

Vocational Voice

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

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Queens Voc student-volunteers on MLK day.

MLK's Dreams Come Alive at QV

by Carlos Mason Jr.

Students returning to school after Regent's week were surprised by the new paintings in the school hallways.

Mr. Rivera, Mr. Vega, and twenty-four Queens Voc students volunteered to paint the murals on January 24, Martin

to showcase our school's Smaller Learning Communities," said Mr. Vega.

Representatives from City Year, a non-profit charitable group that unites young people of all backgrounds, volunteering community service throughout the city and country, decided our location and school size would be perfect for this activity during Black History month and the celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, according to Mr. Rivera and the City Year organization.

"This was a way of keeping Martin's dream alive, having all races working accordingly creating and beautifying our school building," said Mr. Rivera. "The paintings in the hallways are very artistic and portray our schools trades' individually," said Jonathan Maldonado a student in the business course.

City Year was pleased to participate, according to Mr. Rivera, and students who are interested can contact Mr. Rivera for info on City Year's ongoing community service activities. Students can also check City Year's website: www.cityyear.com



City Year members.

Luther King Jr. Day. Fifteen of students were from Mr. Vega's Leadership class.

"This is a refreshing new look and a positive change for the school," said Natalie Vargas, who helped paint the murals.

In memory of Martin Luther King Jr., the passage ways between the old and new buildings were painted to represent each SLC. "I felt it was a nice school community project

Fiber Optics Students See the Light

by Steve Pinell

Soon, the fiber optics industry may have several Queens Voc students working in the field.

That's because students in the fiber optics course taught by Mr. Ali, an electronics teacher, have a chance to become certified in fiber optics, broadening their chances to find a well-paying career.

The course, offered once a year, began on Monday, March 17, in room 346.

Fiber optics technology, rapidly becoming popular in the networking industry, consists of data transmission at higher speeds using fiber optic cables made of glass or plastic threads to transmit data. Throughout the course, students will build fiber optics cables using various types of connectors.

"In our class we take part in building fiber optics cables, troubleshooting, and testing cables. We also complete curriculum jobs and modules in order to fulfill the certification requirements," said fiber optics student David Bermudez.

"Not only can electronics students participate in the fiber optics course, but students in various shop classes can also participate, cause hey, we're here for the students," said Mr. Ali.

"Mr. Ali came to our C-Tech class and introduced us to the opportunity of being in the course," said participant Edwin Adames. "Mr. Cintron also mentioned the course to us last year in our 11th grade shop class. I'm happy to be in the course and look forward to using the certification to my benefit once I get it."

Twenty students can participate in the course, but this year only 19 are involved, 10 from electrical installation, 6 from computer technology, and 3 from electronics were admitted into the course. To participate, students have to

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Robotics club doesn't "drop the ball" in competition.

Gentlemen, Start Your Robots!

by Catherine Gomez

Ask what the robotics club builds, and most people would say "robots," but the club also builds unity. Mr. Ali, the coordinator of the robotics club, encourages students to join no matter what grade or shop class they are in.

"The robotics club engages our prior knowledge of electronics," said Brian Green, "I like more hands-on work."



Queens Voc's robot, 1796

According to Mr. Ali, the robotics club "enters competitions in which club members have to build robots to compete with robots built by students from other schools."

The robotics club entered the NYC First Robotics Competition that was held in the Jacob Javits Center from Friday April 4 to Sunday April 6. Over 60 high school teams from around the world attended the competition.

This competition is made up of three parts, autonomous mode, when they program the robot to move on its own, sensor mode, when they use infrared detection or a control

to steer the robot, and general mode when the robot had to push or carry a large ball around a circular track, racing against other robots. The goal was to race around the track as many times as possible, in a three minute time frame for each mode.

The robotics club had to ship its robot to a holding area on Long Island by February 15 to be included in the competition. The schools that registered had a six-week deadline to design and build their robot. The robots were evaluated by engineers to verify that the robots meet the competition rules.

When all three competitions ended, and the scores were all added up, Queens Voc placed 42 out of 65 schools in the competition. "We went there for the first time as a team and saw our mistakes, and learned from them. Hopefully next year we will use this as an experience to our advantage," said Gregory Paul.

Students involved in the robotics club are mostly from Mr. Ali's junior and senior classes. They worked on the robot during class. Other members who are not in his class met during 7th, 8th, and 9th periods, and after school.

"Mr. Ali guides us in building the robot in accordance with the guidelines of the competition," said Cindy Bravo, who is in charge of safety and motivation for the club. Peter Beninati, captain for the robotics club, said he "oversees the progress on the robot." Peter helped build and program the robot as well. Last year's graduates, Joseph Colon, Preet Verma, and Jordan Isaza also contributed for this year's robotics club "they inspire the current members in the robotics club," said Brian Green.

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Fiber Optics

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be recommended by their teachers.

“The fiber optics course is very beneficial to the students in Queens Voc, and 85% of students who have taken part in the course since 2005 have become certified,” said Mr. Ali.

“A major benefit of being involved in fiber optics in Queens Voc is that the class is free and even if I don’t follow through with my personal options, at least I have something to fall back on. The course is also a challenge for those who participate in it and it gives them the experience to succeed in the industry as well,” said Edwin

The following students are in the fiber optics course: Edwin Adames, Andrew Arvelo, David Bermudez, Julian Castro, Steven D’Elena, Jose Flor, Riyan Hidayat, Ana Jimenez, Annaldo Jimenez, Tyree Josey, Oscar Mendez, Andres Menendez, Leonardo Mora,

Kearon Muzamali, Josue Sanchez, Daljit Singh, Patrick Soudeen, Angel Tejada, and Ruthie Vegas.

“Students who become certified can apply for jobs at Time Warner, Verizon, Cablevision, and other networking companies. A lot of electrical companies now run networking data cables, which allows more opportunities for the students,” said Mr. Ali.

“If I become certified in fiber optics, I’ll try to use the certification in networking companies. It’s still in my field of computers, but networks will primarily be using fiber optics technology by the year 2010, opening up a big opportunity for me to make more income,” said Daljit Singh.

C-Tech Industries is the company which certified Mr. Ali to teach the course and also provides the certifications for the students if they qualify for it.

The Singing Revolution



Students escalate their knowledge of world events.

by Jonathan Carsten

It has been said that “singing heals the soul,” but can it heal a country in the time in crisis?

In December 2007, Ms. Wasilewski and Mr. Schimenz took a group of students to the East Village Theater to view the New York debut of *The Singing Revolution*. The film, by James Tusty and his wife, Maureen Castle Tusty, highlighted how the Northern European country of Estonia used non-violent acts, such as singing in large crowds and gatherings, to regain freedom from decades of Soviet control.

The Singing Revolution tells of Estonia’s history with periods of both suffering and great strength. In 1869, the first Estonian song festival, “Laulupidu,” was held, which allowed the Estonians to express their nationalism

through music and song. Since then, the song festival has been held every five years, welcoming 30,000 singers on stage.

Soon after Estonia declared independence on February 14, 1918, German and Russian Bolsheviks committed various attacks, but did not succeed in taking over Estonia. By 1938, Estonia was importing goods totaling \$293 million and exported goods totaling \$292 million.

The country had become extremely successful. But in June 1940, the Soviet Union invaded the Baltic countries of Estonia, Lithuania, and Latvia after their defiance of the “Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact” treaty co-signed with Adolf Hitler on August 23, 1939. For the next 50 years under control of the Soviet Union, the Estonians lived in fear of what each day brought, whether they would be arrested, sent away to the gulags (labor camps),



Queens Voc’s Students show skills to state competitors

Skills USA- Skills QV

by Natalie Vargas

Recently, some students at Queens Voc put the skills they have learned to the test by participating in Skills USA.

“Skills USA is a national organization that promotes student growth and achievement in various career & Technical areas,” said Mr. Cintron, a C-tech teacher at Queens Voc who has served as an advisor and a chaperon for the Skills USA Conference. Skills USA runs a statewide conference that takes place every year in Syracuse, NY. Students from various majors in the school compete among each other to get the chance to participate in the conference.

The 3-day conference began Wednesday, April 9. On the first day, participants were informed of all performance standards, and proficiency exams were given out. On the second day, the adrenalin got pumping with the competitions. On the final day, the winners were announced and the awards were given out.

“Queens Voc has been participating in Skills USA for the past 20 to 25 years,” said Mr. Cintron, who participated when he was a student at Queens Voc.

Because of school budgeting concerns, only 7 students from Queens Voc were able to attend. Two teachers were able to go: Mr. Cintron and Mr. Rivera, an

de-ported, or even executed.

The Estonians finally took charge between 1986 and 1991 and began their peaceful process to end the five decades of abuse and terror in their country by singing and creating mile-long human barriers, known as “Baltic Way,” and other non-violent acts.

“Gandhi liberated his country through peace and civil disobedience,” said Moushumi Dhar, a senior computer technology student. “The Estonians sang their way through it, which I think is amazing,” noting the similarities between the peaceful approaches of the Estonians and Mohandas Gandhi to achieve independence.

Mr. and Mrs. Tusty viewed

SVA for plumbing. Last year, 10 students attended.

The students attending were chosen by their expertise. EI students Dayana Jaramillo, Julian Castro, and David Bermudez worked on motor control, residential wiring, and job demonstration; computer technology student Steve Pinell demonstrated computer maintenance skills, and electronics student Riyan Hidayat worked on electronics technology. No plumbing or cosmetology students chose to participate this year. Adrienne Diaz and Thomas Mozzeralla attended as delegates for the school. Delegates who attend the skills USA trip don’t compete, but meet to discuss the Skills USA conference and ways to improve the conference and competitions.

Last year Queens Voc took 2nd place in the prepared speech part of the competition and the school overall finished in 4th.

Mr. Cintron said that “This year the students are very capable, they have a good opportunity to do very well in the competition.” During this trip not only are students offered scholarships but, they also have a chance to get an internship with one of the many large corporations that go to find prospective employees.

[Editor’s note: the conference was still being held as this edition went to press]

the hour and a half documentary with the audience, and when it concluded, Queens Voc students asked them many questions. Mr. Tusty said that his father, was born in Tallinn, Estonia, which the reason for his inspiration for making the film. The students then headed into the lobby for photos with the producers.

The filmmakers were greatly moved during the making of the film. Maureen Tusty stated, “When I shook their hand to say hello, I really had no idea what this person’s personal experience was. Then I would sit there and listen to them tell me how they survived in Siberia, or how their family was killed. It was a very powerful and emotional experience to get to

NO CELL PHONES!!!

by Yanel Leroux

According to section B05 of The New York City Department of Education Citywide Standards of Discipline and Intervention measures, cell phones are not allowed in school without authorization.

The New York City Department of Education policy has, for more than fifteen years, prohibited students from bringing cell phones, beepers, iPods, or other electronic communication or entertain-ment devices to school, according to the DOE website. Bringing these items to school is a violation of the discipline code.

According to the discipline code, the punishment for bringing a cell phone to school ranges from being reprimanded by a teacher or principal, a student-teacher conference, parent conference, detention, and removal from the classroom by the teacher.

While use of a cell phone in itself cannot result in a suspension, if a teacher or a dean asks a student to hand over his cell phone and that student refuses, a student can be suspended for insubordination.

At Queens Voc, many students bring their cell phones to school and many of them use them in the hallways, cafeteria, gym, and classrooms.



Spreading the word on rule.

talk to these people face to face.” According to James Tusty, “I think the most personal impact is realizing how privileged we are in the U.S. No matter the problems we have, we do have opportunities and freedom that so many in the rest of the world cannot experience today.”

“This movie is a must-see for people who experienced any type of oppression and for those who take all the freedom we have in this country for granted,” said Ms. Wasilewski. With this knowledge of how other people endured such pain and managed to resort to civil acts, rather than violent acts, people can see that there is another side of living, and in order to regain that, the Estonians sang and made history during *The Singing Revolution*.

Celebrating the Consitution

QV Among Best in Competition

by Steve D'Elena

We the students of Queens Voc participated in the We the People competition on Friday, January 4.

Mr. Davidson and his U.S. History honors students participated in the We the People Citywide Competition at Pace University.

This competition was based on the student's knowledge of the United States Constitution. Queens Voc was ranked one of the top twelve teams in the city after their performance at the competition according to the judges of the We the People competition.

Five competitors from Queens Voc won a Unit Award for having the highest score in Unit 2. The Question for this unit was: How did the Framers create the Constitution?

