mr. Ali
Boys’ Varsity Basketball.....	Mr. Maloney
Boys’ Junior Varsity Basketball.....	Mr. Daniel
Boys’ Varsity Baseball.....	Mr. Schimenz
Boys’ Junior Varsity Baseball.....	TBA
Girls’ Varsity Basketball.....	Mr. Devaux
Girls’ Varsity Bowling.....	Mr. Poltawsky
Girls’ Varsity Volleyball.....	Mr. Garofano
Girls’ Varsity Softball.....	Mr. Boyle
Girls’ Varsity Flag Football.....	Mr. Garofano
Co-Ed Wrestling.....	Mr. Zambrotta
Co-Ed Handball.....	Mr. Maloney



Derek shows style at Sunnyside Community Center.

Students get New IDs Second Barcode for Tracking Books

by Raymond Gong

Inside the Queens Voc library, there is a new handheld laser barcode scanner. The barcode scanner is used by Ms. Lewis, the school librarian, to check out and check in books that students borrow.

In the past, students had to sign out the books on a card. With the barcode scanner, the process is much simpler; all that needs to be done is scan the student's ID and scan the book, that's it. Ms. Lewis said, "it makes borrowing books easier, and with a streamline process." After scanning the student's ID, the computer shows which books the student currently has checked out, when they are due, and the student's current late fees.

As part of this new system, the



Barcode scanner in library helps Ms. Lewis.

library books have been entered into a database. Staff and students can now search for books via the school website, QueensVoc.org.

The new barcode is also used for teachers to keep track of the textbooks assigned to students. Ms. Sameyah, a mathematics teacher who had the idea for the textbook scanners said, "It's a faster and easier way of cataloging, and you don't need to worry about losing receipts." The books for core subjects and new books have a barcode, but not all books have been placed into the system yet.

At the beginning of this school year, new students received an ID card with two barcodes instead of one, and returning students were required to have their pictures retaken for a new ID with the second barcode. Mr. Alikakos, assistant principal, said that returning students had their pictures retaken because new IDs were being issued. The new picture would increase the security of the school building. "The seniors don't look the same as when they were freshmen," said Mr. Alikakos.

Artist on the Rise

by Sadia Chowdhury

Gissell Fernandez, a junior at Queens Voc, had artwork displayed in an exhibition called "small details, Big Ideas" part of ArtsConnection's Student Art Program, which was held at LionEye Capital Management, a hedge fund based in Manhattan.

Gissell was one of 20 students chosen from amongst hundreds of New York City students whose work was submitted. Her art teacher, Ms. Volpe, submitted Gissell's piece *Animal*. "I was in her class last year and I guess she saved it. She submitted it this year."

Gissell, who aspires to go to art school, said of her selection, "It was a surprise. I didn't expect it!"

Animal was the result of an assignment to paint animals with human characteristics.

"I play softball so I made



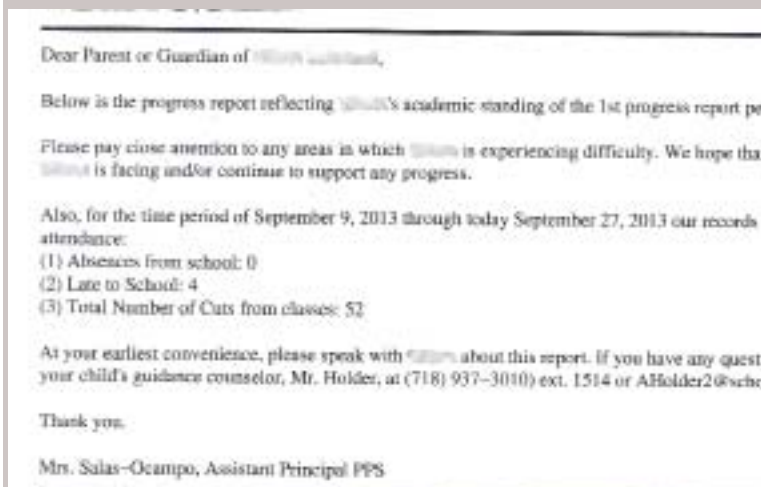
Gissell alongside her Animal.

[the animals] play softball," said Gissell. Ms. Volpe said that she believes Gissell's work was chosen because of her unique perspective on the assignment.

Gissell's work was displayed at LionEye Capital Management on Nov. 26.

Both she and Ms. Volpe were given a \$100 gift card.

Progress Report System Gone Wrong



Reports to parents had incorrect numbers.

by Xiomaira Inga

About fifteen-hundred progress reports were mailed to Queens Voc students' parents on Oct. 1 and 2, many with incorrect attendance data. Senior Jorge Estrada had 102 cuts on his progress report. "I was surprised because I didn't even cut once," said Jorge. Senior Arnaldo Ojeda had 123 cuts on his progress report. "I was surprised, I was like what the ...," he said.

The incorrect data created problems at home. "My parents went crazy!" said sophomore Danish Bokhari. "They were mad and worried about how colleges will react seeing how many absences and latenesses I had," he said. Junior Jonathon Pioquinto said, his mom "got upset" with him and his dad "e-mailed Mr. Holder, who told him the attendance was an error."

Ms. Ocampo, assistant principal of pupil personnel

services, became aware of the number of latenesses, absences, and cuts the students had on their progress report when her secretary, Ms. Carfagno, and guidance counselor told her about the complaints. Teachers told her it was impossible for students to have so many cuts and absences when the school year just started. One parent called Ms. Ocampo saying it's impossible that her child had 270 cuts when school just started.

Ms. Ocampo called it a "human error."

The progress reports were fixed and new reports were handed out during a special homeroom on Oct. 9. Parents were informed by phone through a system called Global Connect. Calls were placed to all students' homes explaining the incorrect attendance on the progress reports that were mailed, and informing the parents that new reports were

going to be handed out.

"I knew it was an error so I didn't worry," said Jonathon. Danish said "I knew I didn't do anything wrong."

Progress reports are produced from an in-house system called Daedalus, Ms. Ocampo said. Queens Voc went back to being a semester school this year, but Daedalus was set up in annual form. "It captured all the latenesses, absences, and cuts from January until now," said Ms. Ocampo. Jorge said, "I don't believe I had that many cuts." Arnaldo said, "I probably did have that many cuts last year, but not this first semester."

Mr. Daniel, attendance coordinator, said he still had one or two complaints after the revised reports but not as much as he did before.

Ms. Ocampo believes there may still be some errors on the progress reports. "Some errors may exist, for example, a student arrives late to class and the teacher mark him absent. Another problem with the system is that "if a student is absent and one of his teachers doesn't mark him absent, he will be considered cutting for his other classes. If a student is going to a trip and arrives late to school and has already been marked absent, the student will be marked absent for the day. However, it does get reversed," she said. Mr. Daniel said, "This happens very often, but we go over the attendance the next day or the student comes to see us about a call home. We try to be fair."

Students are W!SE QV Named Blue Star School

by Kevin Hernandez

Queens Voc has again earned Blue Star School designation, W!SE announced. Queens Voc joins 193 high schools from throughout the country that earned that designation.

Last year, Queens Voc also achieved the Blue Star designation.

To become a Blue Star School, students learn about personal finance and are given a Financial Literacy Certification test. The school average—the average of all the students who took the test—needs to be an 80 or higher.

"Earning the Blue Star School status is no easy feat," said Phyllis Frankfort, founder, president, and CEO of W!SE. W!SE stands for Working In Support of Education. Its goal is to encourage financial literacy. On Nov. 5, Queens Voc received a banner for this achievement at The McGraw-Hill Company, in New York City, the banner is located in the first floor near the elevator.

The financial literacy course is taught in the fall to senior business students, and in the spring it is taught in all economic classes. As part of the program, teachers teach students about personal finances, using resources from W!SE.

Mr. Davidson, a social studies teacher, was recognized by W!SE as a Gold Star Teacher, a designation given to teachers who have a 95 percent passing rate in

their class. He has been a gold star teacher from 2010 to 2013. He started teaching this unit in his Economics class in 2010, and when the class was successful, he recommended it for all Economics classes. Since 2011, all Economics students have taken this course.

According to Mr. Davidson, being a Blue Star School means that students who graduate from Queens Voc and have taken the unit on personal finance are financially literate. They have the knowledge to create a budget, save, invest, and spend money responsibly, and to protect themselves from fraud.

"I enjoy teaching financial lessons because they are very relevant to the students' lives," Mr. Davidson said. In June, there will be an award ceremony for financial literacy scholars—students who earn a 95 or above on the test.



Banners hang at entrance.

New VE S.T.A.R. Emerges

by Lesly Vivar

Queens Voc has started a new Virtual Enterprise firm called Special Thanks and Recognition (S.T.A.R.).

The new firm specializes in employee recognition products for companies to recognize the hard work, birthdays, or praiseworthy efforts of employees.

Sandy Abaid is the CEO, Crystal Betances is the CFO, and Jesus Victorio is the bank manager. These students were nominated and elected by their classmates.

“Being the CEO is scary and overwhelming at times because it’s still something new and part of a different world. I feel I am prepared for the position, but only time will tell if I am. I have Ms. Mitchell helping me along, so I’m not doing this alone,” said Sandy.

“It feels great being the bank manager because it involves math. I want to major in accounting, so I’m getting experience to decide

if I should pursue it or not. I see VE as a great place to see what the business world is like,” said Jesus Victorio.

Six departments make up this firm: business administration, human resources, web design, purchasing, accounting, sales and marketing. Each department has a vice president.

Currently, students are working on several tasks, said Ms. Mitchell. The human resource department is working on the employee manual. The accounting department is working on financial statements. Web design is working on the new catalog, which comes out each month. The sales and marketing department is trying to increase the number of sales per month.

S.T.A.R. and DCW employees worked as a team to get ready for the business plan competition, which took place Dec. 19, at Long Island University in Brooklyn. “The S.T.A.R. presenters were confident and knew what they were

going to talk about. This led them to be able to answer the questions, after presenting their business plan to the judges. But DCW was not able to practice enough because there were last minute changes,” Ms. Mitchell said.

Ms. Mitchell coordinates both DCW and S.T.A.R. “I’m excited working with both firms. It’s nice to see how a Virtual Enterprise firm starts from the beginning. I expect students in the new firm to actually learn what their departments are and encourage them to continue a career path,” she said.

DCW this year is led by CEO Suveer Seemangal, CFO Osvaldo Nunez, and Bank Manager Lesly Vivar. These students volunteered for their positions last June.

“VE International is an in-school entrepreneurship program and global simulation that empowers students to unleash students potential through creating and managing business ventures,” said Ms. Mitchell. “Virtual Enterprise also helps business students earn their work based learning hour,” she said.

Students Head to California for Regional Tradeshow



Suveer: QV's ambassador.

by Lesly Vivar

During the first week of December, Suveer Seemangal and Sandy Abaid went to California to represent Queens Voc at the Western Region Virtual Enterprise Annual Trade Show. The two students were accompanied by their advisor, Ms. Mitchell.

According to Ms. Mitchell, the main goal of going to California was to have the CEO of DCW and S.T.A.R. participate in the tradeshow to generate sales for each firm. The companies’ success was in virtual money. DCW made about \$15,000 and S.T.A.R. made about \$4,000.

The Queens Voc students participated in the sales presentation and the apprentice competitions. Sandy and Suveer won Honorable Mention for Sales Presentation and the Business Professionalism Award.

Suveer competed against seven other teams and came home the winner of the “You’re Hired” medal in the apprenticeship presenter competition given by the Business and Entrepreneurship Center. In the apprentice competition, teams created a mock company as their own and renovated a website. Finally as a team, they presented their work to the judges.

Ms. Mitchell had a role, too. She said she “worked alongside the judges to make sure the events ran smoothly.”

“I went to California prepared to win and represent Queens Voc along with Sandy,” Suveer said. “I had a marketing and advertising company called NYSA. I found it easy to present it to the judges. I also learned to work with people who have different work ethics and improve my leadership skills.”

“The students were highly competitive. To prepare a sales presentation a person needs to be confident and convincing. I needed to know what my product was,” said Sandy.

Who *Doesn't* Want Free College Credits?

by Maritza Murudumbay

This semester, 200 Queens Voc students took College Now classes. Talk about getting a head start in college!

There are 15 college courses available for students to take at Queens Voc and LaGuardia Community College, most of which are credit-bearing classes. According to Ms. Newman, credits are transferable to most CUNY colleges and to some SUNY, private, and out of state colleges as well.

Assistant Principal Newman coordinates LaGuardia’s College Now program at Queens Voc. She said College Now “helps students to earn good grades in college because they will have had experience and preparation taking college courses.” Students who take College Now courses at LaGuardia gain real life experiences on a college campus, she added.

Senior Sandy Abaid took Global Politics at LaGuardia. “College classes in LaGuardia are different and you have the opportunity to meet new people,” she said. “I enjoy Global Politics at LaGuardia because my professor has a lot of experience since he comes from another country. College classes at LaGuardia are harder than college classes in Queens Voc, however, it is fun.”

Taking College Now courses does not guarantee a student will earn college credits. Eight out of 31 students who took a class at LaGuardia received a “no credit”



Ms. Lingstuy teaches math and responsibility.

grade in the Spring 2013 semester. “Either the students didn’t go to their college classes or failed the class,” said Ms. Newman. At Queens Voc, 44 out of 120 students received a “no credit” grade.

Ms. Nierer works along with Ms. Newman as the new College Now advisor for the fall semester and teaches Basic Writing at Queens Voc. She suggests students do well in their College Now classes because “grades of B or higher are transferable between colleges.” She also mentioned that a “C or higher might be transferable depending on the college you go to.” Her goal as the College Now advisor is to get as many students as possible in the College Now program so students can earn free college credits. “It gives students an advantage because they’re going to be ahead in college,” she said.

College Now courses at LaGuardia include Basic Writing I, College Algebra and

Trigonometry, Composition I, Critical Thinking, General Psychology, Global Politics, Introduction to Business, Literacy and Propaganda, and Topics in Biological Science. Taking a class in LaGuardia is documented on the students’ transcripts and counts as one high school elective.

College courses at Queens Voc are averaged into students’ transcript and are weighted to 1.05 to the grade. It counts as more than an average class.

Senior Katia Ascencio took College Algebra and Trigonometry with Mr. Raynor. “The College Now program is a great offer,” she said. “When I start college, I won’t need to take a math class. I’ll be saving money and be ahead of the freshmen in college. My goal is to get at least an A- and have a better understanding of math.”

