

# Vocational Voice

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

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Mike Corona braves the needle to help others.

## Blood Drive is a Success First-Ever Drive Brings Out the Best

by Nicholas Ruffino

Forty-five students and six teachers gave blood at Queens Voc's first ever blood drive, held on Dec 21, in the school auditorium.

Mr. Vega and Mr. Alikakos organized this event. Mr. Vega scheduled appointments for students and staff and said "I was a little anxious because I didn't know what to expect. I worried about how the student body and staff would react to a blood drive."

Diane Robinson from the American Red Cross was the coordinating nurse for the school's blood drive. Ms. Robinson said that there are certain requirements in order to donate blood such as "proof of age and proper identification. Students must be at least 15 years of age, 110 pounds or more and must be in good health. Approximately one pint of blood is taken and the process of donating blood can take up to 45 minutes."

Geraldine Leibot, a senior, said she donated blood. "This is for a good cause. For every pint of blood, you could save up to three lives, and I would do

it again because it's a good feeling knowing that I helped someone. I felt a little dizzy but it wasn't bad."

Mr. Mendez had his blood taken from the Alyx machine. "I donated my blood," he said "because you never know who may be in need."

According to the American Red Cross, the Alyx machine uses a needle smaller than the one used for whole blood. The needle is inserted into an arm and the blood collected is separated into two components: plasma and red blood cells. The machine keeps the red blood cells and puts the plasma back in the donor's body. To have blood taken from the Alyx machine men must be at least 5'1" tall and weigh at least 150 pounds. Women must be at least 5'5" and must weigh at least 175 pounds.

According to the Red Cross, if half the people in the world donated blood just once, there would be no blood shortages.

Students and staff can also donate blood at "blood centers and other blood drives, and they can even go online to look up other locations," Ms. Robinson added.

## Talent Show Returns

by Daniel Corona

In February, Queens Voc will once again have a talent show.

The talent show had become an anticipated annual event under the direction of Mr. Vega, coordinator of student activities, but the school was unable to have a show last year because of construction in the auditorium.

The show has an impressive array of acts. Originally, 16 acts—consisting of belly dancers, urban dances, Spanish dances, rappers, singers, and pianists—tried-out for the show. Each act is about four minutes long.

The students are rehearsing, with the help of Mr. Vega and Mr. Rodriguez, to put on a show that will delight the students and staff. Be sure to listen to announcements for ticket sales.



Ambar & Kelly rehearse.

## iMentor

by Edward Salas

For the 10th and 11th grade business students, education has become more personal than just following a curriculum.

Many 10th and 11th grade business students are taking part in the iMentor program, "a program that matches business students with different companies' workers. They meet frequently to talk about the students' goals and college plans," said Ms. Mitchell. The program matches students with mentors from the business world and conducts events that allow mentors and mentees to meet and bond.

"My mentor Randall is very

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Queens Voc students defend the rule of law at Pace.

## We the People Place Fifth in City Competition

by Michael Corona

Queens Voc placed 5th in the recent citywide competition about the U.S. Constitution.

Thirty-two students in Mr. Davidson's honors US Government class recently participated in the "We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution" 2010 competition. The competition was held this year at Pace University on Thursday, Jan. 7.

According to Mr. Davidson, the students from his class performed well. "I was very proud of the students," said Mr. Davidson, "and I thought they did a great job answering the questions."

The students who participated in Unit Two—Daniyah Ahmed, Bryan Correa, Argenis Gonzales, Kunga Likchung, Milton Morocho, and Trent Petrus—were responsible for explaining how the framers created the Constitution. They earned the highest score in the city for their explanation, earning Queens Voc a plaque.

The Queens Voc students were divided into six units, or groups, and each group had to prepare answers to three

questions. Each group had to give a four minute presentation on one of the questions. They then answered follow-up questions for six minutes.

The students arrived at Pace University at 8am and proceeded to their designated classrooms. The judges for each unit walked around, entering each room and introducing themselves. They then asked the corresponding unit's group a question and evaluated their responses.

Eight teams from seven schools participated in citywide competition: Edward R Murrow, Forest Hills, Midwood High, Harry S. Truman, James Madison, Townsend Harris, and Queens Voc.

The primary goal of the competition, organized by the New York City Justice Resource Center, is to promote civic competence and responsibility among the nation's elementary and secondary students.

To lighten the mood, Dr. Christopher Malone of Pace University hosted a speech-making contest. The students were allowed to show off their impersonations of various

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## Regents Schedule: Jan. 2010

<i>Jan. 26</i>	<i>Jan. 27</i>	<i>Jan. 28</i>	<i>Jan. 29</i>
<i>9:15 am</i>	<i>9:15 am</i>	<i>9:15 am</i>	<i>9:15 am</i>
<i>Living Env. Math B RCT in Global Studies</i>	<i>Earth Science RCT in U.S History &amp; Gov't.</i>	<i>U.S. Hist. &amp; Gov't. RCT in Reading Geometry</i>	<i>Global Hist. &amp; Geography  RCT in Writing</i>
<i>1:15 pm</i>	<i>1:15 pm</i>	<i>1:15 pm</i>	<b><i>Good Luck!</i></b>
<i>Comprehensive English: Session One  RCT in Math</i>	<i>Comprehensive English: Session Two  RCT in Science</i>	<i>Intergrated Algebra Physical Setting/ Chemistry</i>	
<b><i>All tests are Regents exams unless otherwise noted.</i></b>			

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## We the People Competition

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political figures, such as George W. Bush, Hillary Clinton, Barack Obama, and Sarah Palin.

Three students from Queens Voc— Freddy Gomez, Neil Kamath, and Tulio Mesa— gave their impressions of George W. Bush.

Freddy's impersonation of Bush was so realistic that someone threw a shoe at him, reminiscent of the Iraqi journalist who threw a shoe at the president during a press conference. "Freddy was good, but not great because

someone else won," said Ms. Gonzalo.

Other students from Mr. Davidson's class who participated in the competition were: Meheraj Abedin, Brian Carty, Jonathan Carvalho, Huang Chen, Luis Fernandez, Paola Ferreira, Juan Hernandez, Arien Hylton, Jonathan Kammerer, Jefferson Lawrence, Cesar Liang, Ludwig Albert Loy, Richard Luu, Tomas Mazzarella, Kareif McKoy, Naveen Nicholas, Franklin Panora, Jazmin Ramirez, Marilyn Reyes, Michael Rodriguez, Edward Salas, Ashley Torres, and Asaduz Zaman.

## iMentor Program: A Learning Experience

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**Students and their mentors discuss future goals.**

similar to me," said Ricky Macklin. "We agree about a lot of things and we talk about movies, sports, and daily topics in the news." "iMentor sets up events such as baseball games, ice-skating, and charity events," Ricky said. iMentor encourages many face-to-face meetings between mentors and mentees. Marie Herrera, a sales assistant, mentors junior Andrea Cordoba. "We're going as often as our schedules allow," she said.

"During the meetings, we do these writing prompts to create a conversation between us. It can be about college and goals, and dreams, aspirations," said Ms. Herrera. The weekly writing prompts allows the mentor and mentee to establish connections and discuss important topics such as voting and college, which grabs the attention of the mentees. "They always talk about college, so I want to be guided to know how to get there and succeed," Andrea said. The program, according to iMentor's website, [www.iMentor.org](http://www.iMentor.org), is so

successful that 94% of mentees graduate high school and 77% of those high school graduates enroll in college.

Students meet on Mondays and answer their weekly writing prompts and log on to their iMentor profiles to RSVP for upcoming sponsored events. The program helps students develop their various skills and is designed to promote better students and better workers. "We learn how to write resumes, and how to select colleges and apply for college," said junior Armando Avila. "We learn business skills such as marketing, financing, and accounting from our mentors." The mentors allow immediate feedback to mentees on question about real life problems such as responsibilities in their career. "We get informed on different issues thru our writing prompts allowing us to develop our own personal opinions on the issue," said Armando. "The upcoming event coordinated by iMentor is going to be a college fair," said Armando. "This event will help us plan our future in terms of college."



**Real people provide real experience for cosmetologists.**

## Cosmo Clinic is Good Business

by Ashley Torres

Queens Voc's future hairstylists can do anything from a facial to prom hairstyles in the Elite Salon. Senior cosmetology students work in the cosmo clinic and gain experience working with clients.

The salon is open 9-10:30am and 12:30-2pm Monday through Friday. Located in room 344, the full service Elite Salon is open to students, teachers, and outside clients eighteen and older. Students, however, can only go during a free period or lunch and must show their programs at the door in order to enter the salon.

The difference between senior cosmetology students and other cosmetology students is that they can work on real clientele. "I prefer working on real clients because they appreciate my work and tell me 'thank you', but I still love my manikin," said Jessica Riera, a senior cosmetology student.

Senior cosmetology students

work in the Elite Salon because they have two to three years of experience in cosmetology. Their experience qualifies them to work on live clients in the Elite Salon. "It feels good to know that people view me as trustworthy and rely on me to give them a happy experience," said Daniyah Ahmed, a senior cosmetology student.

"The Cosmo Clinic gives students hands-on experience and it takes away the anxiety of working with real clients," said Ms. Quartuccio, a cosmetology teacher. The work that is done by the students brings them a step closer to gaining their license and a job in a hair salon.

The students gain a tremendous amount of practice in the Elite Salon because they must complete a certain amount of jobs every marking period.

"Getting my jobs done on time is the hardest part of being a senior cosmetology student, I needed to have 72 jobs done for the first marking period," said Alejandra Espinoza, a senior

cosmetology student.

The money that is raised in the Cosmo Clinic is used to replenish supplies used on clients. According to Ms. Quartuccio, clients and the staff have attended the Elite Salon and are pleasantly surprised at the results.

The Cosmo Clinic offers different manicures and hairstyles at affordable prices. Below is the list of services that are preformed and there prices:

### Shapes and Styles

Shampoo and Blow Dry	\$4
Long Hair	\$2 extra
Flat Iron	\$3 extra
Thermal Curls	\$3 extra
Shampoo and Cut	\$5
Shape Up	\$3

### Twists and Twirls

Braid 1/2 hair	\$5
Braid Whole Head	\$10
Weaves	\$10+

### Curls and Straights

(includes blow dry or roller set)	
Curly Perm	\$30
Body wave	\$30
Relaxer	\$15

### Hair Coloring

Single Process	\$10
Highlights	
Foil- 1/2 head	\$20
Foil- Whole head	\$40
Cap-1/2 head	\$15
Cap-Whole head	\$20

### Fancy Fingers

Basic Manicure	\$2
French Manicure	\$3
Acrylics	\$12
Paraffin (Friday only)	\$2

### Fresh Face

Basic Facial	\$3
(includes cleaning, steaming, and exfoliation)	
Make-up Application	\$3

### Hair Be Gone

Eyebrow waxing	\$3
Eyebrow tweezing	\$2

### Fancy Do's

Specialty hairstyles for:	
Weddings, parties, and proms	\$10+

York's Shakespeare Festival, for 2003 and 2004.

Queens Voc students Nashira Wiggins, Wendy Vallejo, and Angelica Sierra were the best of Queens, in the Storytelling contest, and Darryl Sorrentino and Alan Casallas were the borough-wide winners of the Shakespeare contest.

Ms. Himmel, a veteran English teacher at Queens Voc, was the coach for each of these competitions. "Coaching these students has been among the highlights of my work here as a teacher," she said. "It also proved to those who may have doubted, that vocational and technical students can excel in any field in which they put their minds, hearts, and efforts."



**Showcase by auditorium highlights contest winners.**

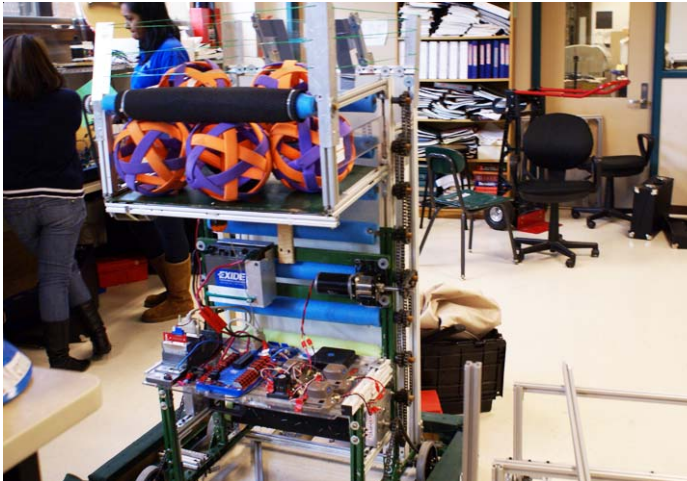
## New Prominence for Past Awards

by Brian Carty

The next time you are headed to the newly renovated auditorium, check out the display case with five newly-minted, green and gold plaques. Three of these plaques are for

the Queensborough winners of the New York City Department of Education's Storytelling contests, for 1998, 1999, and 2000. Two are for the Queensborough winners of the English Speaking Union of New





**Robotics students look forward to continued success.**

## RoboTigers Ready for Regionals

by L.A. Loy

The RoboTigers, led by Mr. Ali, have opened their doors for new members to help them with the robot for the annual FIRST Robotics Competition in January.

Students looking to join the club have to meet two requirements: “passing their classes and being interested in the field of engineering technology,” said the robotics club advisor.

The RoboTigers won first place in the regional championship last year, and went on to compete in the national competition in Atlanta, against schools from other states and other countries such as the United Kingdom, France, China, Italy, and Japan.

“The Robotics club maintains the students’ interest in the engineering field by giving them hands-on experience,” said senior A’dell Lambie, one of the two captains of the RoboTigers. “As seniors, we help and push the sophomores and juniors to observe and contribute during the designing, building, and programming processes. That way, when it’s time for them to lead, they will be able to teach others.”

The club covers different branches of engineering such as electrical, mechanical, pneumatics, and robotics. “The RoboTigers can give students a head start and prepare them for what they could go through after they graduate,” said senior Duane Johnson. “Working as a RoboTiger helps by providing us with experience and making us aware of different technologies in the field,” said senior Neil Kamath, the team programmer. “The club gives the students a chance to

interact with technology itself,” senior Robert Andrade said.

According to FIRST Robotics website, the students who participate in the FIRST competition have over \$11 million in scholarship opportunities -545 individual scholarships from over 115 providers.

“The robotics club will be divided into teams: design team, programmers, logistics team, a fundraising team, and a spirit team,” Mr. Ali said.

The design team is tasked with making a blueprint of the robot. “The design team’s job is to come up with ideas of how the robot is going to look,” Duane said. “We are also responsible for making the robot stronger and more durable to avoid damage.”

The build team then assembles the robot.



**Team plans the ‘bot.**

“The programmers’ task is to program the robot to move and follow a specific task such as picking up a ball and shooting it into a net. The robots can either be programmed to move autonomously or via remote control,” Neil explained.

“The logistics team handles all the paperwork,” he said, such as writing ‘thank you’ letters to the sponsors, such as Con Edison, and Linear

Lighting. They are also asking previous and potential to support the RoboTigers this year. Other members of the RoboTigers depend on the logistics team to remind them of important due dates such as deadlines for assembling the robot to keep the team on track. The logistics team is also responsible for the RoboTigers’ website.

The fundraising team organizes bake sales and raffles to help raise money for the club.

The spirit team is known as the cheerleaders of the club during competitions. They also help the fundraising team with the bake sales.

The first round of the annual FIRST Robotics Competition is the regional competition, held at the Jacob Javits Convention Center. FIRST Robotics specifies a task for the robots to perform and each team is given six weeks to build, program, and ship their robots. “Last year, the game was called Lunacy,” A’dell said. “The task was to build a robot that could pick up balls from the ground and shoot them out into an opponent’s trailer that was attached to the back of each robot.”

“This year we want to stay focused and compete with a lot of confidence,” Duane said. According to A’dell, the club wants to top last year’s performance by bringing home the FIRST National Champions title. If accomplished, it would be the first in Queens Voc history.

## Lunch Forms =More \$

by Juan Hernandez

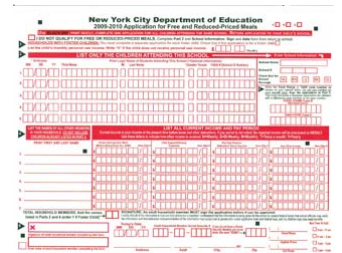
Ninety-seven percent of all the students attending Queens Voc returned their lunch forms this translates to 1,234 forms. These lunch forms were provided to students in their shop classes, were completed and returned.

Students attended a barbecue for returning their forms and each barbeque took place during their corresponding lunch periods. The barbecues took place October 9-12, one barbeque per day. The School of Skilled Building Trades did not participate in a barbecue because of a food fight that took place in the cafeteria.

According to Mr. Alikakos, assistant principal for organization and security, lunch forms not only show the New York City Department of Education how many students are utilizing the cafeteria, but the forms also influence school funding, based on the students’ economic background. If the number of lunch forms returned includes many students whose family has a low income, in Queens Voc’s case, 80 percent of those returned indicated low income, the school receives additional funding known as Title One. “Title One is based on a student’s level of poverty; either you make it or you don’t.

If enough lunch forms qualify, Title One funding is given to the school,” said Mr. Alikakos. The additional funding the school received this year was \$626,000.

“With the money from Title One, we are going to pay teachers’ salaries and also pay for resources in the classroom. These resources include textbooks, visual equipment, and after school programs,” said Mr. Alikakos.



**Forms worth filling out.**

Lunch forms are primarily used as an application to obtain free or reduced price lunch. Students who have submitted the lunch forms are issued a lunch card. Students who don’t qualify for free or reduced-price lunch would have to pay \$1.50 to purchase lunch. The cards are coded with a series of numbers and letters. “It is important to carry that lunch card every day. Students should consider them almost as important as your math book,” said Mr. Luis Salazar, head cook. “In the event that your lunch card is lost, you can get a new one in the transportation office on the side of the cafeteria,” he added.

## Is Big Brother Watching?

by Veronica Sierra

Well, maybe not big brother, but with the addition of all the new security cameras throughout Queens Voc, it’s likely that someone will someday be watching you.

According to Mr. Alikakos, assistant principal of security, the new security cameras were installed “as a city initiative to make a safe school environment and many other schools will also be getting cameras.” There were 39 cameras installed throughout Queens Voc.

Even though the monitors for the cameras have not been installed yet, Mr. Alikakos hopes the monitors will be installed and working by the February break. According to Mr. Alikakos monitors for the cameras will be situated in Ms. Ocampo’s Office, the deans’ office, Ms. Vittor’s office, the

custodians office, in the main entrance by the school safety agents, and in my office,” said Mr. Alikakos.



**Cameras logistically placed.**

The cameras will be connected to digital recorders that record up to a year of video. Security cameras are located at every exit, and there are at least two cameras in each hallway. There are also cameras outside the building and at the handball court.

“The cameras make us feel safe, but it’s like invading our

privacy,” said Freddy Gomez, who, like many students, seems to believe the cameras are functioning. Jennifer Blanco agreed, “Yes, the cameras make us feel safe, but I feel like I’m stalked.”

“The cameras make me feel safe and comfortable,” Jonathan Gomez said. They will help keep students behaving properly. Michelle Porras likes the cameras, she said, “because I can’t cut class.”



**Monitors by main entrance.**



## Tutoring Tuesdays



**They're chillin'. But most tutoring time is well spent.**

by Edward Salas

Tuesdays used to be the favorite day of many students because they used to get out early. But those days are over, “tutoring” classes began on October 12.

While many students now spend their 8th period on Tuesdays in the hallways, “tutoring” classes are used to allow students sufficient time to complete independent study projects to help them earn the necessary credits to graduate on time from Queens Voc.

The creation of the classes took a few weeks after the start of the school year. Schedule mix-ups and mistakes had to be

fixed first. “It is more important to get students the correct classes they need, like classes that meet four to five days a week,” said Mr. Davidson, the school’s program chairman.

According to Mr. Davidson, ninth graders are assigned advisory, and 10th, 11th, and 12th graders are assigned to work on independent study projects. Advisory for 9th graders is more laid back, said freshman Mila Badhon, “We are watching a movie and playing games,” she said. Hers isn’t the only class that does that. “We just hangout, play, and watch movies in advisory class,” Armin Haque, another freshman said.

“In the ninth grade we take an interdisciplinary approach to education, in all our classes, especially in English and Social Studies”, said Ms. Radovich, “For example freshmen are reading books related to the time period of the history class lessons.” The freshmen watched the movie *The Patriot*, a movie about the American Revolution, after reading the book *My Brother Sam Is Dead* in their English class. “This allows students to watch the movie more critically and make comparisons between the book and movie” said Ms. Radovich. “The students really enjoy what we choose for them, they always tell me that the characters in the books come alive on the screen.”

“We have had about a movie a month,” said Ms. Radovich. According to her, the students are always well behaved in the auditorium she said. The students are given assignments about the movie in their classes having to do with making comparisons and relationships between the lessons and movie. “It is really for educational purposes rather than for entertainment” said Ms. Radovich, “The problem we found is that a lot of students have problems making connections between classes

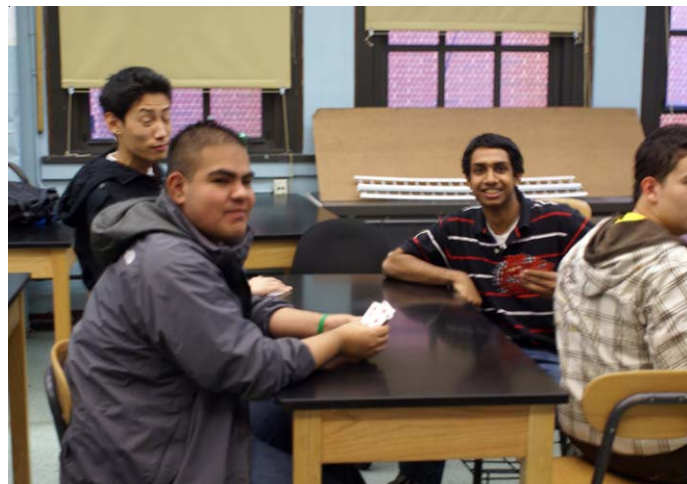
and books, this engages them visually, and many of our students are visual learners.”