There was also a Presidential Nominating Speech contest because this is a presidential election year. Gregg Nana and Christopher Gomez were the two students who represented Queens Voc in the Presidential Nominating contest. Greg Nana

nominated Barack Obama because he felt Obama is the best candidate in this year's election. Christopher Gomez took a more humorous approach, nominating Shaggy from the cartoon Scooby Doo.

This year the Queens Voc students had four students from Pace University help get them prepared for the competition: Stanislav Sazonor, Johnny Loyola, Iris Xholi, and Vera Duli. In previous years, there were only two students. "Having the two additional students from Pace helped make our students more prepared," said Mr. Davidson.

The 25 competitors from Queens Voc were: Syeda Ali, Maria Argudo, Azmain Azad, David Beltran, Luis Campoverde, Steven Crespin, Luis Flores, Tiffany Galimi, Christopher Gomez, Karolina Gorna, Jerry Hernandez, Leticia Huero, Fahim Islam, Joseph Nana, Gregory Paul, Vincent Persuad, Pervej Raham, Camilo Salazar, George Serna, Simranjeet Sighn, Karol Sobotha, Dopdyel Tseten, Tony Vu.



Top performers know their rights.

SLT: Principal's Principal Advisors

by Adrienne Diaz

The school leadership team consists of students, teachers, administrators, and parents, and serves "as an advisory committee to the principal," said Mr. Rodriguez, SLT chairman.

The SLT meets with the principal to advise and consult on the needs of the school and how to best meet those needs. The SLT meet once a month from 4pm to 6pm in the library.

The SLT reviews the school's budget, goals, and needs. When the SLT meets, the students, teachers, and parents who are members may bring up their concerns. "We talk about everything," said Joana Garcia, a student representative for the school of entrepreneurial studies, "such as how to

improve students' grades and how to improve our graduation rate."

One of the priorities of the SLT is to produce the Comprehensive Education Plan, or CEP that lays out the school's goals and the steps that will be taken to accomplish those goals. "The SLT discusses the school's budget according to the CEP, like a guideline," said Mr. Rodriguez.

While Ms. Vittor, the principal, relies on team members for advice, she takes the lead in resolving the problems that are discussed. She is in charge of overseeing that the goals of the meetings are accomplished and that the issues discussed are resolved.

The teacher representatives to the SLT make sure that faculty opinions and concerns are

voiced. Mr. Rodriguez and Mr. Schimenz are the elected teacher representatives. The SLT members selected Mr. Rodriguez as team chairman for this year. Mr. Harrington is on the SLT as UFT chapter leader.

Mr. Mayer, the assistant principal for organization and security, is the administrator representative.

There are seven student representatives who bring up issues from the students' points of view. Thomas Palermo Represents the School of Exploration and Discovery is, Yara Diaz and Joana Garcia represent the School of Entrepreneurial Studies, David Bermudez and Ivana Nunez represent the school of Skill Building Trades, and Rodney Harris and Tony Vu represent the School of Computer and Electronic Engineering Technologies.

"I find it interesting to know what the real problems of the school are," said senior Yara Diaz. "We bring ideas to the table and we work together to improve the school." One of the problems students have brought up is that there is only one bathroom open. So far the SLT hasn't come up with any ideas to fix this problem. Another issue is if students are suspended, should they be kept out of SO activities for t the term in which they were suspended. The SLT decided if students are suspended, they should be kept out of S.O activities for only the term they were suspended in.

Students who participate in the SLT are paid \$300 at the end of the school year.



Ms.Himmel ran another successful Black History Month.

Celebrating Achievement: Black History Month

by Melanie Bencosme

Black History Month kicked off the Friday before Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday with an excerpt of the speech "New Opportunities" by Martin Luther King, Jr., played during morning announcements. Ms. Himmel, Black History Month coordinator, explained to the school community via the PA system the significance of the upcoming special day.

"In years past we've done assemblies and a talent show, but how we celebrate now seems to get more people involved," said Ms. Himmel. Every Thursday during Black History Month, Ms. Himmel got on the PA and announced history clues. The clue was posted in the library with an answer box beneath it. On Fridays, Ms. Himmel broadcast the answer during the announcements, and played

music or an excerpt from a famous speech. Conntest winners received prizes and their pictures were posted on the Black History Month bulletin board, located outside room 143. Certificates for participation were also awarded. "I was proud and honored when I received a ribbon from Ms. Himmel," said Kearon Muzamali. Jonathan Carsten was the bonus prize winner. "I was glad I won and received a Queens Voc t-shirt, it made me feel more involved with the school," Jonathan said.

"As for future Black History Month celebrations, I would like to continue the announce-ments made each Thursday and Friday in February and to have another talent show to celebrate Black History Month," said Ms. Himmel.

Training Center and then four weeks of intensive training.

Participating students are selected by their shop teachers, once it has been determined that they have good enough grades. Students can be dismissed from the program if they miss just one day.

After the students complete the pre-apprenticeship program, they can join private contractors in the industry.

Construction Skills 2000 has opportunities for students to join electrical unions and plumbing unions. This allows the students to get better jobs than they might be able to get on their own.

Students who complete the program have many vocational choices such as electrician, operating engineer, painter, plumber, roofer, and steam fitter.

This year there are 7 Queens Voc students participating in Construction Skills 2000, 6 students from EI: Anthony Carcamo, Andrew Arvelo, Ernest Chen, Patrick Soodeen, Steven Sacharsky, and Victor Abreu, and Gilberto Estrada

Students who want to know more about Construction Skills 2000 can visit their website at constructionskills.org

'08s Building Blocks

by Juan De La Cruz

Construction Skills 2000 has built a record of success in preparing New York public school students for careers in the building and construction trades, according to Paul E. Fernandes, president and CEO of the Construction Skills 2000 program.

The Construction Skills 2000 program in Queens Voc is coordinated by Mr. Garrison, director of the School of Skilled

Building Trades and Ms. Diana Springer, Construction Skills 2000 liaison.

Construction Skills 2000 is a gateway program for students to obtain apprenticeships.

Students who join the program attend classes at the Consortium for Worker Education in Long Island City once a week from 2-5pm for 10 weeks. After the 10 weeks at the Consortium, students attend four weekly symposiums at Union



Construction Skills 2000 participants.

Rookies on the Job

by Shamel Lobban

An influx of new teachers this year led to the need to cover them in two separate editions of *Vocational Voice*: Mr. M. Ali, Ms. Demetrius, Ms. DeCarlo, Ms. Green, Ms. Mitchell, Mr. Raynor, and Ms. Wilson are the new teachers not covered in the last edition.

Mr. M. Ali is in the School of Exploration and Discovery teaching English to freshmen. He likes the students at Queens Voc. “I like that the kids ask for help,” Mr. Ali said. Before coming to Queens Voc, he worked and went school. “I believe in helping others,” he said, explaining why he became a teacher.

Ms. DeCarlo is in the School of Entrepreneurial Studies teaching Global Studies to sophomores, US History to juniors, and Government and Economics to seniors. She likes teaching at Queens Voc. “The staff is great and the kids are fun,” Ms. DeCarlo said. Before coming to Queens Voc, she worked at an emergency animal hospital. “The reason I became a teacher is because I love history, and I wanted to share the story of mankind’s journeys through time.”

Ms. Demetrius is in the School of Exploration and Discovery teaching English to freshmen. She said that she likes the smaller learning communities in Queens Voc because “we can give students the individualized attention they need.” Ms. Demetrius became a teacher “because this was my life dream. I have always wanted to teach ever since I was a little girl,” she said.

Ms. Green is in the School of Entrepreneurial Studies teaching English to freshmen and sophomores. Ms. Green finds that “the staff is encouraging and the atmosphere is friendly,” she said. Before coming to Queens Voc, Ms. Green was also a substitute teacher and worked for Clinique, a cosmetics company. “I became a teacher so that I could be a part of a career that changes the lives of many kids.”

Ms. Mitchell is in the School of Entrepreneurial Studies teaching business to sophomores, juniors, and seniors. Ms. Mitchell likes the students in Queens Voc. “I like the tone of Queens Voc, I also like that the students are very respectful to their teachers.” Before coming to Queens Voc, she taught computer applications and various subjects related to technology. “I became a teacher to share my business

knowledge with students,” she said.

Mr. Raynor is in the School of Entrepreneurial Studies teaching Math A and Intermediate Algebra to sophomores, juniors, and seniors. Mr. Raynor likes the wide range of courses Queens Voc has to offer to students. “Queens Voc offers an amazing opportunity for its students to learn much more than the ‘woodshop’ class I was offered way back in my old high school,” he said. Before coming to Queens Voc he was teaching at Roberto Clemente Middle School. Before that he was researching atomic and molecular collisions in New Jersey.

Ms. Wilson is in the School of Exploration and Discovery teaching U.S. History to freshmen and juniors, and Global History to sophomores. “The students are wonderful and the staff is very supportive,” she said about Queens Voc. Before Ms. Wilson came to Queens Voc, she worked at The Long Island Museum in Stony Brook. “I became a teacher because I love history and love sharing this with my students.”

Queens Voc Shows Talent

by Cindy Carrasco

Nine acts with a combined 29 students participated in last month’s talent show held on Friday, March 7. The show began at 4:15pm. and ended at approximately 6:30pm.

SO members attended free and non-SO members were charged a \$2 entry fee. Approximately 200 guests attended.

Auditions were held when the students returned from the Christmas holiday break. “Everyone who auditioned came through; that’s why the show was a success,” said Mr. Vega.

Most of the nine acts were singing and dancing. “There was more variety within the singing pieces,” said Mr. Vega. Of the 9 acts in the show, there were 4 dance groups, 2 singers, and a solo dancer. The group Final Faze and singer Mirna Herreros each performed twice.

Mirna sang two songs, “No One” and “Fallin’,” inspired by R&B singer Alicia Keys. Joshua Bland also sang in the show. Joshua performed a rap song that he composed himself.

Alexandra Mohammed performed a cultural belly dance.

A dance act by group Final Faze, comprised of Kwanisha Broadnax, Nia Clark, Joshlyn Daniels, Rashsad Doyle, Jade Duncan, Ravin Jamison, Qiuana Jones, Rahlovel Livingston, and Nayoni Spencer, performed a Hip Hop dance.

Leidy Ramos led her trio, MTL, comprised of Margaret Castellanos, Thailey Hogan, and Leidy Ramos, who delivered a thrilling dance performance of various songs.

Grupo Necio, comprised of Carlos Belliard, Lia Cespedes, Lizbeth Collado, Jordania Dominguez, Rusel Grullon, Yanel Leroux, Jonathan Matias, Jerell Reyes, and Yinaury Sanchez performed a Latin dance consisting of the cultural Dominican music bachata, merengue, and tipico.

Geraldine Leibot teamed up with her friends Karen Alvares, Rosario Castillo, and Lakisha Keitt in a group called “The Rock City Dancers,” to perform a Hip Hop/Jazz dance combo. “I joined ’cause it’s fun!” said Geraldine, a sophomore.

After the fifth act, the school’s legendary Grupo QV performed during the intermission. Students danced along to the group’s native Dominican music during the intermission and again when Grupo QV closed the show.

The talent show performers rehearsed after school on Mondays and Wednesdays or during their lunch period. The groups rehearsed in the auditorium and auditorium lobby.

“Everyone who auditioned came through; that’s why the show was a success”

Mr. Vega planned to have a talent show last year. But not many students showed interest and there were a few behavior problems with students who wanted to participate. “We don’t showcase students with bad behavior,” said Mr. Vega, “it makes our school look bad.”

Register to Vote

by Natalie Vargas

The right to vote is one of the many rights we as Americans are born with. Yet many seniors at Queens Voc are turning 18 and don’t know how to vote.

Citizens can register to vote in New York State by mail or in person. Voters must be U.S. citizens not serving a jail sentence or on parole for a felony, not be registered to vote in another state, and they must be 18 years or older at least 2 weeks prior to the election date.



Members of the Mock Trial team with Mr. Davidson

Students Rest Their Case

by Christian Guiracocha

“The Mock Trial team is an excellent place to learn about law, to learn to ask the right questions, to improve listening and speaking skills, and looks good on the resume,” said Mr. Davidson, coach of the Mock Trial team.

The Mock Trial team forms every year to enter the annual Mock Trial Competition, which is organized by the Justice Resource Center and co-ordinated by the New York State Bar Association. Over 100 schools participate in the competition. Each team in the competition prepares to act out both sides, the plaintiff, or person suing, and the defense, the person being sued.