According to Ms. Newman, this year College Now expanded to six courses this fall at Queens Voc: Basic Writing (non-credit

bearing, one high school elective) with Ms. Nierer; College Algebra and Trigonometry (three credits, one high school elective) with Mr. Raynor; General Psychology (three credits, one high school elective) with Ms. Ocampo; Introduction to Business (three credits, one high school elective) with Mr. Stuart; Literacy and Propaganda (three college credits, one high school elective) with Mr. Schimenz; and Math Concepts (non-credit bearing, one high school elective) with Ms. Lingstuy.

The College Connection program will be available in the spring for students who have taken and passed two College Now courses with an A or a B, have an 80 on the ELA Regents and an 80 on one of the math

Regents. Qualified students are interviewed by College Now, and if accepted, are assigned a mentor, who later becomes their professor. In College Connection courses, which are only offered at LaGuardia, students take the class with college students. Some of the six courses that are offered in College Connection are Accounting II, Art, Dance, Japanese, Photography, and Statistics.

The schedule for the college courses in spring at LaGuardia is currently available in Ms. Newman’s office. Classes begin in the week of March 3 through the end of the week of June. See Ms. Newman for further information about the spring courses at LaGuardia.



Josue takes a hands-on approach to problem-solving.

by Thalia Cia

SCEET Adds Cisco Certification

A new course has been introduced at Queens Voc that will enable SCEET students to get certified in Cisco networking. It is a two-year course that is currently being taught by Mr. David, a CTE teacher in SCEET. This course is offered to SCEET students at the end of their sophomore year, and is taken throughout their junior and senior years.

“The students learn how a network of computers is set up, how one computer communicates with another,” said Mr. David, “they learn how data travels.”

He said that Cisco produces networking devices such as routers and switches. A network is a group of computers connected using Ethernet cables and a router, which sends information from one network to another. The students in the class learn to connect these devices together using cables and create a network of computers that work together.

Samrat Chowdhury, a junior in the Cisco course, said he enjoys the class, but it requires a lot of

reading and hard work. To be eligible, students needed an 80 or higher on their English and math classes during their sophomore year.

Through the course, juniors can be certified in CCENT, Cisco Certified Entry Networking Technician, and seniors can be certified in CCNA, Cisco Certified Network Associate.

“The good thing about this course is that everyone works at their own pace,” said Mr. David. “One student can be on chapter three, and another can be on chapter 11.” Students have to complete a chapter before moving on to the next one. Mr. David said that students must pass CCENT before they can move on to prep for CCNA.



New course increases students' employability.

According to Mr. David, these certifications can replace 4-12 college credits if a student pursues a branch of Cisco. “You can go into data, voice, security, or architect, the highest level of Cisco education,” he said.

Dolapo Oyekanmi, a junior in the class, said, “It feels good to work at your own pace because you’re not pressured to catch up... especially since the work is online, you can do it anytime, anywhere.”

Junior Hamza Naseer said he “picked the course because it’s more demanding; and a better future in this career.” Samrat said he picked the class because of the teacher. “If Mr. David didn’t teach it I might not have even pursued it.” Junior Merry

Shil, picked the class because she is thinking about a career in Cisco.

Students have learned how to make CAT5, CAT5e, straight-through, and cross-over Ethernet cables, seven layers of the OSI model, and types of networks such as WAN, Wide Area Network, and LAN, Local Area Network.

The Cisco course is divided into four semesters, according to Mr. David. Juniors take semesters one and two. Semester one is

based on theory. Semester two is based on labs and is when students take their certification tests for CCENT. Semesters three and four, taken senior year, are also lab-based and lead to certification tests for CCNA. “The exams are computerized,” said Mr. David, “but they’re not multiple choice.” Mr. David said that students have to drag and drop routers, switches and workstations into place to create a functional network of computers.

It has not been determined who will teach the senior Cisco class during the 2014-2015 school year. Mr. David said he wishes to do it himself, and no one else is yet qualified to teach the course. He does not know whether he will recruit students for his class the same way as last year, when he stopped by every sophomore shop in SCEET and gave a presentation to students.

“This class is unique, it’s all about desire, it’s not easy, if it were easy then the whole world would be doing it,” said Mr. David.

Need Technical Help? Contact MOUSE Squad

by Maritza Murudumbay

Ms. D’Onofrio, a cosmetology teacher, had trouble logging into her admin account. “Profile login failed,” her laptop would say. Instead of deleting the account and erasing the information on the laptop, senior Dillon Lalchand, a MOUSE Squad member, researched online for a better solution. He found a solution that listed what to do step by step to solve Ms. D’Onofrio’s technical problem.

Ms. Judge, SSBT guidance counselor, had an anti-virus software on her computer and a pop up box would appear. MOUSE Squad members Michael Piekarz and Thalia Pintado opened the Symantec endpoint Protection folder and ran the LiveUpdate, which updated the anti-virus software. The update was successfully installed and the pop up box never appeared again.

“MOUSESquadisthetechanical help desk of the school,” said Ms. Zagada, who is coordinating MOUSE Squad for the second year and is also a C-tech teacher in the school.

“MOUSE Squad benefits the members of the program by applying the skills they’ve learned after high school.”

MOUSE Squad members gain hands-on experience troubleshooting real problems and learn to work with customers, who are, in this case, the teachers and other staff members in the school. The MOUSE Squad members upgrade, reimage, troubleshoot, and install computers, laptops, and printers. They also resolve network problems.

When the video doesn’t display on the SMART Board, it is MOUSE Squad’s job to see whether the laptop is the problem or the connection. MOUSE Squad works on audio problems,

laptop connections, and re-oriens SMART Boards. They change laptop keyboards, and fix Wi-Fi connections.

Natalie Mercado is one of the members of MOUSE Squad. “We are learning how to communicate with our peers and clients. We are learning how to work,” she said. Natalie and other members have been receiving service tickets from Ms. Zagada online from different teachers. Ms. Zagada assigns the cases to specific members, who either work as a group or alone. After the members receive their case, they go to the client’s room to fix the problem. Once the repairs are done, the case is closed and the members go on to the next case.

MOUSE stands for Making Opportunities in Upgrading Schools and Education. The program is open only to SCEET students chosen by Ms. Zagada. MOUSE Squad members are supposed to have an 85 average or above in all their classes, have a clean dean’s record, and be responsible. MOUSE Squad members are not supposed to fail any classes but members who fail are not necessarily kicked out.

The members who Ms. Zagada selects for MOUSE Squad are paid minimum wage, which is \$7.25 an hour. Other students go to MOUSE Squad to get their 60 hours of work based learning for the CTE endorsed diploma.

Members of MOUSE Squad work Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 3pm-6pm. Sometimes, they work on Saturdays from 8am to 1pm.

To get a request from MOUSE Squad, teachers must complete a service ticket form which requires

their phone number, email address, best time to be contacted, model name/number, DOE barcode number, type of problem, and a brief description of the problem(s). Completed service tickets should be forwarded to Ms. Zagada’s mailbox. Those who want a request from MOUSE Squad can also fill out a service ticket form online at www.mousesquad.org/squad/qvmousesquad.

MOUSESquadalsoisinvolved with a program called GreenTech. MOUSE Squad members are learning how energy works and

what they can do to decrease the amount of energy use.

There are 16 members of the MOUSE Squad: Marjan Bakth, Szymon Bozek, Cynthia Duque, Edwyn Flores, Boris Gonon, Kevin Hernandez, Jazleen Intriago, Dillon Lalchand, Natalie Mercado, Michal Piekarz, Thalia Pintado, Tania Puchuela, Nazanin Somarin, Johanna Tan, Daniela Vivar, Xiao Ping Wang, and Qing-Si Tu.

For more information about the MOUSE Squad, visit their website or speak to Ms. Zagada.

Get Ready for More Fire Drills

by Natalie Martinez

The school year began with a fire drill. On Sept. 9, the first of a rapid succession of fire drills was held.

Three more fire drills were held in September, on Sept. 25, 27, and 30. Four more drills were held in October, on Oct. 3, 21, 23, and 25. The school was required to conduct at least eight fire drills before Nov. 30, said Mr. Alikakos, assistant principal of security.

There were no problems during the fire drills, but Mr. Alikakos said that students should leave the building in a more orderly manner.

To comply with DOE rules, the school has to have 12 fire drills per year.

The fire drills disrupted the teachers’ lessons but, Ms. Dimech, a new SSBT math teacher who previously taught at Flushing High School, didn’t seem to

mind. “It is better to knock out the fire drills early in the year than when we have to worry about midterms and Regents,” she said. “I understand the reasoning and I certainly won’t let the disruption of my lesson deter from my school morale.”



Fire alarm system had a lot of use in the fall.



MOUSE Squad members working on PCs in 412.

News for the Class of 2014

by Kenneth Marin

Senior Elections

The class of 2014 elected Estefania Villegas as class president in the senior elections held on Oct. 15. Also elected were Natalie Martinez, vice president, Maritza Murudumbay, secretary, and Ashley Arango, treasurer.

One hundred fifty-two seniors, more than half the seniors eligible, voted.

Senior Mayte Negrete said she voted for Estefania Villegas because “she has always helped out around the school in any way that she can, so I know that she genuinely cares about this school and doesn’t wear president as a title,she lives it. I believe she is a great factor to making this school year memorable and the best school year for all of our seniors.”



Awaiting the “big picture.”



Senior officers plan to make their last year their best.

Senior Arnaldo Ojeda said he voted to elect Natalie Martinez because “she is outgoing and I think she had ideas that can help make our senior year fun.” Natalie does have a couple ideas that she says she would love to have happen. “I really want to have a Prom Expo, where we get to try on and model prom dresses and tuxes. Also, I think it would be fun to have student vs. teacher games and also a field day sometime in the spring,” Natalie said.

Also running for office were Suveer Seemangal and Gabrielle Butler for president; Iveth Duran and Michelle Pereda for vice president; Maria Perez and Monica Puspasari for secretary. Ashley Arango ran unopposed.

Senior Photos

From the latter half of October to the first half of November, seniors

who were on track to graduate were given a date and time to go to the auditorium and have their pictures taken by photographers from Jasienowski Studios. The boys were photographed wearing suits while the girls were photographed wearing a black top that hangs off their shoulders called a drape. Seniors were given a password for the company’s website so that they can go online and select the photo they would like to appear in the yearbook. Jasienowski Studios said they would select the pictures for seniors who didn’t go online and choose their own.

Seniors who want to purchase photos must have ordered the pictures before the expiration date designated next to their on the website. There were different expiration dates because not all students had their photos on the

same day.

Events

Neon Jungle Night kicked off senior events on Nov. 22, with 153 seniors attending the event. Neon Jungle Night, which replaced Glow Out, was coordinated by Ms. DeCarlo and the yearbook club.

Ms. DeCarlo and the yearbook club also run Senior Oscar Night, held in the spring. “Senior Oscar Night is where basically the winners for class personalities are crowned. The yearbook club decided to have it work like the actual Oscars, which is why people dress up as their favorite celebrities, there’s a red carpet, and the ceremony has little skits too. Every year, a few staff members and I put together a little comedy video as well,” said Ms. DeCarlo.

Seniors can also look forward to the senior trip luncheon, and prom, all of which are run by Mr. Vega, the senior advisor.

Senior Dues

Senior dues, which cover the costs of the yearbook, diploma case, cap and gown, graduation expenses, and photo sitting fee, are \$125. The first \$60 was due Nov. 22, 2013. The other \$65 is due by Feb. 3.

The Senior Trip to Honor’s Haven Resort in the Catskills cost \$290. The first deposit of \$100 was due Dec. 6. The other \$190 was due Jan. 3.

Seniors who wanted to purchase the Senior Spirit Pack 2014 had to pay \$40 by Dec. 13. The spirit pack includes a T-shirt and a hoodie.

Are You Ready for College?

by Andres Diaz

The SAT, ACT, and PSAT are designed to show how ready students are for college.

The Scholastic Aptitude Test assesses a student’s critical reading, math, and writing skills in 3 hours, 45 minutes. The American College Test is similar to the SAT but the ACT, a three-hour and 25 minute test, has five sections: English, math, reading, science, and an optional writing test.

The Preliminary Scholastic Assessment Test determines eligibility for the National Merit Scholarship program and helps students prepare for the SAT and ACT. It assesses critical reading, math and writing skills, and students receive feedback on their strengths and weaknesses. The PSAT is administered free every year to sophomores and juniors at Queens Voc.

ACT fees are \$36.50 for the ACT with no writing section, and \$52.50 for the ACT plus writing section. Students may be eligible for a fee waiver. Requirements are listed on the ACT Fee Waiver form on www.actstudent.org/faq/fee-waiver.html. SAT fees are \$51.

To check for eligibility for a SAT fee waiver, students need to bring a copy of their parent/guardian’s 1040 income tax form to the college advisor, Ms. Abrams, who is in room 143B on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7:40am to 2:50pm.

Students can register for the SAT on sat.collegeboard.org/register.

To apply for the ACT go to www.actstudent.org/register/, click on online registration, create an ACT web account, then register for the test. The next ACT for which students can register is April 12, with a registration deadline of March 7, and June 14, with a registration deadline of May 9.

Preparing for the SAT and ACT is key if you are trying to get a high score.

There are many study options on [sat.collegeboard.org/](http://sat.collegeboard.org/practice) practice such as a free practice test, a free question of the day, free sample practice questions, the Official SAT study guide with DVD for \$31.99, and the official SAT Online Course for \$69.95.

On www.actstudent.org/testprep/ there is ACT online prep, The Real ACT Prep Guide, ACT question of the day, and Preparing for the ACT.

Queens Voc offers free Kaplan classes after school, and there is also a large selection of books that prepare students for the SAT, ACT, and PSAT.

Guidance Counselor Availability

compiled by Maritza Murudumbay

SLC	Room/Ext	Name	Time	Lunch	Inquiry Team
SES	151A 1511	Ms. Basirico	8am-3:10pm	Period 4 10:37am-11:24am	Period 6 SLC Meeting Mondays
SED	151B 1512	Ms. Dattner	8am-3:10pm	Period 5 11:27am-12:14pm	Period 4 SLC Meeting Thursdays
College Advisor	143 1432	Ms. Abrams	7:40am-2:50pm Tues & Thurs	Period 6 12:17pm-1:04pm	
SSBT	151E 1515	Ms. Judge	10:30am-5:40pm	Period 8 1:57pm-2:44pm	Period 5 SLC Meeting Tuesdays
SCEET	151D 1514	Mr. Holder	9:20am-4:30pm	Period 6 12:17pm-1:04pm	Period 7 SLC Meeting Tuesdays
Pupil Accounting	153 1531	Ms. Carfagno	7:45am-3:05pm	12:00pm-12:50pm	Monday-Friday

QV Goes Head to Head at SkillsUSA



Strong turnout for SkillsUSA meeting in 346.

by Iveth Duran

On Saturday, Dec. 14, there was an in-house competition for juniors and seniors to determine who would represent the school in the city and state SkillsUSA competition.