According to Mr. Davidson, 10th graders are assigned art in the fall and music in the spring, 11th graders are assigned Spanish I in the fall and Spanish II in the spring, and 12th graders are assigned to whichever projects they have not yet completed. “I find it fun that we learn about recent Spanish history rather than old history found in global history,” said Brandon Navarette, a junior in C-Tech. “We fill out sheets that have very good information about Hispanic history.”

Students who have all the required independent study projects completed and who do

not have a ninth period class, are allowed to leave school after the end of their seventh period class. “Students who have a ninth period class on Tuesdays and who completed all their independent study projects we assigned to study hall, where they can catch up on school work and do their homework,” said Mr. Davidson.

Some 12th graders, like Christian Miranda a Queens Voc senior, do not have independent study projects and leave the school early on Tuesdays. He uses his extra time after school preparing for his college class later in the day at LaGuardia Community College.



**Playing cards. A lesson in probability? Probably not.**

## School Leadership Team Gives Students a Voice

by Zuka Alibasic

Students in SES and SCEET voted during their lunch periods on Wednesday, Oct 28, to elect two students in SES and two students in SCEET, to represent them on the School Leadership Team. Elected were Karolin Marte and Jennypher Hidalgo to represent SES, and Federico Fortuny and Peter Franco to represent SCEET.

Geraldine Leibot ran unopposed to represent SSBT, joining Ronald Polanco, who was elected last year to represent SSBT. Anderson Moran ran unopposed to represent SED.

“Being on the team is a very rewarding position because everyone is given a chance to be heard and also to hear what other people on the team have to say. Being part of the team and knowing that you can make a change in the school is a great feeling,” said Jennypher Hidalgo.

At one meeting, “One of the team’s main concerns was the lack of college information given to the students, we didn’t feel like we were getting everything we needed to know

to apply for college,” said Geraldine Leibot. “Since then, papers were given out to students, announcements have been made, and an information session was held with the college advisor and the seniors to help teach the students how to apply for college,” she said.

“During the recent meetings the team discussed the school’s budget, overall student grades, graduation rates, ways to get higher English Regents scores and where the school gets the income,” said Peter Franco. “We want to get a higher income to try and get supplies for both students and teachers,” he said.

Federico Fortuny thinks that the students in SCEET need more resources to earn their required 60 hours internship. He says that the Mouse Squad and the internships are very limited, which makes it difficult to earn a CTE endorsed diploma.

“Being on the team is pretty cool because we get to say what we think, give ideas to improve school issues, and see how the school’s money is used,” said Geraldine. “Your opinion counts. You are voting members of the team,” said Principal Vittor, during the October SLT meeting, at which she welcomed the new student

representatives. Ms. Vittor told the student representatives she will ask a lot of questions, seek their advice, and listen to their suggestions to make the school a better place. Mr. Schimenz, a teacher representative and current SLT chairman, cautioned the team members. “We are here to discuss our concerns and to make suggestions to help the principal. It’s not a gripe session,” he said. Ms. Vittor agreed. “Less complaints and more resolutions,” she said.

“The team has changed my perspective of the school 360 degrees. Before, I really didn’t appreciate anything because I didn’t know the struggles the school goes through. Now I want the best for everyone around me,” said Peter.

Each New York City school is required by the chancellor to have a School Leadership Team, commonly known as SLT. “The School Leadership Team works with Ms. Vittor to develop strategies to improve the school,” said Mr. Schimenz.

The SLT reviews how the administrators allocate its funds and suggests how those resources should be used. “The team monitors that the principal

is spending the money where it’s supposed to be spent,” said Mr. Harrington, UFT (United Federation of Teachers) chapter chairman, who serves as a member of the SLT.

The SLT meets once a month in the school library and is made up of student, teacher, and parent representatives. Mr. Samuelson also represents the teachers at SLT meetings. The two elected teacher representatives of the SLT are Mr. Schimenz and Mr. Samuelson. Mr. Alikakos and Ms. Ocampo represent the administration.

Mr. Harrington said that he recommends the SLT to each parent and he hopes they become involved in the team.

Daniel Corona was last year’s freshmen representative. He found the experience interesting “because I talked about the problems freshmen had.” Rodney Harris served on the SLT last year and urges the new representatives to speak their mind. “You are on the SLT for a reason. If you always had something to say about your school, say it here on this team.”



**Students, teachers, and administrators voice concerns.**



## Graduate Crystal Muniz Returns to Demonstrate Cosmo Techniques

by Ashley Torres

Crystal Muniz, a 2009 Queens Voc graduate, returned to the school on Tuesday, Nov. 4, to demonstrate cosmetology techniques to the senior cosmo students.

Crystal gave her demonstration to the senior cosmetology students in room 344. She was asked to give a demonstration by Ms. Newman, the director of the School of Entrepreneurial Studies, and Ms. Quartuccio, a senior cosmetology teacher.

Both felt that cosmo students would benefit a great deal from Crystal's experiences in the cosmetology field.

"When we watch demonstrations we perfect our skills," said Daniyah Ahmed, "We can correct any mistakes that we do when we perform a



*Crystal returns to show students what else she's learned.*

service. Demonstrations allow us to learn how to use our tools better."

Crystal has a temporary license and is preparing to take the New York State Board Exam for her permanent license. Crystal attends Queens-

borough Community College and also works in Studio Salon and Blossom Salon, both in Astoria, Queens.

"When I found out that I was going back to Queens Voc to do the demonstration, I was so scared. As the days passed

by, I just got more nervous but once I got in front of the girls and started talking, I got the hang of things. It felt good to share my experiences. I thought I would never have the chance to be able to show people how much I have learned and improved in cosmetology since I graduated," Crystal said.

Crystal's demonstration showed how she has increased her skills since she graduated. She showed the senior cosmetology students the different styles she uses to cut, blow-dry, and highlight hair. "Crystal showed them

techniques that she uses in the salon to help them with their speed and understand hair coloring," said Ms. Quartuccio. By working on a cosmo student, Crystal even demonstrated how to cut a client's hair in layers.

"The demonstration was extremely beneficial. I learned other methods for applying hair color and it was helpful to see how quickly she worked," said Jazmin Ramirez.

The demonstration allowed the senior class to learn more about cosmetology and show them that they, too, can work in a salon after they graduate.

## MOUSE Squad to the Rescue!

by Michael Rodriguez

Having computer problems? Call MOUSE Squad!

The acronym "MOUSE" stands for Making Opportunities for Upgrading Schools and Education. Queens Voc's MOUSE Squad was started in 2005 by Mr. Rodriguez, the senior C-tech teacher. Mr. Cintron is now the supervisor of the program.

MOUSE Squad is a program in which students are hired to work during the school year to repair computers in the school and to work on any problems that might occur with printing, and networking. Students can also volunteer to work in MOUSE Squad. This year, there are 10 to 12 paid student-technicians. The paid jobs are open to all 10th, 11th, and 12th grade SCEET students.

The MOUSE Squad program is sponsored by the Learn program.

MOUSE Squad members work two to three hours a day, two to three days a week after school, said Vinny Lam. Richard Luu, current MOUSE Squad member, said, "In Mouse Squad, we repair any

computer problems a classroom maybe having, while developing our own troubleshooting skills."

MOUSE Squad has repaired and restored many systems in the school, from the gym computer systems to the old fourth floor wing. MOUSE Squad's work has left an amazing mark in the school.

To qualify for MOUSE Squad, Mr. Cintron said, students need to pass all their classes. Richard Luu said that students "need to be dedicated and have good working habits to be a productive member of the squad."

Mr. Cintron said the new members have "very good level of skill and are fast workers." The following students are members of MOUSE Squad: Meheraj Abedin, Jonathan Carvahlo, Huang Chen, Chris DaSiliva, Erik Flores, Peter Franco, Argenis Gonzales, Yasin Khan, Vinny Lam, Richard Luu, Steward Naula, Shiva Rampaul, Chris Rodriguez, Roger Romero, Rogelio Sanchez, and Rodrigo Singh, Jonathan Urena.

To find out more about the MOUSE Squad, visit their website: [www.mousesquad.org](http://www.mousesquad.org).



*MOUSE Squad's Jonathan Carvahlo troubleshoots PC.*

## SO Helps Make School Fun

by Gurpreet Kaur

Queens Voc students lined up at the cafeteria door eagerly anticipating their entrance to the holiday dance on Friday, Dec. 18.

The dance, which was held from 6-9:30pm, was well attended, as about 150 students attended.

According to Jasmin Sosa, "I thought it was really fun and hyped. I enjoyed it a lot."

For SO members, the tickets were \$3, and for non-SO members, the cost was \$4.

SO, the Student Organization led by Mr. Vega, the coordinator of student activities, allows students become more involved in school events.

SO membership costs only \$3 and allows students locker privileges. Students also can go on SO trips, attend home

games (basketball, volleyball), talent shows, dances, and other celebrations at reduced cost. "We want our students to know that school isn't always about stress," Mr. Vega said.

Out of 1200 students in Queens Voc, about 800 have joined the SO, according to Mr. Vega.

SO members are eligible for a weekly raffle, which is held during every lunch period. Mr. Vega, who hosts the raffle, said he is trying to stress the importance of school spirit and the SO. Prizes consist of Queens Voc sweatshirts and t-shirts.

Queens Voc students, through the SO, participated in the fall spirit week, which was held Nov. 16-20. Spirit week included sports day, hippie day, big switch day, farmville day, and blackout day. Lukasha

Duggal, a junior in graphic arts, liked the ideas of spirit week this year. "Spirit week was more fun this year. The ideas were better than last year's and they were very creative."

Another event successfully completed was the Breast Cancer Walk. On Sunday, October 18, 30 students along with Mr. Vega walked about 5 miles to raise cancer awareness. According to Seida Muratovic, who participated, "The Breast Cancer Walk was fun because we danced at the end of the walk and all the seniors were cool. Even though it was a rainy day, it turned out to be great and fun either way. I enjoyed it a lot." The Queens Voc students raised about \$2,000.

Future events might include a celebration of Hispanic heritage, an Honor Roll trip, a Talent show, and trips to a NY Knicks game, a Mets game, and a Broadway show. Although there are many activities planned, there are as of yet no specific dates set.

Students interested in joining SO or who would like to contribute any ideas can see Mr. Vega in room 143 during lunch.

**See Mr. Vega to join the SO.**



*Students dance the night away at the holiday dance.*



## Upcoming Events

**Tuesday, Feb. 2.....Spring Term Begins**

Full day of classes, report cards.

**Thursday, Feb. 25...CTE Night 6:30-8:30pm**

For freshmen and their parents.

**Tuesday, March 9....Honor Soc. Bkfst**

8-9:30am. For students with an 85+ overall average as of 6/09.

**Thurs., March 18...Parent-Teacher**

**Friday, March 19 Conferences**

**Friday, May 7.....Career Day**

**Attend school activities  
Help out, Get involved.**

## AP Courses Offered

by Neil Kamath

AP classes are provided at Queens Voc “to give students an opportunity to get college credit...recognized [in most colleges] across the country,” according to Ms. Vittor, Queens Vocs principal. Two AP classes are currently offered, AP Spanish and AP English Composition, she said.

AP Spanish was offered since it not only provides students with an opportunity to get college credit but also a foreign language credit required for graduation, Ms. Vittor said. Queens Voc’s Hispanic population has been over 64.8% since 2006, reaching nearly 70% last school year, according to the demographics report on the schools.nyc.gov website. With this in mind, the administrators figured the school would get a higher passing rate compared to the subjects initially offered AP Chem and AP Stat.

AP Chem and AP Stat were replaced with AP Eng Comp and AP Spanish because budget cuts only permitted two AP classes and the newly chosen classes have a higher success rate, according to Ms Vittor.

AP Eng Comp was also offered to provide an extra class in humanities.

Seventeen students took the AP Chem test and 13 took the AP Stat test last year, according to Mr. Gorman. Most students passed the class, said their teachers Ms. Mohan and Mr. Raynor, but their AP exam grades never exceeded 1 out of 5, with the exception of one student who earned a 3 for AP

Chem, according to the College Board Grading Reports. Students earning 3 or above may be given college credit, according to Mr. Ali. But a 4 or 5 is required by most colleges according to Ms Mohan.

Not only did anticipated success rates impact which AP sources would be offered, but costs also seemed to influence the decision. According to Ms. Mohan, who taught AP Chem last year, the equipment was expensive to purchase and the chemicals are expensive to refill, especially since AP Chem lab met twice a week.

Offering AP Psychology was briefly considered this school year but because Psychology was offered at Devry for Queens Voc students, it would not have made sense, said Ms. Vittor.

## Take College Classes Now!

by Paola Ferreira

Want to experience a college class as a high school student? Students can do this by attending a College Now class at LaGuardia Community College.

College Now is a program that allows high school students to take free college classes, most of which offer three credits per course. Students can earn up to 16 college credits in the College Now program.

Queens Voc has a 90% passing rate of students who took the classes last year.

“Students who successfully complete College Now are responsible for transferring their credits to the college they will attend,” said Ms. Newman, College Now coordinator. There is no cost to transfer the credit to any CUNY college. If the students transfer the credits to any college other than CUNY they must pay \$7.

Failing a College Now class will result in the student not receiving the college credits. A failing grade is anything below a C. Three or more cuts or absences results in an automatic failure.

There are two college programs for high school students: College Now and College Connections. These programs both allow students to earn free college credits. College Now Gateway courses, part of the College Now program, do not offer college credit but prepare the students for college work and improve their writing or mathematical skills. Classes for College Now began on the week of Sept 21. The last week of classes is the week of Jan 4.

According to Ms. Newman, there are 55 Queens Voc students currently attending a College Now class at LaGuardia Community College and about 60 students taking College Now Gateway courses.

Nine students take Principles of Accounting, 13 students take Literacy and Propaganda, 10 students take Composition I, 10 students take Critical Thinking, five students take College Algebra and Trigonometry, two students take Topics in Biological Science, and five students take General Psychology.

Daniyah Ahmed, a senior majoring in cosmetology, takes College Algebra and Trigonometry. “I decided to take a College Now course so that it will look good on my transcript,” said Daniyah. “Hopefully I will get into Stony Brook University which is my top college,” she said.

Taking a college class while still in high school may help students learn the difference between high school and college. Tanman Dey, a junior majoring in electrical installation, is also enrolled in the College Algebra and Trigonometry course. “College classes are more difficult. They go more into depth about math than our high school,” Tanman said.

According to Ms. Newman, College Now courses offered at LaGuardia Community College are: Principles of Accounting I,

Literacy and Propaganda, Composition I, Critical Thinking, College Algebra and Trigonometry, Topics in Biological Science, and General Psychology.

College Now gateway courses at Queens Voc are: Basic Writing and Integrated Algebra I Regents.

Students who apply to Principles of Accounting I are required to get a score of 70 or more on the ELA Regents and Math A Regents. Students taking Literacy and Propaganda or Critical Thinking are required to get a 65 or higher on their ELA Regents. Composition I and General Psychology classes require the students to have received a 75 or higher on the ELA Regents. College Algebra and Trigonometry require a 75 or more on the Math A Regents and Topics in Biological Science require a 75 or more on the ELA and Math A Regents.

Luis Fernandez, a senior majoring in business, decided to take Topics in Biological Science. “It’s an opportunity. It keeps me engaged to learn and experience a different environment,” he said.

“College connection courses are only given in the spring. This program requires the students to attend an orientation and to have a mentor,” said Ms. Newman. This program gives the students a feel for college, because the students will be in classes with college students and will be treated as college students.

## From QV to MTA

by Brian Carty

Six Queens Voc graduates who majored in electrical installation were selected to participate the Transit Apprenticeship Program.

The graduates selected for the program were: Josue Manzanares, Dharvin Govindeisami, Starlin Sanchez, Alex Almanzar, Michael Celiz, and Andrew Ferguson.

This is the “largest number the school ever had before,” according to Mr. Maloney, an electrical installation teacher, who selected the students in June. “These students were chosen for being the best in their senior year,” Mr. Maloney said. The students chosen showed the traits that the MTA wants in an employee, he said. Among the traits the MTA wants are consistency, awareness, and knowledge of the electrical trade.

The six students chosen began the program in November. Their training started with the safety rules and regulations of the MTA. This will be followed by more complex and difficult training. Their training will also include constant testing, and if they fail, that can mean the end of their participation in the program. The program lasts three years, and ends with an exit exam.

## Thinking About College? Take the SATs

by Crisheber Soriano

Students interested in taking the SATs must register at collegeboard.com.

The registration process requires students to answer personal questions such as their address, social security number, e-mail address, grade point average and more. Once registration is complete, signing up for the exam is the next step. Students can choose where they would like to take the exam from a list of exam sites that includes high schools in all 5 boroughs.

To take the SAT exam, students are required to pay a \$45 fee. Some students are eligible for a fee waiver, which they can obtain from Ms. Talley, the college advisor. To be eligible for a fee waiver, the student must be enrolled in a free or

reduced lunch program or be receiving public or government assistance. Otherwise, students are required to pay for the exam by making a credit card payment.

Test dates (and deadlines) for 2010 SAT exams are as follows: March 13 (February 4) May 1 (March 25) June 5 (April 29)

Once students choose the date on which they’d like to take the exam, the final step will be to print out the admission ticket. Admission tickets must be shown on the day of the exam. Without it there is no entrance into the exam site. Seniors should sign up as soon as possible as SAT scores are very important in applying for college.

For further information on SAT exams students can visit [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com).





*Students and staff faced big decisions at the food fest.*

## Senior News

### Final Year's Activities Underway

by Christina Boston

The first senior food festival of the year took place on Wednesday, December 9. Many seniors and even some staff members prepared entrees and deserts to be sold during all lunch periods. A meal cost \$6 with a soda, and dessert was an additional \$1.

Mr. Vega, the senior class advisor, set a goal of 60 dishes for seniors to bring in to sell, he said, a goal that was surpassed as over 90 different trays of food were brought in for the sale.

Over 300 students and staff members purchased food at the food festival. Mr. Vega thanked everyone who participated and he didn't expect the turnout to be as great as it was. The senior class took in \$2,300, but had expenses of \$400 for plates, cups, knives, forks, and sodas. "There was a variety of food being given, more entrees and more money was raised this year, but it was worth it," said Mr. Vega. Senior class secretary Elizabeth Aritonang said the food festival was a success. "We raised nearly two thousand dollars. The money will most likely go towards the prom," she said.

The senior trip took place at the Honors Haven Resort and Spa Catskills, New York, from Friday Jan. 15 to Sunday, Jan. 17. The trip cost \$269 for three days and two nights. Seniors participated in a variety of activities such as snow tubing, skiing, basketball, dancing, fitness center, football, roller skating, winter carnival, paintball, and much more. Senior class President Darlene Fernandez said she was "excited to go on the senior trip, it's something I looked forward to since my freshman year."

Most activities were included with no additional cost. Paintball and horseback riding were extra. [Ed. note: the senior trip took place as the school newspaper was being printed.]

For seniors to attend the senior trip they either had to pass all their classes in the second marking period, or if they failed a class, they could get a letter from their teacher saying the teacher expected the students to pass for the term or for the year. Students who were suspended were not allowed to attend.

"My job is to try to get a minimum of 35 students or a maximum of 80 students," said Mr. Vega the senior advisor. He said the senior trip allows seniors to celebrate their final year in high school and to make it an occasion for the class of 2010 to bond together. The senior trip also took place as the newspaper was being published.

On Friday, Nov. 6, Mr. Vega and the senior officers held the first-ever Senior Movie Night. Seventy-five students turned out to watch *Yes Man* in the school auditorium. Tickets to the movie cost \$2, which included snacks such as popcorn and pizza. "It was a nice event to get all the seniors together," said Alexandria Mohamed, the senior class treasurer. She said the movie was funny, and she is hopeful the seniors can have more of these events. Senior Victoria Lindner and although she didn't like the movie, said the event was good. Mr. Vega was pleased with the turnout and said it was another successful first for Queens Voc.

Early in the school year, the seniors elected their senior officers: President Darlene Fernandez, Vice President

Geraldine Leibot, Treasurer Alexandria Mohamed, and Secretary Elizabeth Aritonang. "The elections were great, the students did a great job, had a fair campaign, and they're all great people," said Mr. Vega.

Darlene said she ran for president because she has good leadership skills and wants to unite the students. "I feel proud to have won, I put a lot of effort into campaigning even though I only had a day. I felt I deserved to win," she said.

Geraldine said running for the position was important for her senior year. She said she is proud, excited, and happy that people voted for her. "I would like to improve student attendance and participation at events, and make things go smoother so we can have the best senior year," she said.

Alexandria said she ran for treasurer to get involved and because she's good with money. "I am going to make sure everyone's money is organized," she said.

Elizabeth said she ran for secretary, she said because she thinks she has a lot to contribute to this year's senior class. "I wanted to get to know the seniors and make a difference," she said.



*Popcorn Review!*

Still ahead for the seniors are senior luncheon, prom, and graduation. Seniors can help plan, other events and organize outings on their own, but the school won't sponsor them, said Mr. Vega.

#### College Planning

Having fun is not all that seniors are thinking about, many are looking forward to college. The SAT and ACT, two college admissions tests, are important and can influence what college students go to. When registering for these tests, students may be eligible for fee waivers. Students should see Ms. Talley for more information about fee waivers. The students are likely eligible if they are enrolled in a free or

reduced-price lunch program, enrolled in a program for the economically disadvantaged, or if their family receives public assistance. Preparation booklets, guides, and students networking together are recommended in preparing for these tests. "Study, study and study," said Ms. Talley, who believes that students really need to prepare for these important tests. Writing essays will help students prepare for college applications and scholarships.