This year the Mock Trial Competition started on Tuesday, February 28. The Queens Voc team played the role of plaintiff and faced Bayside High School in the civil court case Ryan Strongarm v. Chris Rocket. In the case, runner Ryan Strongarm sued high school student Chris Rocket for hitting him with a car on a dark, foggy night. High school student Chris Rocket claims to have hit a deer and continued driving. Ryan Strongarm wore no reflector and the driver was unable to see what he had hit. It’s said that the high school student was intoxicated at the time because the school dance he attended had punch mixed with liquor.

The team lost the first round against Bayside

High School. In the second round, on Tuesday, March 4, the team competed against Ezra Academy. Queens Voc lost the second round as well and was eliminated from the competition.

“Even though we lost the competition, I believe we tried our best. There’s still a chance the team can win next year,” said Mock Trial team member Fahim Islam. “The competition was really challenging. All the other schools seemed to be well prepared. In the competition it came down to who could conduct a good performance and who could present the better facts,” said Mock Trial team member Moushumi Dhar.

Members of the Mock Trial team this year were: Moushumi Dhar, Fahim Islam, Julio Manjarrez, Michal Montefusco, Tecomblah Siedio, Karol Sobota.

Queens Voc students interested in learning about law are welcome to join the Mock Trial team, which usually starts in November. Mr. Davidson stated that to prepare for the competition the team meets several times a week. “The Mock Trial Team is about commitment and about being honorable. The only require-ment is responsibility,” said Mr. Davidson, “students have no business joining the team if they’re failing classes.”

The Queens Voc Mock Trial Team had the help of attorney Steven Schliesel before the start of the competition. The experienced lawyer helped the team prepare before the Mock Trial Competition by providing legal advice and giving the team members pointers, Mr. Davidson said.

To vote, a person must be registered at least 25 days before the election takes place. The fastest way to register is in person at any of the following locations, no matter which borough you live in:
Manhattan Board of Elections
200 Varick St., 10 Fl.
New York, New York 10014
(212) 886-2100
Queens Board of Elections
126-06 Queens Boulevard
Kew Gardens, Queens 11415
(718) 730-6730
Bronx Board of Elections
1780 Grand Concourse
Bronx, New York 10457
(718) 299-9017
Staten Island Board of Elections
1 Edgewater Plaza, 4th Fl.
Staten Island, New York 10305
(718) 876-0079
Brooklyn Board of Elections
345 Adams Street, 4th Fl
Brooklyn, New York 11201
(718) 797-8800
Registration forms can be found in your local post office or public library. Fill out the form and mail it to Board of Elections: City of New York, 42 Broadway 7th floor, New York, NY 10004-1609.

Students Show School Spirit

by Yara Diaz

SO activities help breakup the day to day routine in which students get caught up throughout the school year.

“Some of the SO activities encourage students to get more involved and attend school on a daily basis to participate,” said Mr. Vega, the coordinator of student activities.

An SO trip to the Knicks vs. Atlanta Hawks basketball game was held on Friday, April 11. Tickets were sold for \$16 and included a food voucher and a T-shirt. The Knicks game has become a tradition for Mr. Vega. “Students look forward to going to a Knicks game every year because tickets are half price, if they were to go buy tickets themselves, they would pay twice as much,” said Mr. Vega.

The talent show was held on Friday, March 7. This year, seven groups auditioned to get

up on stage and show off their skills. SO members attended free, non-SO students had to pay \$2. The 200 tickets available were sold out.

“It’s fun to see my friends go out there and put on a show like that,” said Andrew Arvelo. Raven Jamison, part of the group Final Faze, made it clear that practice was essential. “The group started practicing in December, there were a few obstacles, for example people dropping out, but the remaining members did their best,” she said.

Mirna Herreros opened and closed the show by singing two of Alicia Keys songs and Grupo QV gave the crowd something to dance to during intermission. “The band allowed for more participation from the audience by encouraging them to dance and show their own talents,”

said Mr. Rodriguez, the leader of Grupo QV. The rest of the acts were Final Faze, Rock City Dancers, Joshua Bland, Light Eyed Egyptian, MTL, and Grupo Necio. Students sang, danced to hip-hop, merengue and bachata and even belly danced. “The talent show gave us a new experience, and a good opportunity to show what we got,” said participant Rosario Castillo, a member of Rock City Dancers.

To celebrate Valentine’s Day this year, hearts, teddy bears, bracelets, plush roses, and carnations were sold outside the cafeteria during lunch periods. “The variety of gifts made the students feel more in the Valentine’s mood,” said Estephany Jimenez.

“Valentine’s is all about showing affection so why not waste a couple of dollars,” said Solangie Gomez, while buying a heart. All 300 red and pink carnations that were ordered were sold. “It was a huge success and the addition of the plush rose was a great idea,” said Mr. Grochala.

Calender Of Events

by Josue Sanchez



@ denotes - away games, vs. denotes- home games

April 2008

- 4/14 - QV boys’ baseball varsity @ Robert F. Kennedy
- QV girls’ softball varsity vs. Grover Cleveland
- QV boys’ handball varsity @ Aviation
- 4/15 - QV boys’ JV baseball vs. Flushing
- 4/16 - QV boys’ baseball varsity vs. Robert F. Kennedy
- QV girls’ softball varsity @ Forest Hills
- QV boys’ handball varsity vs. William C. Bryant
- QV boys’ JV baseball @ Francis Lewis
- 4/17 - QV boys’ baseball varsity @Truman NL
- 4/18 - QV boys’ JV baseball @ Far Rockaway
- QV boys’ baseball varsity @ Bryant (Elmjack) NL
- 4/20 - QV boys’ baseball varsity @ Forest Hills NL
- 4/21 - QV boys’ baseball varsity @ Van Buren (Springfield) NL
- 4/22 - Earth Day
- 4/21-25 -Spring Recess, school closed**
- 4/25 - QV boys’ baseball varsity @Bushwick (Highland) NL
- 4/27 - QV boys’ baseball varsity @ Newtown NL
- 4/28 - QV boys’ handball varsity @ HS For Arts & Business
- QV boys’ JV baseball vs. John Bowne
- 4/29 - QV boys’ baseball varsity @ Townsend Harris
- QV girls’ softball varsity vs. Robert F. Wagner Jr.
- 4/30 - QV boys’ handball varsity @ Long Island City
- QV boys’ JV baseball vs. Newtown
- QV boys’ baseball varsity vs. Arts & Business NL

May 2008

- 5/1 - QV boys’ baseball varsity vs. Townsend Harris
- QV girls’ softball varsity vs. Frank Sinatra
- 5/2 - QV boys’ JV baseball vs. Queens HS of Teaching
- End of 5th marking Period (29 days)
- 5/3 - SAT
- QV boys’ baseball varsity @ F.K. Lane NL
- 5/5 - QV boys’ baseball varsity vs. Flushing
- QV boys’ JV baseball @ Benjamin Cardozo
- 5/6 - QV girls’ softball varsity vs. Long Island City
- SAT application Deadline
- National Teachers Day
- 5/7 - QV boys’ baseball varsity @ Flushing
- QV girls’ softball varsity @ Grover Cleveland
- QV boys’ handball varsity vs. Newcomers
- National School Nurses Day
- 5/8 - School Leadership Team Meeting @ Library
- 5/9 - QV boys’ baseball varsity vs. August Martin
- QV girls’ softball varsity @ Far Rockaway
- QV boys’ JV baseball @ Bayside
- 5/11 - Mother’s Day
- 5/12 - QV boys’ handball varsity @ Aviation
- QV boys’ JV baseball vs. Francis Lewis
- 5/13 - QV boys’ baseball varsity vs. John Bowne
- QV girls’ softball varsity vs. Forest Hills
- 5/14 - QV boys’ JV baseball vs. Far Rockaway
- 5/15 - QV boys’ baseball varsity @ John Bowne
- QV girls’ softball varsity @ Robert F. Wagner Jr.
- 5/16 - QV boys’ JV baseball @ Flushing

June 2008

- 6/5 - Chancellor’s Conference Day, No students in attendance
- 6/10 - Sports Banquet 6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. @ Bruno’s
- 6/17-23 - Regents week
- 6/24 - QVTHS Graduation @ LaGuardia
- 6/26 - Last Day of school

Art Project Exceptions

by Angel Tejada

To graduate, students need at least one art credit, which they can earn by taking an art class or by completing an independent art project, but cosmetology and web design students are not required to do the independent art project.

Mr. Davidson, who runs the program office, said that this policy, established by Ms. Vittor, took effect for the cosmo classes about 3 or 4 years ago and 1 year ago for web design students.

“Cosmo students are excluded from doing the art project because art is integrated

into the work they do in their cosmo class,” said Mr. Garcia. When they pass the required classes, they get a dual credit.

According to Mr. Davidson, to be excluded from doing the independent art project, web design students must pass their Web Design class and cosmo students must pass their Cosmo class in the 3rd marking period each term.

Students who complete an independent art project or art class itself, receive a grade and a credit, but students excused from doing project will only

receive a “CR” for art in their transcripts.

“I feel good because I heard the art project was the hardest and I feel like a lot of weight was taken off of my shoulders,” said Estephany Jimenez, a senior web design student.

According to Mr. Garcia, students in other shops, the yearbook committee, and newspaper editors aren’t included in this exclusion because their work isn’t infused with art in the same way that Cosmo and Web Design are.

Crowded Hallway Problems

by Joshua Bland

Like the new hot spot on the block, Queens Voc’s hallways are the place to be. While some students push and shove their way to class, others loiter in the halls, remaining long after the late bell has rung, disrupting classes being held.

Even deans sometimes find it hard to make it through the halls.

Mr. Schimenz, a dean and social studies teacher, says that the conditions are “bad, and it’s everyone’s fault—adults and students alike.”

Mr. Garofano, a dean and physical education teacher,

agrees. “If more teachers took the initiative to help move the students, the halls would be better, that can definitely help improve.”

Many students admit to staying in the halls for 5 to 10 minutes after the bell rings. Other students say they go straight to class without wasting anytime in the halls. Some students say that it depends on their teacher, because some teachers don’t care if the students come in late.

Ms. Shorey, a teacher in Instructional Support Services, said that she uses other staircases that aren’t crowded and blames the students who stand around in the halls. “Three minutes is enough, the longer the time, the more standing,” she said.



Summer’s Coming!!!!



Clear the halls for the class of '08.

Senior Year Winding Down but Activities Keep Class of '08 Busy

by Steven D'Elena

The year is coming to an end and the class of '08 will only be left with memories come June. The seniors have already gone on their senior trip and held the senior luncheon.

The senior luncheon was held at Bruno's on the Boulevard on March 20 from 12 to 4pm. This year's theme was Red Carpet Affair. "Red Carpet Affair was the theme because it would get the most participation," said Yara Diaz the treasurer of the senior class. The luncheon cost all of the seniors \$30 which included food and dancing contests.

On January 26-28, 44 seniors attended the trip to the Fallsview Best 5 Resort in Ellenville, New York. The cost of the trip was \$240, which included 6 meals, parties on Saturday and Sunday night, laser tag, an indoor pool, ping pong, ice-skating and karaoke.

The chaperons who attended the senior trip were Mr. Devaux, Mr. Garofano, Ms. Gonzalo, Ms. Shorey, and the coordinator of the trip Mr. Vega. Before the trip, attendance was taken; the students were given 2008 senior sweatshirts and the students'



Right hand red, left foot yellow. It's twister time!

bags were checked to make sure they didn't bring anything inappropriate on the trip.

At 9am the students boarded the coach bus headed up for the two hour trip to the resort.

When the bus arrived at the hotel, the students rushed up to their rooms to get ready to have fun. The boys changed and headed to an open field to play football. Mr. Garofano and Mr. Devaux also played. The girls either watched the boys play football or went ice-skating.

The students attended parties at the resort that Queens Voc shared with seniors from six other schools: Canarsie, Cardozo, Chelsea, Clara Barton, Manhattan Center, and Transit Tech. The Queens Voc students had to be back in their rooms by 1am for curfew so that the chaperons could do room checks. Other schools had different curfews. It all depended on their schools policies.

On Sunday the students met for breakfast in the main dining room at 8:30. The seniors then went paintballing, which cost each student an additional \$30. "My favorite part of the trip was paintball, because I finally got to take out my stress on my teachers, it overall was a great experience," said Kearon Muzamali. At 7pm dinner was held in the main dining room. After dinner all the students went ice-skating. After ice-skating it was time for the seniors to go party again. On Sunday night, students attended a smaller party after some of the schools had left.