Eight competitions were held. According to SkillsUSA.org, SkillsUSA “is a partnership of students, teachers, and industry working together to ensure America has a skilled workforce. SkillsUSA helps each student excel.”

To participate in a competition, students volunteer and then their shop teachers nominate them. All students are encouraged to compete, but each student can only enter one competition.

Winners of each competition area are in the following:

Job Demo A

- First: Carmen Quintuna
- Second: Jazlyn Inga
- Third: Brandon Guevares

Job Interview

- First: Mariam Abbasi
- Second: Karla Loor
- Third: Ariene Bolados

Pin Design

- First: Cristian Pineda
- Second: Orlando Flores
- Third: Pamela Abreu

Plumbing for Juniors

- First: Jared Martinez
- Second: Sandra Campis
- Third: Bryan Anguiano

Plumbing for Seniors

- First: Henry Montero
- Second: Moises Ramos
- Third: Jorge Estrada

Prepared Speech

- First: Elizabeth Maldonado
- Second: Mohammed Hossain

Residential Systems Installations & Maintenance

- First: Pedro Bonilla
- Second: Htet Naing Aung
- Third: Xiaoping Wang

Electrical Construction Wiring

- First: W. De Los Angeles
- Second: Tarek Ahmed
- Third: Jeffery Guevera

William De Los Angeles said that the competition “was challenging because I expected to do everything right. At the end, it was a relief because all my work was right.”

“It was a rough and interesting competition,” Pedro Bonilla said. “It was the first time I won anything productive. I was highly satisfied,” he added.

Ms. Ramdeo is the coordinator for the SkillsUSA club. Meetings are being held every Wednesday after period 10.

On Nov. 1, SkillsUSA members held their first fundraiser. They raised \$1000 that will go toward upcoming events and activities. Club officers who are Pedro Bonilla, Gabriel Miller, Zinniah Munoz, Kimberly Pisfil, and Shantal Teran are currently planning future fundraisers.

Mariam Abbasi is representing NYC as Treasurer for SkillsUSA. In order to get this position, there was an eight-page application and recommendations. She then was interviewed by the SkillsUSA City Board of Committee. Mariam said, “I need to step out of my comfort zone. I know someday I’m going to be in control of something that I’m unfamiliar with and I know that if I just push myself, I can prepare myself for situations where I need to be more people oriented.” Mariam will be representing Queens Voc as Treasurer at the SkillsUSA City competition.

New Plumbing Room Plans in the Basement

by Alexander Borges

Two doors in the basement mark the end of the hallway for students, but there is a storeroom behind those doors, which is being considered for use as a new plumbing shop room.

According to Mr. Rivera, “A lot needs to be pulled off,” in order for this conversion to occur. Logistical work has been in progress for the past two years to make the room ready for students, but “nothing has really moved forward,” he said.

One change needed is that a ventilation system will have to be installed.

The plan is to use the room as a junior/senior shop room, with versatile desks and workstations to accommodate the plumbing curriculum. The plan according to

Senior Yearbook Under Construction



Ms. DeCarlo says yearbook club members on task.

by Ahtesham Hoque

On Dec. 20, the yearbook club met its first of three deadlines, having 32 out of the total 96 pages completed. The completed pages include administration, teachers, staff, senior shop classes in action, and school events such as Neon Jungle Night and Breast Cancer Walk, among others.

According to Ms. DeCarlo, the yearbook advisor, there are currently 17 students in the club, “the greatest number of students to join and participate so far,” she said. “The issue that arises is that as deadlines come up, there is more stress, since the students have other obligations like jobs and sports, and the number does tend to dwindle down,” she said.

The yearbook club meets in the library every Tuesday from 4:30pm until 8pm. “Students need a place to communicate, and have access to computers at the same time, which is why the library is such a good place,” said Ms. DeCarlo.

Students can work on their own time because of yearbookavenue.com, a website that helps club members create and design their yearbook pages. Students not in the yearbook club can help out by uploading pictures of events, games, and senior activities that have been taken place to replayit.com. Students with smart phones can download the Replayit app, which enables students to send pictures straight from their phone to the website.

The second deadline is in February, and the last deadline is in the middle of April.

Senior student Michelle Pereda said, “I joined yearbook because I wanted to be part of a

group where we all work together to make something happen, in this case the yearbook. I want to make sure the Queens Voc class of 2014 yearbook will be memorable.” Michelle is in charge of photos and page layout of “additional staff, such as secretaries, SBST, the college advisor, school aids, custodians, and cafeteria staff,” she said.

“I joined the club because it helps me finish my hours needed to receive my endorsement for shop. Meeting in the library after period ten is a struggle for me because I get out after seventh period,” said senior student Wendy Tupacyupanqui, who is in charge of senior class officers of 2014 for the yearbook.

According to Ms. DeCarlo, the date the yearbook will be given out is dependent on meeting deadlines, proofreading, and shipping time.

Ms. DeCarlo took charge of the yearbook club when Mr. Stefanidis, who was the advisor, decided to step down. Ms. DeCarlo said that Mr. Stefanidis approached her and said, “I think you’ll be good at it, and I think you’re going to like it.” Ms. DeCarlo has been running the yearbook club for five years, the first two with Ms. Green. “After the first year I ended up loving the job so I plan on running the club every year,” said Ms. DeCarlo.

The 17 students in the yearbook club are Pamela Abreu, Ashley Arango, Janaya Celestine, Carlos Fernandez, Eylin Flores, Abigail Garcia, Xiomaira Inga, Kenneth Marin, Natalie Martinez, Brenda Melendez, Mayte Negrete, Kenya Olmedo, Antonio Parada, Michelle Pereda, Suzette Perez, Wendy Tupacyupanqui, and Estefania Villegas.

Mr. Rivera is to add a 3D printer, plasma cutter, welding machine, and a computer workstation that will operate that equipment.

Approving a room for class use takes time. Currently the room is classified as a storeroom. To use it as a classroom, the certificate of occupancy for the building must be changed. According to AP

Alikakos, prior to the construction of the new wing, the room had been used for classes, but for unknown reasons the certificate was changed.

As of now, there is no set date for the use of the room, and until the criteria required to gain the certificate is issued, the room’s status will remain this way.

Calendar of Events

compiled by Jose Hernandez

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| Jan. 24: | Marking Period 3 Ends |
| Jan. 25: | January SAT Exam |
| Jan. 25: | College Connection Application Deadline |
| Jan. 27-30: | Regents Exams |
| Jan. 31: | Regents Rating Day - No Students in Attendance |
| Feb. 3: | Chancellor's Day - No Students in Attendance |
| Feb. 4: | Spring Term Marking Period 1 Begins Queens Voc College Courses Begin |
| Feb. 7: | Report Card Distribution |
| Feb. 7: | March SAT Registration Deadline |
| Feb. 8: | February ACT Exam |
| Feb. 17-21: | Midwinter Recess-Schools Closed |
| March 1: | Baseball/Softball Seasons Begin |
| March 3: | LaGuardia College Courses Begin |
| March 7: | April ACT Registration Deadline |
| March 8: | March SAT Exam |
| March 8: | SkillsUSA New York State Competition |
| March 14: | Marking Period 1 Ends |
| March 17: | Marking Period 2 Begins |
| March 27: | Parent Teacher Conference - Evening |
| March 28: | Parent Teacher Conference - Afternoon |
| March 27-29: | Robotics Long Island Regional |
| April 4-6: | Robotics New York City Regional |

Cosmo Students Lose Time



Eylin making up hours in Ms. Quartuccio’s 2nd period class.

by Tania Puchuela

Cosmetology students returned to school in the fall to find their four-period senior shop class reduced to three periods. The fourth period was eliminated because of budget cuts, said Ms. Newman, assistant principle of SES. Unlike the other senior shop classes that had already been reduced to three periods, cosmetology had the four-period class until the beginning of this school year. The four-period cosmetology classes allowed seniors to review everything they learned from ninth, tenth, and eleventh grade, said senior cosmetology teacher Ms. Gonzales. It also enabled students to earn their 1,000 hours of school-based cosmo work, so they can apply to take the state board exam as well as the NOCTI (National Occupational Competency Testing Institute) exam.

This year, students may be behind while other students are ahead in their hours. Senior cosmetology teacher Ms. Quartuccio said, “One hour taken away is around 100 hours, hours students are not getting towards their 1,000 hours. “Losing five periods a week will result in a loss of approximately 100 hours by the end of the school year. Since the 1,000 hours are school-based, outside work will only go towards the community service hours. The new three-period cosmetology class means less time for theory. The 90-minute theory class is now 47 minutes long. Theory is the written work cosmetology students do in class. “We need theory to pass the state test,” said senior Mary Paguay. Ms. Gonzales said, “What I have to teach in the 47 minutes is the most important stuff.” Make-up job hours are also being reduced because of the three period cosmetology class,

according to Ms. Gonzales. Make-up hours can be done any free period or when all work is complete in cosmetology. While some seniors are on schedule with their hours, others are not. Since cosmetology is a shop class that can be chosen in freshmen year, unlike plumbing or pre-engineering, students who entered cosmetology in tenth grade have fewer hours and so have more hours to make up. The reduction of cosmetology hours reduced the time seniors could have used to make up their hours. While the new-three period cosmetology shop class has affected some senior cosmetology students, Ms. Quartuccio doesn’t see it as much of a problem. The program is “running fine except seniors could have had more time,” she said. “If students keep excellent attendance in the cosmetology program whether they start in ninth or tenth grade, the deduction of this time should not be an issue.” Other shop classes also have requirements to earn their certifications and endorsements. “The computer technology shop class has to meet a required 60 hours working within their field as well as take a pre-engineering college class to be eligible for the A+ certification” said senior C-Tech student Marti Mai. Senior Katia Ascencio said, “Business students have to complete 60 hours as well as take two college classes related to their field to get their certifications.” Electrical installation students, said senior Kimberly Pisfil, are required to take a 60-hour internship to get their endorsement.

Common Core Takes Effect

by Sadia Chowdhury

Walk into most classrooms and you will see a Common Core standards poster on the wall. The hallways, too, have posters displaying Common Core standards. According to the American Thinker, an online political magazine, Common Core was originally initiated by state governors and funded by Bill and Melinda Gates. Some believe that the Common Core seeks to nationalize education; others believe it sets a new standard by pushing students to use a higher level of thinking, incorporate real world situations, and to be prepared for college.

The Common Core sets standards that students from kindergarten to 12th grade should meet. The theory is that by having all students nationwide on the same standards, students can be easily measured on how well they are doing in school. Initially, New York’s teachers were instructed by the state to create a lesson plan infusing the Common Core Standards, then two lessons the next year. The year after, it was an entire unit. Now, the Common Core standard should be fully implemented. The Common Core intends to measure how well students are doing through assessment tests. Students in Queens Voc, as well as students in 44 other states, will be taking these assessment tests four times a year. Instead of multiple-choice questions, there will be writing sections. This is supposed to encourage independent thinking, allowing for students to draw

their own conclusions. The results from these tests will be used to assess teachers as part of a new evaluation system. Teachers will be evaluated on twenty-two different criteria that are supposed to measure how well their students are learning. One goal of the Common Core curriculum is to get students college ready. According to Principal Burg, students nationwide have not been able to meet the toughness of college courses. “The way colleges are speaking about kids when they get out of high school is that students aren’t ready for the amount of rigor that colleges demand of their students.” Now, New York’s definition of college ready means to have scored at least a 75 on ELA Regents and at least an 85 on a Math Regents. Despite these new measures, students are not meeting the Common Core standards. In Queens Voc, only 25% of students are math college ready, 59% are English college ready. “That’s pretty bad. Being college ready is a predictor of what will happen in college,” Ms Burg said. Last year, Queens Voc had the highest percentage of graduates yet. Eighty percent of the senior class graduated, 55% of the students enrolled in college. Of those, 20% didn’t have to take remedial classes. “As a CTE school it isn’t horrible,” Ms. Burg added. Principal Burg predicts that we’ll know the effectiveness of the Common Core by the time current sophomores are in college. “If those students can meet the rigor colleges expect then as a nation we’ve done our job. In the short-term, there are new Common Core assessments that the new freshman will be responsible for. That’ll give benchmark information.”

Locker Policy Changes to Improve Locker Safety

by Htet N. Aung

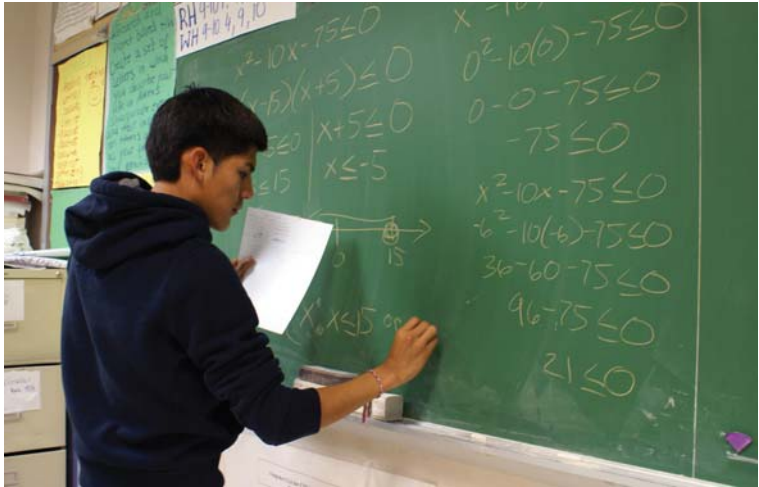
Starting this school year, Queens Voc students are required to have school-issued, key-controlled combination locks to use for their hallway lockers. They must pay a \$10 fee that covers Student Organization membership, the green lock, access to a hallway locker, and a Queens Voc planner. Students have to pay a \$3 SO membership fee for each school year, but they have to pay \$10 if they do not have a green lock. The requirement of key-controlled locks was added by Mr. Vega, coordinator of student activities, and AP Alikakos, to improve control of lockers. The school administration can unlock any school-supplied green lock in Queens Voc in two ways: use the master key, or retrieve combinations from a secure location. In case of an emergency, it is faster for the administration to access the student’s belongings instead

of asking for combinations. Despite the easy access, the administration will not randomly inspect the lockers, said Mr. Vega. “I find it fair because now everyone’s belongings are safe and the price is reasonable,” said sophomore Guadalupe Juarez. The plan was to start issuing locks on Sept. 26, but according to Mr. Vega, the green locks, which were ordered on Sept. 2, were



Constantine’s locker is secure.

shipped late. The order arrived on Oct. 14, and Mr. Vega said he devoted all of his time to make sure that the majority of the students have access to their lockers in a few days. His leadership students assisted him in distributing official SO membership cards, the green locks, and the planners. As of Jan. 16, 520 students have joined SO. According to Mr. Vega, non-green locks are subject to removal when used for the hallway lockers. The majority of the students are following the rules, said AP Alikakos. Less than 10 locks have been clipped so far, he added. The locker policy was revised because, according to Mr. Vega, a lot of students did not give correct combinations in the past years. Some others changed their locks or their combinations without notifying him. The administration was then not able to inspect a locker without clipping the lock. Even students like the new policy. “[The revised policy is] good because if you forget the combination, they won’t have to clip the lock and make you spend money on another lock,” said



Mike’s thinking. A Common Core goal for students.

junior Emely Perez, “They [Mr. Vega] will easily just give you the combination.” Similar systems have been instituted in schools such as Stuyvesant, Cardozo, and Bayside. Schools have the option of allowing students to use the lockers or not. Despite the requirement of a school-issued lock, when an SO locker is broken into and

belongings are stolen, the school will investigate the case, but students are still responsible for their belongings. The new locker policy only applies to the SO lockers. Sixty hallway lockers were assigned to cosmetology students, who can use any lock for these lockers. The cosmetology teachers are responsible for monitoring the use of the lockers.