Ms. Talley said students should take a tour of any colleges they are interested in. When choosing a major in college, students should focus

on their interests or goals. Students can also start college as undeclared majors. "Have a direction, apply for it and go for it," said Ms. Talley.

"All seniors should apply for scholarships," said Ms. Talley, to help fund their postsecondary education. Loans and financial aid can also help. Some websites that include scholarship information are scholarshipexperts.com, fastweb.com, and collegeboard.com. Seniors should apply for FAFSA, which is the Free Application for Federal Student Aid.

"Give it a try, nothing beats a failure until you don't try," said Ms. Talley.

## New Auditorium

### Destined to be a Hit

by Brian Carty

One year ago the auditorium was a bleak and unwelcoming place for student events. The dark walls, dim lights, curtains, drapes, and some broken seats helped create this bleak setting. Some think this was why the school rarely used it.

Fast forward to this year. The auditorium is colorful, the seats are new, and the room is much brighter. This is only a façade, though. There is more than new paint jobs, new seats, and lights. The walls have acoustic sound barriers and new sound equipment and a projector were also installed. There is also wheelchair access to the stage.

The improvements have given the auditorium a look that matches the new section of the school. However, this isn't the end of the auditorium's

remodeling. "We still have a lot of work to do," said Ms. Jarret, the head custodian. There are still precautionary items that must be put in, such as fire extinguishers and handrails, items "you don't think of until you need them," she said.

The newly remodeled auditorium was used as the location to take yearbook pictures, conduct a blood drive, and to see a movie at Queens Voc's very first Senior Movie Night. Some of the SLCs have been having assemblies to keep students up-to-date on their SLC's events. There's more. Mr. Vega, coordinator of student activities, is preparing for a talent show in February. Ms. Jarret estimates the cost of reconstruction to be about \$500,000.



*An assembly in the newly remodeled auditorium.*

## The talent show is coming!



## NEW TEACHERS

### Positive Attitudes & High Expectations

by Darlene Fernandez

Walking down the hallway, you see an unfamiliar face entering a classroom. You wonder, “Who is that?”

There are seven new teachers at Queens Voc this year. Mr. Burkhart, Mr. Elfreich, Mr. Esguerra, Ms. Mak, Ms. Muyudambay, Ms. Panayiotou, and Ms. Roberts are the new unfamiliar faces.

Mr. Burkhart, who teaches English and health, is part of the School of Exploration and Discovery, but also teaches 10th graders. Mr. Burkhart previously worked in IS 10 and PS 151. Queens Voc, he said, is “very enjoyable, the students are respectful and everyone seems to be very professional.” Mr. Burkhart said he “decided to come to Queens Voc because my license is English 7-12 and I felt it was time to change from intermediate to high school level,” he said. During his time teaching at Queens Voc, Mr. Burkhart said, he would like to help students achieve the standards, pass their Regents, and have a positive experience in high school. Even before coming to Queens Voc, he said, he expected that the school population would be professional and pleasurable to with.

Mr. Elfreich teaches English to the students in the School of Exploration and Discovery. He previously worked at Far Rockaway High School for 7 years. Mr. Elfreich was excited from Far Rockaway High School and doesn’t seem unhappy about that at all. “I had no choice to come on the interview, but once I met the supervisors I was sold,” he said. As he started teaching at Queens Voc he expected it to be just as hard as his last school, with students who don’t want to learn and staff members who don’t want to help each other, “but once I arrived at Queens Voc it was the total opposite, I have great students and a friendly staff that is always willing to help.” He added “During my time here, I would like to help my students get a well-rounded education, not just from the books.”

Mr. Esguerra teaches both English and science to 10th graders. This is his third year in New York. He taught for seven years in Chicago and then moved to New York and taught at a small school on the

lower eastside of Manhattan. He moved to Queens and wanted to work at a school close to where he had moved. Mr. Esguerra met Ms. Vittor and Ms. Burg, and he was impressed with what Queens Voc has its students. During his time at Queens Voc, he said, he wants to work well with the students and staff. “When you’re new at a school, you just want to fit in with the staff and do the best you can,” said Mr. Esguerra. Before arriving at Queens Voc, “I expected it to be a school with a little chip on their shoulder. Everyone talks about other schools like Frank Sinatra and Aviation. I feel this school is like the underdog—a school with something to prove full of high expectations and motivation. This school is not just the school behind Aviation anymore,” he said.

Ms. Mak’s subject area is English, but she said, she has also taught economics in summer school. “At Queens Voc, I cover other teachers’ classes most of the time,” she said. Ms. Mak previously taught at an alternative high school district for eight years. She was placed at Queens Voc by the Department of Education, and is looking forward to the

**“I have great students and a friendly staff...”**

challenges this year brings. “They asked me to teach Art, so I hope to do my best learning the material,” she said. Ms. Mak said that when she looked at the name of the school, it said “vocational,” so she knew that Queens Voc is a school that offers students the opportunity to practice different trades. “Students should make good use of this school and what it has to offer because it is very competitive to get a job these days,” said Ms. Mak. “The truth is that you don’t get younger and younger, you get older and older, and what you learn stays with you for the rest of your lives and no one can take that away from you,” she added.

Ms. Muyudambay, who teaches a variety of Math

classes such as Algebra 2, Trigonometry, Geometry, and Intermediate Algebra is the newest teacher at Queens Voc. She is part of the School of Exploration and Discovery, but also teaches 11th graders. She previously taught at Newcomers High School for two and a half years. Ms. Muyudambay wanted to find a school near her home that was convenient for her to get to, so she interviewed at Queens Voc and was accepted. Her experience at Queens Voc so far has been “very good, most of my classes are fine and respectable,” said Ms. Muyudambay. She has very high expectations of her students because of her previous experience at Newcomers. Before coming to Queens Voc she didn’t really know what to expect. “All I knew was that this was a ‘B’ school so I expected it to be a good school with good classes,” said Ms. Muyudambay. “The most important thing I wish to accomplish is to have most of my students pass their Regents,” she said.

Ms. Panayiotou teaches earth science in SSBT. “So far Queens Voc has been great. I’ve met a lot of great people who have been helpful and friendly,” she said. Ms. Panayiotou decided to come to Queens Voc because “Queens Voc is not like an ordinary high school. I thought it would be a great place for a new experience in education.” She said that she would like to help students understand science and learn how it may be used daily. “I hope that I will help students pass their Regents and be successful,” she said. Before Ms. Panayiotou arrived at Queens Voc, she said, she expected it to be an “energetic, educational environment.” She said that she has met a lot of great teachers and students. “I’ve seen a lot of cooperation from students actively involved in school activities and spirit.”

Ms. Roberts teaches social studies to 10th and 11th graders in SSBT. Previously, she taught at Bayside High School. Her experience so far at Queens Voc has been enlightening, she said. “I like that this school prepares you for future careers beyond your high school years,” she said. Ms. Roberts is enjoying her time at Queens Voc, and she can’t wait to see what this year has in store for her. “I would like to prepare my students well enough to pass their Regents and watch them mature and become more responsible.”



**FBLA takes innovative approach to candy sales.**

## FBLA’s Successes

by Ana Montesdeoca

Byron Loja and Neil Kamath went to Anaheim, California in June to participate in the FBLA national competition because of the high scores they earned in April at the state level competition in Rochester, New York.

Byron and Neil were ranked in the top five in the state competition, allowing them to compete at the national level. To help fund their trip, Byron said, he received a \$200 grant from FBLA sponsors and Neil received a \$100 grant to cover for some of the trip expenses. The rest of the expenses of the students were paid by the school.

“I expected the national competition to be more difficult than the state level, since I was facing competitors from all over the country,” said Neil. While visiting California, Byron and Neil were chaperoned by Ms. Mitchell, Queens Voc’s FBLA advisor. They stayed at the Red Lion Hotel. On their time off from competition, they visited Universal Studios, Disney World, and Hollywood. Even though Byron and Neil didn’t score high enough in California to earn a ranking, Byron said he was proud of the work he and Neil accomplished and is going to work hard to do better next time.

To help raise money for their upcoming competition FBLA



**QV street peddlers.**

members Byron Loja, Jarin Rahman, Andrea Sacharsky, Crisheber Soriano, Guadalupe Victoria, and Ms. Mitchell decided to make a chocolate fundraiser on Saturday Dec. 19, and Mr. Vega provided the chocolate boxes for the sale. The fundraiser took place at the corner of 46th St. and 47th Avenue from 11am to 1pm, by standing at the corner they were able to persuade people to buy chocolate and help them raise money for their competition. The profit from the sale will be used to help fund the competition coming up in April.

In April 2009, Luis Fernandez, Neil, Byron, and Asaduz Zaman participated in the FBLA statewide competition held in Rochester, New York. At the state competition, Byron placed second in spreadsheet applications, and Neil placed second place in computer problem solving and fifth place in computers application, qualifying them to compete at the national competition.

This year, in preparation for their competitions, the FBLA members and Ms. Mitchell meet every Tuesday in room 411 during fifth period to work on their business skills.

In the beginning of the school year the FBLA members elected new officers for this year. As part of the election process, the FBLA candidates had to prepare a speech explaining why they should be chosen and what their goals were. The FBLA officers elected for 2009-2010 are: Guadalupe Victoria as president, Crisheber Soriano as vice president, Byron Loja as treasurer, Catherine Velasquez as secretary, Ricky Macklin as reporter, Andrea Sacharsky as historian, and Jarin Rahman as parliamentarian. The other members of FBLA are: Shennel Cole, Fernanda Della Croce, Brenda Jerez, Neil Kamath, Jessica Lliguichuzhca, and Wendao Liu.



# Students Intern to Earn CTE Certification

by Bryan Correa

For students to graduate with their CTE certification, they need to complete a 60-hour internship that is supposed to be related to their major.

Students majoring in computer technology, business, and cosmetology should see Ms. Spallone to arrange their internship and students majoring in electrical installation, plumbing, and electronics should see Mr. Frank

According to Mr. Frank, the companies that provide internships do not take lateness and absence lightly. In many cases two absences will result in the student being fired. “Having an internship is very serious,” said Mr. Frank, who added that students have to commit to fulfilling the 60 hours.

Ms. Spallone thinks the internships are a wonderful requirement. “It gives a student the real world work experience,” said Ms. Spallone.

The purpose of the internships is all about gaining more experience. “The internships shouldn’t be too difficult, a student should have the foundation to be a helper not a technician,” said Mr. Ali.

James Walker, who majors in EI, fulfilled his hours during the previous summer. “It’s way different from school; they expect you to be hard working. They don’t want any slackers,” said James, who interned at City Wide Electrical, where he worked fulltime during the summer. They made him bend and ream pipes, and install outlet and lighting receptacles. “It was the bomb,” he said.

Students who complete all their graduation requirements will their endorsed diploma. Not only do students learn from their 60-hour work experience, they can include this on their resume when looking for a job.

The endorsed diploma also shows that students have work experience in the actual field. With the endorsed diploma, students who graduate will have a better chance to be hired in a job related to their field of study.

But the school can’t always find enough openings for the entire senior class. Sometimes,

students have to arrange their own internships. To do that, the student has to give the company’s business card or contact information to Mr. Frank or Ms. Spallone, who will then contact the owner to make a site visit, meet the people in charge, check if it’s safe, and see if it’s a reasonable distance to commute. If it all goes well, parents of the student then have to agree to the internship.

# Yearbook Committee Hard at Work

by Huang Chen

The senior class yearbook committee has been hard at work compiling pictures of seniors involved in many activities at Queens Voc.

The students developed an original yearbook cover and came up with a unique senior class picture—taken at night from the roof of the school as seniors posed in a “QV” and in a “10” with glow sticks, cell phones, or other illuminating electronics. Senior Ricky Setyo even wore an illuminating shirt. The nighttime picture was part of the seniors’ “blackout” event that coincided with school spirit week’s blackout day.

Prior to the taking of the picture, the seniors ate pizza and listened to music in the cafeteria. Some students were even dancing and break-dancing. The food was paid for with funds raised at the bake sale during parent-teacher conferences.

Ms. DeCarlo and Ms. Green, the new yearbook advisors, meet with students once a week in the school library to work on the yearbook. “We meet after 9th period and leave around 7pm every Monday. There’s so much work to do and always updates. No one’s playing around, there’s always something to fix and we have to keep up with the

deadlines,” said David Lopez, who has been working on the yearbook.

While the groups work on layout and planning when they meet, they all have one job to work on when they don’t meet: taking pictures to add to the yearbook. They then upload the pictures to the yearbook site.

Because this is the first year Ms. DeCarlo and Ms. Green have worked on the yearbook, they, along with the students, need to get used to the programs and materials. “I feel overwhelmed,” said Ms. DeCarlo. “There’s a lot of work but I look forward to it. It’s exciting and I like the challenges it brings.” Patience, Ms. Green said, is required “to learn to use the yearbook website and manipulate it so it works the way you want it to.”

Shanley Porras is having a great time working on the yearbook. “I think it’s a great experience and we built memories in a book for the senior class,” she said.

Each copy of the yearbook will cost about \$75, which many students find expensive. “The yearbook will have a lot of memories, but what we’re getting—a book full of high school memories—is worth the

# June 2009 Regents Results

Exam	Registered	# Took	# Passed	% Passed	% Passed June '08
English Regents	124	80	29	36.30%	50.00%
Global History Regents	211	122	49	40.20%	47.10%
U.S. History Regents	717	614	380	58.60%	65.10%
Algebra Regents	499	380	214	56.30%	67.20%
Geometry Regents	335	335	48	17.40%	N/A
Math B Regents	137	70	17	24.30%	45.20%
Living Environment Regents	495	333	250	75.10%	60.90%
Earth Science Regents	321	194	62	32.00%	34.90%
Chemistry Regents	250	192	42	21.90%	18.00%
Physics Regents	73	52	21	40.40%	45.30%
RCT Reading	40	27	16	59.30%	8.70%
RCT Writing	19	10	9	90.00%	66.70%
RCT Global	47	26	10	38.50%	35.80%
RCT U.S. History	134	58	17	29.30%	24.20%
RCT Math	113	80	44	55.00%	37.60%
RCT Science	102	65	22	33.80%	36.70%

cost,” said senior Neil Kamath.

While Ms. DeCarlo and Ms. Green are the two main coordinators working on the yearbook, other staff and teachers help out during event such as the blackout event. Staff and teachers such as Ms. Wilson, Ms. Ferrara, and Ms. Burg helped setting up, distributing food, and cleaning up the mini-party they had during the blackout, and Mr. Schimenz took to the roof to take the blackout pictures.

The committee has met one major deadline and another is

fast approaching. Their next deadline is to finish the first 50 pages of the yearbook by February 4.

Assisting Ms. DeCarlo and Ms. Green are seniors: Elizabeth Aritonang, Tiffany Banfield, Jennifer Blanco, Ana Cruz, Paola Ferreira, Tania Garcia, Jennipher Hidalgo, Maria Juca, Lakisha Benoit Keitt, David Lopez, Richard Luu, Shanley Porras, Amaris Quiroz, Jazmin Ramirez, Ariela Rodriguez, Gabrielle Rodriguez, Telisha Thompson, Ashley Torres, and Amanda Vasquez.

# School Organizations and Advisors

compiled by Asaduz Zaman

Queens Voc has a variety of clubs and organizations. Here is the list, with the advisors to contact:

Clubs	Advisors
Black History Month	Mrs. Himmel
Break Dancing	Mr. Hammond
Chess Club	Mr. Papadopol
College Now	Ms. Newman
Constitution Contest	Mr. Davidson
Cosmo Clinic	Mrs. Quartuccio / Ms. Lingstuyt
FBLA	Ms. Mitchell
Mock Trial Team	Mr. Davidson
Mouse Squad	Mr. Cintron
Poetry Slam	Mrs. Himmel
Robotics Club	Mr. Ali
School Newspaper	Mr. Schimenz
Senior Class	Mr. Vega
Senior Yearbook	Ms. DeCarlo/ Ms. Green
Skills USA	Mr. Cintron
SPARK	Ms. Kurnitz
Student Organization/ Leadership	Mr. Vega
Work Based Learning	Ms. Spallone
<b>Sports</b>	<b>Coach</b>
Boys’ Bowling, Girls’ Basketball	Mr. Devaux
Boys’ JV Baseball	Mr. Cintron
Boys’ JV Basketball, Girls’ Bowling	Mr. Garofano
Boys’ Soccer	Mr. Ali
Boys’ Varsity Basketball, Co-ed handball	Mr. Maloney
Boys’ Varsity Baseball	Mr. Schimenz
Co-ed Wrestling	Mr. Zambrotta
Girls’ Softball, Girls’ Volleyball	Mr. Boyle



Yearbook staff is producing a book of class memories.



## What it Takes to Graduate

by Michael Corona

Talk to your friends about their graduation requirements and you may find out that the requirements are different from yours.

There are three types of high school diplomas. “The local diploma, which is the most basic, shows that the student is competent in the subjects (English, Science, Mathematics, and Social Studies, Global History, American History) you’ve learned,” said Ms. Dattner, ninth grade guidance counselor. “The Regents diploma shows mastery in the subjects, and the advanced Regents diploma shows mastery in all subjects as well as aptitude in both mathematics and science,” she said.

Over the last couple of years the requirements for receiving a local diploma have changed. Students who entered the ninth grade prior to September 2005 were able to earn a local diploma if they scored a 55 or above in the five required Regents exams (English, math, US history and global history, and science).

Students who entered the ninth grade September 2005 must pass at least two of the required Regents exams with a 65 to earn any diploma and score at least a 55 on the other three.

Students who entered as freshmen in 2006 are required to pass three of the five required Regents exams with a 65 or above and score at least a 55 on the other two.

Students who entered the ninth grade in 2007 must pass four of the five required Regents exams with a 65 or above and score a 55 or more on the fifth exam in order to acquire a local diploma.

Students who entered the ninth grade in 2008 or later, must pass all five required Regents exams with a 65 or above, qualifying them for a Regents diploma, making the local diploma obsolete.

Passing Regents exams isn’t the only requirement to graduate. Students must earn at least 44 credits to graduate from high school. Because Queens Voc is a certified career and technical education school, students are required to earn additional credits to earn their endorsed diplomas.

To graduate, students need eight credits in English; eight credits in social studies (global history, US history,

government, and economics); six credits in science, but four out of the six must be lab sciences; six credits in mathematics; one credit of health, and four credits in physical education (3.5 years).

These numbers can vary depending on the student’s major. Students in SSBT must earn eight credits of math. Students in SCEET must earn eight credits each in math and science. Students in the School of Entrepreneurial Studies SES must also get eight credits each in math and science.

To acquire their certifications in electrical installation, students must receive National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) certification for electrical installation, Copper Network Specialty Certification, and OSHA certification. EI students begin obtaining their NCCER certification in the tenth grade. During their senior year, they earn their Copper Network and OSHA certifications. According to Mr. Ali, “The most difficult task for students to overcome is in the tenth grade, where they are introduced to the NCCER core, because students tend to neglect the importance of NCCER.” They must also complete 60 internship hours of their trade.

Plumbing students’ requirements are similar to those of EI students. Plumbing students must earn the NCCER certification for plumbing, along with the OSHA certification. Mr. Ali said he believes that the most difficult task for plumbing students to overcome is the tenth graders’ lack of interest in learning the NCCER core. These students must also complete 60 internship hours out.

Students in SES—business, cosmetology, and graphic arts—must also complete 60 hours in their trade. Each of the business majors has its own requirements. Web design students graduate with Adobe Certified Associate. They also earn two Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS) Certifications. Accounting students earn National Occupational Competency Testing Institute (NOCTI) Basic Accounting, and they must complete one year worth of college course at LaGuardia Community College. Further, Web Design and Accounting students must earn their Career and Financial Management (CFM) Financial Literacy Certification.

Cosmetology students need to complete 1000 hours of work in class in order to be eligible to earn their temporary cosmetology license; which is the natural hair care and nail technician license, but only by passing their New York State Cosmetology Licensing Exam. Cosmetology students must also obtain their cosmetology NOCTI.

Graphic Arts students need to earn their Adobe Certified Associate degree. According to Ms. Newman, “The toughest challenge for students in SES to overcome is having the proper work place practices and punctuality.”

In SCEET, computer tech students must earn their computer repair A+ certification and Copper Based Networking certification. Students in pre-engineering must also earn the Copper Based Networking certification and the Fiber Optics certification. Students in both of these majors must also complete 60 internship hours. According to Mr. Ali, “The most difficult challenge for SCEET students is to participate and remain attentive.”

## Fire! Fire!

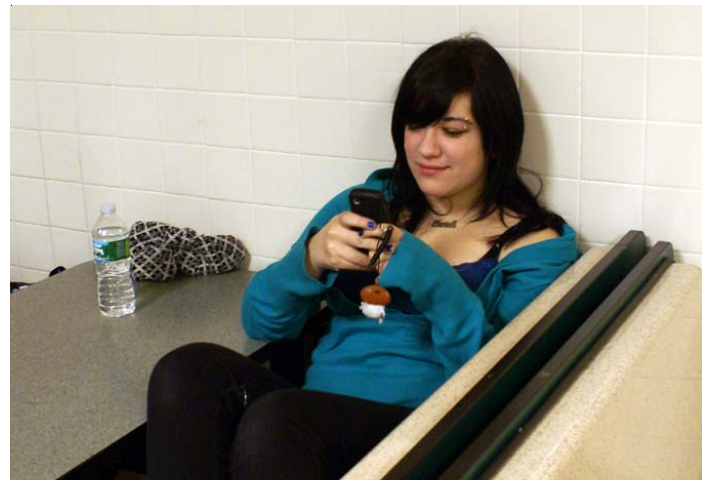
by Jonathan Carvalho

The fire alarm starts to sound but no one moves. Teachers continue to teach, students continue to learn. It’s a false alarm, they think, and there’s no need to worry.