Seniors tear up the ice-skating rink

After the party the seniors headed to their rooms, but before bed some seniors shared a special moment with Jade Duncan, who celebrated her birthday that night. "It was fun; I had my friends that I knew for the four years of high school. It was interesting getting hit in the head by pillows for my birthday," said Jade.

On Monday, the last day of the trip, the seniors woke up at 8am for breakfast. The students then packed and got ready to head home.

Mr.Devaux complimented the seniors' behavior. "Another year with no problems. The seniors acted mature and responsible," he said. At 2pm the students boarded the bus and headed back to Queens Voc.

"I would have liked to go skiing and snow tubing," said Diana Giraldo. "I would have also liked to go with different schools." There was no skiing or snow tubing because there wasn't enough real snow and it was too warm outside to make artificial snow.

"My number one concern was the safety of the students, fun came second. Everyone had enough respect to do the right thing and this made the weekend enjoyable," said Mr. Vega, who coordinated the trip.

Internships Available through Ms. Spallone

by Lia Cespedes

To graduate from Queens Voc students are required to work 60 hours in their major, outside of school. Mrs. Spallone, the cosmo teacher, coordinates the internships for the students.

This internship program is sponsored by different companies both private and public such as Sunnyside Community House, Liberty Branch, and many small businesses like salons and beauty shops. They help her help students find jobs.

The jobs that Ms. Spallone offers the students are based on their shop class and most are paying jobs.

The requirements to get an internship are good grades and the motivated to work. So far this year Mrs. Spallone has helped over 40 students to find a job relating to there shop. "I enjoy finding jobs for students, I believe is a very good experience for them to work in the field they are interested."

One of the students she has helped is senior Cynthia Molina. Cynthia received an internship form Mrs. Spallone to work at Santa Cruise Salon. Located at 28th Street and 5th Avenue. Cynthia works three days a week (Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays). She is very pleased working at this salon. "I'm very glad that Mrs. Spallone got me this job. It doesn't interfere with my school work, and its very comfortable because I get to do what I like, learn, and get paid. I'm very happy I got this opportunity. " says Cynthia.

Mrs. Spallone's office is located in room 411c and she is there Monday thru Friday 9-11am.

Vocational Voice and the Queens Voc Community wish our principal Ms. Vittor a speedy recovery

Honor Roll Students

by Ronald Carrasco

Students with an average of 85 or higher are placed on the Honor Roll. Twice a year the Honor Roll students go on a trip, sponsored by the SO, to reward the students for their good grades.

Vocational Voice recognizes the Honor Roll students for the 3rd marking period:

Daniyah Ahmed	223
Amreen Akbar	103
Syeda Ali	322
Jose Alvarez	103
Giovanni Arenas	156
Melissa Arias	371
Carolina Artiles	103
Armando Avila	112
Azmain Azad	312
Julissa Ballesteros	114
Lauren Beltre	113
Peter Beninati	312
Jennifer Blanco	101
Zalmon Borukhov	311
Luis Campoverde	223
Martha Carpio	211
Jonathan Carvalho	211
Huang Chen	103
Jason Chen	112
Jose Chiriboga	201
James Clark	101
Shennel Cole	201
Bryan Corona	201
Bryan Correa	201
Christopher De La Cruz	221
Kunga Deki	101
Jessica Delarosa	323
Tanman Dey	103
Adrienne Diaz	422
Valeria Enea	102
Kimberly Espinal	104
Darlene Fernandez	221
Luis Fernandez	223
Paola Ferreira	222
Pasquale Fevola	104
Diana Flores	112
Freddy Flores	114
Luis Flores	321
Jonathan German	111
Diana Giraldo	421
Catherine Gomez	411
Freddy Gomez	222
Beatriz Gonon	321
Christian Gutierrez	113
Rodney Harris	215
Roger Haynes	103
Juan Hernandez	212
Paola Hernandez	103
Leticia Huero	312
Fahim Islam	311
Dario Javier	113
Yvonne Johnson	326
Neil Kamath	211
Jonathan Kammerer	201
Gurpreet Kaur	222
Jefferson Lawrence	212
Lawrence Lebeau	103
Qizhuo Li	111
Cesar Liang	212
Kunga Likchung	211
Shamel Lobban	422
Joseph Lorenzi	311
Ludwig Albert Loy	212
Richard Luu	212
George Manolas	312

Andrea Marca	111
Rosa Marte	112
Thomas Mazzarella	201
Kareif McKoy	221
Vanessa Mejia	113
Marissa Mendez	222
Tulio Mesa	212
Christian Miranda	223
Milton Morocho	202
Crystal Muniz	326
Andy Nguyen	113
Vanessa Obando	103
Florencia Oviedo	104
Michelle Pajevic	114
Gregory Paul	312
Joel Peña	323
Kevin Peterson	113
Jakub Piekarz	202
Elizabeth Pimentel	101
Samantha Puig	112
Erik Quintuna	114
Pervej Rahman	311
Jazmin Ramirez	221
Jose Ramirez	312
Shiva Rampaul	112
Marilyn Reyes	202
Raquel Reyes	114
Michael Rodriguez	211
Jose Rosales	112
Nicholas Ruffino	201
Edward Salas	211
Argenis Santos	301
Simranjeet Singh	311
Maria Toro	112
Ashley Torres	222
Yorladiz Valencia	152
Rocio Vicencio	104
Jingjie Wu	113
Asaduz Zalman	221

Mr. Abreu is Now Mr. CTE

by Catherine Gomez

Mr. Abreu was recently honored as Queens Voc’s Outstanding CTE Teacher of the Year.

Mr. Abreu teaches Electrical Installation in the school of Skilled Building Trades. “I felt honored receiving the award,” Mr. Abreu said. “Being included with the other great recipients who have been effective teachers makes me proud.”



UFT leader with Mr. Abreu.

On Thursday February 7, Mr. A. Ali, Mr. Harrington, Mr. Maloney, Ms. Ramdeo, Mr. Rodriguez, and Mr. Vega, joined Mr. Abreu at a dinner reception to recognize outstand-ing CTE teachers from New York City

schools. The reception was held in the UFT offices in Manhattan from 4:30pm to 7:30pm.

Mr. Garrison, the director of SSBT, chose Mr. Abreu for as this year’s CTE Teacher of the Year because “he teaches his students in a way that they all understand; he’s a serious educator, and has incorporated visual demonstrations in most of his lessons, with power point presentations,” said Mr. Garrison.

Every year the UFT sponsors this event, and schools are asked to pick a qualified teacher. Mr. Abreu said he was honored to be chosen for the award. At the day of the reception, Ms. Haslam, Mr. Abreu’s SVA intern for the fall term, presented him with the award. “When I accepted my award I felt good and got nervous, there were a lot of people,” said Mr. Abreu.

Building New Skills

by Adrienne Diaz

The plumbers at Queens Voc are getting a new bathroom? Yeah, and a kitchen too!

The bathroom and kitchen are being built by the students to practice their skills.

Senior plumbers and some of the junior plumbers work on the bathroom and kitchen with the guidance of Mr. Rivera, the plumbing teacher. The



Plumbing students build a bathroom to learn.

bathroom and kitchen are located on a platform in the back of room 434.

The students work in the plumbing room on the bathroom and kitchen from under the platform, installing the pipes as they would in an actual house. The students, according to Mr. Rivera, install the plumbing fixtures for the bathroom and kitchen. “We put PVC [polyvinyl chloride] pipe for drainage and copper pipe to run hot and cold water lines,” said senior plumber Gilberto Estrada.

The plumbers have to rebuild the bathroom and kitchen as a mandatory job credit. Gilberto

Estrada has already completed the job and has taken it apart for the other plumbers to do. Now three other plumbers have started to rebuild the bathroom and kitchen. They are working on the

waterlines in the bathroom and then they’ll start on the kitchen. After they finish the bathroom and kitchen, they will take it apart and the juniors will rebuild it next year when they become seniors. “The plumb-ing work in the kitchen and bathroom is hard work, it takes lots of time and dedication,” said senior plumber Dayshawn Jones.

Building the bathroom and kitchen give the plumbers better skills and experience. “It’s different when someone is telling you how to install fixtures than you actually doing it hands on,” said Gilberto Estrada, “I’m happy we are getting this experience because it’s exciting and interesting.”

January Regents Results

by Annaldo Jimenez

Queens Voc’s January Regents results improved in some areas, but declined in others. The chart below compares Januarv 2007 results with Januarv 2008 results.

Exam	Year	# Took	# Passed	% Passed	Credit	% Credit
English Regents	2007	248	127	51.2%	45	18.1%
	2008	266	197	74.1%	23	8.6 %
Global Regents	2007	194	18	9.3%	33	17.0%
	2008	147	25	17.0%	25	17.0%
U.S History Regents	2007	64	9	14.1%	18	28.1%
	2008	54	10	18.5%	8	14.8%
Math A Regents	2007	176	104	59.1%	41	23.3%
	2008	105	60	57.1%	19	18.1%
Math B Regents	2007	20	2	10.0%	4	20.0%
	2008	32	4	12.5%	4	12.5%
Liv. Env. Regents	2007	89	16	18.0%	24	27.0%
	2008	74	9	12.2%	13	17.6%
Earth S&i Regents	2007	15	2	13.3%	2	13.3%
	2008	15	1	6.7%	3	20.0%
Chemistry Regents	2007	0	0	Not Given		
	2008	5	1	20.0%	2	40.0%
R C T Reading	2007	34	9	26.5%	“Good enough is the enemy of it can be better”	
	2008	48	26	54.2%		
R C T Writing	2007	30	24	80.0%		
	2008	30	26	86.7%		
R C T Global	2007	40	12	30.0%		
	2008	40	12	30.0%		
R C T U.S History	2007	24	7	29.2%		
	2008	13	3	23.1%		
R C T Math	2007	37	6	16.2%		
	2008	32	4	12.5%		
R C T Science	2007	40	11	27.5%		
	2008	28	4	14.3%		

COMMENTARY

How to Start a Club

by Rusel Grullon

The question of Queens Voc having more student clubs is a topic often discussed amongst students and teachers alike. Jeslenny Grullon says clubs “give students a chance to interact with each other and with teachers.” Although I agree, starting up a club can be a complicated process.

According to Mr. Vega, a club can’t be formed without an advisor. It sounds simple, but advisors don’t get paid extra for being advisors and it is often necessary for advisors to stay late.

Should a club have a willing advisor, it first has to be presented to Mr. Vega with the club’s goals and process for membership. Mr. Vega then presents the proposal to the principal, Ms. Vittor, who ultimately decides if the club presented is ok. This approval process has to be taken because some club ideas may involve questions that need to be worked out in advance.

“I would join a cooking club because, I’m a good cook,” Andrew Ferguson said. This is a good idea, but there are some complications. First of all, where would students cook? Even if someone volunteers to be the advisor, isn’t a cooking certification required in order to teach people how to cook?

“I would join a sewing club, because I would like design

clothes,” said Shanley Porras. Another question that comes up deals with money. How will they get the supplies needed to sew such as needles, thread, and cloth?

Nicholo Martinez suggested a skate club. “A lot of people like to skate in this school, and I would like to be a pro skater some day, maybe being part of a skate club would help,” he said. This sounds like a good idea but how is a skate club in any way educational? All of these clubs may have potential but without advisors and the approval of Mr. Vega and Ms. Vittor, the clubs can’t be formed.

Mr. Vega did discuss some positives of having more student clubs. “Membership in clubs can keep students out of trouble and can be an alternative for work to students that may be too young to get a job,” Mr. Vega said. Mr. Vega also made the point that “Clubs inspire school pride.” Clarissa Tse agrees. “Clubs can be fun and create school spirit,” she said. Jessica Delarosa said that a positive aspect of being in a club is that membership “in a club may be something you can put on a college application or a resume.”

The general perspective seems to be that we should have more clubs. Now all those people interested need to do is show initiative and make efforts to get these clubs formed.

Voc Voice gets Constructive Criticism

by Rusel Grullon

At the *Vocational Voice*, we acknowledge all signed letters we receive. And regardless of the nature of the letters, we endeavor to include as many comments as we can, whether positive or negative.

Christopher Dasilva wrote, complementing the journalism class. “Brilliant articles, keep up the good work,” he wrote. Natalie Vegas didn’t agree. She wrote that, “It was disappointing to say that this paper did not get my interest. Everything in this newspaper was boring, I would rather read the *New York Times* than this. I suggest to add more entertainment. Also, have better jokes.” Mr. Schimenz the newspaper advisor, said that he was not upset by the comment that the paper was boring, but, he said, “The *Times* comparison

hurt.”