Elite Salon is Open



Cosmo practice prepares students for real clients.

by Valentin Martinez

Queens Voc’s future cosmetologists are closer to becoming “professional stylists,” by getting a state license.

The Elite Salon stylists can do anything from a simple manicure to a professional hairdo, and provide their beauty services to students, teachers, and even

outside clients.

The Elite Salon, which has been operating for almost 20 years, is open Monday through Friday, periods one through four. Students must have a free period to go to the salon. The Elite Salon provides free services to students in exchange for real-world experience. Outside clients are welcomed, but must be 18

years of age or older and receive a visitor pass at the front desk. “Outside clients are charged a reasonable price for the services provided,” said Ms. Gonzales, a senior cosmetology teacher who runs the salon.

According to senior Gabby Biondo, the Elite Salon is only for senior cosmetologists because of the amount of experience gained over the three years in cosmetology. The students begin work with manikins to gain experience and knowledge. They are then able to apply these skills to actual clients.

Clients are often content with the salon’s services. “We have regulars,” Gabby said. Freshman Lizabeth Espinal said, “It feels like a real salon, and even better because you get the same quality of service for free.” Ms. Gonzales said “freshmen are usually the ‘regular clients’ and they even go to their own stylist.” Phoenix Butler believes the reason the clients walk out happy is that most cosmetology seniors are passionate about their work.



Phoenix and her manikin.

Gabby said, “It’s fun because you meet new people, acquire experience, and do what you like.”

Senior cosmetologists performing these services receive two job credits on their job sheets if Ms. Gonzales gives the cosmetologist a good evaluation on the service provided. The senior cosmetologists need these credits to pass their cosmetology class. We take these services very seriously, and are very productive,” Gabby said.

windows are being fixed, said Mrs. Holland. “The scaffolding outside is there for contractors to fix the problem.” The contractors have been working nights, repointing the bricks and sealing around the windows.

Many of the doors don’t close properly because they are sagging. “To close the doors, you have to lift them and pull them hard, which loosens the handles,” said Mr. Schimenz, a social studies teacher and dean. “Doors that don’t close could be a problem during a lockdown—they certainly are a safety concern,” he said.

Mr. Alikakos, assistant principal of security, said the problem “is the poor construction design of the doors.” They’re pulling down from their own weight.

The men’s room toilet on the third floor has leaks every day. Mr. Elfreich, an English teacher, said that “the toilet leaks from the back. It bothers me when it’s flooded because it gets on my shoes and it’s a mess.” Mrs. Holland understands. “The toilet is a wall-mounted unit that has little support and this causes the leaks,” she said. She said that her staff makes repairs, but the design and construction lead to the daily leaks.

The school’s centralized HVAC system hasn’t worked right since the building opened. “It’s an ineffective system for the building,” said AP Ali. Mr. Alikakos agreed. “It’s flawed in design and operation. It has been written up several times but the school has little control of the system.”

Halls and rooms throughout the new wing are consistently either too hot or too cold. Sometimes, classes have had to be moved because of the extreme heat or the extreme cold. “All we can do is ask the custodians if they can adjust the temperature,” Mr. Ali said.

Queens Voc’s addition was the first school construction project under new guidelines developed by Mayor Bloomberg’s office and the School Construction Authority.



Hinges have already been replaced on some staircase doors.

State, School, and SLC Requirements for Graduation

by Thalia Cia

Graduation should be a goal for all students, but many students don’t know what is required for them to graduate.

Although all students must meet New York State requirements for graduation, Queens Voc has a specific set of requirements, and each SLC has even more specific requirements for students to earn endorsed CTE diplomas.

Students can earn one of three different diplomas: Regents diploma, Advanced Regents diploma, or Advanced Honors Regents diploma.

To earn a regular Regents diploma, students must score a 65 or higher on the ELA, Global History, U.S. History Regents, and a 65 or higher on one math and one science Regents. To earn an Advanced Regents diploma, students must score a 65 or higher on the ELA, Global History, U.S. History Regents, and a 65 or higher on three math and two science Regents. To earn an Advanced Honors Regents diploma, students must meet all the requirements of an Advanced Regents diploma, and score an 85 or higher on their Regents exams.

The math Regents are Integrated Algebra, Geometry, and Algebra II/Trigonometry. The two science Regents must include Living Environment and either Chemistry, Earth Science, or Physics. Students pursuing an Advanced Regents diploma must also pass their CTE exam. All students must also complete 60 hours of WBL.

Another requirement is the credit that is accumulated with every class a student takes over his four years of high school. Students earn two credits for every major subject class they take. Major subject classes include math, science, English, and social studies. Passing Physical Education and Health earn students 1.14 credits.

Upon graduation a student must have: eight English credits, eight social studies, six science, six mathematics, two art, four physical education, one health, and seven electives, about 44 credits. Students must also have two to six credits in a language other than English, but CTE schools such as Queens Voc, replace these credits with CTE classes, providing the students have taken one year of a foreign language.

To graduate with their CTE endorsed diplomas, students must meet a requirement specific to their SLC and major.

Students entering the 9th grade in 2013, have a different set of graduation requirements. These students will not take English Regents in their sophomore year or any math Regents. Instead, they take Common Core exams equivalent to a Regents exam. Requirements for a regular Regents diploma remain the same except freshmen must meet a passing score on these exams. According to the NYC DOE, the passing score will be determined after June 2014. The Common Core exams will replace Regents scores even for all diplomas.

Students in SCEET are required

to pass four years of math and four years of science. Students taking computer technology must also pass a Digital Electronics college course with Mr. Ali during their junior year. Sixty hours of WBL are required, which students can get by joining Mouse Squad with Ms. Zagada, or Robotics with Mr. Ali.

Students in SSBT must pass four years of math, and three years of science. SSBT students must also complete 60 WBL hours in their trade area.

SSBT students also have the option to join the union after high school. “I encourage students in plumbing and EI to apply for the union, but to also apply for college,” said Ms. Judge, guidance counselor for SSBT. The union provides some students with jobs right after graduation. “Students need an 80 or higher on one of their math Regents to join the union,” said Ms. Judge, “they don’t need it in English.”

Students in SES must pass three years of math and three years of science. Business students must take any two college classes offered by LaGuardia Community College to earn a CTE endorsed diploma. Sixty hours of WBL are required for all students in SES. Cosmetology students need to complete 1000 work hours to qualify for their license.

“To come to Queens Voc and not receive your endorsed diploma is pointless, you might as well go to a regular school,” said Ms. Basirico. “That’s why you come to a vocational school, to earn a CTE diploma.”

New Wing’s Old Problems Haven’t Gone Away



Wall-mounted toilets tend to leak.

by Antonio Parada

Since the new wing opened in 2005 after four years of construction, it has been deteriorating. There are leaks around some windows, numerous doors that are sagging and some have even come off their hinges, bathrooms have leaks and toilet paper dispensers that don’t hold rolls of toilet paper, and the centralized HVAC system has been a nightmare for teachers, students, and the custodial staff that has to work on it.

Mrs. Marcia Jarrett Holland, custodian engineer of Queens Voc, is in charge of school maintenance. She recognizes that design and construction flaws have led to these problems.

The leaks around the outside



Veggies might be nutritious, but students don't care.

Lunch gets More Healthful as More Food goes to Waste

by Valentin Martinez

Ever wonder why hot dogs aren't served at lunch? Ms. Luna, the school food service manager, said that "in simple terms, they don't fulfill the nutritional standards."

What does fulfill nutritional standards is what they put on students' trays.

Students are offered five components for lunch: proteins, grains, fruits, vegetables, and milk. They are required to choose three, one of which must be a vegetable or fresh fruit. "If we fail to meet the nutritional standard we get penalized," Ms. Luna said.

The cafeteria staff must follow many lunch regulations that are established by New York State, New York City, and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). In 2010, Congress decided to re-evaluate the nutritional standards of school lunches. The Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act, signed into law by President Barack Obama, requires more whole grains, fresh fruits, and vegetables in students' lunches.

"Our duty is to encourage students to eat fruits and vegetables," said Ms. Valeria Petre, one of the nutritional service employees. "But most students don't want to eat vegetables or fruits," she said. As a result, the fruits and vegetables end up in the trash or on the cafeteria floor. "I'll eat the fruit because the lunch lady is mandated to put it on my tray, but if she decides to add vegetables, I simply throw them out," said senior Jatinder Bhati.

Ms. Petre said that the typical lunch given to students attending Queens Voc is good. The healthy meals, Ms. Luna said, typically include baked chicken, turkey sandwiches, and a large variety of fresh vegetables and fruits. The number of calories varies between 750 and 850 because SchoolFood, the city agency that provides the food, only provides low fat and low calories meals said Ms. Luna.

Some students are concerned about the amount food they get.

Freshman Richard Martinez said that "the food given at lunch is a small amount, especially when you have gym two periods after and play sports after school. You feel hungry and drained of energy resulting in a lack of performance." Jatinder Bhatti agrees. "Especially now because there's no more cookie line and no more second lunches," he said. Ms. Luna countered, saying the salad bar is unlimited to students who get lunch.

Jatinder also complained about the taste of the food. "It doesn't taste fresh, and I don't like school food except the mozzarella sticks, which are quite appetizing." But according to Ms. Petre, "The food is distributed by SchoolFood twice each week and guaranteed fresh." Every meal is labeled with the date received and placed in chronological order to guarantee freshness. The meals are prepared and cooked in the cafeteria.

Nutritional services employees must go through training for a month just to understand the fundamentals of the SchoolFood regulations. The SchoolFood regulations were designed to lower obesity and introduce a healthy lifestyle to students.

The window that was once known as the "cookie line" was recently closed, and soon after water jet machines were installed so that students and teachers easily obtain cold, fresh tap water free of charge. The water jet machines were provided by the Mayor's Obesity Task Force.



Cafe. staff serves good food.

The Journey to Fight Breast Cancer

by Ashley Arango

Sixty-eight Queens Voc students participated in the Breast Cancer Walk on Sunday, Oct. 21 in Flushing Meadows Park. The students walked three miles and raised a record-breaking total of \$5,262.50.

This was the first time Queens Voc surpassed \$5,000 in donations for which it was awarded a gold banner. For years the school was awarded a silver banner that indicated a donation range of \$2,500 to \$4,999.

Mr. Vega, the coordinator of student activities, encouraged every student who signed up for the walk to raise at least \$50 or more. Most students surpassed the individual goal. The school wide goal was \$2,500. "This year we had the most students and staff that signed up, and we raised a considerable amount of money," said Mr. Vega.

"School spirit was displayed

at the walk which made us stand out amongst everyone. It wasn't senior dominated. There were a variety of students from different grades and SLCs. The whole school community came together as one," he said.

Students liked the walk for many reasons "I liked getting to know people that I wouldn't

normally talk to," said Keyla Toribio, a junior who was participating for the first time. Freshman, Kevin Amaro pointed out, "not only is the walk for a good cause it's good for your health." Mayte Negrete, a senior who participated for the first time, said she "walked in honor of my aunts who have breast cancer."



School spirit on display in Flushing Meadows Park.

Hispanic Heritage Fest Cancelled

by Jazleen Intriago

The Hispanic Heritage Festival was supposed to take place on Friday, Oct. 18, but because few students showed interest, the event was cancelled.

Five tickets were sold for the festival a week before it was supposed to take place and

no slips were submitted to Ms. Rejalaga from anyone interested in donating a plate of food.

The festival had been a tradition at Queens Voc for the past three years. "In each of these years, Ms. Rejalaga led the effort to find a way to celebrate the Hispanic culture. She said the event was going to include music, games, and food

for everyone who attended.

Ms. Rejalaga said that the event was not successful because there was a lack of advertising; there were hardly any posters displayed or people speaking to the students directly to inform them about the event.

"I want to apologize to the people who were looking forward to the festival. Next year for sure, I want to have this event," she said.

Ms. Rejalaga said she would reconsider undertaking the effort this year if students show interest.

School Scaffolding Still Standing "New" Wing Undergoes Reconstruction

by Andres Diaz

"The scaffolding outside the school has been up for approximately two years and will stay up approximately another year," said Mr. Alikakos, the assistant principal of organization/security.

The scaffolding was put up as a safety precaution, he said, to protect people who pass by the school. The cement is not holding the bricks securely to the building, a problem that was created by water leaking down from the school's roof, Mr. Alikakos said.

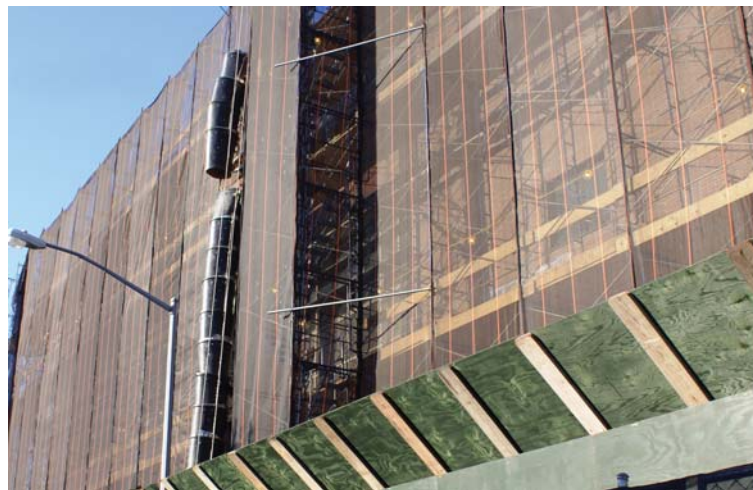
Safe Efficient Accessible Construction Inc., a construction company from San Mateo, California, is replacing the bricks around every window and door, and repointing all the brick work on the new building

The work being done will cost approximately \$2 million, which is

being paid for by the Department of Education, said Mr. Alikakos.