They’ve been right before as an old smoke detector inside the elevator shaft was the problem according to Ms. Jarrett, the school’s custodian. But as of late October, “The smoke detector has been replaced with a brand new one,” said Ms. Jarrett. The smoke detector was recently replaced with a new model.”

The staff that maintains the elevators and fire alarms decided it was best to replace the smoke detector. “The smoke detector was changed from a particle sensor to an ionized sensor,” said Mr. Pat Fevola, part of the school’s custodial staff. “The detector is working fine so far, but the system has to constantly restart.”

“Notice there haven’t been any false alarms after we put in the new smoke detector. Announcements will be made if it’s a false alarm. If not, the alarm should be taken seriously,” said Ms. Jarrett.



*Students text in the cafeteria, in the halls, and in class.*

## School Enacts New Policy on Electronics & Hats

by Kunga Likchung

A student is walking down the hallway, texting on his brand new cell phone. A dean spots him and confiscates the cell phone. That’s a common scenario in the hallways of Queens Voc.

“I have seen students using cell phones and wearing hats in the hallways often and they are always confiscated,” said Mr. Rodriguez, a dean. A new policy on electronics and hats was started this year.

The policy on hats and electronics is written in the NYC Department of Education disciplinary code given to students in their first official class of the year. It says that wearing headgear and bringing prohibited equipment or material such as cell phones, beepers, or other electronic devices to school without authorization is not permitted.

“The policy is unfair and fair at the same time,” said senior Tulio Mesa. “It is unfair because some students need cell phones to contact their parents. It is fair because it takes away our distraction to be able to do our work.”

Mr. Rodriguez said “the policy on hats and electronics is a great strategy. It is fair to both the students and the school.” He has already confiscated many cell phones, doo-rags, iPods, hats, etc this year. “The real world holds few places for adults who cannot conform to social standards,” said Mr. Rodriguez. Without following simple social rules students encounter, they will not move forward in their life.

“I think the policy is good in some ways but it’s not really a big deal,” said Richard Vaz, a senior. He had an incident recently in the cafeteria, where he his hat was confiscated by Mr. Garofano. Richard

defended wearing the hat by saying he was carrying his lunch so he had to wear it. “I did not get a chance to say anything, Mr. G. just walked away; I felt helpless,” he added. He tried to get his hat back for the weekend but was told that he needed to bring his parent. “Items are held here till the parents come to take them,” said Mr. Rodriguez. Richard still does not have his hat; his mother has to work. He was told by Mr. Garofano that the new policy this year prohibits him from giving the hat back. “I was told that there is a new policy this year. The first offense will need a call to a parent, the second offense will need a parent to come to school, and the third offense will require a meeting with a parent.”

Some students think the policy should be more lenient. David Rivera said that the deans “should return our stuff at the end of the day instead of having our parents pick it up. Most of our parents have to work and can’t find the time.”

Mr. Rodriguez believes that “We can improve behavior by being more consistent in our application of the policy. This should prevent many of the small infractions from occurring, in turn stopping the big infractions,” he said



*Hey, take that off!*



## Editorials

### New Auditorium New Uses

**I**t's nice to have the auditorium back. Last year it was being remodeled. This year, it has been used for the school's first-ever Senior Movie Night, our first-ever blood drive, the viewing of history-based movies for SED students during tutoring on Tuesdays, and right now, students are rehearsing for a talent show. The auditorium is finally a showcase for our school. We're glad to see that it is getting a lot of use and we urge our fellow students to take good care of our new auditorium so that we can continue to have more exciting events.

### Improving Communication Should be a Priority

**T**he school newspaper has been a source of information for the students and staff and an educational experience for students in journalism and for others who volunteer on the school paper. Four editions each school year has been the tradition, but this is our first newspaper and we have been told they'll only be one more. "Budget cuts" is what our advisor tells us is the reason. With enough money for new activities and equipment, it seems more about priorities than about money. The school should remember the importance of communicating. As Ashley Torres points out below in the commentary, "Lack of Website Hurts Queens Voc," there are limited ways to communicate. The school website and school newspaper are two of these. They should be more fully supported.

## Lack of Website Hurts Queens Voc

by Ashley Torres

Websites are a way to find out about almost anything — almost anything except for Queens Voc. The school's website, virtually non-existent, lacks important information and has many pages that read "UNDER CONSTRUCTION."

A school's website is vital for prospective parents and students so they can learn about a school and decide if it's a good school to attend. It is one of the places where they should be able to get information. A website shows what a school considers important. Parents and children use school websites to help explore high schools of interest to them.

Students have voiced their concern that Queens Voc's website doesn't give any information, especially on our shops.

Other CTE schools' websites have valuable information that makes a

student's decision to choose a high school less stressful.

Aviation's website consists of their school's accomplishments, classes that are offered, clubs, resourceful college websites, and even frequently asked questions for parents.

Edison has sections of their website for the PTA and seniors.

Newtown's website has contact information for its staff, news and events, and polls that allow the website to be more intriguing to its students.

Mr. Garcia, the graphic arts teacher, is in charge of our website. He began the website two years ago, but is struggling to make progress as he is allotted little time and has little assistance. He needs support. And he needs time to work on the website.

There have been no changes to the website in a long time. That should change. The website should become a priority.

### Vocational Voice

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

## Principal's Message



QUEENS VOCATIONAL & TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

Denise Vittor, Principal

Dear Students:

"Twenty-ten" has arrived! January marks the beginning of a New Year — time for reflection and resolutions. For students and faculty, January also marks the midpoint of our school year — third marking period grades and New York State Regents Examinations. At Queens Vocational & Technical High School, January means time to study for mid-terms, unit tests and Regents examinations. It means time to get those projects completed and make up work that was missed. It is a month marked by industriousness, diligence and perseverance. There is no room for indolence or laziness in January, there is too much at stake.

We are here to help you achieve. As long as you are willing to try, we are here to offer extra assistance. For example, tutoring is available before and after school, make-up Science labs are given once a week all throughout January and teachers are offering make up work to help you learn the content and complete assignments. Don't let the opportunities to excel pass you by. January is a very important month in the school year — second only to June. How well you do in January will determine how difficult June will be. Make it your 2010 resolution to do extremely well in January — in class, on tests, and on Regents examinations.

Let this be the beginning of a very successful "2010" for our Queens Vocational & Technical High School community. Let's adopt an "Aim high, land high" mentality and demonstrate high expectations and excellence on a daily basis.

Sincerely,

Denise Vittor

**Want to see previous editions of the school newspaper? Would you like to see this edition's pictures in color? Go to VocVoice.org**

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



**Mr. Schimenz**  
Main Office



## Book Reviews

by Elizabeth Aritonang

There are some lessons that can only be learned through experience. Many of those lessons are learned as we grow up—through heartbreak, pain, and failure. Teenage novels are the sources of experiences. Some novels are memoirs depicting pasts, some are based on reality and some are conjured up as pure fiction. Nonetheless, these novels have the ability to help teenagers see the world from a different perspective, from another teenager's point of view. Maybe that's why these novels are so popular among teenagers. Teenagers love reading about other teenagers.

### The Burn Journals

*The Burn Journals* is a memoir written by Brent Runyon. He was only fourteen years old when he came home from school, doused his bathrobe in gasoline, and set himself on fire. He had gotten into trouble at school and thought it was the only way out of being punished by his parents and the school. Brent thought he had caused pain to the ones he loved. Causing pain to himself was the only acceptable punishment, he thought.

He suffered from third degree burns over 85 percent of his body. The pages describing his charred flesh and pain are extremely descriptive but, they are nothing compared to his recovery. Throughout the book, he is moved from one hospital and rehab facility to another. During his year of physical recovery, he discovered an emotional journey that needed to be completed. Brent questions what he did to himself and his family. He had injured himself before this. In the end, he explains how this memory will haunt him all his life.

*The Burn Journals* is blunt, hilarious at some points, and surreal. This is a tale of teenage despair and recovery. The author learns many lessons, taking things for granted is one of them. For example, his family is major part of his life and he accepts them more as he recovers. Because many of us will never go through an ordeal like this, when readers have completed the book they're left with many questions for Brent Runyon. He writes this memoir with a specific flair that pulls the reader in. It's like reading a journal that really belongs to someone—without the guilt. I highly recommend this book because it's the type of book a reader would want to finish in one sitting.

### After

*After* by Amy Efaw is a story about Devon. Devon is a fifteen year old girl who finds herself in a juvenile delinquent center, and charged with attempted murder.

Devon was pregnant for nine months and concealed her pregnancy from her mother and friends. She isolated herself from her friends and avoided medical attention. One lonely night, while her mother was at work, Devon delivered her baby all alone in her bathroom. She cut the cord herself. Out of fear and shock, Devon placed the crying infant in a garbage bag. The following morning the baby was found alive by a man walking his dog.

The police investigated and eventually knocked on Devon's door. Devon was curled under a blanket on the couch silently suffering and bleeding. Her oblivious mother invited the police in. Her mother threw off Devon's blanket and she is exposed. Devon was taken to the hospital. The events that got her into the situation are unraveled from that point. Throughout the book, Devon goes back to all the memories that ultimately ruined her life. One memory was of the boy who she had fallen for, all the right lines used at the wrong times. Another memory was of her mother who frequently left her home alone from a young age. Devon also wonders what would have happened if she had actually gone to a doctor or a friend for help instead of insisting nothing was wrong.

Some readers may think Devon knew exactly what she was doing. They may perceive her as a cold hearted selfish baby killer. But some readers may think of Devon as a victim, victim of neglect.

This book has a fascinating plot and ending. But it was as if the author did not transition from one scene to another smoothly. The book also seems to drag on half the time. The other half of the time readers will be begging for Devon to give another detail of the life she led.

Every action has a consequence, that's the lesson in *After*. Sometimes, the world does not see you as just a kid.

### Angela's Ashes

The Pulitzer Prize winning book *Angela's Ashes*, is a memoir written by Frank McCourt about his upbringing. The narrative

briefly takes place in New York, where Frank was born. The family then moves to Limerick, Ireland, where Frank's parents were born. As a child, Frank faced issues such as his father's uncontrollable alcoholism, severe poverty, grumbling hunger, the deaths of his younger siblings, and the constant rain clouds that hang over Limerick. He also had conflicts with people in authority, such as priests and school teachers, because of his poverty.

Frank, who was once mesmerized by his father and his magical storytelling, becomes fully aware that his father was a raging alcoholic. Soon enough Frank starts to ponder upon what will become of him and decides he wants to go to America.

I strongly recommend this book but only to avid readers. This is the type of book that requires a hundred percent attention or else the reader will get confused in the midst of the detailed events. McCourt goes from an immature kid who dreams about fish and chips to a young man uncertain about his future.

*Angela's Ashes* succeeds in telling the reader of the events in Frank's life that helped shaped him into the adult he came to be.

Frank McCourt died July 2009. He had taught English at NYC's Stuyvesant High School. He also taught at New York City Technical College.

## Tech Review

by Juan Hernandez

Windows 7 is finally here. It was released by Microsoft worldwide on October 22.

When compared to its predecessor, Windows Vista, Windows 7 was an awaited and necessary step in computer operating system technology, because Windows Vista had problems with hardware and software configurations. The engineers who worked on Vista seemed to have spent more time working on aesthetics rather than the operating system itself.

New operating systems—programs that manage hardware and software—should make overall computer use easier and improve functionality. Vista didn't.

Windows 7 made improvements on touch, speech, and handwriting recognition. These features allow computers to interact with written or spoken sources of information, such as paper, photos, and touch screens.

Windows 7 supports more virtual hard disks. A virtual hard disk is a hard drive that is fully functional but it is a file formatted to use resources from a physical drive and allows you to use various operating systems from a single hard drive.

The new Windows 7 supports more file formats and has improved multi-core support, which increases the processor productivity since there are multiple processors working simultaneously. Microsoft also improved the boot performance and the Windows kernel, a program that links applications and the actual hardware.

Windows 7 has six versions available for purchase: Starter, Home Basic, Home Premium, Professional, Enterprise, and Ultimate. Most editions of Windows 7 have 32-bit and 64-bit versions included. The starter version comes in 32-bits. As a matter of fact, Starter doesn't have very much. The difference between a 32 and 64-bits is speed, in other words, the term 64-bit means that the operating system is able to use information at 64-bits at one time, making it faster because it addresses more information at the time.

Before trying to install windows 7 on a computer, check to see if the computer meets these requirements:

- For 32-bit: A 1 gigahertz 32-bit processor, 1 GB of RAM, DirectX9 with WDDM driver model 1.0, 16 GB of hard drive space and a DVD drive.
- For 64-bit: A 1 gigahertz 64-bit processor, 2 GB of RAM, DirectX9 with WDDM driver Model 1.0, 20 GB of hard drive space and a DVD drive. The retail is from \$200-320 for full retail and \$120-220 for upgrade retail.

## Student Artwork, Budding Stars

compiled by Gurpreet Kaur

Artistic talents are expressed by Queens Voc students in very distinct and diverse forms. The various methods of creating unique pieces of artwork are conveyed through watercolors, Photoshop, Illustrator, and Indesign. Students practice their skills with Mr. Garcia in room 325.





# Freshmen's First Impressions

by Richard Luu

Nervous, scared, excited, calm. These are just some of the words to describe freshmen as they begin their high school careers. *Vocational Voice* asked freshmen how they felt entering Queens Voc at the start of school.

Questions:

1. How did you first feel about the school when you entered Queens Voc?
2. How did you react when you received your schedule?
3. What do you expect to achieve during the time you are at Queens Voc?
4. What shop are you considering to take as a major?
5. How do you think you will contribute towards this school?
6. Are there any activities you are interested in joining in this school?
7. How do you feel about the transition from junior high school to high school?



**Victoria Noel**

1. I felt like a beginner. And I only knew a couple of people here, but I thought it looked like a nice school.
2. I honestly believed I had good classes, and my day is short, starting from 2nd period to 8th period.
3. I really want to earn a scholarship for college. I would also like to pass and do all of my cosmetology work.
4. I would like to take cosmo for the time I'm here.
5. I was thinking about joining the leadership team, and do what I can to give back towards this school.
6. The girls' volleyball and maybe the leadership team.
7. For the most part high school feels the same as junior high school, except the people here are more mature.



**Raigine Folk**

1. I saw that it was very mixed and there are many varieties of people.
2. When I got my schedule, I was happy because I got out earlier than my friends.
3. The internship hours for electrical installation is one of my priorities before I leave this school.
4. Electrical installation.
5. Well, I kind of want to join the volleyball team.
6. I was thinking about starting my own petition to make a tennis team.
7. In high school, there were more mature people, and it seems like everyone takes their work seriously.



**Vanessa Illera**

1. I felt nervous and excited at first. Nervous, because I didn't know anyone except my brother Jonathan Illera, and excited because it is a new experience for me.
2. [No answer]
3. I really expect to do better in school.
4. I am in cosmetology right now, but I would rather be in the exploratory program.
5. [No answer]
6. No, I am not interested in joining anything in this school.
7. In high school, there are more people, everything is interesting, and of course, there is more drama.



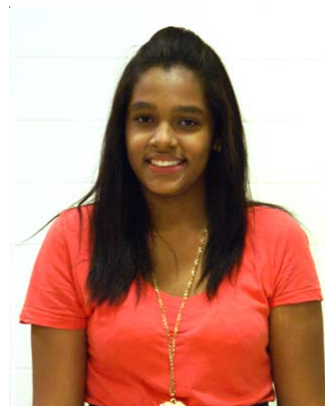
**Kimberly Singh**

1. I felt welcomed to this school, and it felt exciting because I'm finally back in school.
2. After getting my schedule, I was mad because I wasn't with any of my friends. I actually felt nervous to even enter the classes because I would have to meet new people.
3. I expect to get good grades, at least pass my classes, and just graduate.
4. Computer technology.
5. I would not like to contribute anything towards this school.
6. No, I am not interested.
7. There are more experiences to encounter during high school.



**Timothy Kest**

1. I felt like it was a typical day, nothing new.
2. I was mad because my Fridays lasted from 1st period to 9th period, but every other day it is from 2nd to 9th.
3. I expect to make the basketball team, and get the endorsed diploma for the shop I will end up taking.
4. Probably plumbing, but maybe business.
5. If I join the basketball team, I expect to take the team far.
6. The basketball team.
7. I honestly believe the transition is too much of the same.



**Edith Mesa**

1. I was nervous because I didn't know anybody, but then I met up with some of my friends from my old school.
2. When I saw my schedule I thought it was good, but that was only because I didn't know any better about classes.
3. I expect to learn more from my classes and hopefully make new friends.
4. Currently, I'm in cosmetology, but I am changing to the exploratory program.
5. I don't think I can contribute towards this school.
6. When I'm a senior I would like to be in Journalism class.
7. It's about the same but it's just the knowledge that is new.



**Tomas Duarte**

1. When I first walked in, I felt all right, but Queens Voc is much bigger than my old school.
2. I thought it was really cool because my first class began at 10am.
3. I expect to do great in all my classes and pass all my Regents exams.
4. Electronics.
5. Well, I think I'm a good athlete and can help the school's sport teams.
6. I'd like to join the wrestling, soccer, or basketball team, getting into any of them would be nice.
7. It felt really good because at Queens Voc, you are able to learn a specific trade.



**Carlos Ortiz**

1. I felt happy because I noticed there were more girls to talk to.
2. I thought it was the same only because I had the same time schedule as I did in junior high school.
3. Importantly, I want to graduate from Queens Voc.
4. Electrical installation.
5. I would like to try to make this school not annualized, and have different teachers each semester.
6. Nope.
7. Unlike before, in high school there are more girls and it feels more balanced.



**Kevin Foronda**

1. I felt happy because most of my friends went to this school.
2. When I saw my schedule, I realized I had classes with most of my friends.
3. I need to graduate high school at least.
4. Electrical installation.
5. I would like to try to make this school more fun, maybe propose that we go outside for lunch.
6. I want to join the soccer team.
7. At Queens Voc there are more classes to take.

**VocVoice welcomes our newest students!**

**Let us know what you think of our newspaper.**  
**E-mail us at**  
**Letters@**  
**VocVoice.org**



Seniors  
Looking  
Forward

by Jazmin Ramirez

Graduation is a very memorable experience for seniors. Some members of the class of 2010 explain what they look forward to the most about graduation, and what their future plans are. Questions:

1. What do you look forward to the most about graduation?
2. What do you plan to do after you graduate?
3. Do you feel accomplished now that you are about to graduate? Why?



Daniyah Ahmed  
Cosmetology

1. "I look forward to celebrating the last moment together with my treasured friends. I also look forward to finally leaving high school."
2. "I'm going to go to college after I graduate. I plan on becoming a dentist, which will take me eight years."
3. "Yes. I've been on the honor roll for the past four years and I'm getting a regents diploma, so now I feel complete. I also earned really great friends."



Jonathan Urena  
Computer Technology

1. "Being able to say that I'm finally done with a very important part of my life."
2. "I'm going to get a job with my certification and go to college."
3. "Yes I feel accomplished because I'm starting a new adventure in my life."



Tulio Mesa  
Computer Technology

1. "I look forward to going to work with my certification. I also look forward to going to college and studying computer engineering. If that doesn't work out, I look forward to possibly teaching at this school someday."
2. "I want to catch up on my sleep and relax somewhere far away. Once that is over, I'm going to college."
3. "Yes I do feel accomplished that I'm graduating because I actually did better than I expected. I am actually getting



Katherine Iguales  
Cosmetology

1. "Probably being in the same room with all my friends for the last time."
2. "I am going directly to college for culinary arts."
3. "I do feel accomplished because high school might not have been as hard as college will be, but I feel it has prepared me for it, so I do feel accomplished."



Hermilo Ortega  
Business

1. "I look forward to walking down the aisle and receiving my diploma. I also look forward to making my parents proud."
2. "I plan on taking a year off before college and work."
3. "Yes, because I am going to be the first person in my entire family to graduate from high school."



Freddy Gomez  
Business

1. "Having one last moment with my friends and showing everyone the achievements that I have earned these past four years."
2. "Going to college to study accounting and business."
3. "I feel very accomplished because I have learned a lot."



Amiee Oggeri  
Graphic Arts

1. "Maturing. I also look forward to having a more organized and interesting life outside of high school."
2. "Going to college and moving out of my parents' house."
3. "Yes, because I am able to pass all my classes and graduate on time, unlike others who slack off senior year and graduate late."



Jessica Riera  
Cosmetology

1. "I look forward to walking up the stage and finally turning the tassel to the other side of my cap. I will finally be able to complete a very important goal in my life."
2. "I am going to go to college and try to become a teacher as soon as possible. I plan on working part time. I would also like to move out of my parents' house."
3. "Yes because it took a lot of hard work. This school is special, so I know I worked twice as hard as people in other schools. It was worth the hard work."