Michael Bravo wrote that Yanel Leroux’s article, “It’s Robo Time,” made him wish he could be in the robotics club. Steve Hans thinks “It’s a very cool thing that the robotics club is building a robot for the 2008 competition.” Ahmed Gawashty wrote, referring to the robotics competition, “It is always a good idea for a challenge.”

The “Rush Hour” article by Annaldo Jimenez led Dilpreet Singh to write, “I agree that students should not receive so many projects at the end of the school year.” He suggested that, “Instead the projects should be evenly spread out throughout the year.”

Florencia Oviedo seemed to like the fact that “People from school can bring their computers and get them fixed

for a lower price than going to a computer technician and getting it fixed,” a point brought up in the “Mouse Squad Ready for Duty” article by Oscar Mendez.

The “Cosmo Nails It!” article made some readers skeptical. Yeimy Portillo wrote, “The paraffin wax treatment sounds kind of weird because like you say it’s a way to moisturize the customer’s hand, and you could do that with a kind of cream or lotion.” But Valeria Enea wrote that “The paraffin treatment will make 334 (Cosmo Clinic) even more famous than it already is.” In reference to the same article, Margaret Castellano wrote, “I enjoyed it [the article] especially because you wrote about what I am majoring in, and you made me realize the many opportunities that I will have during my high school years.” “I like the fact that the airbrush machine was introduced through the newspaper rather than through rumors.” wrote Karla Bonilla. Lisbeth Modesto thinks, “It’s great that we senior cosmo students are getting new equipment.” Esli Gonzalez agrees that, “These new services are a big improvement and, would help cosmetologists gain more experience.” The article attracted Cynthia Rojas because, “It’s cheaper to get your nails done in school and we can help cosmo students gain experience.”

Daisy Vivar’s article, “Honors on Ice,” about the Queens Voc Honor Roll trip to Wollman Ice-Skating Rink in Central Park made readers realize what hard work can lead to. “I was reminded that hard work pays off for our students,” wrote Henry Rivas. Freddy Flores wrote, “I know many children enjoyed themselves on the trip, and I feel glad for them.”

“Holiday Dance: Who stole the show?” by Ronald Carrasco caught the eye of many readers, such as Elizabeth Pimentel. “I only read the ones [articles] that catch my attention. In this case the headline *really* caught my attention,” She wrote, “Since this Winter Dance was a blast, I guess Mr. Vega and the student leadership team did a good job. I’m glad for this, despite the incident.” The article made Mohammad Shahil realize that “One person can cause a lot of problems and it can turn into a big disaster.” Shanel Cole wrote that even with the lost wallet incident, “The dance was great although it was ended earlier than planned.” Although the article was mostly praised by readers and responders alike, the headline “confused” Amreen Akbar. “What did you mean by, ‘who stole the show?’” Akbar asked. Jaqueline Navarrate voiced her opinion

on the robbery situation as well. She wrote, “People shouldn’t have so much money in there wallet and if people find out that someone has that kind of money they may feel tempted to steal it.” Alexandria Lumpkins wrote, “I think we should have another school dance but I think people should leave their money in the school safe.”

“Senior Projects: Why Not Earlier?” by Melanie Bencosme sparked some thought as well. Angelica Rodriguez wrote, “I personally had no problem completing the projects, but many students weren’t able to

“I think it’s absolutely ridiculous to input art that was meant to be seen in color into a black and white newspaper.”

balance their work.” Jason Castillo wrote that “It’s important to give the music and art independent projects earlier, perhaps in a student’s junior year.” Ruben Ortiz wrote that “The projects should be given earlier like around sophomore or junior year because, senior year is really hard.”

The *Vocational Voice*’s horoscope received widespread criticism. “When I was going to see my friend’s horoscope, Scorpio, it wasn’t there,” wrote Maximo Muniz. Marco Romoleros wrote, “This is a horoscope discrimination against Scorpio.”

Our other features though, were generally well-received. “As I was reading, I couldn’t believe some of the facts, like the fear of vegetables is called Lachanophobia,” Kevin Peterson wrote of the “Weird But True” feature by Oscar Mendez.

The “Student Artwork” feature by Jonathan Carsten was appreciated by Rodney Fabian. Rodney “Liked how he [Jonathan Carsten] wrote what art is.” Kelsey Garcia wasn’t so appreciative. She wrote, “I think it’s absolutely ridiculous to input art that was meant to be seen in color into a black and white newspaper.”

Christian Guiracocha’s article “Creative Arts Gets Creative” about the creative arts group for students was said to have, “shown how important art is,” by Sara Abouemira.

“Spirit week is something I look forward to every year.” Rita Rodriguez wrote of the “QV

Shows Spirit” article by Carlos Mason. Tabitha Lamberson claimed to like spirit week but wrote “There should be more options instead of the basic choices from every year.”

Wendi Fernandez seemed to enjoy Tashio Douglas’s article “Get in Fashion for ’08.” Fernandez wrote I think you have the right idea about the latest fashion. Kwanisha Broadnax expressed her love for fashion and the article by writing, “I love fashion and this article can help people who do not know about fashion and what’s new.”

The “Sports Websites Benched” commentary by Natalie Vargas had its supporters. Cristofer Rodriguez agreed “with the article because sports are not just for fun but are also educational.”

Ada Perez’s article, “Boys’ Varsity Basketball: Seesaw Season in Progress” made Stuart Cole “so glad they won, and the whole team put in teamwork to win,”

“New and Improved Lady Tigers” by Adrienne Diaz had readers expecting good things for the Lady Tigers’ softball team. “I can tell that this year will be more successful than the last year,” wrote Paola Hernandez.

In reference to “Time for Girls to Get in the Game,” an article about the lack of girl’s teams in Queens Voc, by Dayana Jaramillo, Raymond Diaz wrote, “I think a girl’s volleyball team would be more successful than girls’ track and soccer because volleyball is a more popular sport than the other two.”

We welcome all comments at the *Vocational Voice*. And we appreciate criticism as well as compliments. We know there is always room for improvement. After all, our motto is, “Good enough is the enemy of it can be better.”

We’d like to thank Mr. Davidson, who sends a thorough review after each edition comes out. His witty critique helps us improve while allowing us to laugh at ourselves. We hope to receive responses from readers about this edition. We ask that you please be sure to print and sign your names because we do not publish anonymous letters and we want avoid misspelling any names. As always, letters can be placed in Mr. Schimenz’s mailbox in the main office, or you can e-mail your letter to VocVoice@aol.com.

Seniors :
Get your candy boxes--to reduce the price of your prom tickets--from Mr. Vega--in room 143

Principal's Message



QUEENS VOCATIONAL & TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

Denise Vittor, Principal

Dear faculty and students,

As you might have noticed, I have not been in school with you since Thanksgiving due to a broken foot injury. This does not mean that I am not thinking of you all or that I am not interested in how you are all doing. I keep in touch with different faculty members daily who let me know all the good things that are happening at QVTHS! For example, all who attended were proud of the talent show performances, your senior trip, and senior luncheon. I heard our VE trade show, Robotics, FBLA and VICA teams have done fantastically, even better than last year. I am proud of our students and faculty who work hard to compete in Citywide, Statewide and National competitions. You represent yourselves and our school in a most positive way, and for this I thank you.

Even on an everyday basis, we have much to boast about: our attendance is improving and more students are passing classes and Regents exams than last year. The Assistant Principals are working above and beyond to ensure that the school is doing well and that all students are succeeding. The whole faculty (teachers, paraprofessionals, guidance counselors, school aides, secretaries, and custodial staff) is working together to make sure you reach your educational goals. Of course, you the students are the most important part of this equation. It is only through your hard work and perseverance that you will overcome obstacles and succeed. You are the ones that have to get up and do the work each day or it will not serve any purpose. As Spring gets into full swing, I know that it is sometimes easier to take the easy way out and slack off, but in the end determination and dedication always win. Success is not easy, but it is rewarding and empowering. So start each day by promising yourself you will succeed and then **make it happen**.

As for me, I plan to return very soon. I miss seeing all of you each day, and look forward to being there to witness all of your successes personally. Until then, keep doing the great work that makes you successful and QVTHS the wonderful school it is. And yes, I will be there before you know it to look back on how well you all have done, despite the obstacles.

Sincerely,
Denise Vittor
Principal

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

What it Takes to Graduate

by Tashio Douglas

From the first day students enter high school as a freshman every class, every assignment, and every credit counts because from 9th to the 12th grade there are requirements students must meet to graduate.

“By the end of 9th grade students should have 8 credits to move on to the 10th grade. During 10th grade students must have 20 credits including four English and four histories to move on to the 11th grade. Math and science are also needed but there isn’t a specific number needed to move on to the next grade. During the 11th grade, students should get all credits needed so that by 12th grade they are able to graduate in June,” said Mr. Davidson.

Queens Voc is made up of different smaller learning communities, each of which has its own requirements for graduating with a CTE diploma.

“For cosmetology students to graduate with a CTE diploma, they must pass all courses in the

Juniors Get Independent Study Projects

by Michelle Thomas

Allowing juniors to take music and art independent study projects will give them “more time to focus on other important issues,” said Jonathan Carsten, a senior majoring in business.

Because there is no music class, students in official classes 300 and higher are assigned independent study projects in music.

Art projects are given to juniors and seniors except for those in the School of Entrepreneurial Studies because students who pass web design or cosmetology earn an art credit as well.

The art and music independent study meets a requirement for graduation.

In November, music projects were distributed to seniors and juniors. Students, who failed the required projects are getting a second chance to do them.

Students assigned the independent study projects this year showed a higher response. Most students completed the music project. “Last year, about 20 percent of students assigned the projects completed them the first time around, this year it was close to 50 percent,” Mr. Garcia said.

cosmetology sequences, have 60 hours of work based learning experience and pass the NOCTI cosmetology exit exam, as well as pass all required academic classes and Regents exams,” said Ms. Newman.

Business students’ requirements are even more complex. “They must pass all business courses in the sequence, earn two of four MOS (Microsoft Office Specialist) certification in Word, Excel, PowerPoint, or Access and complete 60 or more hours of work-based experience,” said Ms. Newman. “They also must pass two semesters of a college level course and pass the NOCTI exit exam while still passing all academic required classes and Regents exams.”

SSBT requires students to earning 60 hours of internship in an electrical company or plumbing company. Mr. Garrison, the director of SSBT said, “They will also need to pass a final exit exam. This goes for both plumbing and EI.”

SCEET requirements are similar to the other SLCs. “Students need to earn 60 or more hours of work- based internship experience, take Tech prep a course which is affiliated with Queens Borough community college and pass all the required academic course,” said Mr. Gorman the director of SCEET.

Summer Jobs Available

Applications for the 2008 Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) are now available. To submit an application, students can visit the Department of Youth and Community Development website at www.nyc.gov/dycd. The deadline to submit a complete application is May 16.

SYEP is a seven-week program that runs from July 1 through August 16. Participants can work up to 25 hours a week and earn \$7.15 an hour in government agencies, hospitals, summer camps, nonprofits, small businesses, law firms, museums, and sports and retail organizations. All New York City residents between the ages of 14 and 21 are eligible to apply.

For additional information, call 311 or the DYCD Youthline at (800) 246-4646.

**Opinions? Email us
at VocVoice@aol.com**

Talent Show: Student’s Opinion

by Tashio Douglas

On Friday, March 7, Queens Voc had its first talent show in two years. The show, by all accounts, was a success. We wanted to see how Queens Voc’s students who attended felt about it.

Questions

- 1. How would you rate the talent show from a 1-10?
- 2. Which act was your favorite?
- 3. Which act was your least favorite?

Greg Nana, Grade: 11

- 1. 8
- 2. I liked Final Faze the most. Their performance was very interesting and exciting
- 3. The singing didn’t really excite me.

Danny Fernandez, Grade: 11

- 1. 7
- 2. Final Faze, which was performed by the African American kids because I learned new things since I just started break dancing
- 3. The singing, because it was a little boring for the talent show.

Julius Chavez, Grade: 11

- 1. 10
- 2. MTL. Their performance was hot
- 3. I like everything , they were all interesting to me so I cant say I dislike any act.

Valeah Hoyte, Grade: 10

- 1. 7

- 2. Final Faze. They rocked the show and brought the urban flavor.
- 3. MTL

Yaneli Maninez, Grade: 9

- 1. 8
- 2. Final Faze. They dance the best.
- 3. The rapping. I couldn’t really understand what he was saying.