"At first I thought the scaffolding ruined Queens Voc's appearance, but now I have grown accustomed to it," said senior Cesar Mendoza. Although the

scaffolding doesn't affect the students, the scaffolding has made the handball court useless for two years. But Mr. Alikakos said that "Whenever a construction project is started at Queens Voc it is done to make Queen Voc better."



Work on new wing is like Extreme Makeover and Rescue my Renovation. When will it end?

Freshmen's First Impressions

by Nazanin Somarin

Questions:

1. Do you like this school? Why or why not?
2. Is this school what you expected? Why?
3. Which shop class are you currently in? Do you enjoy the shop? Why?
4. Which shop do you have interest in? Why?
5. Which teacher do you enjoy having? Why?
6. What do you currently like or dislike about Queens Voc? Why?
7. Are your classes challenging?
8. Would you keep your shop and use what you learn in the future?

Karina Rodriguez



1. Yes, because the people are nice.
2. Yes. It was my first choice.
3. Exploratory. I like it because I get to experience the shop classes.
4. Cosmetology because of the hairstyles.
5. Mr. Samuelson because he makes the class fun.
6. I like the shop classes. I don't like the amount of homework.
7. Yes.

Victor Mamani

1. Yes, because of the programs.
2. Yes, because of exploratory.
3. Exploratory cosmetology. Yes, because of the hairstyles and nail designs.
4. Undecided.
5. Mr. Samuelson, because he makes jokes, and he makes class fun and interesting.
6. Like lunch.
7. Some classes are hard because some lessons and teachers are hard to understand.
8. No.



Daniel DeJesus



1. Yes, because of the education.
2. I guess, because of the shop classes and I want to work hard.
3. Exploratory plumbing. I enjoy it because I do work and have fun at the same time.
4. Plumbing because it has good pay.
5. Mr. Samuelson and Mr. McCarthy, because they are relaxed and not as strict.
6. I like the classes.
7. No.
8. Yes, because of the pay.

Luis Angel Vasquez

1. Yes, because of the basketball team.
2. Yes, because it was everything the school and students told me at the high school fair.
3. Exploratory. No because some of the programs are boring.
4. EI, because I like hands-on work.
5. Mr. Elfreich, because he is a good teacher.
6. I dislike the time I get out because I feel my day is wasted.
7. Sort of because it's not that hard. Then again, it's a new school year and I'm still adjusting.
8. Yes, because it will help push my career forward.



Johan Diaz

1. Yes, because of the shop classes and the teachers.
2. No. I expected a strict school.
3. Exploratory graphic arts. Yes because I learn to draw on the computer and make shirts.



4. Cosmetology because I want to learn to give haircuts, and plumbing because I could fix pipes.
5. Mr. Samuelson, because he teaches and he is fun.
6. I like the bake sales but I dislike that there is no football field.
7. No, because the classes are easy.
8. Yes, because I could be a designer.

Ralphie Cabrera

1. I love this school because it has things I want to do when I grow up. There are also nice students and teachers.
2. I expected the school to be big, and it's big inside.
3. Exploratory electronics. Not really, because it was not what I was expecting.
4. Graphic arts, because I like to draw and want to be on a TV channel like Cartoon Network.
5. Ms. Poltawsky because weight training is fun and there are many things to do.
6. I like the atmosphere because it feels safe and there are no bullies, but there is a lot of drama.
7. No, but at times they can be.
8. Probably, if there are problems where I can use what I already know.



Kate Gonzalez

1. I love this school because the teachers are great and I get to be creative.



2. It is more, because I didn't expect high school to be easy going.
3. Cosmetology. Yes, because I'm fascinated by it.
4. Cosmetology, because of hair and it is a good future job.
5. Mr. Samuelson because he makes English and history easy.
6. I like the volleyball team.
7. A few, because it's hard to learn.
8. Yes.

Larisa Cuccurullo

1. Yes, because it's making us career ready.
2. No, because I pictured myself to not get along with people, but I made many friends.
3. Cosmetology. I like it because I like dealing with cosmetics.
4. Cosmetology, because I think it would be a good job when I'm older.
5. Ms. Wilson and Ms. Sameyah, because they explain things really well.
6. I like the teachers, but I don't like that the school is a bit small.
7. A bit, because there's many tests and they are hard.
8. Yes, because it's a good career.



Stephanie Young



1. I like this school because it has a different type of style and a different vibe. The teachers are really calm and relaxed and the people I'm surrounded by are also nice and outgoing.
2. No, it wasn't what I expected it to be. I thought this school was going to be bad but then at the orientation and the first couple days of school, I started to realize that it's not as bad as I thought it would be and it seemed like a nice environment to be surrounded by.
3. I am currently in cosmetology. Right now it seems interesting learning about all the features of the face, hair, and nails but I'm keeping my options open because I wanted to try computer technology but it was too late to change to exploratory.
4. I have interests in Cosmetology and computer technology. I feel like C-Tech can teach you a lot about computers and can get you far in life if you want to fulfill computer technology in college. But also cosmetology because if I get really interested in it I will be able to get my cosmetologist license and would be able to work on people.
5. I enjoy having my Algebra teacher Ms. Ferrara because she is easy going and calm but also because her lessons in class are a good way to learn the topic. I also enjoy having Mr. Harrington as a teacher for living environment because he makes us think in class but also makes us have an open mind.
6. I like how the people at QV are easy to socialize with and how there is no trouble to have a good time.
7. All of my classes are pretty decent except for Algebra. When it comes to Algebra, I am all right in it but it's just that some topics throw me off balance.
8. It all depends on how much I like my shop class at the end of the year because then I feel like I would have more of an idea of what I could use in the future.

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Should Students have Access to School Wi-Fi?

The way I see it...

by Edwyn Flores

Each day, teachers use the school Wi-Fi to browse faster on their phones or gain internet access on laptops. Yet some object to students using it. Why should students not be given the same privileges? Teachers and school administrators might say it causes students to become distracted, or that we use the school Wi-Fi for non-educational purposes, but how is that possible if the school uses a proxy that blocks inappropriate websites, social media, and many non-educational websites?

Students should have access to the school Wi-Fi just as teachers do. What is the difference? None. Teachers and students use their e-mails, research assignments, look up answers to questions they might have on a subject, and use the internet as a reference to verify information.

One argument against students having access to the network is that the students make the school Wi-Fi slower. The small number of students currently using the school Wi-Fi is making the internet slower? Doesn't everyone who is using the school Wi-Fi make the internet slower? The majority of people accessing the school Wi-Fi are staff, but they do not blame one another for making the internet slower. So why blame students? Wi-Fi doesn't discriminate. Whether you are a student, teacher, or administrator, if you are using the school Wi-Fi to access the internet, you are still using the bandwidth and slowing down the data transfer rate of the Wi-Fi.

Claims of students using the school Wi-Fi to disregard school work for entertainment is a big reason students are not being given the password to the Wi-Fi. Yet students use the school Wi-Fi on their phones and laptops to do research, help their teachers, and access their grades online. In an incident during a U.S. Government class, a student helped a teacher access a video online using the school Wi-Fi when the website the teacher was going to use was apparently blocked.

School internet access should not be prevented, and it is already regulated to ensure students use it for educational purposes.

School administrators should not assume the worst of students, but should encourage students to become responsible by giving them the privilege of using the school Wi-Fi. Most universities allow students to use the Wi-Fi to research topics and do homework. For students with no internet access at home, and little access to a computer with internet to do their work, the school should provide usable Wi-Fi service for the students to do their work. There are not enough accessible PCs in the school for every kid to be able to do their work.

Issues? Let Your Rep. Know!

by Suveer Seemangal

The School Leadership Team, in the words of Principal Burg, is "a committee of parents, teachers, students, and school administrators who help think through problems, or see problems that I don't see."

The SLT is advisory teams that assist the principal in making decisions for the school, and to keep her informed about what is going on in the school on a day to day basis. The team is composed of staff members, parents, school administrators, and students.

Each Small Learning Community (SLC) has two student representatives, except for the School of Exploration and Discovery (SED), which has one.

The SLT meets once a month to discuss school related issues. Some of the topics discussed this year are safety issues, student lateness, and student use of electronics. Topics discussed at meetings can range from why most of the bathrooms are closed to how can students receive their trade certifications. Any member can put a concern

on the agenda. "Each member represents a constituency and can bring up issues that concern their constituency," said Mr. Schimenz, who is a faculty representative and the SLT chairman.

Guillermo Guzman, a freshman on the SLT said, "I suggested that the gym lights be fixed, and they were."

Kevin Hernandez, a SCEET representative, said that students can go to him and other members of the SLT and discuss their concerns. "One of the main issues that students had was that the bathrooms were closed. At an SLT meeting, Ms. Burg agreed to open them, but soon after they were closed again," he said. "It's because kids were smoking in the bathrooms when they were opened."

Kevin and Guillermo said they look forward to working along with the rest of the SLT and will continue to assist Ms. Burg in improving Queens Voc.

The students on the SLT this year are Guillermo, the SED representative, Htet N. Aung and

Vocational Voice

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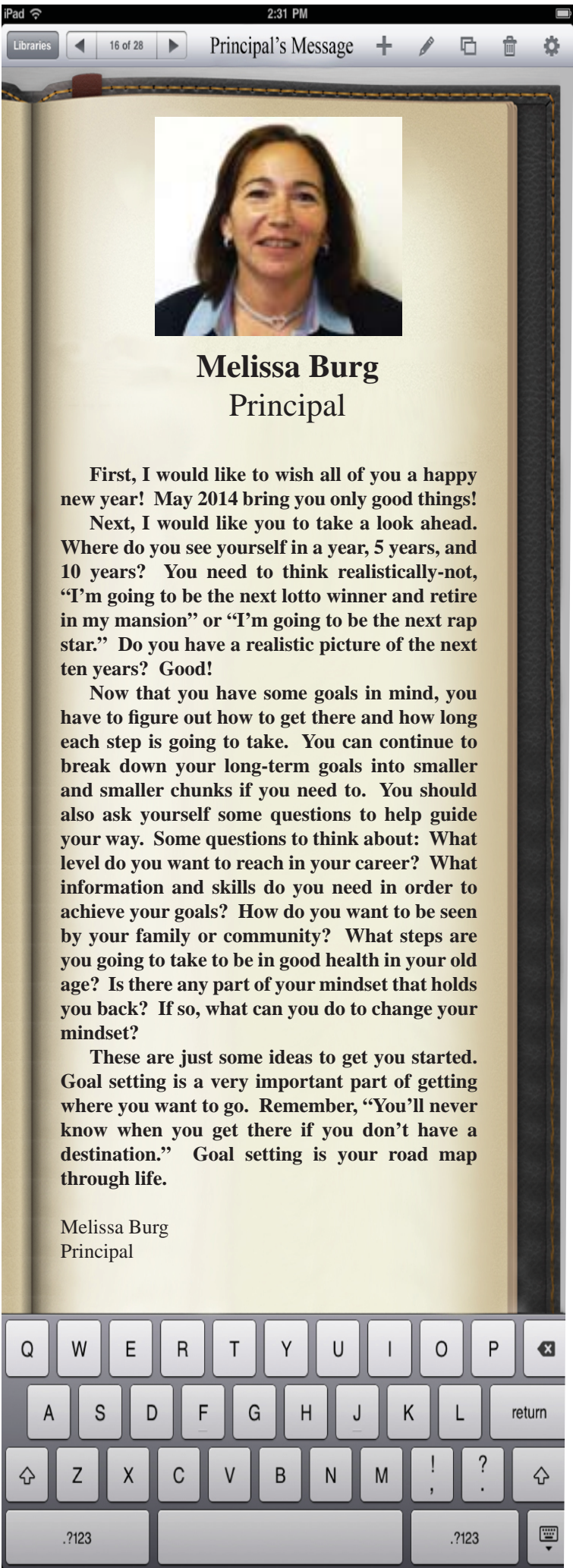
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"Good enough" is the enemy of "it can be better."

Kevin from SCEET, Breanna Losak and Yadira Perez from SES, and Nicholas Kotsakis and Kenneth Marin from SSBT. Other members on the SLT are Ms. Volpe, a faculty representative, Mr. Boyle, the UFT chapter chairman, Ms. Ocampo, the administrative representative, and parents, Ms. Abdollah, Ms. Lopez, Ms. Robinson, Ms. Rychalski, and Ms. Vega.



Melissa Burg
Principal

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



46 Cents

Mr. Schimenz
Main Office

Readers can also write us at Editor@VocVoice.org

Video Game Reviews

compiled by Natalie Martinez

2013 was a good year for video gamers with the following game releases: Grand Theft Auto V, NBA 2K14, and Batman Arkham Origins. Grand Theft Auto V had \$800 million in sales the day it was released. NBA 2K14 sold approximately \$347,000 weekly since its debut and Batman Arkham Origins had \$819,000 sales weekly. The sales from each video game were reported on www.gamespot.com and www.bizjournals.com.

NBA 2k14

“NBA 2k14 focuses on the characters, unlike previous 2k versions. The game might be the same formula as the other 2k’s but it’s a nicer edition, the mechanics are great, and the multiplayer is still exciting to play.”

– Eric McPherran, Senior

Batman Arkham

“Batman Arkham Origins is an amazing superhero game. This game takes place in Gotham City on Christmas Eve. In the game, Batman is young and healthy coming up to fight crime. There's a villain, Blackmask, and he has a plan to kill Batman. Blackmask offered \$5 million to kill Batman but Batman does not like that one bit. He decides to use his detective skills to search for the villains and find out where Blackmask is to end the crime outrage.”

– Kevin Olivares, Senior

Grand Theft Auto 5

“Honestly, Grand Theft Auto is not what it’s amped to be. Once you beat the missions, the game becomes pointless. The online mode is boring; a constant cycle of repetitive side missions and car tuning.”

– Luis Toledo, Senior



by Elma Rahman

TV theme songs have marked the passage of time. We’ve all got our favorite theme song, no matter if it’s to an animated show or a soap opera. Readers might recall some of the cartoons from the ’90s. Read these lyrics and test your memory to figure out if you remember the song!