Websites of Interest

compiled by Rodney Estevez

The world wide web is a virtual maze. Sometimes it's hard to find a helpful or enjoyable website. Here are some websites that students and teachers of Queens Voc find interesting:

Sports

psal.com- High school sports standings  
nba.com- NBA  
nfl.com- NFL  
mlb.com- MLB  
qvtigers.org- Queens Voc varsity baseball

Movies/Games/Shows

imdb.com- Movie database  
start2enjoy.com- Movies  
addictinggames.com- Online games  
hulu.com- Movies and TV shows

Animations/Video

orangepants.net- Videos and animations  
youtube.com- All types of videos - educational to completely hilarious  
vimeo.com- High definition videos  
metacafe.com- Movie trailers  
break.com- Funny videos  
newgrounds.com- Animation series  
nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/surgeryvideos.html- Surgery videos  
Blogs/Communication/Entertainments/News  
facebook.com- Connect with the people  
ning.com- Create and join networks of interest  
aim.com- Chat with friends and check your email  
gmail.com- Check your email  
msn.com- Check your email  
alternativeto.net- Software alternatives  
flu.gov- Flu updates  
openwith.org- Open files with right software  
html-pdf-converter.com- Convert web pages to PDFs  
911tabs.com- Guitar tabs  
recipezaar.com- Cooking recipes

School Related/Research

queensvoc.org- School website  
vocvoice.org- School newspaper  
thinkfinity.com- Teacher lesson plans  
engrade.com- Digital grade book  
regentsprep.org- Regent prep  
pptpalooza.net- History PowerPoints  
fee.org- Foundation for Economics Education  
winningideasweekend.org- Winning Ideas  
nychsj.org- New York City Scholastic Press Association  
studystack.com- Flash cards  
www.sigmaxi.org/eneews/signup.htm- Science newsletters  
babelfish.yahoo.com- Language translator  
xe.com- Universal money converter  
digitaldutch.com/unitconverter- Universal unit converter  
robotigers.phpnet.us- Queens Voc robotics team

Students or staff members who have suggestions—including their own websites—for inclusion in the next edition should email the suggestion to editor@vocvoice.org

Who's the Teacher?

by Lisbeth Collado

Teacher 1

This teacher went to school in Boston, which explains why he is a Red Sox fan. He secretly loves to sing karaoke and was born on Valentine's Day.

Teacher 2

This teacher likes to run for fun. She teaches Math B and is know for saying "One more problem."

Teacher 3

This person creates circuits in his class. He enjoys to "press" students and jokes around a lot.

Teacher 4

This person is very sarcastic. She is in her second year teaching English. She has a guinea pig named Stew.

Answer:

(4) Ms. Ridge  
(3) Mr. Raushan  
(2) Ms. Nguyen  
(1) Mr. MacDonald



Aries

(March 21 - April 20)

Right now you are lonely, but soon there will be someone for you. Don't lose hope. If you already have someone, hold on to him or her. Don't make careless mistakes.

Taurus

(April 21 - May 21)

Right now you are doing better than you have done in a while. You'll be at your best at whatever you are doing. Just remember to stay focused. Don't get too flooded with ideas on where your life is going.

Gemini

(May 22 - June 21)

Times are tough. Try to strive through these turbulent times.

Try to focus on one action at a time. Don't get too preoccupied with another train of thought. Don't give up these tough times will soon be over.

Cancer

(June 22 - July 22)

The world keeps spinning don't let that one person get to you. Keep pushing forward and you will forget about that one person that haunts your mind.

Virgo

(August 23 - September 23)

You may feel as if everything is going downhill for you lately. But the more you think that way, the worse it gets. Start to think positively and life will get better. Spend some time with friends

and family, and get your mind off your problems.

Horoscopes

by Rodney Estevez

Libra

(September 24 - October 23)

Don't overlook the people who really care about you. Some people are just in your life for now, but stick to the people who have always been there for you. If you do so, love will continue to surround you.

Scorpio

(October 24 - November 22)

Although you are facing tough times and horrible days you will soon see some relief. Organize your life, get yourself together. Do not let others get you down. At this time, it is crucial for you to stay around close friends and family to help you out in these times.

Sagittarius

(November 23 - December 21)

At this point in your life you can try anything. You will likely be successful. Keep doing what you are doing and you continue to succeed. This time is also good for finding love in your life, as you are feeling romantic lately.

Leo

(July 23 - August 22)

People love you. At this point in life you can be the sweetest person many of your friends know. But sometimes they take advantage of your kindness. You have to put your guard up. If you feel someone has taken advantage of you, don't forget to forgive.

Aquarius

(January 21 - February 19)

Shine with greatness. Approach every angle of your life with a positive attitude. This is happening because you are more active in your life. It could be at school, work or even your personal life. If you keep looking at life so positively, this will continue.

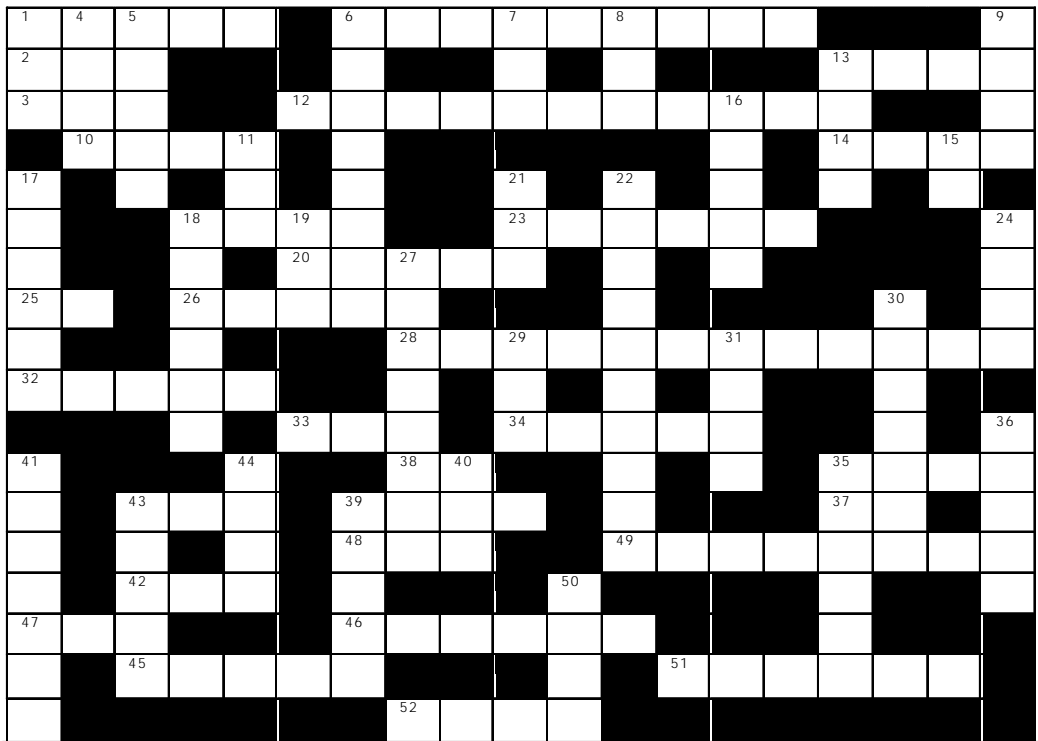
Pisces

(February 20 - March 20)

You are feeling particularly social lately, so take advantage of it. Go out to a party or event, and make some new friends. You'll be the life of the party, and maybe even make some lifelong pals.

Crossword Puzzle

by Trent Petrus



ACROSS

1. Musical instrument, meaning soft
2. Doesn't mix with water; Olive\_\_\_\_
3. Hit lightly; strike
6. "I'm ready!"
10. Head is to hat, as foot is to \_\_\_\_\_
12. Hawaiian military base
13. Keyboard strokes; kind
14. Extremely small; element
18. Place of dwelling, crib
20. Planes, \_\_\_\_\_ & automobiles
23. Relax
25. "\_\_\_\_phone home"
26. Large wild animal; brute
28. The end of the world
32. Calm, motionless, quiet
33. Tiny, roughly built house
34. Furniture to work on, eat
35. A message on display; write a signature
37. Identification
38. Towards the sky
39. To retype; photoshop, fix up
42. First\_\_\_\_kit

43. Drinking container
45. Full contact sport played in Australia
46. The last air bender
47. \_\_\_\_ Wan Kenobi
48. Look; Peek a boo I\_\_\_\_you
49. These extinct reptiles ruled the Earth
51. Video game involving stacking blocks
52. Batman and Spider-man wear these

DOWN

1. Cooking container
4. International Institute of Advanced Studies
5. \_\_\_\_\_ and Omega
6. Jordan's, Nike, Etnies
7. American football
8. Estimated Time of Arrival
9. There's no 'I' in \_\_\_\_\_
11. How you think of yourself; self esteem
- 13.Used to carry food to a table
15. Over doing it

16. Wears a Velcro suit; AKA Borat
17. Known for abductions; UFO
18. To limp or stagger
19. Metropolitan Transit Authority
21. The Biggest thing in our Solar System
22. Silvester's enemy/lunch
24. I threw a clock out the window to see \_\_\_\_\_ fly
27. Mood; manner
29. The act of chewing food
30. The Sunshine State
31. Row or rank
35. Female sibling
36. Loud breathing during sleep
39. We all hate these; Intro, Body, Conclusion
40. Pastry dessert; American\_\_\_\_\_
41. Colorful rubber bags filled with air
43. Seat
44. Mp3 player
50. Recreational area; playground

Word Scramble

by Edward Salas

Directions: Unscramble these terms associated with Queens Voc.

1. GESTIR

2. NOVCA TLIOA

3. SOTOMCLYEOG

4. CTREEICSLON

5. MNGBLUPI

6. GIRCSAHPATSR

7. NEUSSSBI

8. CTEEALRILC ILLAANNSTTO

9. TOPRUCME HYNECOOTLG

10. OCVOEVIC

11. KILSLS SAU

12. EUSMOAQDUS

1. Tigers, 2. Vocational, 3. Cosmetology, 4. Electronics, 5. Plumbing, 6. Graphics Arts, 7. Business, 8. Electrical Installation, 9. Computer Technology, 10. Voc Voice, 11. Skills USA, 12. MOUSE Squad





## Check Out These Melodies

by Richard Luu

### 21st Century Breakdown

by Green Day

Yes, they have returned. The very popular, yet very controversial band, Green Day, has made a comeback with their new hit album, *21st Century Breakdown*, their first album since the release of *American Idiot*, in 2004, and their 10th album in nearly twenty years. If you're already a fan of the band, the album won't disappoint, and if you're new to Green Day, you may become a fan for a very long time.

The album is unique in its presentation, and sets a different vocal style for the band. The album is divided into three acts, each setting a different tone and story. The songs have an interesting sequence, but listeners lose this feature if they listen to the album in shuffle mode. The acts in *21st Century Breakdown* will make people more appreciative of the effort that went into making this.

Fans of Green Day will notice the band has evolved from punk to pop rock. And the new riff of the band really broadcasts their range of music.

Green Day is not a band that's afraid to tell it as it is, for they base most of their songs on American democracy, religion, and drugs, *21st Century Breakdown* is no exception. It features themes of war, getting high, and a sense of anti-religion.

*21st Century Breakdown* is worth a listen. People who already know of Green Day will enjoy the experience. It's a great album and I guarantee that many of the songs will cycle through your head long after you're done listening.

### Relapse

by Eminem

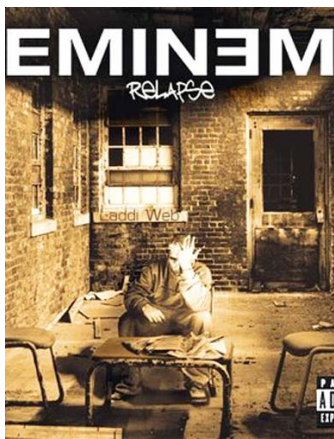
It has been a long-awaited return for one of the most talented rappers alive. Eminem left retirement to continue excelling as a rapper. His latest album, *Relapse*, is Eminem's official return to rapping. After four years of retirement, does Eminem still have what it takes to satisfy the crowd? The answer is yes.

*Relapse* demonstrates the continuing talent of Eminem, although it is nothing compared to his previous albums and songs. People

familiar with Eminem will notice many of his themes are repeated from previous albums. One such example is his mom, who has been mentioned through many songs. Yet, his songs have still not gone out of style.

Eminem brings out emotion in each and every song. A majority of his songs are hilarious. Others are sad and disturbing. His song "My Mom," for instance, describes his life as a child, and how he was abused by his mom. It's a song that will make jaws drop, and listeners "oh"-ing in astonishment.

Eminem is been known for saying what he wants to say. He is not afraid about offending people, and the album will



probably offend many listeners with its sexist and racist themes. But if you can take a joke, you'll laugh with him. *Relapse* is definitely not for those who are offended easily.

*Relapse* is an album many listeners will remember. It will make people laugh, get enraged, and maybe even start crying. If you're a long time listener of Eminem, you'll know this is not his best album, but it is still enjoyable. If this is the first time you'll hear Eminem, be prepared to get stunned.

### Oh Yeah

by Jaicko

In terms of known, accepted artists, many people will question who Jaicko is. But this young artist will gain popularity over time with the release of his debut single *Oh Yeah*.

*Oh Yeah* consists of two songs called "Oh Yeah," and "Oh Yeah (Remix)." Both songs are catchy and have a nice tune to them. Jaicko sang *Oh Yeah* as a light-hearted album, one that will make people smile while listening to it. The songs themselves are very light and

soothing, making him fall under the category of contemporary R&B artist.

*Oh Yeah* features a theme of success (maybe foreshadowing his expectation of his own career). In the song, he has the money, the girls, and plenty of friends, all from singing the phrase, "Oh Yeah."

Jaicko has most of the basics down, such as being catchy and having charm. Hopefully, there is much more news and popularity from Jaicko in the near future.

### More Than a Game

by various artists

*More Than a Game* is the inspired album from the documentary film *More Than a Game* starring LeBron James. Many may consider it an emotional, inspirational movie, but does the album match up with the emotions of the film?

*More Than a Game* features a handful of artists, many of them already known on the billboards, such as Jay-Z, Drake, Jordin Sparks, Mary J. Blige, and Soulja Boy Tell'em.

The album contains mainly rap and hip hoppers, many of which were unsatisfying, even fewer were memorable. In an effort to use so much emotion, the songs feel forced and unnatural. Many rap and hip hop songs make you think emotionally, but *More Than a Game* felt fake in emotion, and bombards listeners with the theme of inspiration. Listeners may have a hard time getting into that inspirational mood (or even a relaxed mood) listening to this album.

*More Than a Game* is an album listeners should try before purchasing or downloading. It is a dull album, full of unwilling emotion. *More Than a Game* might be a star studded album, but don't be fooled, the album doesn't demonstrate any talents.

## Video Game Reviews

by Cesar Liang

### Call of Duty Modern Warfare 2

More than two years after the first release of the top-selling game of 2007, Call of Duty 4 Modern Warfare, Infinity Ward released the most anticipated game of 2009, Call of Duty Modern Warfare 2, in November.

Call of Duty 4 Modern Warfare ended when Captain Price slid his pistol to Sergeant "Soap" MacTavish, who fired at Zakhaev and his two guards, killing them. Vladimir Makarov, former lieutenant of Zakhaev led several acts of terrorism against Europe.

CoD MW 2 is a first-person shooter war game. The player plays as Private Joseph Allen, United States Army Ranger. He joins Task Force 141, a counter terrorist unit led by General Shepherd. In the story, Private Allen is sent to Russia as an undercover spy for the CIA to gather information from Makarov.

The online multi-player is where CoD MW 2 really stands out with the same experience points and unlockable weapons system as Call of Duty 4. A new feature added to the multiplayer is host migration. If the host leaves in the middle of the game, the game doesn't end; a new host is selected to continue the game. Perks can be upgradeable to pro versions with enhance power ups. In addition, 15 different kill streak rewards can be unlocked and players can acquire rewards from killing streaks such as nuke after 25 kill streaks.

Spec Ops is a new mode for CoD MW 2. With it, players can play at various difficulty settings. CoD MW 2 is a great game with an awesome

multiplayer feature that can keep you entertained for hours online. Rating 9.0/10

### Left 4 Dead 2

Left 4 Dead 2, released in November, is an aftermath of the zombie epidemic striking the southern United States. There are only four survivors, who use weapons to defend themselves from the rampaging zombies' strikes.

L4D2 is a first-person shooter relying on cooperative game-play with players playing the survivors.

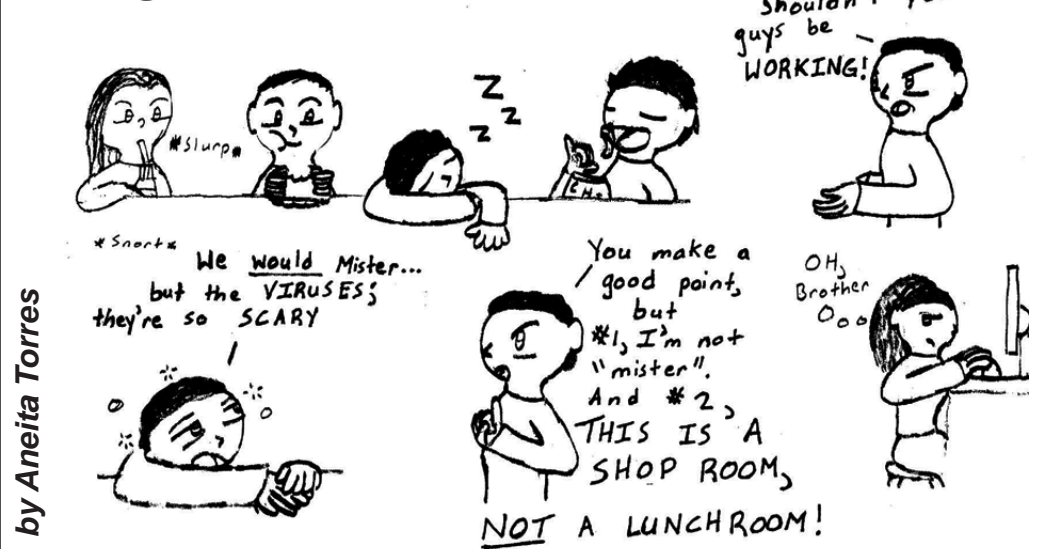
The four survivors are Coach, high-school football coach; Rochelle, a production assistant for a local television station; Ellis, a mechanic; and Nick, a gambler and con-man.

After a week of Left 4 Dead, the survivors find themselves abandoned by the helicopters after reaching the roof of the hotel in Savannah and so travel on foot toward the mall, on the rumor that it is being used an evacuation site. But the mall is infested by hordes of zombies. The four survivors escape from the mall using a stock car heading to New Orleans.

L4D2 consists of five campaigns with four or five smaller maps, and the survivors must reach the safe house. After reaching the last stage, the survivors call for rescue and hordes of zombies' assault the area while the survivors await their rescuers.

The development of artificial intelligence in Left 4 Dead 2 changes the game scenario for the players. L4D2 also introduces new main weapons and melee weapons such as baseball bat, chainsaw, or frying pan. The online "versus mode" has a maximum of eight players can either play as zombies or humans. Left 4 Dead 2 will entertain those who seek cooperative and online playing. 8.5/10

## Aneitas Artwork





# Student Goals

by Elizabeth Aritonang

At the start of every new school year, students rush into the school buzzing with excitement. Many students are interested in joining clubs, making new friends, and even simply going to their classes. All of those plans revolve around their goals. *Vocational Voice* asked students three questions regarding their goals.

Questions:

1. What one goal you would like to accomplish by the end of this school year?
2. How are you going to achieve this goal?
3. What is one long term goal you would like accomplished by the end of high school?



**Amiee Oggeri,**  
Senior, SES

1. "I want to join yearbook and make it look better than it did last year, with better spelling and stuff."
2. "To be more creative and adding variety. I don't want the same people on every page."
3. "I want to get into a good college. And I want to get a new Xbox 360."



**Taha Hatab,**  
Sophomore, SSBT

1. "I want to join the honor society."
2. "By getting good grades and paying attention in class."
3. "I would like to have a lot of friends and get into a good college, like a CUNY college."



**Marissa Desimone,**  
Sophomore, SES

1. "Having a 90 average."
2. "By actually paying attention in class."
3. "Grow a few inches."



**Jeremy Vargas,**  
Freshman, SED

1. "Pass math."
2. "I am going to study."
3. "Graduate from Queens Vocational and become an electrician."



**Steffi Garcia,**  
Junior, SES

1. "High score on my SATs."
2. "Doing all my work in class."
3. "Scholarships and getting into NYU."



**Yanniss Pascal,**  
Freshman, SED

1. "To pass freshman year."
2. "By doing homework and class work."
3. "Get accepted to college and be a basketball player in the school."



**Elliot Felix,**  
Junior, SSBT

1. "I'd like to move on and try new things. I'd like to explore my options with union and carpentry."
2. "By staying in school and working harder than I've ever worked before."
3. "To not get suspended anymore."



**Geovanny Duy,**  
Sophomore, SSBT

1. "I'd like to make more friends, I guess."
2. "Hanging around in lunch and meeting more people."
3. "Graduate with an advanced Regents diploma and become captain of baseball and bowling."



**Christian Miranda,**  
Senior, SES

1. "One of the things I would like to accomplish aside from passing all my classes would be to have a set career in mind for college."
2. "I believe I can achieve this goal by taking certain college preparation classes and deciding what best interests me."
3. "I'll just go with the generic response, to graduate high school and to leave this place forever."



**Pasquale Fevola,**  
Junior, SCEET

1. "Learn to hack computers and make the perfect crème brûlée."
2. "By teaching myself and watching the food network."
3. "I want a job at Best Buy and Cold Stone Creamery."



**Marc Richards,**  
Senior, SSBT

1. "Besides graduating, I'd like to be on top of the leader boards for Call of Duty, a video game I've been playing."
2. "By playing everyday."
3. "To obtain a driver's license."

## TV SHOW REVIEWS

by L.A. Loy

**Modern Family**  
Wednesday 9pm on ABC  
4.5 out of 5 stars

The 2009 fall season was loaded with sitcoms such as FX's *The League*, ABC's *Hank*, and Fox's *Brothers*. But one show that is far ahead of the race is ABC's *Modern Family*.