Lauren Beltre, Grade: 9

- 1. 10
- 2. Final Faze. They did they’re thing. I never seen people do some of the things they did and they were all on the same beat.
- 3. The Rapping. I didn’t really understand it.

Yomaris Concepcion,Grade:12

- 1. 9
- 2. Grupo Necio. They dance cultural Latin dancing which has never been done in any other talent show I’ve seen.
- 3. Light eyed Egyptian belly dancing because I was really interested in the belly dancing.

Arien Hylton, Grade: 10

- 1. 9
- 2. Final Faze
- 3. MTL was not really interesting to me at all.

Aristeo Quiroz, Grade: 9

- 1. 5
- 2. Mirna Herreros . I liked her singing. She performed at her best and it was creative.
- 3. Grupo QV. I didn’t like the music.

by Yanel Leroux

When Jason Naranjo and Carlos Mason leave school, their day doesn’t end, Jason is a Black belt in Tae Kwon Do and Carlos writes lyrics.

Jason has been attending Tae Kwon Do training sessions for three years. It all started because his mother was worried about his safety and she wanted him to be able to take care of himself. She told him to choose a form of martial arts. Jason chose Tae Kwon Do because it was the fastest form of martial arts in the world.

Jason trained for three years to become a black belt, which he achieved in December, 2007. “I was as committed as one could be because all my friends were already black belts and by the time I got to their level, I was already doing better than most of them,” Jason said. To become a black belt, a person first has to earn fourteen other color belts, Jason said.

According to Jason, the hardest belt to get past is red 3 because that is when you really start preparing to become a black belt. “The most difficult thing for me was 2 on 1 fighting because of the large amount of stamina a person needs to win,” he said. Jason recommends Tae Kwon Do for

party would fit the bill perfectly! But, that’s not the only solution. You can also go to any crowded public place where you can mingle with lots of people. It’s a great time to go to a popular restaurant, movie theater, or store, or go to a park and feed the pigeons.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Although a co-worker or partner may seem uncertain about what’s happening, the confusion could be all yours. Perhaps you are seeking more clarity than is possible at the time. Your insistence on additional information could actually cause someone to over-compensate by avoiding details. Don’t push so hard that you scare others away with your intensity.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)

Make up your mind! Spending too long making decisions won’t benefit you. In fact, it could cause some unnecessary grief. That’s because you’ll tend to overanalyze your options. The simple solution to this problem is to make decisions more quickly, especially on unimportant matters.

Student Talents

anyone who has low self-esteem. “A person never has to prove themselves to anyone after gaining the confidence Tae Kwon Do helps you gain.”

Carlos Mason, or “General C,” also a senior at Queens Voc. He enjoys writing lyrics. According to Carlos, music has been his passion since birth. “You can’t learn to be a musician, you have to have a thing for it,” says Carlos. His mother is very interested in music and his father also writes music. His family supports what he does and is behind him every step of the way. “Problemz,” Carlos’ cousin, is his inspiration.

Carlos writes every chance he gets. He writes to let out his

feelings. “Writing is a way to express thoughts, and I’m loaded like a gun,” says Carlos. Carlos practices his raps with his friends in something called a cipher, a group of lyricists who get together to share their work. A sample:

“You fresher than me I can’t have it before you question a G, See the A, B average

The rap game is similar to making baskets; all about the handle compare mine to Nash’s shot

Like A.I. Releasing the fastest burn night by turn him to ashes I’m good in the hood

Earned all my passes, block me get out like high school classes.”



Jason Naranjo durring Tae Kwon Do sessions.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)

Can you avoid money? You may want to try! That’s because now your judgment regarding the use of money is at or below normal levels. Try putting off any major purchases or investments. You’ll also want to avoid advising others how to spend their money. Soon, things will be back to normal.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Instead of trying to make others fit into your schedule, try it the other way around. You may think that it’s hard to change your previous commitments, but ultimately it could free up enough time to make your days run smoother. Attempts to adhere to an inflexible calendar might force you to miss a golden opportunity.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

The mood you’re in now is the stuff of which memorable encounters are made. At first, you’ll be wary, and perhaps even hostile, to anyone who dares to intrude on your freedom. Then suddenly you’ll realize that this person is someone special, intriguing,

and definitely out of the ordinary. Finally, dear Capricorn, you’ll realize that the qualities he or she offers just happen to be those you need most right now.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

The language of love. Romance is a much greater possibility now! So what can you do to improve your chances? You needn’t say a word. That’s because your nonverbal signals are the key to improving your chances of making a love connection. When meeting people today, let your eyes and smile express your true intentions.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)

This is and ideal moment to address once and for all the questions that have been on your mind for the last three weeks, dear Pisces. Pay particular attention to the questions that touch on your love life. If you are currently involved in unsatisfactory relationships, don’t be afraid to leave them behind. And if you’re fretting about a request you made that has yet to be answered, let it go; no response is forthcoming.



Junior Shop profiles



by Daisy Vivar

Many Queens Voc students work hard throughout the year and should be recognized for their outstanding performance. We asked the CTE teachers to recommend juniors who have proved to be exceptional in their classes.

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

Pamela Ramirez

Cosmetology- Mrs. Basirico, Mrs. Quartuccio

1. We are more professional and have more jobs for example, hairstyles and chemical services.
2. I expect to learn everything there is to learn about haircutting and hair color.
3. You get to experiment with chemicals such as perms, relaxers, haircolor, and you can socialize with people.
4. This field is beneficial because you receive a license and therefore have something you could depend on.
5. I believe my field is not better than the others because all of the fields have benefits.



Cindy Bravo

Electronics- Mr. Ali

1. There is more hands on activities.
2. I expect to have a better understanding of circuits.
3. I like going into details with devices.
4. Working with the best electronics teacher.
5. You have more opportunities and learn more than one skill.

George Manolas

C-Tech – Mr. Cintron

1. Junior class is more hands on and we go over more topics about computers compared 2 sophomore year.
2. I expect to learn many of the skills I need for future jobs.
3. I like the amount of money we make.
4. I was always interested in computers and how they work.
5. It's more interesting and I have a better experience with computers than other fields.



Michael Celiz

EI - Mr. Abreu



1. The way we do our jobs.
2. I expect to learn more rules and skills.
3. I like working the most.
4. My dad made me interested in this field.
5. It's more fun.

Brandon Carcano

Plumbing - Mr. McCarthy

1. Not much change, doing more, harder jobs, and working with people.
2. Getting even further in the plumbing area.
3. The people working with me, it makes shop easier.
4. Plumbing was something that sounded interesting, you also make money, and it's different.
5. It's better because all plumbers are cool.



Julissa Perez

Cosmetology- Mrs. Donafrio

1. It's harder but more exciting.
2. I expect to learn hair coloring this year.
3. I like everything except fingerwaving.
4. The fact that we can use our creativity made cosmetology more interesting.
5. Cosmetology allows students to show their creativeness more.

Elihu Hernandez

Marketing- Mrs. Mitchell

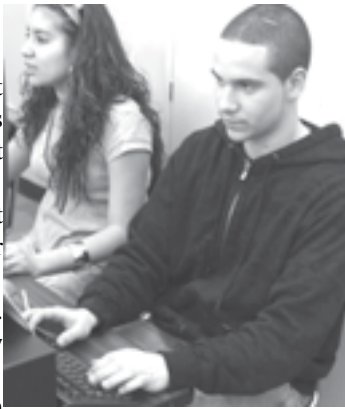
1. The difference is that sophomore year we would practice everyday until we got our certification, and this year we don't only deal with computers bit with real world situations as well.
2. Mostly about purchasing, issues having to do with your personal income and property, and how today's market works.
3. The logic and reasoning when you really think about it, it's not hard to understand.
4. I want to own a business, and that makes me want to learn more about the class.
5. That we deal with things that have to do with value, money, also that you can always loose money and can learn how to detect it.



Joel Pena

Accounting- Mr. Alohan

1. Last year I learned more about Microsoft applications and this year we are learning more about the business field.
2. I expect to learn more about accounting and I recommend for people to join the FBLA.
3. We work better with numbers. It's also more interesting to know about the careers in business.
4. I was always interested in business, and I always wanted to be in accounting.
5. Business is better because it gives you more opportunities to learn about marketing, accounting, and retail and the other classes focus in one subject.



Amanda Andrews

Business Law- Mrs. Mitchell

1. Last year all we had was Excel, Power Point, and Microsoft Word, this year we have three different classes.
2. I plan on learning all the things that protect me while I go out in the business world.
3. You get to learn about all the type of business there is, and you



get to experience what it's like to work in the field.

4. I like math, and I love money so I thought it would be best to go into a field where I could do what I like.
5. I get to sit and just take notes on work that they give. I'd rather just sit and do work, unlike other shop classes.

When I grow up, I want to be...

by Ronald Carrasco

We asked students in Queens Voc: "What career do you want to pursue?" and "How do you plan to achieve that goal?" Here are some of their answers.

Shennel Cole: 9th grade

"I want to be a therapist, to help people with their problems."
"I'm going to business in 10th grade so, I could get the feel of it. So, in college I know what to expect."

Jaime Collado: 11th grade

"I want to be a business man because you earn a lot of money."
"By doing well in college and not slacking."

Andrew Ferguson: 12th grade

"I want to be an electrician, that's why I came to this school."
"By staying in school."

Maciel Fernandez: 12th grade

"I want to be a nurse because I like learning about health. Also because I would like taking care of sick people so they could feel better."
"To achieve my goal, I want to go to college and take nursing courses."

Marcus Howard: 12th grade

"I want to be a music producer. The reason why I want to be a music producer is because you go a lot of places and meet a lot of famous people. Also, the income is great."
"I plan to achieve this goal by going to college and taking audio engineering courses."

Eva Jimenez: 12th grade

"I want to be a pediatrician because I've always wanted to be a pediatrician. Also, because I like taking care of little kids."
"To achieve this goal I plan to go to medical school and possibly perusing my masters after I finish my bachelors."

Jhonneiry Perez: 10th grade

"I want to be an auto mechanic."
"By taking classes when I finish high school."

Places To Visit In New York

by Oscar Mendez

Cathedral of St. John the Divine
1047 Amsterdam Avenue
Price-\$3 for tours
Hours-7am-6pm Monday to Saturday, 7am-8pm Sundays
Directions- #1 train to 110 St/ Cathedral Parkway

The Cathedral of St. John the Divine is the largest cathedral in the world. Built in 1873, it is the head of the Episcopal Diocese of New York. The cathedral houses a Bishop’s chair and serves as a religious headquarters for local parishes. The cathedral is 121,000 square feet, roughly the size of two football fields. Public tours take place Tuesday to Saturday at 11am and Sundays at 1pm.

El Museo Del Barrio
1230 Fifth Avenue at 104th Street
Price-\$5 adults, \$3 students and seniors, children under 12 free
Hours- 11am-5pm Wednesday to Sunday
Directions-#2 or #3 train to 110 Street and Lenox Avenue, #6 train to 103rd Street

This museum was founded in 1969 by artist Raphael Montañez Ortiz, with the support of Puerto Ricans in East Harlem. El Museo del Barrio represents art of the Caribbean and Latin America. The only museum in New York dedicated to displaying Hispanic art, it is now a major stop on the section of Fifth Avenue known as the Museum Mile. The writing in the museum is displayed in both English and Spanish so non-Spanish speakers can enjoy the museum as well.

American Museum of Natural History
Central Park West at 79 St
Suggested Donation- \$10, Children- \$6 (For the Museum and the Rose Center only)
Hours - 10am - 5:45pm daily; Rose Center: 10am - 8:45pm on Fridays only
Directions-B or C train to 81 St, or #1 or #9 train to 79 St

Over 125 years old, the American Museum of Natural History remains one of the most visited places in New York City. The museum displays exhibits with topics ranging from the start of civilization to culture and the sciences. The Rose Center for Earth and Space features a theater and a history of the universe from the Big Bang to present times. The Museum of Natural History is a

must-see, and will keep you amused for hours.

The National Museum of the American Indian
One Bowling Green
Price- Free everyday
Hours: 10am-5pm Friday to Wednesday, and 10am-8pm on Thursdays

Directions- #4 or #5 train to Bowling Green, N or R train to Whitehall St, or #1 or #9 train to South Ferry station

One of the free art museums in New York, the National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI) is dedicated to displaying the artwork of Native Americans. Established in 1989, the NMAI is located in the US Custom House across the street from Battery Park. The artwork is displayed on only one floor of the Custom House, but you can spend hours looking at the traditional, as well as the more modern Native American art.