1. “Sugar, spice, and everything nice. These are the ingredients Professor used to make the three little girls...”
2. “I’m a basic average girl and I’m here to save the world, you can't stop me cause’ I'm Kim Poss-ii-ble help...”
3. “Emmy wished on a dragon

The Lyrics Game:
Figure Out the Songs



scale, and that's what started Dragon Tales. Around the room the dragons flew, but Emmy and Max knew what to do. They climbed on the backs of their dragon friends, now the adventures never end!”

4. “Every day when you’re walking down the street, everybody that you meet has an original point of view. When I say hey, HEY! What a wonderful kind of day? HEY! When you can learn to laugh and play.”

5. “I will travel across the land, searching far and wide. Teach Pokémon to understand the power

that’s inside...”

6. “Now it’s time for so long but we'll sing just one more song Thanks for doing your part you sure are smart. You know, with me and you and my dog, Blue we can do anything that we want to do...”

7. “Cyber chase we’re moving, we’re beating Hacker at his game, Don’t tell me that he’s trying to hack the Motherboard, we’ll get him back every time, cosmic world, freaky places that we’ve seen...”

Answers can be found below.

Music Reviews

by Pamela Abreu

Haven’t heard of Bastille, Zendaya, and R5? It’s time to get up to speed on these upcoming musicians and bands we’ve listened to.

Bad Blood is Bastille’s newest album full of dark, calamity, eccentric sounds. *Bad Blood* is composed of electronic indie pop noises and coherent lyrics about past memories. Bastille’s two hit singles, “Pompeii” and “Bad Blood,” continue to rise to the top in UK music charts. Bastille was able to orchestrate pop with a new and weird twist. Bastille is similar to Muse’s album *The Resistance* and the band Coldplay.

“Pompeii” has a tribal indie rock flavor, mixed with unusual background vocals that continue to sing “Eh-eh-o.” This song has catchy sing-along lyrics such as “How am I going to be an optimist about this?” This song continues to gain popularity because of its string effects and the rhythmic tune of the guitar, and the beat of the drums that complements lead singer Dan Smith’s voice.

“Pompeii” is a great song to listen to because it blends in with today’s music perfectly and it has more than one music style that can apply to different types of people can relate to.

“Bad Blood” starts with an awesome melody that switches into the song’s main melody by continuing the interesting drum beat. “All this bad blood here, won’t you let it dry? It’s been cold for years, won’t you let it lie? If we’re only ever looking back,” Dan Smith sings, “We will drive ourselves insane. As the friendship goes resentment grows. We will walk our different ways.” People can relate to these lyrics, which makes the song very popular and hit at the emotional

core of the album.

This song is very enjoyable because each section of “Bad Blood” transitions well with the other. This song can make anyone “bop” his or her head to the tune.

Zendaya’s new hit single “Replay” is composed of pop and dubstep. The main lyrics are simplistic and continue to repeat, “Wanna put this song on replay, I can listen to it all day, I can listen to you all day.”

It is a tacky, meaningless, and confusing song despite its “simple minded lyrics.” When the main lyrics continue repeating throughout the song, it doesn’t make sense. Is she singing about a different song, “Replay” itself, or someone’s voice? The song also has a “Disney” quality—overhyped and excessive use of autotune—that’s not very catchy to certain audiences. This song has no emotional value relatable to people.

“Pass by Me” by R5 is a debut song heavily influenced by autotune and pop. The song starts with a nice melody of guitar strings. Then it goes straight into this very bubbly and cheerful tune. The bland lyrics are about getting a girl’s attention. The song is very similar to One Direction’s music.

This song is very happy and has a lot of energy. But it doesn’t fit with indie rock, rap, or electronic music that is really popular on the radio. “Pass by Me” would likely attract younger listeners.

Answers to
The Lyrics Game

1. Powerpuff Girls (1997)
2. Kim Possible (1998)
3. Dragon Tales (1998)
4. Arthur (1996)
5. Pokémon (1996)
6. Blue’s Clues; So Long (1994)
7. Cyber Chase (1998)

Word Search: Shop Terms

by Lesty Vivax

S L Y F O P X N I J Q M E K Y C B G J T Z H D Z D Y I L V C
C I E N Z K Y D Y F M Y Q D C D A K E R N E N Z E M S S O B
D Q E V B D F O R M A T G V O P L Y M O I Y M Y V A B N L H
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BLEED
BX CABLE
CAST IRON PIPE
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COPPER PIPE
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FINANCIAL LITERACY
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GRADIENT
MANICURE
OFFSET
PARTITION
PIXIE

PRESENTATION
PROFESSIONALISM
PVC PIPE
SKIN
SPICE
TEXTURE
TRAVEL
TROUBLESHOOTING
VOLATILE
WORD

Why Pick QV?

by Iveth Duran

We asked freshmen why they applied to Queens Voc and how they like it so far...

1. Why did you apply to Queens Voc? Is this the school you wanted to attend?
2. What do you find interesting about Queens Voc?
3. What programs did you apply for?
4. Are you thinking about changing your program?



Alexis Damian

1. It's the only school that accepted me. Yes it is.
2. Nothing.
3. Computers and technology. It seemed like the best thing.
4. No. It seems fun.



Cristian Fermin

1. I guess because it was a good school and I liked it. Yes, it was my first choice.
2. It has a lot of programs for kids to try out.
3. Plumbing. I felt like I wanted to do that.
4. No. I like the one that I'm in, and I'm interested in it.



Steven Asitimbay

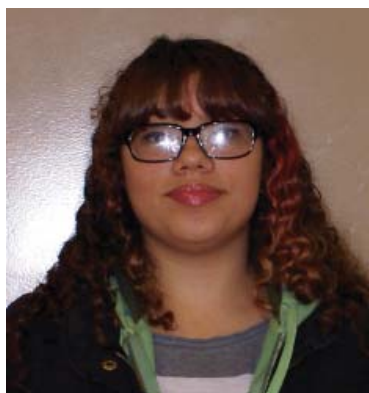
1. Some of my friends come here and told me I would like it. Also, I

- liked the exploratory program.
2. The teachers are different. Some are uptight, others are chilled out.
 3. I applied for exploratory because I wanted to try out everything first and see what I liked best.
 4. I like plumbing right now. It seems better for me and easier to understand.



Nancy Hernandez

1. It was the only school that I found interesting and because of graphic arts.
2. The teachers are helpful.
3. Graphic arts because I like photography.
4. No. I don't have another major interest besides graphic arts.



Carina Monegro

1. I came to QV because I had friends that came here and told me that they really liked it and that I would to.
2. The different programs, the teachers, and after school activities.
3. Cosmetology. It sounded appealing
4. No, so far I like it. I like that it's a lot of hands-on and it is feminine.



Stephanie Quito

1. I really wanted to go to this school to meet new people, and for plumbing, but the only reason

I got to this school is because of cosmetology.

2. They have nice programs.
3. Cosmetology. I like experimenting, doing make-up, and facials.
4. I want to change my program to plumbing. I like working with pipes. I like hard work.



Stephanie Marie Lee

1. It's a CTE school. It has a lot of programs and they do a lot of hands-on. Yes.
2. The environment is friendly, teachers are nice, and I learn a lot. The teachers in shop classes are professional and students can really learn from them.
3. I applied for cosmetology because I want to do everything related to cosmetology.
4. No. I'm having fun and I want to get my license.



Luis Toro

1. I wanted to be a plumber or graphic designer, so I could get my license and get a job right after high school. Yes number one choice.
2. The shop class and the teachers.
3. I applied for exploratory, but I'm going into graphic arts.
4. For the meantime, not at all.



Eric Diaz is a competitive daredevil on a bike.

They've Got Talent!

by Elma Rahman

Eric Diaz

Eric Diaz, a junior at Queens Voc, is highly dedicated to professional biking. He was first introduced to this sport by a family member at the age of 15. "Biking came naturally to me, however, I did have to practice at Flushing Meadows Park to improve my skills," he said.

Whips, 360s, bar spins, and rails are only some of the BMX bike tricks Eric is capable of doing. He became so proficient at biking that it led him to win 2nd place at the Afro-Punk BMX biking competition. Eric's United Mothership bike soars through the air, almost four feet off the ground allowing him to maneuver the parts of the bike in many different ways.

"My parents are very supportive of what I do. It may be dangerous at times because of the speed I travel and tricks I perform, but they make sure I wear a helmet so I'm all set," said Eric. While doing a trick seven feet off the ground one time, Erick sprained his ankle. "I took three months to recover from this injury and I just wanted to get back on my bike," he said. He plans on pursuing a career in professional biking backed up by the sponsorship of major companies.

Elliot Ortiz

You may have seen a student walking around school, flashing

cards, and entertaining peers with amusing acts of magic. Senior Elliot Ortiz is Queens Voc's magician. His interest arose at the age of ten. With the inspiration and help of his father, Elliot progressed and soon started doing magic on the streets.

"My father has taught me everything I know, but sometimes it could get problematic since it's his way or the highway said Elliot.

His mother on other hand wasn't so fond of him doing magic. "My mom supports me in what I do, but sometimes she feels that it's not right in terms of making a career of. She's more concerned with my education and what my future profession will be," he said. Elliot performed in the school talent show in his freshman and sophomore year. He will soon be starring in a TV show with his mentors Devonte Rosero and Michael Six Muldoon, who are famous traveling magicians.



Elliot: QVs Magician.

They Tell Us We Look Like Celebrities

by Ahtesham Hoque

We asked students: "Has anyone ever said you look like someone famous? If so, who and why?"

Charles Hughes, Senior
"Chris Tucker, because my friends say I have a mean Chris Tucker impersonation."

Jose Moncion, Junior
"Morgan Freeman, because my

family tells me I look and sound just like him."

Natan Lawicki, Junior
"Machine Gun Kelly, because my friends tell me I have the same hair style, and nose."

Robinson Adames, Senior
"ASAP Rocky, because I have his hair style (braides)."

Marc Borrayo, Freshman
"Tito Ortiz, because of similar facial features, short hair, and we both have wrestling backgrounds."

Mario Medina, Sophomore
"Brock Lesnar, because we have similar facial features, hair style, and we both come from wrestling backgrounds."

Ian Iyeke, Freshman
"Kendrick Lamar, my mom told me I have similar hair style, skin tone, and facial features."

Kerlyn Lora, Sophomore
"Cameron Boyce, because my friends tell me I have his freckles, hair color, and the same height."

Inquiring Photographer

by Pamela Abreu

We asked students: “If you had only 24 hours left to live, what would you do?”

Guillermo Guzman
Freshman



“I would have as much fun as possible and play ball. And eat apples.”

Gabriella Paz
Sophomore



“I would buy all the video games I can get then I would sleep with as many puppies in bed.”

Keven Mendez
Junior



“I would do whatever comes to my mind at the time.”

Joseph Fleming
Senior



“I would go exploring with my mom, dad, brother, and girlfriend and tell them my last goodbyes.”

Dario Rodriguez
Freshman



“I would have just have fun--go crazy and chill with my friends.”

Anthony Enriquez
Sophomore



“I would spend the first few hours thinking of what I want to do. Then the next few hours I would decide if I have enough courage to get drunk and scream ‘Screw you,’ to everyone.”

Daniela Ortiz
Junior



“I would go skydiving, bungee jump off a building, and get drunk.”

Omar Silva
Senior



“I would go around convincing people I’m Batman, because Batman is my inspiration.”

Lesly Pavon
Freshman



“I would like to travel with my family to the places I always wanted to go like Paris.”

Raynier Rosario
Sophomore



“I would first go to my mom’s house and make her cook some good food because I don’t have money. Then I would get into a lot of fights and cause a lot of problems.”

Anell Victorio
Junior



“I would probably spend the whole day with my family and friends.”

Wendy Tupacyupanqui
Senior



“I would first play pranks on people in the streets because I’m shy and not really outgoing. Later I would spend quality time with my family.”

Myriam Avila
Freshman



“I would first find a panda because I love pandas. Then I would go to Disney World and see Mickey Mouse. If there’s still enough time, I would go to Ecuador and dance in a club.”

Cindy Caranqui
Sophomore



“I would go to a famous restaurant in Italy and cook with the chef, and then I’d spend the last hour with my family.”

Jonathon Pioquinto
Junior



“I would go skydiving because I think everyone else would do it too and it’s really cool.”

Wenli Chen
Senior



“I would first try to eat every food in the world. Then I would go to church and pray for 10 hours so hopefully I go to heaven.”

Students’ Embarrassing Moments

compiled by Ashley Arango

Two months after I entered sixth grade, my English class put on a play of Shakespeare’s Hamlet. I played the part of Hamlet. I was about to act out the epic scene where Hamlet stabs Polonius when one of the kids accidentally tripped me. I fell on stage in front of everyone and I cursed really loud. Everybody was laughing. I hid behind the curtain for the rest of the play.

- Mayte Negrete, Senior

When I was ten years old, I had to use the bathroom badly during class. My teacher wasn’t allowing any students to go to the bathroom. I couldn’t hold it anymore and peed on myself.

- Beatriz Castro, Sophomore

Last month I took the SAT without eating any breakfast. During the exam my stomach started growling really loud. The students and proctor stared at me.

- Kevin Olivares, Senior

A few months ago I went camping with my girlfriend. I really had to use the bathroom, but there weren’t any bathrooms around. I couldn’t hold it in and peed on myself in front of my girlfriend.

- Miguel Marrero, Sophomore

I was at the gym and decided to use the treadmill. I thought I was a fast runner at the time so I put the speed really high. I couldn’t keep up and slipped. I held onto the treadmill handles as it kept going. I let go before the moving treadmill could pull down my pants. Everyone was laughing.

- Nicholas Mohammed, Sophomore

Once I really needed to go to the store. I tried to open the door but it didn’t open. I knew the store wasn’t closed because I saw people inside shopping. I tried to open the door for five minutes until I realized the door said push to open instead of pull.

- Kerlyn Lora, Sophomore

When I was younger I had an acrobatic recital. My fellow acrobats had to form a pyramid and I was the one who had to be on top. As I was climbing to the top I slipped on an acrobat’s shoulder and fell face forward. Everyone gasped and my crush at the time was in the audience. I wanted to hide my face forever.

- Meztli Cardoso, Junior

Volleyball Team Struggled for Wins

by Jesse Clark

The girls’ volleyball team had two wins and 10 losses this year, tied for last place with Aviation High School. The two wins came against Aviation and Robert F. Wagner.

The team was coached by Mr. Boyle and Mr. Garofano.

“The girls did not play as well as they could have,” said Mr. Garofano, “I expected them to be a playoff team this year.”

But Mr. Boyle had lower expectations. “I knew the season was not going to be a good season. We lost seven seniors last year, five of which were starters. I saw great improvement as the season progressed which is what I expected,” he said.

Team captain Thalia Cia said, “the team could have done a lot better. This being my last year I wish we had made it to playoffs.”