Claire Dunph and her husband Phil Dunphy, have three kids. Phil plays the "cool dad," which often backfires. In the pilot episode, Phil introduces himself to the viewers by saying "I'm hip, I surf the web, I text. LOL: Laugh out loud. OMG: Oh my God. WTF: Why the face?"

*Modern Family* is a great, funny show because it offers a comic relief for all kinds of audiences such as parents and kids. It does a great job balancing between each character and not leaving any of them as the "boring one."

**Jeff Dunham Show**  
Thurs. 9pm on Comedy Central  
2 out of 5 stars

Ventriloquist Jeff Dunham found huge success in 2008 when his Christmas special was aired on Comedy Central. Now, Comedy Central has given Dunham his own show: a weekly half-hour show about Dunham's wooden puppets. The show starts out with the audience applauding as Dunham takes the stage with a puppet in his hands. He then tells a couple of jokes and switches to taped segments about his puppets.

Jeff Dunham's puppets are stereotypical and unkind. There is Walter, a grumpy old bigot who sometimes makes homophobic remarks. Another puppet, Achmed the Dead Terrorist, is a skeleton wearing a turban with a heavy accent and a catchphrase "I kill you!" Then there is Bubba J, a beer drinker with a massive overbite who is obsessed with guns.

**The Cleveland Show**  
Sunday 8:30pm on Fox  
3.5 out of 5 stars

The *Cleveland Show* is the new spin-off of *Family Guy*, where Cleveland Brown, moves from Quahog, RI to Stoolbend, VA, along with his son, Cleveland Jr., after his divorce from Loretta.

"What the hell? He's getting his own show?" shouts Stewie from *Family Guy*. I must admit the creators of *Family Guy* and *American Dad* did something unexpected here. Not Quagmire, or the paraplegic Joe Swanson, or Mayor Adam West, or even Herbert the Pervert. They chose the easygoing deli owner who couldn't even get angry when he found out his friend was sleeping with his wife.

Overall, *The Cleveland Show* is a decent comedy. The show is perfectly aired at the right time before *Family Guy* and *American Dad*. The *Cleveland Show* is a great starter for viewers looking to end their Sunday night with a series of McFarlane's great comedy shows.



# Inquiring Photographer

by Huang Chen

What would you do if there were an alien invasion?

**Shane Chandan**  
Junior - C-Tech



I would go outside and take pictures. I wouldn't be scared and I would think it's pretty cool. I would try to be friends with them and convince them to do human stuff.

**Paola Hernandez**  
Junior - Electronics



I would attack the aliens, then enslave them and make them work for me.

**Federico Fortuny**  
Senior - Electronics



I would put on my Halloween costume and pretend to be one of them.

**Have a better question?**  
**Tell us.**  
**Editor@VocVoice.org**

**Meheraj Abedin**  
Senior - C-Tech



I would ask the aliens if they have super powers like DBZ. If they do I will ask them to teach me.

**Raynier Leroux**  
Freshmen - Exploratory



I would find the nearest exit or window, and jump to escape as far as I can.

**Nicole Alvarez**  
Freshmen - Exploratory



I would try to leave the planet.

**Larry Serna**  
Sophomore - Plumbing



I don't know. I would probably fight back.

**Alex Bermejo**  
Sophomore - E.I



I would run and get the hell out of here.

**Ashley Colwell**  
Junior - Cosmetology



I would become friends with them so I can survive in the end.

**Sal Isabella**  
Sophomore - E.I



I would freak out. I would try to kill them.

**Marva Jones**  
Sophomore - E.I



I would run. If I get caught I would shake hands with them, make them laugh, try to become friends to prevent them from killing me. If it doesn't work I will tell them to look another way and run.

**Jennypher Hidalgo**  
Senior - Business



I would go to my basement and never come out.

**Hassly Marquez**  
Sophomore - Business



Try to get help from the government so they could take actions.

**Mario Niola**  
Sophomore - Plumbing



Run to my basement.

**Carmelo Colon**  
Senior - Electronics



I would gather up my loved ones, make an escape route, and if possible observe if they are friendly. If not, I would escape to Brazil and make babies.

**Anamaria Tellez**  
Sophomore - Cosmetology



I would hide anywhere, like in a small place where no one knows, maybe another country or small colony.

**Maria Perez**  
Freshmen - Cosmetology



I would go to another country and live there for a while.

**Alyssa Morales**  
Senior - Business



I will try to find a secure place for me and my family.

**Ariela Rodriguez**  
Senior - Cosmetology



I would party with them. I would invade anyone that I don't like and party after with

**Check out the school newspaper in color. Go to VocVoice.org**



# You Think *You*’ve been Embarrassed?

by Franklin Panora

Here’s an inside look at some events that embarrassed Queens Voc teachers and students.

**Mr. Cintron** - SCEET

“My most embarrassing moment was during my first year teaching at Queens Vocational when I arrived half an hour late to parent-teacher conferences. The previous principal, Mr. Serber, caught me sneaking up the staircase and he reminded me that the conferences started at six. When I arrived to my room, there was a long line of parents waiting for me.”

**Ms. Maraj** - SCEET

“My most embarrassing moment occurred during the winter, my boots were wet because of all the snow on the ground. I was commuting from work to school on the train and there were no seats. I was trying to hold onto the pole inside the train while reading a book for class. The train made a sudden stop and I fell forward. I was so embarrassed because no one else fell down or even leaned over.”

**Mr. McCarthy** - SSBT

“Four years ago, I was driving upstate with some friends on the New York State Thruway. I wasn’t paying much attention as I drove through the toll gate not knowing that the EZ pass toll lane wasn’t working and smashed through the gate with my truck. I had nothing else to do but to wait for the cops to come and explain what happened.”

**Mr. Papadopol** - SCEET

“During my first year teaching, the students in my Earth Science class weren’t complying with me. I thought they were mocking my teaching since I was a new teacher, so I punished them needlessly. To my surprise, I learned from another teacher that my class had learning disabilities. I would say this was my most embarrassing moment.”

**Marilynn Bonilla** - SED

“Well the most embarrassing thing that happened to me was when there was a paper on the floor, and I slipped in front of the whole class, and the kid I liked a lot saw this happen. Everyone laughed, and I tried to play it off and laughed too.”

**Denisse Carbo** - SED

“My most embarrassing moment was when I confused Queens Voc for the school right

next to ours, PS 199. I felt really dumb after my friend and I stood there and the principal told us that we were at the wrong school.”

**Heather Clarke** - SED

“My most embarrassing moment was when I slipped and fell into the pool while walking along the edge. Everyone laughed and pointed at me.”

**Seida Muratovic** - SED

“My most embarrassing moment happened in my junior high school. I was wearing high heels when I tripped and rolled down the stairs in front of everyone. I was embarrassed because my friends laughed at me and everyone stared at me.”

**Sylvester Nimako** - SCEET

“At my old school I was walking down the stairs and I tripped. I was embarrassed because no one helped me up. Everyone just laughed.”

**Julio Sempertagui** - SCEET

“A couple of Halloweens ago, I thought that Halloween was on the 30th, and I got all dressed up and came to school in my costume. After being in school for a while, I noticed that it wasn’t Halloween and I was the only one dressed up.”

**Luis Osperodo** - SCEET

“One day I was really sleepy in class and I kept tipping over. I was leaning to one side and I fell to the ground. Ms. Rejalaga was shocked and the whole class laughed.”

**Ariel Obando** - SCEET

“I was in 4th grade when I asked the teacher to use the bathroom. The teacher said ‘no’ and I peed in my pants and left a puddle. Then she let me go to the bathroom, and I still had to pee. Some kid in the hall said, ‘that kid pissed on his pants,’ but I said, ‘No, it’s just a new style of jeans.’”

**Samantha Rivera** - SSBT

One day I was in class and the entire class was talking. The teacher put me on the stop by saying ‘settle down boys and girls — and Samie.’”

**Joshua Tome** - SSBT

I was in the cosmo room getting a manicure. It was very quiet so I tried to make small talk with the girl who was doing my nails. The first thing that came out my mouth was ‘What major are you in?’”

**Catherine Velasquez** - SES

“Last summer, I was trying to skateboard in the park when I looked up and noticed a lot of people were looking at me. The next thing you know, I’m on the

ground flat-faced.”

**Ariel Avila** - SSBT

“The most embarrassing moment for me was when I went to the park to try out for the baseball team, freshman year. We were going back to the parking lot and there was this wooden thing that everyone was jumping over. I tried to jump over it and fell on my face.”

**Benary Castro** - SSBT

“It was raining and the street was wet while I was riding my bike and I slid down and my shirt ripped in half.”

**Christian Miranda** - SES

“I was talking to my friend, and as we were saying ‘later,’ I tripped over a fire hydrant and fell flat on my face.”

**Guadalupe Victoria** - SES

“Last winter when the sleet froze, I was walking around in the basketball courts and I slipped and I slid across the courts.”

## Movie Reviews

by Jonathan Carvalho

**The Twilight Saga: New Moon**

Rated PG 13      Rating - 3/5  
Based on the novel, *New Moon*, *The Twilight Saga: New Moon* becomes the second movie from the Twilight series. The fantasy romance has a lot of drama which captures the attention of young teens.

Bella Swan, played by actress Kristen Stewart, falls in love with vampire Edward Cullen, played by Robert Pattinson. But for Bella’s protection, Edward decides to end the relationship and leaves town. She is heartbroken but begins to fall in love with Jacob Black, a werewolf, played by Taylor Lautner. The movie becomes a very dramatic love triangle and becomes a problem to the beliefs of both the vampire and werewolf race.

It would be better to see the first movie, *Twilight*, or to read the book series before viewing this latest movie to know more about the characters and their personalities. The movie tends to be more dramatic than it has to be and becomes dull, yet the ending left me hungry for more of the *Twilight Saga*.

**The Blind Side**

Rated PG 13      Rating - 3.5/5  
Based on the book, *The Blind Side: Evolution of a Game*, *The Blind Side* movie characterizes a true story of a pro football player.

## WORD SEARCH

by Michael Corona

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

ACCOUNTING  
BUSINESS  
COMPUTER REPAIR  
COMPUTER TECH  
COSMO  
ELECTRICAL  
ELECTRONICS  
EXPLORATORY  
GRAPHICARTS  
MAJORS  
PREENGINEER

PLUMBING  
QUEENS VOC  
ROBOTICS  
SCEET  
SCHOOL  
SKILL  
SED  
SES  
SSBT  
TIGERS  
WEB DESIGN

On the streets at 18 years old, Michael Oher, played by Quinton Aaron, faces a lot of problems. Some are solved when the Tuohy family takes him into their home. Leigh Anne Tuohy, played by Sandra Bullok, and Sean Tuhoy, played by Tim McGraw, helps fulfill Oher’s dreams by encouraging him to focus on his school work and his talents. Oher begins to realize his talent as a football player and pursues his love for the sport.

*The Blind Side* is a movie for the whole family. Compared to Sandra Bullok’s performance in other movies, she played her character well, incredible determination, which really helps the movie succeed. *The Blind Side* also brings up prejudice towards blacks, reminding the viewers of their hardships in a white society. The start of the movie could have been more interesting. A dramatic sport movie with a hint of comedy and an inspirational touching story of a football player, *The Blind Side* is a very good movie to watch.

**Avatar**

Rated PG 13      Rating – 4.5/5  
Directed by James Cameron,

*Avatar* brings a whole new meaning to visuals and animation in a movie with a very interesting plot.

Set in the future, a disabled ex-marine war veteran is brought to a new planet called Pandora, home to the Na’vi. The Na’vi, a blue-skinned species taller and stronger than humans, live in harmony with nature. Jake Sully, played by Sam Worthington, is sent to gain the trust of the Na’vi, becoming one of them with his own Na’vi avatar. Over a period of time, Jake learns the ways of the Na’vi and becomes attached to their lifestyle. War breaks out with the human race and Jake chooses to fight with the Na’vi to defend their home.

*Avatar* has stunning visuals, but the movie can also be seen in 3D which has a whole new experience. Breath-taking graphics brings the movie to life. *Avatar* is thrilling and has a very entertaining plot. I was surprised how good this movie is and wouldn’t mind seeing it over and over again. Recommended to the whole crowd and lasting about 150 minutes, the science fiction movie *Avatar* is a must see.



# Why Did Freshmen Apply to Queens Voc?

by Jazmin Ramirez

What separates Queens Voc from all the other high schools? Why is it that freshmen decided to come to our school? Some freshmen decided to tell us.

Questions

1. Why did you apply to here?
2. What is your opinion of Queens Voc so far?
3. Was Queens Voc your first choice in high schools?
4. Which shop class have you considered?
5. Did you know anyone in this school when you first arrived?

**Denisse Abreu**



1. "It seemed like a very good school. My brother also came to this school and he said it was a good school. What stood out is that they have plumbing and I could switch if I don't like cosmo."
2. "It's good. The subjects are easy."
3. "Queens Voc was my first choice."
4. "Cosmetology, because I want to know how to fix my hair, nails, and makeup. I wouldn't need anyone else's help."
5. "I knew one of the seniors here. My brother used to come to this school."

**Paula Ioriano**



1. "Because I wanted to take cosmo. I wanted to be able to get my license."

2. "It's very settled down. The staff is great and they make sure you understand everything"
3. "Yes."
4. "Cosmetology. It runs in my family and I'm around it a lot."
5. "Yes, my cousin."

**Myra Andrews**



1. "I liked it because I heard it had a cosmetology program. I thought if I got my license, I could make more money and then go to college and major in something else."
2. "I like the school, the teachers care, and they're friendly. There aren't a lot of fights, I feel safe."
3. "Yes it was, because of the cosmo program."
4. "Cosmetology."
5. "No, but I was willing to make new friends."

**Raynier Leroux**



1. "I came here because I wanted to become an electrician. My brother attends this school and said that it is very hands-on. Many students graduate with licenses."
2. "I think it's good. So far, my exploratory class has been very hands-on. I'm very interested in my classes and teachers keep me engaged."
3. "Yes."
4. "I haven't chosen a major yet."
5. "My brother is a senior here."

**Victoria Noel**



1. "Because I like cosmo. I really wanted to do it. The school was in a good environment."
2. "I understand the teachers and people here are mature. I wouldn't have changed my decision in high schools."
3. "Yes it was."
4. "I chose cosmetology because I like to do hair and I'd like to learn some advanced techniques."
5. "I knew about four people from this school."

**Julio Urgiles**



1. "I came to this school because of the computer technology course and because of the certification. I was interested in the school's soccer team."
2. "So far, this school has been great and the assistant principals have been very helpful. My classes have been pretty easy, although I expect them to get harder as the year progresses."
3. "At first it was my second choice but, once I found out about the C-Tech program, I changed it to my first choice."
4. "It will probably be C-Tech. I think it's the best program out of the rest."
5. "No, I didn't know anyone. I came with one friend from my junior high school."

**Raigine Folk**



1. "I decided to come to QV to do electrical installation. People told me it was a good school."
2. "It's very mixed. The teachers are nice and they explain things well. I feel the school is in a nice environment."
3. "Yes."
4. "Electrical installation."
5. "I knew a few students from my junior high school that came here."

**Joey Croce**



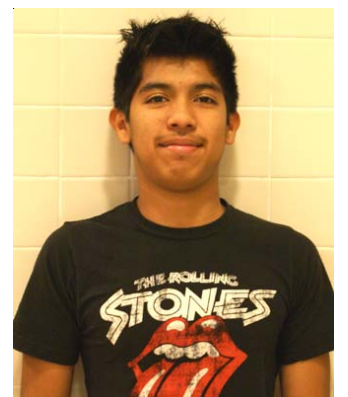
1. "My friends came here and I heard that it was a good school. I heard it was a fun school and I would be able to get a license after I graduate."
2. "The staff is friendly and the school is sanitary."
3. "Yes."
4. "Electrical installation. I think the class is interesting."
5. "Yes, I had friends from my old school come here."

**Jose Cabrera**



1. "I wanted to come here because I knew a lot of people that came to this school. Also, my zoned school was horrible."
2. "It's very cool. There are a lot of people here."
3. "It was my first choice."
4. "I might want to take electrical engineering."
5. "I had friends here before and one of my brothers came to this school."

**Gino Mendez**



1. "I wanted to do electrical engineering. I liked what the school had to offer. I heard they added a new side to the building, and a lot of people told me I should come."
2. "I'm having fun, the teachers are cool. There are a lot of new people."
3. "Yes."
4. "Electrical engineering."
5. "I knew a lot of friends that came here and some family too."

## Coming in February Queens Voc's Talent Show

Listen to announcements for  
ticket information or see  
Mr. Vega in room 143.



# Inside Tigers Sports

## Boys' Varsity Basketball

by Paola Ferreira

Queens Voc Tigers boys' varsity basketball team began the season with a "weird start," according to varsity basketball coach Mr. Maloney, who would have liked the team to have won more convincingly. As of Jan. 8, their record is 4-3.

Fewer hours of practice resulted in the team's slow start, he said. The team no longer practices on Saturdays because the gym is used from 8am to 1pm as a second chance for students who failed gym. Coach Maloney claims that this change in the team's practice schedule dramatically decreased their practice time and the team has been sluggish because of it. "We had a rough start due to the school starting a Saturday program for students who failed gym and were given the chance to make up the class," said Mr. Maloney.

Last year, the team practiced from 9am to 2pm on Saturdays and everyday possible after school for two hours, from 4pm

to 6pm. This year the team practices only during the week. Throughout the week they practice in the morning for one hour, from 7am to 8am, and in the afternoon they practice for one hour, from 3pm to 4pm. On game days, the team only practices in the morning.

Basketball players have to pass gym two terms in a row in order to be eligible, meanwhile students who failed gym have a second chance to pass, and they take over the gym in which the varsity basketball team used to practice, the coach said. "The class could've been given after the basketball season is over, but little consideration was made," said Coach Maloney. "Instead, students who have failed gym are given a second chance, unlike the basketball players who had to pass gym for two terms to stay eligible."

The team won their first three games, lost the next three games in a row, and rebounded in the next game with a win. In their first game of the season,

the Tigers defeated the Newcomers 57-51. In their second game, the Tigers defeated Information Technology 51-40. In their third game, the Tigers defeated Baccalaureate School for Global Education 55-24. In their fourth game, the Tigers lost to High School of Applied Communication 66-63. In their fifth game, the Tigers lost to Academy of American Studies 51-49. In their sixth game, the Tigers lost to High School for Construction 58-34. In their seventh game, the Tigers defeated Robert F. Wagner Jr. Secondary School for Arts and Technology 57-31. As of Jan. 13, the team has five more regular season games.

Coach Maloney chose Kareif Mckoy and Francis Reyes as team captains because they "are returning players who have shown to be leaders on court and off the court," he said. According to the coach, the five starters are Sebastian Bonilla, Stewart Cole, Christopher De La Cruz, Ramon

Gil, and Richard Vas. "The starting five are the lead players; they have earned that position by working hard and playing

in addition to Kareif and Francis, the seniors on the team are Shah Ahmed, Christopher De La Cruz, Ramon Gil, Patrick



*Varsity team is made up of juniors & seniors.*

well in practices," said the coach.

"I feel confident in making the playoffs because we have a good team and I believe in my teammates," Kareif said. "Since sophomore year we've played together and now know what the other likes to do, so we feed off of our strengths during a game."

There are 17 boys on the varsity basketball team, 10 are seniors and 7 are juniors. In

Harris, Duane Johnson, Naveen Nicholas, Christopher Suarez, and Richard Vas. The juniors on the team are Bryan Aldaz, Sebastian Bonilla, Devante Brown Shuler, Tomas Bueno, Stewart Cole, Kevin John Sasuman, and Khari Smokes. There are no freshmen or sophomores on the varsity basketball team because, the coach said, the boys are more prepared if they first play for the JV basketball team.



*Wrestling team competes like Tigers.*

## Z's Wrestlers Doing Well in Varsity

by Trent Petrus

The Queens Voc wrestling team has a new challenge in store for them this year. The year old team has begun to compete at the varsity level. "This will not be an easy test, but one that will build character as the season progresses," said Coach Zambrotta.

The wrestling team lost the first two matches, then defeated

Hillcrest in their third match 46-40, and Grady in the fourth match 54-20. The team plays home matches in the school cafeteria. There are more home matches than last year, with 7 of their 10 matches scheduled at home. As of Jan. 8, they have a 3-4 record.

Senior James Clark, one of the team captains said, they lost the first two matches because of nerves. "We weren't ready

for the matches," said James. "Once the guys start to gain more confidence, I think we'll start to win a lot more matches." The other team captain is junior Raymond Diaz.

Their goal is to make the playoffs this year. Coach Zambrotta said, "If we win all our matches from now on, there's a chance we'll make it to the playoffs."

This year, the team has many new wrestlers. Only two of the 13 experienced wrestlers from last year are on the team. With new wrestlers, the captain said it's been more time consuming to train the team. "You have to teach the guys one-on-one most times," he said, "It's not hard, but it just takes time, that's why we weren't ready for the first two matches."

"Being on the wrestling team has helped students improve their grades," said Mr. Zambrotta, "A lot of kids who were academically ineligible last year are now eligible to wrestle."

The team's training is a full workout that consists of weight and cardio-vascular training, as well as basic wrestling stances. "Z is one of the best trainers you could have," said Ariel

Avila, a senior. "He teaches you things you never thought you could do."

The team trains Monday to Friday, from 4pm to 7pm in the school cafeteria. Early in the season, the team also practices on Saturdays at Grand Street campus. Last year, coach Zambrotta had some handball players and other students train with the team. "We don't just wrestle, we do a variety of exercises that can help anyone, not just wrestlers, keep in shape," the coach said.

The wrestling competition is divided up into 15 weight groups: 98, 103, 112, 119, 125, 130, 135, 140, 145, 152, 160, 171, 189, 215, and 285 lbs. Students only wrestle other students in the same weight group.