Music Reviews

by Juan Delacruz

State Radio-*Year of the Crow*
State Radio is a very outspoken band. The band consists of 3 members, Chad Stokes, Church Fay, and Mad Dog. They released a new album called *Year of the Crow*, their second album.

State Radio is a very unique band. Their songs are very emotional because they write about events that are happening right now, making it easy for listeners to relate to their music. One example is “Sudan,” a song is about the genocide in Darfur, told through the eyes of a young boy.

People will enjoy listening to this album. The best of the songs made me want to jump out my seat and dance to the music.

Switches-*We Are Switches EP*
Switches is an up and coming group consisting of 4 members, Matt Bishop, Ollie Thomas, Jimmy G., and Max Tite. Their album *We Are Switches EP* came out February 12. This is their second full length album. Their first album, *Heart tuned to D.E.A.D.*, was released April 23, 2007.

Most of the songs on the new album are love songs that don’t quite have happy endings. A lot of people can relate to the music because they have probably

been in love and also been heart broken.

I enjoyed listening to the album more than I expected. The beats are very unique and kept me into the music. The lyrics to the song “Lay Down The Law” are very catchy.

New Gadgets

by Steve Pinell

Verizon LG Voyager
The Verizon Wireless Voyager by LG is a new light-weight cell phone with a sleek style and profound performance. This phone will blow the Sidekick away and may even become more popular than the iPhone as it is the first phone with a touch screen as well as a QWERTY keyboard. Not only that, but it can also provide full HTML format web browsing as well as V CAST and V CAST Mobile TV.

The Voyager contains a 2.81 inch external touch screen, built in MP3 player, a 2.0 Megapixel built in camera with auto focus. The Voyager contains a microSD memory port for up to 8GB and is Bluetooth compatible.

The Voyager is priced at \$299.99 and can be found in Verizon Wire less stores throughout the city.

Casio Exilim EX-Z1080GY 10.1MP Digital Camera

The slim Casio Exilim valued at \$199.99 is a high performance camera in a compact design, providing the consumer with a powerful 10.1 Megapixel lens. This camera will provide high-resolution images that will reproduce crystal clear enlargements. It also uses a next generation video recording format, MPEG-4 H.264, which will allow for high quality videos. A new feature in digital cameras that the Exilim contains is the YouTube capture mode, which allows the user to shoot at the optimum size and quality setting for the YouTube website.

The Exilim contains a 3x optical zoom, a 2.6" bright .LCD display, as well as face detection technology, which can detect faces for correct exposure with a sharp focus. It uses a Lithium Ion rechargeable battery that can last up to 6 hours. The Casio Exilim comes built in with an SD/SDHC and 11.4MB of memory.

Websites Of Interest

by Jonathan Carsten

The internet enables many to benefit from information, technology, education, and much more. Thank you to Mr. Ryan and Steve Jobs for providing websites that will enable those who visit to receive exactly what was intended for the internet to provide.

Local News	
NY 1 News	www.nyl.com
WCBS 2	www.cbsnews.com
WNBC 4	www.wnbc.com
FOX 5	www.myfoxny.com
WABC 7	www.7online.com
My9 News	www.my9tv.com/news
CW 11	www.cw11.com/news
World News	
MSNBC	www.msnbc.com
FOX News	www.foxnews.com
CNN	www.cnn.com
BBC News	www.news.bbc.co.uk
The New York Times	www.nytimes.com
PBS	www.pbs.org/news
The Onion	www.theonion.com
Television Networks	
CBS	www.cbs.com
NBC	www.nbc.com
FOX	www.fox.com
ABC	www.abc.com
TBS	www.tbs.com
MyNetwork TV	www.mynetworktv.com
The CW	www.cw11.com
ABC Family	www.abcfamily.com
Entertainment	
Jib Jab	www.jibjab.com
Ebaum’s World	www.ebaumsworld.com
Funny or Die	www.funnyordie.com
Spike	www.spike.com
YouTube	www.youtube.com
Metacritic	www.metacritic.com
Tune Core	www.tunecore.com
Internet Movie Database	www.imdb.com
Flickr	www.flickr.com
Shopping	
Amazon	www.amazon.com
Best Buy	www.bestbuy.com
Barnes & Noble	www.barnesandnoble.com
Borders	www.bordersstores.com
eBay	www.ebay.com
HSN	www.hsn.com
JCPenney’s	www.jcpenney.com
Macy’s	www.macys.com
Modell’s	www.modells.com
QVC	www.qvc.com
Other	
How Stuff Works	www.howstuffworks.com
Teen Ink	www.teenink.com
Queens Voc Tigers Baseball	www.qvtigers.org
Technology	
Lifehacker	www.lifehacker.com

Who’s The Teacher

by Shamel Lobban

Teacher # 1
Health is his vocation and his avocation.
Whenever he needs to get somewhere he runs.
If you need condoms you can go to him.
Who is this teacher?

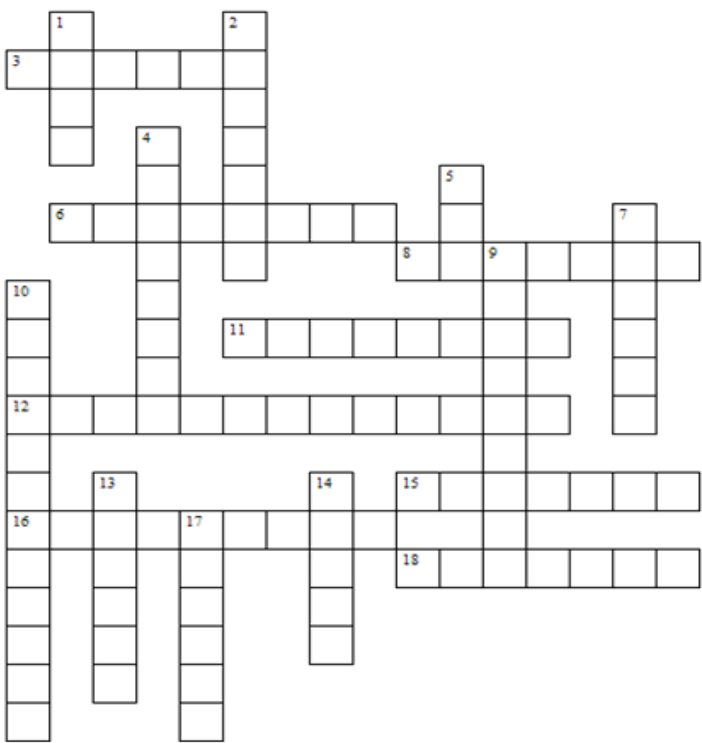
Teacher # 2
She’s short.
She tells her students that she’s mean.
If you need a good haircut you can go to her.
Who is this teacher?

Teacher # 3
He wears throwback sneakers.
He gives a lot of work in class.
If you need a program change you can go to him.
Who is this teacher?

Teacher # 4
She has short blond hair.
She has an accent.
She teaches Government.
Who is this teacher?
Teacher #1: Mr. Lelto
Teacher #2: Mrs. Marshewski
Teacher #3: Mr. Davignon
Teacher #4: Mrs. D. Onofrio
Teacher #5: Mrs. Marshewski

Crossword Puzzle

by Josue Sanchez



ACROSS

- 3- First non U.S. country to win the Little League baseball world series
- 6- Super Bowl XXXVIII (2004) Most Valuable Player
- 8-Most touchdown passes thrown in a season
- 11- First sport televised in the U.S
- 12- The national sport of Japan
- 15-The record for the most major league baseball career innings
- 16- Scored the first ever NBA three-point shot
- 18-Opposing team Babe Ruth hit his first career home run

DOWN

- 1-Originally named the New York Titans
- 2-Only team to win two World Series in the 1980’s
- 4-Longest hitting streak
- 5-MVP trophy is called the Podoloff Cup
- 7-Won the very first NBA game
- 9-First Major league player to pitch a ball over 100 mph
- 10-First all-professional baseball team
- 13-Won the 1994 World cup
- 14- A game of pool is referred to as a
- 17-The most played and most watched sport on Earth

Places I’d Like To Visit

by Christopher Luna

We asked some students: What country would you like to visit? Why? Here are their answers.



David Guilfuchi, Junior Electronics
I would like to visit Puerto Rico because my family is over there and I have not been there yet.



Eva Jimenez, Senior Cosmetology
I would visit Bora Bora because I’ve always seen it on t.v. and though it would be nice to go there.



Paola Hernandez, Freshman Exploratory
I would like to visit Spain because I once saw it in a movie and it’s pretty. Also, because the flag has cool colors.



Karolin Marte, Sophomore Graphic Arts
I would like to visit the Dominican Republic because it is a country with great climate throughout the year. It has historic locations and great beaches so it would be a learning experience as well as fun.



Frank Ayala, Freshman Exploratory
The country I would like to visit the most would be Haiti because people say that Haiti is the place of mystery, they say magical things happen there. Also because of soccer, I want to play soccer out there, I don’t know why.



Rosario Castillo, Sophomore EI
I would like to go to Egypt because it has a lot of history. It holds a lot of mysteries like how they managed to build pyramids and such. Plus their beliefs and religion was very unique and it draws my attention.

Book Reviews

by Michelle Thomas

Give Me A Break John Stossel

By exposing liars, cheaters, scam artists, and even doctors, Stossel’s *Give Me A Break*, grabs the readers’ attention. John Stossel lets his audience in “behind the scenes,” letting people know that there are those out there who lie and cheat to make money. Readers will find it interesting that the author confronts people as an “in your face” reporter. Stossel takes his readers on his journey to becoming a consumer reporter. The reader will also follow the author as he goes around confronting the bad guys. *Give Me A Break* also take the readers an Stossel’s conversion from being an advocate of government solutions to being an outspoken critic of them. This is a great book to read for anyone out there who is open-minded and who is interested

in learning more about a libertarian view.

The Kite Runner Khaled Hosseini

The *Kite Runner* takes readers into another world; this world is none other than Afghanistan. The story introduces the readers to Amir, who is the son of a wealthy Afghan businessman, and Hassan, whose own father is the servant to Amir’s father. The main characters are so opposite, it is like they come from two different worlds, yet they form a bond that is yet to be unbroken. *The Kite Runner* is the first Afghan novel to be translated into English. Any person who reads this book will get to know more about other cultures. *The Kite Runner* takes the reader into history from Kabul’s Monarchy and the 40 years into Afghanistan’s tragic evolution. *The Kite Runner* is a great book for people who are interested with other customs and cultures.



Nazmul Hasan, Senior Business
I would like to visit Bangladesh because it is the country I am originally from. I have many family members there that I haven’t met yet.



Angelica Rodriguez, Senior Cosmetology
I would like to visit Japan because I love the Harajuku culture. I love the street wear and I adore color, and Japan is all about the lights and colors.



Andrew Ferguson, Senior EI
I would visit Italy because I have a family history out there; my mother’s side of the family is from there. Also, because I like pizza.

Poetry Slam 2008

April 29 Periods 2 & 3

In the student cafeteria

See Ms. Himmel in room 143A

Periods 4 & 7 to sign up!

Sudoku Puzzle

by Annaldo Jimenez

How to solve a sudoku

Put a number from 1 to 9 in each empty box. Each number must appear once in each horizontal row, as well as in each vertical column and in every 3 by 3 box grid.

Easy

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

Hard

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

Word Puzzle

by Melanie Bencosme

Theme: Springtime

Word List

Spring	Flowers	Rain
Sun	Birds	Trees
Grass	April	May
Sports	Easter	Kite
Warm	Cloudy	Picnics

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

Inquiring Photographer

by Yara Diaz

sight. Someone can't fall in love just by looking at a person.

Question: Do you believe in love at first sight?



Michael Flores

Off class: 101

Yes, because people think with their heart first and their with their minds later.



Angelina Guzman

Off Class: 151

It's obvious that you need to get to know the inside of a person in order to fall in love. The inside could always make up for the outside.



Shanessy Morales

Off class: 321

That's only in fairy-tales. I believe more like in the 8th sight.



Joshlyn Daniels

Off. Class: 111

I don't believe in love at first sight. Just remember you can never judge a book by its cover.



Natalie Kippes

Off Class: 221

Yes, because its happened to me and it was a very strong mutual attraction.



Joel Pena

Off Class: 323

Love at first sight is not only determined by appearance and that is not what love is made out of.



Ana Estrada

Off Class: 112

Yes, I believe in it. It has happened to me and it's a very different feeling that many people might not know about.