The girls’ volleyball team is losing five seniors: Rachel

Ackerman, Thalia Cia, Lisbeth Lopez, Nazanin Somarin, and Jocelyn Talavera. Sophomores Maritza Cardoso Avila, Paulette Baque, Ariane Bolanos, Jennifer Cosme, Jocelyn Navarro, and Tia Singh, and juniors Ashley Fernandez and Valentina Gutierrez are all expected to return next year.

“The team should do well next year because there was a lot of young development this year,” said Mr. Boyle. “Most of the team will be back next year. We are losing five seniors but this year they really helped develop the young girls’ skills, so next season I expect a lot from the girls.”

“The team had great help from team captain and MVP Thalia Cia,” said Mr. Boyle. “A lot of girls listened and learned from her this year.” According to Thalia, “the team improved a lot this year. The girls got better as a team and each of them improved as individuals.”



Alexis knows strikes are good in this sport.

Boys’ Bowling Splits: Ends 6-6, in 4th Place

by Phillip Gooding

Unlike last year with the interruption of Hurricane Sandy, this year’s bowling team was able to complete its season and finish with a 6-6 (.500) record.

The bowling team expected success after finishing last year 6-2, one of their better seasons.

The team did not win its first round playoff game against Bayside High School, losing by a score of 2 to 1, but the team had fun and enjoyed themselves along the way.

This year’s team consisted of the veteran bowlers Htet N. Aung, William Callanan, John Gamble, Licerio Nique, Christian Teran, and Derek Toohey, and rookies William De Los Angeles Alexis Nieves, Jacob Sobilo, and Brandon Taveras.

Although the team did not finish with the record they wanted, the players felt their season went well, said Coach Devaux. Htet said his season went well, and the friendly competition his teammates gave him helped his performance on game days.

Htet’s bowling average improved significantly from last year, from 79.43 to 129.00.

Captain Christian Teran said he enjoyed his last year playing for the team, and although the team did well enough to get to the playoffs, they could have done much better.

Coach Devaux said Christian was the team’s best bowler and most valuable player. “Christian is such reliable captain and someone I could really count on as a bowler. He is a high level player and helps the team not only as a player but as a coach.”

Next year the team will be losing its captain Christian Teran and senior bowlers William Callanan, John Gamble, Licerio Nique, and Brandon Taveres. Coach Devaux said they still have a chance of making a run for the playoffs next year, with younger bowlers improving, but the team will not be as good as this year’s team.

Coach Devaux said that the absence of Angelo Andino, who was an ineligible to bowl this year, hit the team hard. Coach Devaux wanted Angelo on the team, “but education plays a major role when it comes to sports,” and students have to be academically eligible. “Athletics do not come first,” Mr. Devaux said.



Team struggled, but girls don’t struggle to smile.

JV Basketball Starts Strong Coach Says Stamina is the Key

by Phillip Gooding

Coming off a career best record of 7-9, Coach Jean Daniel is looking to improve his win total this JV basketball season.

The season began Dec. 19, with a 27-point blowout victory, 80-53 against Aviation H.S. The

team then lost to Flushing and Forest Hills, before winning again, defeating Newtown High School 69-53. The team’s record is 2-2.

“I believe this team can be an improvement from last year, if they can come together as a team to increase the team’s overall record,” said Coach Daniel, demonstrating his positive outlook on this season.

Coach Daniel appointed leadership roles to returning players Krizon Maynard and Travis Savino. “I know I am a leader this year, and I have stepped up my level of playing to help my team become successful,” Travis said. These leaders will be a crucial component in the development of the incoming freshmen and newly added sophomores, if they have any chance of being successful this year, said Coach Daniel.

Before the start of the season, the JV basketball team was

assisted by the school’s Spanish teacher, Mr. Reynoso, and Mr. Zambrotta, the wrestling coach, who worked on conditioning with the athletes on the team, making sure they are at their optimum shape physically. Mr. Reynoso and Mr. Zambrotta did this by holding weekly practices strictly for conditioning and strengthening purposes. “We will be able to win more games with our new added stamina,” Coach Daniel said. The



Angel readies for a free throw.

Wrestling Team has Rebuilding Season, Emergency Ending

by Xiomaira Inga

Last season, Queens Voc’s wrestling team tied for first with Grover Cleveland HS, with a record of 7-3. This season, they did not even make the playoffs.

The season ended with a record of 5-4, but as of Jan. 19, the stats hadn’t been updated on PSAL.org, which showed a record of 3-3 with the team in fifth place.

“It was a young team that was overall inexperienced and didn’t know the sport,” said Coach Zambrotta. “I knew this year was going to be a rebuilding year, but I was pleasantly surprised.”

“It was an all right season,” said Captain Sahoniel Batista, “but a lot of people failed off the team and injuries occurred. Overall, we could have done better.”

The season ended on Jan. 16, with injuries to Andres Murillo

and Michael Bennett, within minutes of each other. They even went to the hospital together in an ambulance. At that point, Queens Voc forfeited rather than risk another injury. “We could have won if we weren’t forced to end it,” said the coach.

“We started out strong,” Sahoniel said, “but halfway through the season, some wrestlers lost their motivation and weren’t wrestling to their full potential.”

In December, the Tigers hosted their own tournament, Battle on the Boulevard. Students from eight schools participated. “The goal was to get more kids to wrestle and to show the structure of the game for more advance matches,” said Coach Zambrotta. Queens Voc came in second place in the tournament. Borough and city tournaments for individual wrestlers will take place

in February, but the wrestlers have not yet been determined.

According to the coach, the team’s starters were seniors Alexander Borges, Jesse Clark, and Sebastian Lupercio; juniors Hamail Arshad, Juan Diaz, and Andres Murillo; and sophomores Sahoniel Batista, Jhostyn Gallardo, Anthony Pippis, and Tysain Shand.

The rest of the team are seniors Brian Carvajal and Ahtesham Hoque; juniors Carlos Cambi, Marc Dutan, and Eddie Quiles; sophomores Michael Bennett, Cristian Chamba Sinchi, Angel Condo, Jose De Los Santos, Mauricio Gomez, Mian Humza, Valentin Iancu, Carmen Morel, Jocelyn Navarro, Jason Pineda, Brandon Rivera, Tyrek Rollings, and Andrea Zavedra; and freshmen William Teyuca, Marc Borrayo, and Angelo Sinchi.

coach attributed the workouts to the team’s improved start through the first four games.

Coach Daniel has faith in his team, but feels pressure to succeed. “Definitely, skill-wise we need to improve, and become more disciplined and physically fit. We need to make a name for ourselves and teams need to be aware of our presence,” he said. “When you play against JV you are going to lose,” said Coach

Daniel, demonstrating the utmost confidence he has in his team.

On the team this year are veterans Krizon Maynard, Travis Savino, Lincoln Speer, and Charles Urena, and rookies Malcolm Abney, Raheem Ras Brinson, Marcos Casado, Fasil Cheema, Angel Justin Diaz, Andrew Garcia, Michael Kammerer, Tyhiem Kennedy, Joshua Rodriguez, Jovanny Rodriguez, Luis Angel Vasquez, Seamus Ryan, Dylan

New City Requirements for PSAL Athletes

by Harsimar Jassar

PSAL has implemented new academic requirements that students must meet to be eligible for interscholastic teams. The new requirements were implemented to increase graduation rates and the academic performance of students participating in the PSAL, according to Eric Goldstein, chief executive of School Support Services for the New York City Department of Education.

Instead of the old 4+1 rule that required students to pass four classes and Physical Education, there is now the 5+1 rule. This revised rule requires students to pass five credit bearing classes and Phys. Ed. Three of the five

classes must be major subjects such as math, science, social studies, and English are major subjects; CTE classes do not count as major subjects.

The old 8-credit rule has changed to the 10-credit rule. This means that a student must accumulate ten credits for the two semesters prior to the season. Phys. Ed. credits do not count toward this number. This is the only requirement that is not currently in effect. This rule will take effect on Feb. 1.

Students will now have to maintain a passing average on their report card. Before, there was no rule regarding overall averages. Christian Solarte, a senior on the boys' varsity soccer

team thinks that this new rule is a good addition because now more students will have passing averages since they will use playing sports as an incentive.

A new attendance rule now requires student-athletes to attend school a minimum of 90 percent every marking period. "This new attendance rule will hurt teams the most," said Mr. Maloney, athletic director. Mr. Maloney does not agree with this new requirement because he thinks 90 percent is too high. Catrell Jewell, a junior on the boys' varsity basketball team, thinks that this new requirement will actually benefit the teams and school. "Students will be absent less because they want to play. They will also miss fewer practices, which will help the team. The whole school's attendance rate should rise" said Catrell.

Coach says Varsity Baseball Rookies are Real Relievers



Some of the students who tried out, with Tigers alumni.

by Pamela Abreu

Tryouts have been held, picks have been made, and now it's time for the varsity baseball team to start preparing for the season.

Of the more than 50 students who tried out in October, six freshman, four sophomores, five juniors, and nine seniors were selected. There are 16 rookies and eight veterans on the roster.

Remaining Sports Games Schedule

by Harsimar Jassar

These are the remaining schedules of winter teams. The games are at Queens Voc unless otherwise noted.

Boys' Varsity Basketball

- 1/22- Queens Voc vs Baccalaureate School For Global Education
- 1/24- Queens Voc @ Metropolitan Campus
- 2/3- Queens Voc vs Frank Sinatra @ Queens Voc
- 2/5 Queens Voc vs Academy of American Studies@ Newcomers

Girls' Varsity Basketball

- 1/21- Queens Voc vs Info Tech
- 1/24 Queens Voc vs Robert F Wagner @ To Be Determined
- 2/3- Queens Voc @ Metropolitan Campus
- 2/5- Queens Voc vs Queens HS Complex
- 2/7- Queens Voc vs Aviation

Boys' JV Basketball

- 2/3- Queens Voc @ William C Bryant
- 2/10- Queens Voc vs Aviation
- 2/12- Queens Voc vs Flushing
- 2/14- Queens Voc @ Metropolitan Campus
- 2/24- Queens Voc @ Newtown
- 3/3- Queens Voc vs Bryant HS
- 3/5- Queens Voc vs Grover Cleveland HS
- 3/7- Queens Voc @ Franklin K Lane HS

New Coach Urges Girl Bowlers: Do Well and Have Fun!



Ms. Poltawsky makes her debut as a varsity coach.

by Elma Rahman

There was only one new face on the bowling team this year, and that is Coach Poltawsky. "Mr. Garofano basically stepped down from the position, so I applied for it and I got it," she said. According to PSAL, Mr. Garofano is now coach of the girls' volleyball team. Mr. Garofano didn't want to comment on this change other than to say he doesn't plan to coach the bowling team in the future.

Coach Poltawsky said she really enjoys coaching bowling. "I get the feeling of excitement and nervousness before a game, but I always encourage my team to do the best they can and just have fun," she said. The season ended on Nov. 7, with a record of 5 wins and 7 losses, fourth place in a five team division.

"The most outstanding players were Estefania Villegas, who has bowling average of 98, and Maria Perez, who has a bowling average of 125," Coach Poltawsky said.

Despite their record, Katelynn Santiago, a sophomore, said she "felt like everyone is hyper and motivated throughout the game, but some of the players take the game too seriously."

That is just what the team is looking for, said Kevin. "What makes a good baseball player is heart and skill," he said. "I'm hoping the season is going to be good. Our record isn't going to be the best, but we are thinking positive. It's looking like the team will work together for the season."

The coach admits to being demanding of his players. He said he wants them to learn to be responsible. "I'm a teacher first and a coach second. I want the boys to develop into dedicated members of a team, whether a sports team or a team of workers," said Coach Schimenz.

The students selected for varsity are: Nelson Batista, Mauricio Bustamante, William Callanan, Benedetto Caraballo, William De Los Angeles, Johan

Mayte Negrete said she "decided to join the bowling team because I thought, why not? It's my last year, might as well enjoy the time I have and spend time with the people I can. Although now I regret not joining sooner." Mayte said her "favorite part of bowling team would be the feeling after a strike. Not only because of my incredibly supportive team but it just feels good because I accomplished it myself."

The total expenses for both the girls' and boys' bowling teams is about \$1,100. "The school usually provides a portion of the funding for the bowling teams, however they haven't done so this year," said Mr. Maloney, the school's athletic director. To fundraise, the girls' bowling team had a bake sale, raising over \$600 for the two teams. "The money raised plus the left over money from last year will go towards the practice games," said Mr. Maloney.

The students on the team include seniors Iveth Duran, Mayte Negrete, Maria Perez, Tania Puchuela, Monica Puspasari, Katherine Quinde, Adriana Rojas, and Estefania Villegas; junior Upasana Tyagi; and sophomores Thiralyng Objio, Katelynn Santiago, and Xi Zheng.


Diaz, Jorge Estrada, Carlos Fernandez, Jeffery Guevara, Guillermo Guzman, Kevin Hernandez, Miguel Marrero, Kaden Mejia, Hamza Naseer, Osvaldo Nunez, Kevin Olivares, Dolapo Oyekanmi, Jordi Perez, Dario Rodriguez, Christopher Ruiz, Mario Salcedo, Jason Seino, Brandon Taveras, and Anthony Ventimiglia. Veteran Jhon Reynoso might also be returning, said the coach.

The selected students have to meet eligibility rules to remain on the team. The boys have to pass Phys. Ed., their CTE class, most of their other classes, and achieve at least a 65 average for the third and fifth marking periods of the year. They are also required to have 90 percent attendance for the third marking period and each marking period during the season.