The team this year doesn't have wrestlers in all weight groups, though. "We have no one in the 98, 103, or 171 pound weight groups," said James. "This makes it hard because we either forfeit the match or we have to get someone from a lower weight group to fill in, and sometimes it's a bit of an unfair match."

The wrestling team was given a \$15,000 grant to purchase all

the needed equipment, but the money has been spent.

The team is fundraising as much as possible to support themselves by selling T-shirts and sweatshirts to students and faculty. "It's not that we don't have enough equipment... we're not fighting over headgear because there isn't enough, it's just that we could always use more," said Coach Zambrotta.

There are 34 wrestlers on the team this year, according to the PSAL website: Ariel Avila, Jeffrey Carrion, Roberto Castillo, Juan Chica, Michael Cintron, James Clark, Daniel Corona, Michael Corona, Emir De La Cruz, Christian Diaz, Raymond Diaz, Tomas Duarte, Peter Franco, Stanley Garcia, Jose Guzman, Jeffer Hernandez, Neil Kamath, Geraldine Leibot, Raylin Leroux, Luis Lora, Luseny Maldonado, Juan Marin, Jario Marmolejo, Jasson Mateo, Maximo Muniz, Michael Murphy, Gabriel Nana, Javier Pasarin, Luis Ramirez, Andy Rojas, Dilpreet Singh, Esteban Soler, Andy Urueta, and Joshua Velasquez.

**PSAL.org**



by Milton Morochó

“Unless we enhance Queens Voc fundraising for athletic teams, it does not look to bright for the Tigers,” said Mr. Lerro athletic director. Each one of Queens Voc’s athletic team needs some sort of financial income to purchase team equipment, team uniforms, and to pay other expenses applicable to the sport.

“This year we hope to be more successful with the selling of water and create other fundraising activities at indoor basketball games, and we also collected \$1 at the door from non-SO members who went to see the games, to help the teams out” said Mr. Lerro. “We need to fundraise to supplement school and PSAL funds.”

“If possible, there could be bake sales to benefit all teams where I would become involved in an effort to help our athletic teams,” Mr. Lerro said.

“Candy sales are not exactly covering all the expenses that have to be made by the soccer team,” said Mr. Ali, who is also an assistant principal. “Students work hard to help the team out, but there are many expenses to be made to keep the teams running. I have had to spend money out of my own pocket to purchase distilled water, which costs about \$300 a season. In addition to that, just this past year I had to spend \$500 on regulation shin guards, also paid with money out of my pocket,” he said. Uniforms may be the biggest expense that the soccer team has, Mr. Ali pointed out.

Mr. Vega, in his role as coordinator of student activities, has been providing funds for the schools’ interscholastic sports teams. “The amount of money a team receives is affected accordingly to what the team necessities are. PSAL has given very little to aid the 12 separate teams that Queens Voc attempts to continue running,” he said. Selling candy, he said, is a big help and has made a positive impact, although now limits have been set, which will adversely affect our fundraising,” he added. Mr. Vega said that PSAL assists teams financially for games, but not for practices.

Mr. Schimenz coaches the varsity baseball team. “The baseball team’s biggest source of fundraising is candy sales and the selling of baseball t-shirts to staff members. “This year we raised about \$600 at \$10 a shirt. And last year, we raised about \$1,000 selling candy.

## Teams Struggle Financially

As with all teams, the baseball team has numerous expenses. “Mr. Vega covers much of our equipment,” the coach said, “and the money we raise pays for our non-league umpires, as we play many non-league games because we don’t really have a field to practice on. We also spend about \$400 on wood bats, because they have been mandated by the city council. “Team members buy their own uniforms at a cost of \$150 for each player.”

Mr. Maloney coaches two teams, boys’ varsity basketball and handball. His fundraising philosophy is the same for both teams. “Each student athlete is



**Practice or sell candy?**

required to sell at least one box of candy.” Fundraising depends on the teams’ situation; some may need more money than others,” said Mr. Maloney. “For the basketball team, expenses include the purchasing of new basketballs and paying referees for non-league games. As for the handball team, we have to buy gloves and handballs. Mr. Vega uses money from the student activities fund to help pay additional costs that are not covered by PSAL,” said Mr. Maloney.

“With budget cuts, student athletes will have to pay for their uniforms and equipment. In a perfect world, there should be no fundraising. Why should

players have to fundraise when schools should provide enough money for each team. The school should set enough money apart for athletic teams, so that student athletes are not trying to balance fundraising with school,” Mr. Maloney declared.

“Fundraising is a problem. A number of coaches all try to do the same thing,” said the wrestling coach, Mr. Zambrotta. “The wrestling team’s main source of funds is selling wrestling t-shirts and hooded sweatshirts. We also began to sell water and Gatorade at home matches to raise money,” said Mr. Zambrotta. “We have a green-friendly agreement with Staples; we return ink cartridges for a case of water rather than buying water.”

“Our expenses include singlet uniforms, head gear, mats, mat tape, cleaning supplies, and medical supplies. These cost us about \$500 a season,” said the wrestling coach. “Realistically, all teams must fundraise otherwise the money would have to come out of [the coach’s] pocket. As coach, I try to be a driving force in the [wrestling team’s] fundraising process,” he said.

Mr. Garofano also coaches two teams, the boys’ JV basketball team and the girls’ bowling team. “Mr. Vega informed me about the new DOE policies, and as a result, I did not fundraise for the bowling team. Instead, a budget Mr. Vega set apart with school money paid for our expenses. Altogether the bowling team spends about \$400 a season, mainly on bowling lane rentals for practice. Practices, which cost about \$50 each, had to be reduced significantly, and if the players wanted another match they would have to pitch in with their own money. Ultimately, I believe the

bowling team has suffered because of less practice, but they still had a positive season,” said Mr. Garofano.

“The JV basketball team’s main advantage is that it had the Queen’s Voc gym to practice in, which we don’t have to pay to use, and it could be used more frequently. But with no money, non-league games could not be scheduled as there is no money to pay the referees because we are not fundraising,” said Mr. Garofano. “It would be much easier if the budget for teams that the school provides would not be so inconsistent, but that is not really possible because the school gets budget cuts that affects the teams,” he said.

Mr. Devaux coaches the girls’ basketball team and the boys’ bowling team. “I have members from both teams sell at least one box of candy to help their team. But the new DOE rules have made it more difficult for student-athletes to sell candy. Selling in school is not permitted and neither is door to door selling, so it becomes harder to sell,” said Mr. Devaux. “Each year the school tries to establish a set amount for the teams but that usually varies because of budget cuts to the school. I try to schedule practice for the bowling team with this set amount in mind. Usually about \$500 is spent from the school’s activities fund and then we pay it back through our candy sales. A practice game costs us about \$70,” Mr. Devaux said.

The coach said he had to purchase a few new basketballs this year. “The new balls are only used for practices and games, not for gym, so they can be used again the following season. Jerseys also had to be purchased because of a bigger team this year. To raise money for uniforms, we were planning to have a bake sale, but the DOE rules restrict it, so instead we are planning to design basketball shirts for students and staff at a \$10 price. We currently have graphic art students working on the design,” said the coach.

Mr. Boyle coaches the girls’ varsity volleyball team and the girls’ softball team. “Last year, we had no volleyball uniforms for the girls. It was rather disappointing that the school formed a team yet provided no uniforms. The team was not properly established, it did not have the proper equipment. Players had to spend their own money on elbow and knee pads and I spent my own money to

purchase volleyballs for games,” Mr. Boyle said. This year, however, the school supplied us with uniforms.

“It becomes difficult to fundraise because the season starts so early in the school year. Before, I used to hold bake sales for the softball team and it usually produced a decent amount of money, but now that has to go through a process and then be approved before it can happen. It has been one of our main forms of fundraising, but it can no longer be done on a



**Uniforms: better late than...**

regular basis. “It seems to be a little easier to organize the girls’ softball team because the season does start later in the school year. Like the volleyball team, though, I am not properly informed about the budget, but we do receive some money from the school to finance the team,” Mr. Boyle said.

Mr. Cintron coaches the boys’ JV baseball team. “We are trying to hold a bake sale this year to fundraise for the team. It may be a problem, with the new DOE rules. I also have my players sell candy to cover the team expenses,” Mr. Cintron said. “We must pay for wooden bats, baseballs, gloves, protective equipment, and catcher’s gear, which costs about \$500 a season. This money is received from the SO. Our goal this year is to raise enough money for new uniforms. Team members will fundraise what they can to reduce the cost of each uniform. We will start fundraising sometime in January, to have some money to rely on prior to the season,” he said.

“Teams are on their own when it comes to fundraising. Not having an athletic department that provides money for teams makes it seem unorganized. But on the positive side, it allows teams to raise the money they need for themselves, and they choose to put in the effort to do so. In the end, it comes down to how committed the team and the players are,” said Mr. Schimenz.



**Wrestling with people and with budgets.**



# Boys Bowl to Playoffs



Team made the playoffs for the fifth consecutive year.

by Asaduz Zaman

Mr. Devaux coached the boys' bowling team to the playoffs for the 5th consecutive year with a regular season record of 9-3. The coach said he "felt warm and fuzzy" when they made it to the playoffs. The team won their first playoff game by defeating High School of Telecommunication Arts & Technology, 2-0, on Monday, Nov. 16. The Queens Voc team was then eliminated from the playoffs when they lost their

second playoff game to Susan Wagner High School, 3-0, two days later.

The boys' bowling team began their season by defeating Grover Cleveland and Aviation, but then lost to Newtown. When the regular season had ended, they were 9-3, in third place out of the eight teams in the Queens II division.

The team could have done better, according to Azan Asmat, a senior and member of the team. "The team has to focus on the game, but more importantly, the players have to stop bringing

their girlfriends to the game. They might be the reason the bowlers aren't playing well or losing focus," said Azan.

One problem the team faced this season was a budget cut. "The team didn't have a lot of money, which reduced the amount of days the team could practice. Bowling is a sport of skills. You need skills in order to be on the team, and to build this skill you must always practice," said the coach. He would have liked the players on his team to be able to practice more because the more players practice the better they get, he said.

There are 13 players on the team, nine of them are seniors. This means that next year the bowling team is going to need many players. "Practice bowling during the summer and if you are good enough then you will be in the team," Mr. Devaux advises prospective bowlers.

The team consisted of Azan Asmat, Erick Cabello, Benary Castro, Michael Corona, Jeffer Hernandez, Thomas Hock, Salvatore Isabella, Carlos Jimenez, Adell Lambie, Naveen Nicholas, Christopher Perez, Miguel Perez, and Mauricio Valencia.

# Girls Have Solid Start Basketball Team in First Place



Girls smile as they shoot toward division championship.

by Michael Corona

The girls' varsity basketball team is off to a great start, according to Jamila Rodriguez, senior. As the school paper went to press, the team's record was eight and one, which puts them in the running for first place against Grover Cleveland and Information Technology.

The team is in Queens B West division. "I expect the team to place in first and become division champions," said sophomore Christine Hawkins. The team is very unified and the goals are like my sisters, and if everyone works hard, I believe we can become division champions."

"We have enough wins for the playoffs at this moment we are in first place," said coach Devaux, "It feels good making the playoffs. This justifies all the hard work that is being put in by the girls and me."

Mr. Tom Devaux has figured out a game plan that works for our QV girls. He has a large array of students willing to play, each with their own distinct styles, strengths, and weaknesses.

"Compared to how the team was my freshman year, it is better that we have more girls on the team. This way Mr. Devaux can sub girls in for others when necessary and still have others willing to enter the game," said veteran Samantha Lupo.

"In order to help his players, the coach normally holds four practices a week, but Mr. Devaux also takes games into consideration and at times can only hold one or two practices that week," said Melissa Alzate, captain on the team. "Usually practices run from 4pm-6pm. He even tries to hold practices after the boys' basketball games if possible."

According to Mr. Devaux, "Early in the year, we had good

chemistry because we have a lot of returning players." That allows the players to read each other during a game and have insight on the next move to come, whether it is a pass, a crossover, or a shot, said the coach.

To join the girls' team, girls must meet PSAL requirements. Students must pass a physical, as well as have their parents' permission to play. Generally, students may not fail more than two classes, but the definitely cannot not fail physical education or their major. Mr. Devaux requires his players model students in and outside of the classroom, he said.

According to Mr. Devaux, the team consists of fifteen players: Melissa Alzate, Mayra Bajana, Julissa Ballesteros, Lakisha Keitt Benoit, Elixandria Brienza, Ashley Demoss, Chrislady Duverge, Ana Estrada, Christine Hawkins, Marva Jones, Kelly Ann Kato, Samantha Lupo, Jamila Rodriguez, Tiffani Scanlon, and Shakirra Smith.

These are the scores of the girls' games, as of January 7:

Queens Voc	55
HS for Construction	22
Queens Voc	57
American Studies	27
Queens Voc	49
Newcomers	25
Queens Voc	40
Flushing	18
Queens Voc	58
Robert F. Wagner Jr.	24
Queens Voc	48
Grover Cleveland	49
Queens Voc	54
Frank Sinatra	32
Queens Voc	46
School for Global	43



Girls have a lot to smile about: a perfect regular season.

# Girls Win Division

by Bryan Correa

The Queens Voc girls' bowling team defeated every one of their opponents during their regular season. With their record of 12-0, they made it to the playoffs.

The team went as far as the second round of the playoffs, as they defeated Lehman High School in the first round.

The Tigers lost the second playoff game to Sheepshead Bay. "I believe we lost not because the team was better, but just because we had a bad day," said Coach Garofano.

The team achieved their 12-0 record by defeating each of the

teams in their division—Long Island City, Bryant and Grover Cleveland high schools—four times.

"Having a 12-0 record was amazing, thanks to the support of the team. I'm glad we made it to the playoffs and I hope next year's team goes even further," said Brigitte Diaz.

The girls' bowling team was loaded with seniors, seasoned veterans, making the team really strong. As coach of the girls' bowling team, Mr. Garofano believes his team had no weak points.

Before each game, the team was confident and calm. "In

practice there was no pressure so the players tended to take it easy, but when it was game time, we tried to keep our cool and bowl even better than we would in practice," said Ana Cruz.

"There were so many seniors on the team that had a lot of leadership qualities it wasn't necessary to have a captain," said Mr. Garofano, which is also why the team was so successful during the season he said.

Melissa Alzate describes the team as a family. "It was a great experience to be on the team, we treated each other with respect. If someone ever needed help they would help each other," said Melissa.

The top four bowlers on the team according to Coach Garofano were: Melissa Alzate, with an average of 135.16, Victoria Linder with an average of 128.06, Jamila Rodriguez with an average of 126.76 and Brigitte Diaz with an average of 114.47.

The team consists of seven seniors: Melissa Alzate, Ana Cruz, Brigitte Diaz, Geraldine Leibot, Victoria Linder, Samantha Lupo and Jamila Rodriguez; four juniors: Julissa Ballesteros, Michelle Bravo, Steffi Garcia, and Emilee Rosa; three sophomores: Katherin Arias, Elixandria Breinza and Christine Hawkins.



# Varsity Baseball News

by Lisbeth Collado

The Queens Voc varsity baseball team has been getting ready for their season.

The Tigers held their annual pool tournament on Friday, December 11. Rookies were paired with veterans to get them to know each other. Sophomore veteran Stanley Garcia and assistant coach Joe LiVecchi won the tournament, defeating veteran Jose Monegro and rookie Henry Alvarez in the last round.

The team held its annual Thanksgiving dinner on Nov. 25, reuniting former players, along with current players and their coach. "The dinner was great, we ate a lot and had a lot of fun getting to know each other," said rookie freshman Anderson Moran.

The team also volunteers. Team members go to Hour Children every Saturday. Hour Children cares for children of incarcerated parents. "We go there to help move heavy furniture in the thrift shop, clean the shop, and organize the items," said Armando Avila. He also said "we also work at 'My Mother's House,' where mothers who were in prison stay with their children.

The team got going back in August when they attended the school's orientation for new students, helping give tours and speaking to the new students.



**Nathaniel makes varsity.**

Tryouts began in September, with 55 boys trying-out for the school's baseball teams: 27 were selected for varsity, 22 for junior varsity.

Tryouts started on Saturday Sept. 26, at Maurice Park from 8am-2:30pm. "All four fields were used and the prospective players got some solid work done." The tryouts continued on Monday Sept. 28, at

Flushing Meadows Park. Monday's tryout also ran from 8am-2:30pm as school was closed for Yom Kippur. Some of the boys played in the first fall scrimmage game against Bushwick on that same afternoon.

The tryouts were well-organized by captains and

came back to help, knows what we're looking for in a player," said the coach. "And he was right on with Henry."

"These tryouts showed that we had a lot of good players for both the varsity and JV teams. There were so many talented freshmen, I was very happy," said coach Schimenz.



**Baseball tryouts: enough talent for two strong teams.**

former players, said Coach Schimenz. Joe Livecchi, the assistant coach, was there at every tryout, said Mr. Schimenz, to help select the best players.

"To be picked, players had to show that they are dedicated to the team and show us their best skills," said junior Esteban Soler, who has been a team captain since his freshman year. He said that at tryouts there were freshmen who showed great skills.

"Players have to have good grades, good attitudes, and some baseball skills," said Armando Avila, who, like Esteban, has been a captain since his freshman year. Armando added that "veterans are expected to help the younger players and be good role models."

Some of the rookies found tryouts tough, but worth the effort. "Tryouts were very long and we had to work really hard to make the team," said freshman Alex Cruz, who was selected to play on the varsity team.

"Trying out was very hard and challenging," said freshman Henry Alvarez, who played third base during the tryouts and the scrimmage game against Bushwick. Jonathan Matias ('09), who was a four-year varsity team member, helped at tryouts and was very impressed with Henry. "Jonathan called me over to watch Henry. Jonathan, like other former players who

Annaldo Jimenez ('08), a former player who also helped at tryouts, said he "saw a lot of potential on the field." There were a lot of good plays and hustle by the freshmen who joined us at tryouts. The freshmen are a crucial part of this team and they serve as the building blocks to a stronger and more consistent team in the future," he said.

Daniel Corona, a sophomore, made the team last year as a freshman, and was appointed captain at the start of last season. "Everything was very different for me this year because I got to see the kids with potential, instead of making sure that I make the team," he said.

On Saturday Oct. 24, thirty-five of the boys who tried out helped clean up Flushing Meadow Park at the citywide it's My Park Day. "This year at its My Park Day, we raked leafs, and bagged leaves. This year, we raked so much that we filled over 100 bags with leafs," said sophomore Diony Perez, a two-year veteran.

Twenty-seven boys were selected for the varsity team, 13 veterans and 14 rookies. The veterans are Jose Alvarez, Armando Avila, Erick Cabello, Daniel Corona, Stanley Garcia, Larry Lebeau, Jose Monegro, Radison Moronta, Luis Pascual, Javier Pasarin, Miguel Perez, Diony Perez, and Esteban Soler. The rookies are Henry Alvarez, Bryant Cartagena, Wilson Casado, Alex Cruz, Connor

McCarthy, Anderson Moran, Andres Ospina, Alex Pena, Jason Perez, Luis Ramirez, Nathaniel Rodriguez, Gary Santos, Joseph Taveras, and Daniel Vargas.

Twenty-two of the boys who tried out were recommended by the varsity coaches to play on junior varsity this year: Amin Al-Sayed, Yahirt Artunduaga, Jose

Cabrera, Andy Collado, Alexander Cruz, Saul Cruz, Emir De La Cruz, Luis Gonzales, Daniel Henao, Raynier Leroux, Jonathan Nunez, Ronny Nunez, Ricardo Ortega, Travis Partap, Raul Rosario, Ismael Ruiz, Jesse Santander, Terell Smith, Marlon Stevenson, Cristian Trujillo, Leonardy Urena, and Adrian Vega.

## JV Basketball Shows Improvement

by Miguel Perez

The Queens Voc Tigers JV basketball team had a record of 3 wins and 4 losses through January 15. They defeated Bryant, Aviation, and Grover Cleveland. They lost to Newtown, Forest Hills, Flushing, and F.K. Lane, all large schools. The Tigers are currently in fifth place in the Queens I Division.

The Tigers won their season opener on Dec. 9, at Bryant by a score of 72-71. "This was probably our best game so far because we played as a team and came out on top with the victory," said sophomore Andres Agudelo. During the last minutes of the second quarter, the Tigers were down by 11 points. Then as the shot clock was counting down, to end the second quarter sophomore Derek Atson made a three point shot from half court to cut Bryant's lead to 8 points. "After that last shot we were able to gain momentum and the team got back into the game," said sophomore Justin Soto. Coach Garofano said that the season opener has been the most exciting game so far.

Team members agree that they have gotten off to a good start and have improved a lot since tryouts. "We have become a better team since tryouts because we

communicate more and we don't argue as much," said sophomore Brendan Nichols.

Coach Garofano believes that he has a good team that has the potential to win many games. "During the season I hope to be competitive and at the same time have my athletes understand the game of basketball more than they did prior to being on my team, and that they have fun doing it," said Coach Garofano.

Coming off a 3-11 season, the team is motivated to end this season with a better record.

Andres said that the team practices 3 times a week running different drills and perfecting old plays. "We work on a lot of conditioning in order to be better prepared for our games," said Derek. "The team works really hard and I expect to make it to the playoffs," said Justin.

Coach Garofano ran junior varsity basketball tryouts for two days. Tryouts were held on Nov. 6 and Nov 7 at the Queens Voc Gym. According to the PSAL website, [www.psal.org](http://www.psal.org), the team consists of 8 players: freshmen Esteve Escorza, Alan Figueroa, Christian Garcia; and sophomores Andres Agudelo, Derek Atson, Carlos Bourne, Brendan Nichols, Kevin Salinas, and Justin Soto.