Luis Espinoza

Off Class: 212

I do believe in love at first sight because it has happened to me. One time, I saw a girl for the first time and she fascinated me. I liked her since the first time I saw her so I started talking to her and I ended up loving her more.



Alex Almanzar

Off Class: 302

Love at first sight can't be possible just because no one shows their true colors at first.



Raymond Diaz

Off Class : 112

I don't believe in love at first



Suzie Cernuda

Off Class: 422

No, I don't believe in love at first sight because love grows with time.

SENIOR SPORTS PROFILES

by Manny Portorreal

Catherine Gomez



Age: 17
Team: Girls' Varsity Basketball
Position: Power Forward
Years on Team: 2

"Catherine Gomez is a great team player. She sets an example for the young players. She comes to practices everyday and plays hard. This is her second year on the team and her overall game has improve both the physical and mentally." - Mr. Devaux

"Catherine is a dedicated player. She always listens and is always willing to learn more. She is also developing new skills." - Karolina Gorna

Steven Sacharsky



Age: 17
Team: Boys' Varsity Basketball
Position: Center
Years on Team: 1

"Steven has a thorough knowledge of the game of basketball and when he's on the court his skills are solid. When Steven is on the court everyone is cheering for him and he usually came through." - Mr. Maloney

"Steven is a good player when he gets on the court. He has a good jump shot." - Skyfree Ferguson

Cindy Carrasco



Age: 17
Team: Girls' Varsity Softball
Position: Centerfield
Years on Team: 2

"Cindy is a good player. She has a good potential to help the team. She played a couple of positions last year. I think she is talented." - Mr. Boyle

"Cindy is a good player. She is a hard worker and helps the team out." - Karen Alvarez

Estephany Jimenez



Age: 17
Team: Girls' Varsity Softball
Position: Shortstop
Years on Team: 3

"Estephany is a hard worker. When she was playing she was my shortstop. She has a good bat and s good glove. She has good energy, senior leadership is very helpful." - Mr. Boyle

"Estephany is very determined. She has a good heart. She throws well and she is a good person to the team." - Natalie Varges

Guillermo Taveras



Age: 17
Team: Boys' Varsity Baseball
Position: Outfield
Years on Team: 3

"Guillermo Taveras has been a steady team member for three years. He's quiet, but works hard to improve himself." - Mr. Schimenz

"Guillermo is a very strong kid. He has a good arm. If he works on his pitching mechanics he'll be a good pitcher." - Danny Fernandez

Varsity Baseball

continued from back page

an organization in Long Island City organization that helps take care of disadvantaged children.

On the field, the veterans have worked to improve from last year to fill in for the players who graduated. "I've tried to focus on pitching," said Annaldo Jimenez, "since last year we lost 2 of our best pitchers, we have some big shoes to fill." The veterans have also been mentoring the rookies. "I tell them about mistakes I've made so that they won't do the same," said senior Angel Tejada, a 3-year veteran, "and I also joke around with them to make them feel comfortable."

"Juan De LaCruz has been working with the younger ones to improve their baseball skills," said Mr. Schimenz. Junior Jonathan Matias, a 3-year veteran, said that despite the rocky start, the team has come together. "We have managed to become brothers instead of just teammates," he said.

The Tigers showed some of that brotherhood earlier this year. The team received \$5,000 from PSAL for winning the NYC Division B championship last season, but gave \$2,500 to Mr. Vega to use for other sports teams. "Mr. Vega is good to all the teams all the time. He's always very supportive and helpful," said Mr. Schimenz, the varsity baseball coach, "We tried to help him out with the funding."

JV Baseball Begins Season starts with new coach

by Melanie Bencosme

JV baseball has a new leader. Mr. Cintron took over from Mr. Garofano, who wanted a break. Taking over a team with a record last year of 4-3, Mr. Cintron is confident that this year will be a success. The JV baseball team has five returning players: Ariel Avila, Azan Asmat, James Clark, Connor McCarthy, and Francis Reyes.

Tryouts began on Monday, March 17, at Maurice Park and went on for about a week. At the tryouts, Mr. Cintron had the five veterans mentor the prospective players and look for their potential. "My strategy was to select the students who are team players, punctual, willing to listen, and who try hard," said Mr. Cintron.

Twenty-five boys came to tryouts but only seventeen made the team. In addition to the returning veterans, the JV baseball team includes: Jose Alvarez, Tomas Bueno, Michael Corona, George Darmanin, Christopher DeLaCruz, Christian Gutierrez, Carlos Jiménez, Jairo Marmolejos, Dennis Ortega, Franklin Panora, Miguel Perez, and Mauricio Valencia.

Mr. Cintron has been working to schedule non-league games for April and May, and would like to arrange a scrimmage between the JV baseball team and the varsity baseball team.

Teams in the Tigers JV division are: Bayside, Bowne, Cardozo, Far Rockaway, Flushing, Francis Lewis, and Queens HS of Teaching.

The team is looking to raise money for jerseys and batting cage fees. "We intend to have a bake sale sometime in April to raise money, so the players won't have to pay as much," said Mr. Cintron. The coach is planning to have other fundraisers before and during the baseball season.

There is also a new volunteer assistant coach. Daniel Ortiz, a former varsity player, is assisting Mr. Cintron in his upcoming season.

Upcoming games scheduled for the JV baseball team are:

April 18 - QV @ Far Rock
April 28 - QV vs. John Bowne
April 30 - QV vs. Newtown
May 2 - QV vs. Queens HS of Teaching
May 5 - QV @ Cardozo
May 9 - QV @ Bayside
May 12 - QV vs. Francis Lewis
May 14 - QV vs. Far Rock
May 16 - QV @ Flushing

New Teams for Next Year? How new teams get started

by Oscar Mendez

Queens Voc currently has ten interscholastic sports teams: seven boys' teams and three girls' teams. According to Mr. Lerro, the athletic director, three more girls' sports teams have been requested for the 2008-2009 school year: track, volleyball, and soccer.

According to Title IX, a federal law, every school must have a proportional number of boys' teams and girls' teams based on its population. Queens Voc houses 691 boys and 450 girls. To be in compliance with the law, Queens Voc needs two additional girls' teams.

To start a new team, the school must follow certain steps. According to Mr. Mike Abernethy, a sports consultant with the Public School Athletic League (PSAL), there must first be demand for a particular team, that is, there must be a sufficient number of students interested in playing on the team.

Then a coach will have to be selected. According to the current UFT contract, "a list of vacancies for all non-teaching assignments shall be made available to all teachers in the school with sufficient time to permit written applications." This list is to be posted in the Main Office in order to get candidates to apply for the

coaching position. Next, candidates are selected "on the basis of seniority in the school from among applicants who meet the posted job-related qualifications." However, "a teacher who has not had a non-teaching assignment shall be given priority over any other teacher." After the job has been posted, and an applicant is selected in according to the contract, "The athletic director and the principal then interview the candidate for the coaching position," Mr. Lerro, the athletic director, said.

Finally, the principal sends a formal request to the PSAL by filling out the *New Team Request Application Form* by the specified deadline and faxing it to the PSAL office. In order for the PSAL to review all schools' requests, notify schools of their approved teams, and provide schedules for every sport, the forms need to be sent as soon as possible.

In addition, certain considerations are taken into account when reviewing requests. They include availability of the school for practice and competition games, the availability of the school to financially support the team, future plans for reconstruction or reorganization of the school, and possible conflicts with the sports throughout the season.

TIGERS

Girls’ Softball Season Starts Slowly

by Yinaury Sanchez

After weeks of indoor and outdoor practice, the girls’ softball season kicked off on Monday, March 24 against Frank Sinatra.

So far, the season hasn’t been very successful with 7 straight loses, but, according to Mr. Boyle, the coach, the team is young and they are improving their skills each day.

The team is scheduled to play 16 league games.

On March 13 the Lady Tigers’ played their first non-league game against Newtown at Bush Field. “I’m confident about this year’s team,” said senior Christi Hernandez, a 3-year veteran, “Newtown has a good softball team and we held up pretty well against them.”

The Lady Tigers’ first official practice was on March 1. The team practiced in the school gym and set up work out stations and batting stations. On March 12 the team practiced at the field and tried the different positions that the rookies were best at.

The Lady Tigers have been meeting on Tuesdays during 8th period tutoring. The team works out in the weight room and practice fielding, throwing, catching, and the basics of batting. These meetings have shown which girls are committed and will stay on the team. “Getting together once a week on Tuesdays has helped the continuity of the program,” said Mr. Boyle, the girls’ softball coach.

In December, the Lady Tigers went to a softball clinic at Queens College every Saturday for 3 hours. “We plan on watching the Queens College girls’ softball team play a game when their season starts,” said Mr. Boyle, “they were really very instrumental in the clinic. The girls were given instructions by the college girls.”

The 2008 Lady Tigers softball team consists of 24 players, 14 veterans and 10 rookies. The veterans are Ashley Addonisio, Karen Alvares, Tracy Ambrossi, Lorena Bonilla, Cindy Carrasco, Brigitte Diaz, Joana Garcia, Laura Gonzalez, Christi Hernandez, Dayana Jaramillo, Estephany Jimenez, Samantha Lupo, Shannessy Morales, and Magdaline Rodriguez. The rookies are Melissa Alzate, Francesca Bernabe Duarte, Sandy Cevallos, Stephanie Gonzalez, Paola Hernandez, Victoria Lindner, Jamila Rodriguez, Shirley Rodriguez, Ariel Soler, and Natalie Vargas.

Remaining Schedule

- 4/16 - 4pm QV @ Forest Hills
- 4/29 - 4pm QV vs Wagner
- 5/1 - 4pm QV vs Sinatra
- 5/6 - 4pm QV vs LIC
- 5/7 - 4pm QV @ Cleveland
- 5/9 - 4pm QV @ Far Rock
- 5/13 - 4pm QV vs Forest Hills
- 5/15 - 4pm QV vs Wagner



Coach Boyle and his young team keep confident early in the season.

SPORTS

Boys’ Baseball Starts Strong

by Yinaury Sanchez

The Tigers’ varsity baseball team began its season with five straight wins, before being dealt a loss by Frank Sinatra in the third week of the season.

The Tigers’ first non-league game was on March 12, against Hillcrest. The first league game was a 3-0 win against Academy of American Studies. The team played against American Studies again in their second league game and won 12-2. “The season started off shaky, but we have progressed just like in the first 2 games,” said senior Steven D’Elena, a 3-year veteran. “Our second game was an improvement from the first and we are just going to get better from here.” The team is scheduled to play 48 games, 32 non-league and 16 league games.

Just prior to the start of the league-game season, Coach Schimenz appointed freshmen rookies Armando Avila and Esteban Soler team captains. “These guys worked so hard to help the team. I’ve been impressed with their dedication. Many of the veterans helped get our season going, too. As always this is a team effort,” said the coach, “Armando and Esteban, however, set a tone for the rookies and for the team.”



Boys’ Varsity baseball team travels the city in search of games.

The Tigers’ first official practice was on Tuesday, March 4, but they had been preparing for the season by participating in the Fitness and Conditioning Club. “Going to the club has helped us with our upper body strength and we need that since this year we’ll only be using wood bats,” said senior Emmanuel Portorreal, a 3-year veteran.

In February, the Tigers won the NYC Public High School Radial Bat Award Program, sponsored by the Radial Bat Institute. Freshmen rookies Anthony Arias, Armando Avila, Erick Cabello, and Esteban Soler worked with former captains Daniel Medina (’07) and Tanvir Toy (’03), and assistant coach Joe Livecchi (’05) to write a script in which they explained the team goals for the season, how they planned to accomplish those goals, and why winning the bats would help the team. The 4 rookies were then filmed by Tanvir, who edited the video and submitted it online. Mr. Ward Dill, president of the company, came to Queens Voc to deliver the bats, valued at nearly \$1,000. “We had fun while making the video,” said Armando, “we tried not to think much about winning or losing the contest.”

In October, the Tigers again participated in a community service event known as “It’s my Park Day.” They worked in Flushing Meadows Park by picking up garbage, raking leaves, fixing the fields, painting, and planting flowers. “This is always a great way for the students who tried-out to interact with each other, it brings us closer together as a team,” said senior Annaldo Jimenez, a 2-year veteran. The team received a donation of \$250 from one of the unions they worked with.

In November, the Tigers, representing Queens Voc, signed on as an MLB Action Team, a joint venture between Major League Baseball Players Association and the Volunteers of America. As an Action Team, the Tigers are working with Hour Children,

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TIGERS SPORTS CONTINUED INSIDE