SENIOR SPORTS PROFILES

by Nemisis Noel

Christian Teran
Captain




Boys' Varsity Bowling Team
Years on Team: 4

"He's a really good bowler and good teammate. He gives me advice."
- Alexis Nieves

"He's a 4-year veteran. He has steadily improved through the years where he is the leader of the team and right now half way through the season has the highest average in the Queens division with a 195 average."
- Coach Devaux

William Callanan



Boys' Varsity Bowling Team
Years on Team: 4

"He's a good team player and teaches others how to become better bowlers."
- William De Los Angeles

"He's a 4-year veteran and one of my most consistent bowlers. I know what I'm going to get from him every day and that's very important especially in bowling."
- Coach Devaux

John Gamble




Boys' Varsity Bowling Team
Years on Team: 4

"I do think he's a really good teammate. I think he has definitely improved a lot since last year. He gives me advice sometimes and we also exchange advice."
- Derek Toohey

"He's a 4-year veteran who has steadily improved and earned a spot on the A Team."
- Coach Devaux

Licerio Nique




Boys' Varsity Bowling Team
Years on Team: 1

"He has the ability to improve. He's a good teammate. He did well throughout the season, but he could have done better."
- Htet Naing Aung

"He has been a valuable asset to the team. He has come up big on several occasions and he's a good teammate."
- Coach Devaux

Brandon Taveras



Boys' Varsity Bowling Team
Year on Team: 1

"He's a spectacular teammate and a very positive supporter."
- Jacob Sobilo

"It's his first year on the team. He has really good skills; I just wish I was able to have him for next year."
- Coach Devaux

Lisbeth Lopez




Girls' Varsity Volleyball Team
Years on Team: 3

"She contributed to the team when she was a starter in some of the games. She's a very nice person. She helps out with anything that has to do with the team."
- Ashley Fernandez

"I've watched her improve steadily over the course of time. She's been getting more playing time as the season progresses."
- Coach Boyle

Rachel Ackerman



Girls' Varsity Volleyball Team
Years on Team: 4

"She always gives it her all in every game. She's always in the mood to play. She's always energetic and gives me advice. She really likes volleyball and plays because she loves it not just because she's good at it. I will miss her."
- Jennifer Cosme

"She's very outgoing and determined. She'll throw herself all over the court to make the play."
- Coach Boyle

Jocelyn Talavera
Co-Captain




Girls' Varsity Volleyball Team
Years on Team: 4

"She's really good at setting, that's why she's a setter. She's a really good player. She's also pretty good at serving. She's really nice and sweet."
- Jocelyn Navarro

"I feel like she's the best setter on the team. She's been quietly but consistently getting better each year."
- Coach Boyle

Thalia Cia
Captain




Girls' Varsity Volleyball Team
Years on Team: 3

"She is a great captain and she motivates each and every girl on the team. She always tries to keep getting better and better. She helped me with my serves. I will miss her."
- Maritza Cardoso

"I consider her one of the best players. She's been helpful by organizing practices over the summer. She also had a lot to do with organizing the bake sale. She's a coachable player who has improved a lot over the course of time."
- Coach Boyle

Nazanin Somarin




Girls' Varsity Volleyball Team
Years on Team: 1

"She's very nice and she's competitive. She's a good teammate to play with. Throughout the season she became better and her spikes got more intense. I'm going to miss her because she's a nice person to be around."
- Tia Singh

"She's a good server and also gets things done quietly. She's also been part of the starting team. This is her first year on the team, so I would have liked to have her for more years and that way she would be able to enhance her skills even more."
- Coach Boyle

Adriana Rojas



Girls' Varsity Bowling Team
Year on Team: 1

"She encourages everyone on the team. She always helps us improve. She's fun to be with and she's a good teammate."
- Upasana Tyagi

"Adriana is very dedicated and she has really stepped it up as a player."
- Coach Poltawsky

Do you have suggestions for articles for our next edition of the school newspaper? Do you have any comments about this edition? Write us at Editor@VocVoice.org

SENIOR SPORTS PROFILES

Maria Perez
Captain



Girls' Varsity Bowling Team
Years on Team: 4

"She's really nice and seems very experienced and skilled. She also gives really good advice and makes games very fun and interesting."

- Thiraly Objio

"She's a veteran and has become a leader, that's why I chose her to be captain."

- Coach Poltawsky

Mayte Negrete



Girls' Varsity Bowling Team
Years on Team: 1

"I love the way she bowls. She doesn't talk much. She helped me get to the Astoria Bowling Alley. She's a good teammate."

- Upasana Tyagi

"It's fun to coach her; she's very accepting to coaching critiques and brings her all when she is put in."

- Coach Poltawsky

by Nemisis Noel

Tania Puchuela



Girls' Varsity Bowling Team
Years on Team: 1

"Even if she doesn't play she still cheers us on, and when she gets subbed in she gives it her all and tries her best. She's also a great player."

- Xi Zheng

"She has improved very much, she's also a dedicated player and I expect great things from her."

- Coach Poltawsky

Iveth Duran



Girls' Varsity Bowling Team
Years on Team: 1

"She's a good teammate, knows how to cheer people up, and motivates people. She's also a good friend."

- Xi Zheng

"She's new to the team and is on her way to becoming a great bowler."

- Coach Poltawsky

Estefania Villegas



Girls' Varsity Bowling Team
Years on Team: 1

"She's a good teammate. She knows how to enjoy the game and make it fun to others. She also shows good sportsmanship."

- Katelyn Santiago

"She brings her all to every game, is dedicated, a team player, and also takes on a leadership role."

- Coach Poltawsky

Soccer Team Makes Playoffs 10th Year in a Row

by Nikolas Amirian

The boys' varsity soccer team made the playoffs for the tenth year in a row, finishing second in their division with 10 wins, one loss, two ties, and 32 points scored, an improvement over last season's record of eight wins, five losses, and one tie.

Coach Ali said the team had looked good on paper and that he had expected them to finish as well as they did.

The Tigers went to the third round of the playoffs, where they lost to HS for Arts and Business, 2-1.

In the playoffs, the Tigers finished 2-1 with 9 points scored. They defeated Leon M. Goldstein HS for Science 5-0 in the first round. In the second round the Tigers beat Taft Educational Campus 3-0.

"Miscommunication was the

reason we lost and it was always an issue during the season," said Alex Gonzalez. "The loss haunted me for the next three days, but life goes on." Coach Ali said the team didn't perform well and that some players went into the game over confident and thought that the playoffs would be a breeze.

The Tigers' biggest win of the season was a 7-0 shutout against Arts and Business. Their only loss came against Flushing HS, 1-0.

Coach Ali and goalie Gerardo Amigon both said that the hardest team they played this season was Flushing HS. The team's two ties came against Richmond Hill and Grover Cleveland.

According to Coach Ali, midfielder Alex Gonzalez's improvement from last season really helped the team do well

this season.

Michael Alvarado was the team captain. The responsibility of captain was given to Michael by the seniors of last year's team, the coach said, "Michael was not a good leader."

There were 27 players on the team this season: Radfan Ali, Michael Alvarado, Gerardo Amigon, Steven Asitimbay, Johan Bermeo, Cristian Boror, Jefferson Castillo, Jamyang Choedrup, Juan Diaz, Nick Eras, Alex Gonzalez, Eric Guailas, Mike Hernandez, Steven Jerez, Nicholas Kotsakis, Boris Miranda, Sebastian Montenegro Lope, Jesus Palao, Andres Puli, Juan Rodriguez, Anthony Saguay, Nahuel Sanabria, Christian Solarte, Marcin Trzeciak, MD Uddin, David Valenzuela, Cristian Vivar, and Abraham Zepeda.

Of the 27, 12 are seniors. "The reason why I have such a large roster is because there isn't a JV soccer team and I want to mold the younger players so when the seniors graduate I have experienced players to replace them," Coach Ali said.

Senior Andres Puli was red carded for cursing at a referee during the game against Flushing HS and wasn't allowed to play for the rest of the season for violating PSAL rules.

Coach Ali said he already knows what next year's team needs to improve on. He feels the team needs to follow the game plan more than they did this year. Alex Gonzalez said, "The main thing they need to work on is communication, something we lacked this year."

Lights Out!

by Kevin Hernandez

"It was a volleyball game against Maspeth. The coach and the referee asked why the gym was dark and I told him it's always dark here. The referee could have canceled the game but decided not to," said Mr. Garofano, coach of the girls' volleyball team.

Two weeks later, a coach from the opposing team and the referee asked Mr. Garofano why it was dark in the gym.

Ten lights had been out.

Six were repaired in November and four are still not working. According to Ms. Holland, head custodian, the problem with the lights wasn't the bulbs, but the ballasts, devices used to limit the amount of current in an electric circuit. Ms. Holland said she placed an order to have the rest of the lights fixed but it's up to the Department of Education to fix them. "The materials needed are here and hopefully the lights will be repaired soon," said Ms. Holland.

It's now basketball season and it's still dark in the gym. "The lights in the gym need to be fixed. The poor lighting can cause a problem for other sports teams," said Mr. Garofano.



Sports Dinner? Not This Year



by Maria Perez

It is likely that there won't be a sports award ceremony this year, said Mr. Maloney, who has been the Queens Voc athletics director for three years. He said one reason it might not happen is that "kids have a hard time giving in the money on time."

There hasn't been a sports awards ceremony in the past four years. The last one, a barbecue, took place in Queens Voc's handball courts. Because of the scaffolding surrounding the school, is not possible to have any activities there, said Mr. Maloney, who is also the handball coach.

The idea for a sports awards was proposed by Mr. Lerro, the athletic director at the time, and Mr. Schimenz, the varsity baseball coach. The first sports awards ceremony was held in 2003, and for seven years, the event took place at Bruno's on the Boulevard.

According to Mr. Schimenz, four years ago the dinner was not held in Bruno's because there were too many teams, making it tough to coordinate. Instead of holding it at Bruno's, coaches decided to hold it at Queens Voc. "The BBQ went really well," said Mr. Schimenz, "but now, a lot of the coaches have their own team events."



The guys again kicked their opponents all over the field.



This court was fun for police officers and young basketball stars.

Cops Keep JV Boys on the Run

by Ashley Arango

This time, the police were here just for the fun of it. On Tuesday, Dec. 10, the boys’ JV basketball team played two games against officers from the 108th Precinct basketball team. “They were tough games. They’re a lot younger and have good players. We feel like we’re good players but we forget that we’re not as young as they are,” said Captain Brian Hennessy, commanding officer of the 108th Precinct. “The bleachers were full of students cheering for the JV basketball players,” said Coach Daniel. “We kept the games close until the final minutes, but they beat us by only a few points both games.” During the final quarter of the first game, the boys were in the lead. Then Mr. Maloney

decided to extend the game three more minutes because they were having a good time. The officers managed to beat the boys’ team with little time left. The final score for the first game was 41-39, and the score of the second game was 54-53. “It was fun to play against the officers. We learned that we needed to work on our defense more,” said sophomore Krizon Maynard. Another JV player, sophomore Travis Savino, said, “We realized that we needed to improve on our ball movement and rebounds.” This was the first official basketball game the officers played aside from a game in the summer against a team of students from different high schools. “We decided to play against Queens Voc because we have a good rapport with the school. It was

recommended by Officer Torres that they be the first team we play against,” said Captain Hennessy. The officers volunteer to participate, but the games cannot conflict with their work schedule. “We hope to work together with high school students to create better and positive relationships as well as interact with them more,” said Officer Mendez, who played on the team. “The purpose of these games was to improve community relations between students and officers,” said Officer Hennin, captain of the 108th Precinct basketball team. “We hope to have future basketball matches at least once a month. We also plan on either playing against the softball team or the baseball team this coming season if the school wants us to,” said Officer Mendez.

Boys Varsity Hoopsters Show Improvement

by Nikolas Amirian

The boys’ varsity basketball team has seven wins and five losses as of Jan. 19, and is tied for fourth place in its division, an improvement over last season’s record of five wins and nine losses. Even though the team has gone 7-6, Coach Maloney said the team has been up and down throughout the season and if they continue the up and down play, they are likely to finish as a .500 team. Team chemistry has been an issue this season, the coach said.

“They need to learn how to play together and to find each other better on the court,” he said. “There are quite a few players who don’t come to practice, so it’s hard to work better with each other if not everyone is there,” Coach Maloney said. Co-captain Phillip Gooding said he’s not the problem. “I come to practice every day, I’m the first one there.” But not everyone is as consistent as Phillip. “I try to come to practice but I have a job after school and when I get home

and do my homework, it’s late by the time I go to sleep, so it’s hard for me to wake up early to come to practice,” said Rick Lim. Phillip recognizes that the coach has a point about playing together. “Sometimes during the course of a game, in the heat of the moment, one of us tends to focus on scoring or making a highlight play, and the team chemistry suffers,” he said. Coach Maloney said he is using a starting lineup that consists of Phillip, Harsimar Jassar, Alexis Nieves, Adam Todorovic, Catrell

Lady Tigers Basketball: In 1st and Heading to Playoffs

by Xiomaira Inga

The Lady Tigers are on their way to another playoff appearance. With a record of 10-1, they are currently in first place in their division. The girls have five games remaining. “The team works hard and the players are fully committed,” said Coach Devaux. The Lady Tigers have made the playoffs every season since 2007. They have been division champions every season since 2009, and in 2011 they were semi-finalists.

Their toughest game this season was Academy for Careers in Television and Film, the Tigers lost 43-41. Team member Na Zheng said, “We could have been undefeated if we listen to the coach and each other.” Coach Devaux said the team is constantly trying to get better. “At times we are not at our full potential in our games so we don’t play smart, but we are still one of the better teams in the division so we are looking to get better.” To help improve, Captain Jasmin Torres advises her teammates, “If

one of us needs help we should try to help as much as possible.” The Lady Tigers are first in their division, and Coach Devaux is hoping to finish in at least second place. The team has already earned a playoff spot. Anything can happen in the playoffs, the coach said. “If we keep improving and play great we can make it. Our goal is to run deep into the playoffs.” Captain Lucila Cortes Molina said that “If we play smart and as a team, we can win any game.” According to the coach, the team’s starters are senior Yadira Perez as center, junior Jasmin Torres and senior Lucila Cortes Molina as forwards, and junior Na Zheng and sophomore Xi Xheng as guards. “Na is also the leading scorer and Jasmin has played great defense,” said Coach Devaux. The remaining players are seniors Ashley Arango and Gabriella Biondo, junior Karen Carrasco, sophomores Joana Benavides, Dana Johnson, and Katelynn Santiago, and freshmen Larisa Cuccurullo, Victoria Guerrero, Amber Rivera, and Jordalin Ortega.



Girls ready to take the division again.

Jewell, and Rick Lim. Rick and Catrell share the fifth starting spot, the coach said, adding that who starts depends on whether he wants “to go big with Rick or more speed with Catrell.” According to the coach, Adam and Phillip are co-captains of the team. “Both Adam and Phil have been good captains, and they have both shown good leadership,” he said. The team still has five games left in the season, and Phillip said he is confident that they are going to make the playoffs. There are 16 players on the team this season: Mahbub

Ali, Zachary Cucinella, Jose Duran, Phillip Gooding, Kevin Hernandez, Harsimar Jassar, Catrell Jewell, Christopher Lexis, Rick Lim, Alexis Nieves, Alexander Pena, Jhon Reynoso, Daniel Santiago, Suveer Seemangal, Jacob Sobilo, and Adam Todorovic. According to Coach Maloney, two big additions this season are Alexis Nieves and Catrell Jewell. Of the 16, eight are seniors, seven are juniors, and one freshman, Daniel Santiago. Zachary, Jhon, and Suveer are currently inactive. They might be able to be reactivated when the next report cards are distributed.