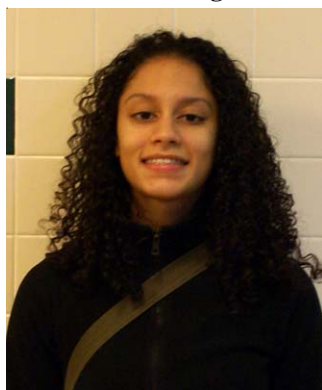


**Young talent: good for JV, good for the future of varsity.**



# Senior Sports Profiles

by Elizabeth Aritonang

**Jamila Rodriguez**

Age: 17  
Team: Girls' Bowling  
Position: A team  
Years on Team: 3

"Jamila is one of the veterans of the team and also a member of the A Team. Jamila also motivates other players with her intensity and personality."  
-Coach Garofano

"She has put her mind to what she wants, and she's very team spirited."  
-Steffi Garcia

**Brigitte Diaz**

Age: 17  
Team: Girls' Bowling  
Position: A Team  
Years on Team: 2

"Brigitte is also a member of the A Team. She has become a great bowler in the last couple of years and we count on her to set the table for us."  
-Coach Garofano

"She's dedicated and is a great bowler."  
-Emilee Rosa

**Victoria Lindner**

Age: 17  
Team: Girls' Bowling  
Position: A Team  
Years on Team: 2

"Victoria has been a major contributor to the bowling team this year. She is one of the top three bowlers in our division. She has been a member of the A Team for two years and is one of the leaders of our team."  
-Coach Garofano

"Victoria is very skilled and is a wonderful bowler. She presents enthusiasm when she plays."  
-Emilee Rosa

**Samantha Lupo**

Age: 17  
Team: Girls' Bowling  
Position: B Team  
Years on Team: 3

"Samantha has become a staple on the B Team. She has consistently gotten better as a bowler and is a big part of our success."  
-Coach Garofano

"She's a good teammate and she's fun to be on a team with. Just the B Team alone is a lot of fun when we play. We're just a bunch of goofballs."  
-Elixandria Brienza

**Melissa Alzate**

Age: 17  
Team: Girls' Bowling  
Position: A team  
Years on Team: 3

"Melissa has had an MVP-like season, she is one of the league leaders on average as well as total pins. Melissa is one of the leaders on our team and she was just as productive and consistent in the regular in the playoffs as in the regular season."  
-Coach Garofano

"She's a great bowler and she always pulls us through a game."  
-Jullissa Ballesteros

**Ashley Addonisio**

Age: 18  
Team: Girls' Volleyball  
Years on Team: 2

"Ashley is one of my senior players, a very good server. She's got some good talents. She was helpful for organization purposes for me."  
-Coach Boyle

"Ashley has been a very encouraging team member and it's been a great experience being part of the same team."  
-Gabrielle Rodriguez

**Ozan Cetinkaya**

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

"A very skillful player, he loves the game and he's a motivator for the team. He's looking for a scholarship in soccer, and he's already been scouted by two colleges."  
-Coach Ali

"Ozan is a team player, he puts a lot of effort in playing and he's a very confident team player."  
-John Velasquez

**Luis Espinoza**

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

"First year soccer player for the school and he's very good. I wish he started to play for me earlier."  
-Coach Ali

"One of the best players I've ever had the privilege to play with."  
-Shady Albakry

**Federico Fortuny**

Age: 17  
Team: Boys' Varsity Soccer  
Position: Forward  
Years on Team: 3

"He grew his hair from freshmen year. Freddy has been on the team three years, he's shown his improvement and has a lot of sportsmanship on the field."  
-Coach Ali

"Very good forward. He's very talented, he barely gets any playtime but he's a key player. He's motivational and inspirational."  
-Andres Romero

**Mauricio Valencia**

Age: 17  
Team: Boys' Bowling  
Position: A Team  
Years on Team: 2

"He's one of my best bowlers. This year he's improved dramatically over last year and he's one of the guys I can depend on the most."  
-Coach Devaux

"He's very talented. He's really nice and always ready to play."  
-Christopher Perez

## Congratulations



to the Queens Voc Tigers Soccer Team:  
2010 New York City Division B Champions!





# Senior Sports Profiles

by Elizabeth Aritonang

Peter Franco



Age: 17  
Team: Varsity Wrestling  
Years on Team: 1  
Weight Class: 125

“If Peter couldn’t break-dance, he wouldn’t have as much talent. He uses those skills to complement what he’s learning in wrestling.”

-Coach Zambrotta

“One of the most fun guys on the team, practice would be boring without him.”

-Raymond Diaz

Geraldine Leibot



Age: 17  
Team: Varsity Wrestling  
Years on Team: 2  
Weight Class: 152

“Unfortunately she has been hurt and has been working with senior government. She has been unable to train but when she is able to, she possesses a no quit attitude that rubs off on the rest of the team.”

-Coach Zambrotta

“She’s a good wrestler when she’s there.”

-Javier Pasarin

Neil Kamath



Age: 17  
Team: Varsity Wrestling  
Years on team: 1  
Weight Class: 135

“Neil’s a hard worker but he is too busy maintaining his status as class valedictorian. If Neil dedicated himself as much to wrestling as he does to school work...he’d be a dummy.”

-Coach Zambrotta

“It’s his first year, he’s doing alright. He just has to come to more workouts.”

-Esteban Soler

Luis Ramirez



Age: 17  
Team: Varsity Wrestling  
Years on team: 1  
Weight Class: 285

“Luis showed up by the encouragement of his friends and heard there was a spot open in his weight class. Since that he has worked hard to make up the time he hasn’t spent on the mats.”

-Coach Zambrotta

“I see that he tries, he has a bad back, he’s still motivated to keep on going.”

-Jeffrey Carrion

Juan Chica



Age: 17  
Team: Varsity Wrestling  
Years on team: 1  
Weight Class: 130

“The day he told me he wanted to wrestle I thought to myself, how with those skin and bones? He proved to me that even the thinnest wrestlers can work hard, improve their skills and stamina, and become successful.”

-Coach Zambrotta

“He tries to succeed at everything and every time he wrestles he gives it all he has.”

-Daniel Corona

Carlos Jimenez



Age: 17  
Team: Varsity Wrestling  
Years on team: 2  
Weight Class: 160

“Carlos recently won a medal after training with the team a full year and gaining eligibility. Unfortunately an injury has sidelined him but I’m proud of his ability to maintain focus and ability to improve his academics. Hopefully he gets healthy soon and can wrestle the rest of the season.”

-Coach Zambrotta

“It’s a shame he got injured, he’s back to wrestling and doing well.”

-Esteban Soler

Juan Marin



Age: 17  
Team: Varsity Wrestling  
Years on team: 1  
Weight Class: 140

“Juan is another first-year wrestler who was inspired by his friends to join. Since that time Juan might’ve slowed down during a tough practice but, most certainly unlike some others- he never gave up.”

-Coach Zambrotta

“He tries hard, I see him try hard in practice and he tries even harder and harder. Even in a tournament he’s pretty good.”

-Jeffrey Carrion

Jeffer Hernandez



Age: 18  
Team: Varsity Wrestling  
Years on team: 2  
Weight Class: 152

“Another wrestler I wish showed up a year sooner. But despite that he has demonstrated a desire to participate with the team and perform well as an individual. He won a bronze medal in the tournament.”

-Coach Zambrotta

“Jeffer’s a really interesting guy. He’s probably not the best guy on the team but he tries hard.”

-Robert Castillo

## UPCOMING GAMES

compiled by Milton Morochó

### Wrestling

Opponent	Date	Time
Robert F. Wagner	1/23	2pm

### Girls’ Varsity Basketball

Flushing	1/19	4:30pm
Robert F. Wagner	1/21	4:30pm
Grover Cleveland	2/2	4:30pm
Global Ed	2/9	4:30pm
Info Tech HS	2/11	4:30pm

### Boys’ Varsity Basketball

American Studies	1/20	4:30pm
Global Ed	2/1	4:30pm
Applied Comm.	2/3	4:30pm
Robert F. Wagner	2/10	4:30pm

### Boys’ JV Basketball

Franklin K. Lane	1/11	4:30pm
William C Bryant	2/1	4:30pm
Aviation	2/8	4:30pm
Grover Cleveland	3/3	4:30pm

### Boys’ Varsity Baseball (All games start at 4 pm)

Flushing	4/7	Flushing Fields: Baseball
Flushing	4/9	Flushing Meadows #10
Frank Sinatra	4/13	Whitey Ford Field
Frank Sinatra	4/15	Flushing Meadows #10
Springfield Gardens	4/19	Springfield Gardens HS
Townsend Harris	4/22	Kissena Park #7
Arts & Business	4/23	FlushinMeadows #11
Robert F Kennedy	4/27	Flushing Meadows #10
Queens HS Teaching	4/29	Flushing Meadows #10
American Studies	5/3	Flushing Meadows #10
American Studies	5/5	Whitey Ford Field
August Martin HS	5/7	Flushing Meadows #10
John Bowne	5/11	Kissena Park #6
John Bowne	5/13	Flushing Meadows #10
HS for Construction	5/18	Flushing Meadows #10
HS for Construction	5/20	PALS Oval

Girls’ softball and JV baseball schedules were not yet posted on the PSAL website, as of our publication date.

## Show school spirit!

## Support our teams. Attend home games.



# Senior Sports Profiles

by Elizabeth Aritonang

**Milton Morocho**



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

"For four years he's been a main defense player. He's very skillful in his position and has a lot of potential."

-Coach Ali

"He's a serious and rough player."

-Benji Zamora

**Naveen Nicholas**



Age: 17  
Team: Boys' Bowling  
Position: A Team  
Years on Team: 2

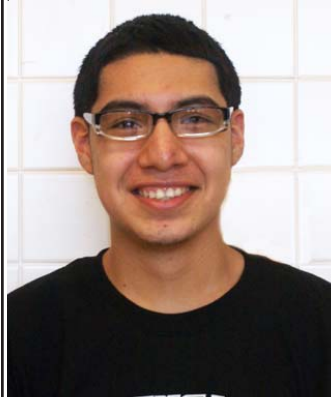
"Naveen's a veteran of the team. He's definitely one of the leaders and he's also one of the consistent A team bowlers."

-Coach Devaux

"We're going to miss him next year, he's good."

-Salvatore Isabella

**Miguel Perez**



Age: 17  
Team: Boys' Bowling  
Position: A Team  
Years on Team: 1

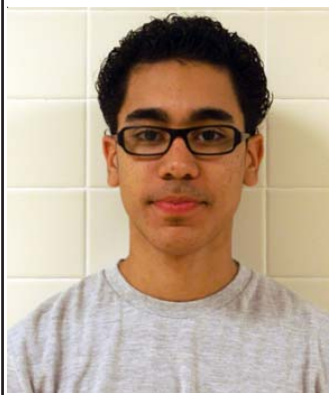
"This is Miguel's first year, but he's shown that he's a consistent bowler, and that's what you look for in bowler."

-Coach Devaux

"Miguel plays better in bowling than in baseball."

-Salvatore Isabella

**Benary Castro**



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

"This is Benny's first year and he was a great team player. I wish he would've been on the team in previous years. He had a lot of potential but was also inconsistent."

-Coach Devaux

"He throws a good curve. The halal food before the games was great."

-Erick Cabello

**Michael Corona**



Age: 17  
Team: Boys' Bowling  
Position: A team  
Years on Team: 2

"Mike is one of the guys I could rely on, he split the time between the A and B teams. He led the younger players by example."

-Coach Devaux

"He's really good and he's fun."

-Erick Cabello

**Jasson Mateo**



Age: 17  
Team: Varsity Wrestling  
Years on team: 1  
Weight class: 135

"He's naturally athletic. If he had more time to train he could've developed into a very talented varsity wrestler. He has many of the characteristics necessary."

-Coach Zambrotta

"He's a cool guy and a good wrestler; we need more people like him on the team."

-Robert Castillo

**Ariel Avila**



Age: 17  
Team: Varsity Wrestling  
Years on team: 1  
Weight class: 130

"Ariel uses a variety of skills he's learned through sports and martial arts that assist him greater than the first year wrestler he is."

-Coach Zambrotta

"He's a good wrestler; he has some cool moves I'd like to learn from him."

-Robert Castillo

**Jairo Marmolejo**



Age: 17  
Team: Varsity Wrestling  
Years on team: 1  
Weight class: 112

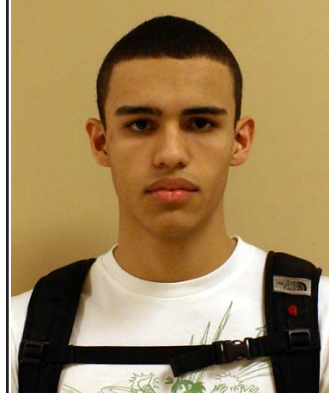
"I wouldn't want to weigh 112 pounds and wrestle against him. For a man that little, he uses his power and speed to his advantage."

-Coach Zambrotta

"He's one of our best light weight wrestlers. He's very aggressive and that's what we need on our team."

-Michael Cintron

**Raylin Leroux**



Age: 17  
Team: Varsity Wrestling  
Years on team: 1  
Weight Class: 135

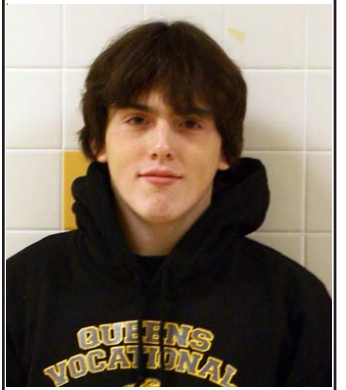
"I didn't even know he was a senior. But he's another person who possesses talent and I would've wanted him to start last year."

-Coach Zambrotta

"Raylin is a hard worker and a great addition to the team."

-Raymond Diaz

**James Clark**



Age: 17  
Team: Varsity Wrestling  
Years on Team: 2  
Weight Class: 140

"The most dedicated wrestler in the building, despite his injury he still possesses the most passion than anyone around him. That passion spreads to the rest of the team."

-Coach Zambrotta

"The best captain, he mastered all the moves very well and he's very modest."

-Michael Cintron



## We are theTigers!

## The mighty mighty Tigers







by Miguel Perez

# Varsity Soccer Team Wins City Championship



The Queens Voc Tigers soccer team won the varsity 2010 division B, city championship. The Tigers defeated Thomas Edison by a score of 3-2. Their only victory against their toughest rivals, Thomas Edison, was the victory that would give them the city championship title.

In the game two goals were scored by sophomore Mark Puma, playing in his first game ever for Queens Voc, and the third goal was scored by sophomore John Velasquez. The championship game took place on Sunday Nov. 8, at 12 noon at Randall's Island. The Tigers received medals, championship t-shirts, caps, and a big championship trophy, currently on display in the principal's office.

To get to the championship, the Tigers defeated Transit Tech 4-0, New Utrecht 4-3, and Martin Van Buren 2-0 to take the playoff bracket championship title. From there they moved on to defeat Thomas Jefferson Campus 3-1, and finally the Tigers beat Thomas Edison 3-2 in the finals to take the city title.

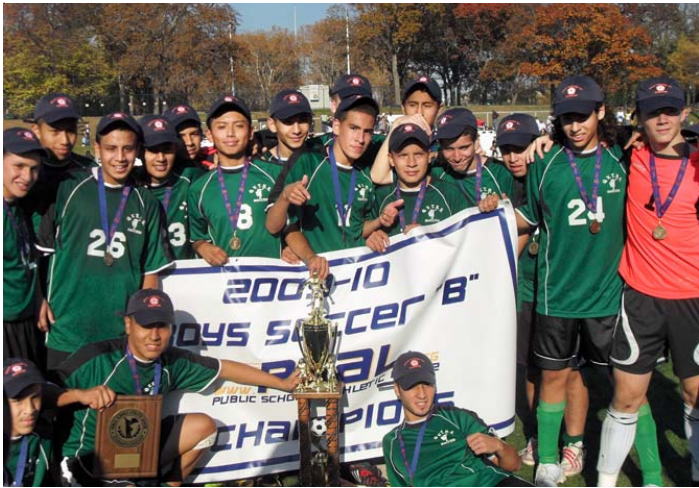
"I feel great and I feel that it's about time that Queens Voc won a soccer title since 1975. I'm proud of my team especially because we always played as a unit and every player knew how to play his position," Coach Ali said proudly.



**Boys celebrate big win.**

The two-goal scorer, Mark Puma, didn't play until the championship game. This caused a rumor to be spread saying that Mark was illegally on the team roster and that Queens Voc cheated in the championship game. Mark was a transfer student from Aviation High School who played for Aviation last year. In order for him to be

able to play for Queens Voc this year, Coach Ali needed to obtain a waiver from PSAL, which he applied for in the middle of September, when Mark provided his medical and parent consent form. While Mark practiced with the team and played in scrimmage games, he was not



**Team, under Coach Ali's leadership, takes city title.**

eligible to play league games. The school received the waiver letter until the Friday before the finals. "The opportunity for Mark to play in a league game finally arose in the finals where Mark played in the second half & due to game strategies he scored two goals," said Coach Ali.

Three quarters of the way into the regular season, Mr. Ali said that he was very proud of his guys and he knew that he had a great team. "I feel successful as does my team because they have performed to my expectations. The determination and skill of the team and how bad they want that championship trophy will be what decides how far we go in the playoffs," he said.

But when Coach Ali and the Tigers came face to face with their number one rivals in the championship game, he knew how much his team wanted that trophy and he was pleased to see how their determination and skill paid off. Before the big game the adrenaline was pumping and Coach Ali was feeling good, he said. "I felt confident because Thomas Edison was the only team we lost to in the regular season and from this defeat I observed my team errors," said the Coach. "From my observations of that loss I knew exactly what needed to be improved," Coach Ali added.

The Coach changed his lineup, and Thomas Edison was overconfident and did not change their strategies for the championship game, he added.

"During the first half of the championship game, both

teams counter balanced each other. Thomas Edison was able to shut down my main scorer Ozan by putting a double team on him," explained Coach Ali. "In the second half, I changed my matchup by playing Ozan in the midfield and Mark Puma in the forward position. Since

Ozan had two people guarding him, that left Mark open," the coach said.

Team captain Ozan Cetinkaya said he was thankful to have won the championship in his senior year. "It feels very good and it's the best feeling to have won the city championship especially because it was in my senior year, I thought I deserved it," he said. "I struggled so hard every year and I tried to improve each year. I am thankful to have talented players on my team and I would say they are the future because I couldn't have scored 33+ goals without my team," added Ozan.

Co-captain Steward Naula said that winning the championship this year was his mission from the beginning of the school year. "I wanted the feeling of winning a championship as big as the city title. I didn't just want it for me, I wanted it for the team and for former teammates that have left Queens Voc," said Steward. "I also wanted it for the pride of the school," Steward added.

The Queens Voc Tigers soccer team ended their regular season with 12 wins, 1 loss, and 1 tie, coming in second place in their division and earning them a spot in the playoffs. Division leader Thomas Edison was the spoiler, defeating the Tigers in one game and tying them in another.

Mr. Ali said that he was very happy with the regular season record because his team performed great and took it one game at a time. Before each game, Coach Ali said he made sure to encourage the team by telling them to always give 110%

on the field, to enjoy the game, play smart, and play to win. His advice and the hard work of the team led them to seven victories and one tie in the first half of the season.

Even though in the second half of the regular season the team suffered a loss, against Thomas Edison, one of their toughest rivals, Mr. Ali was very proud of his team and of what they proved they could do on the field. "I am very proud of my guys and I know that I have a great team," said Coach Ali. "I feel successful as does my team because they have performed to my expectations. The determination and skill of the team and how bad they want that championship trophy will be what decides how far we go in the playoffs," added Coach Ali.

"To me, the outcome of the regular season was great. It was my first year on the team and I didn't expect to go 12 & 1 and go undefeated for 8 games," said senior Luis Espinoza, who plays midfield on the team. Luis said that the main key to their success was that they played as a team, had fun, and gave 100% on the field.

Last season the soccer team won the division championship and finished with a record of 11 wins, 2 losses, and 1 tie. They were eliminated in the semifinals of their playoff bracket.



**Team displays championship trophy and banner.**

This year the team set higher goals for themselves determined to accomplish what hasn't been done in a while in Queens Voc soccer history, "our goal is to make it to the city finals," said Milton Morocho a defensive player on the team, "a goal made each year by the Queens Voc soccer team and has not been yet accomplished," he added.

"What I love most about this year is that now Queens Voc won't just be known for our baseball powerhouse but will also be known for our hungry soccer team," said Ozan.

"My favorite memorable moment of this year was when the final whistle blew in the championship game," said Coach Ali.

Seven seniors will graduate in June, leaving some big spots open. "Next season there will be a big impact on the team because of all the graduating seniors, especially our captain Ozan Cetinkaya," said Steward. "Hopefully Ozan will go on to play college ball. Everyone who will stay on the team needs to be in shape pass, their classes, and train hard to progress a lot for next season. I feel that next season will work out well," he added.

Ozan says that the team has great skill and that a strong part of the team is that they are all team players. "I think that the team will have another excellent season next year. After I graduate there will be a lot of potential on the team and the team will still be strong because we have great young players coming up," concluded Ozan.

Coach Ali has great expectations for next year expecting to go far. "Even though the championship trophy is not permanently given to the school, we have a chance to be champions for two years straight and we will bring the

trophy back next year," exclaimed Coach Ali.

According to the PSAL website the team consisted of 20 active players: students. Shady Albakry, Jonathan Avila, Pablo Ayora, Bryan Balladares, Jonathan Calderon, Jorge Calderon, Ozan Cetinaya, Luis Espinoza, Federico Fortuny, Sebastian Garcia, Edwin Guzman, Isaac Hidalgo, Alexandros Kiourkenidis, Milton Morocho, Steward Naula, Ariel Obando, Mark Puma, Andres Romero, John Velasquez, and Benji Zamora.