



Record Turnout at Senior Prom

by Eliana Moronta

Seniors made their final night together a night to remember on Friday, June 1, at Terrace on the Park, for their senior prom. Seniors made sure they didn't miss out on anything their prom night, arriving on time at 8pm and leaving promptly when the

prom ended, at 1am.

In total, 217 people attended prom including the 20 chaperons. Mr. Vega said he was shocked but happy to see that seniors who didn't participate in other events throughout the year went to the prom.

The first 100 tickets were sold at \$100 and the rest at

\$115 because the proceeds from the senior food festival in November covered the \$15 for the first hundred tickets.

When seniors arrived at prom they were given their favors, a photo frame in a custom drawstring bag that said Prom 2012 QVTHS, and

continued on page 2

Dozens of Professionals Attend Career Day

by Bryant Cartagena and Diony Perez

The 10th annual Career Day at Queens Voc took place on Friday, June 8.

More than 50 guest speakers addressed more than 125 classes. The speakers discussed career and educational opportunities, in an effort to "let the students know about what the world has to offer," said Principal Burg. Included among the speakers were bankers, designers, managers, media producers, and scientists, from private industry and governmental

agencies. Nearly a dozen of the speakers were Queens Voc alumni, "who returned to their alma mater to offer proof of the opportunities that await them," said Ms. Abrams, the college advisor.

Breakfast and lunch were held in the library for the guests, who were escorted around the school by Mr. Vega's leadership students.

[Editor's Note: Because Career Day coincided with the newspaper deadline, we've decided to let pictures tell the rest of the story. Turn to page 2 for a collage.]



One of the many guest speakers at Career Day.

Ms. Radovich to Become Principal of Flushing HS

AP who began SED expected to get school back on track

by Stefanie Sierra

Ms. Radovich has been working in Queens Voc. for 16 years. But she will soon leave Queens Voc.

Ms. Radovich came to Queens Vocational and Technical High school in 1996 as an English teacher, then was appointed the assistant principal for Humanities in 2004, and began the school's first SLC, the School of Exploration and Discovery.

Ms. Radovich said she is ready to move on to the next phase of her career as a principal. Ms. Radovich is currently the new proposed leader for the Rupert B. Thomas Academy, currently known as Flushing High School. She said she is working alongside many people to create a strong and effective educational program for the students who continue to attend this landmark school. "I have moved into this new position with a lot of optimism

and great hope that I can take the lessons learned as a teacher and administrator at QVTHS with me to help me to do the best possible job that I can," said Ms. Radovich. Her plans for this school is to create wall-to-wall small learning communities that are career based as well as college and career readiness programs to help students to become successful individuals.

"My motto at QVTHS has

always been that "Success is the Only Option!" which I have seen become a reality there through the hard work, dedication, and commitment of the people that I have worked alongside with. I take that motto with me into my new position," said Ms. Radovich.

"It is not without sadness that I am leaving the people in my 9th grade small learning community, the humanities department, and the overall QVTHS community," said Ms. Radovich.



Flushing meets Magdalen.

What's Inside

this edition of *Vocational Voice*

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------|--------------------------|----|
| Senior Prom..... | 2 | Principal's Message..... | 11 |
| UFT Conference..... | 3 | Feedback..... | 12 |
| Skills USA, RoboTigers..... | 4 | Inq. Photographer..... | 13 |
| Six Flags, Residency..... | 5 | College Acceptances..... | 14 |
| Cosmo Recognition..... | 6 | Reviews..... | 15 |
| AIDS Walk, R=AIN..... | 7 | Advice Column..... | 16 |
| NOCTI, Poetry Club..... | 8 | Senior Shop Profile..... | 17 |
| Book Club, SED News..... | 9 | Word Search..... | 18 |
| SSBT News, Health Trip..... | 10 | Horoscopes..... | 19 |
| Tigers Sports..... | 20-24 | | |

Regents Schedule: June 2012

| June 13 | June 14 | June 15 | June 18 | June 19 | June 20 | June 21 |
|---|---------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|--|--|-------------------|
| 9:15 am | 9:15 am | 9:15 am | 9:15 am | 9:15 am | 9:15 am | 9:15 am |
| Global History & Geography | U.S. History & Government | Comprehensive English | RCT Global Studies | Living Environment | Geometry | RCT Writing |
| 1:15 pm | 1:15 pm | 1:15 pm | 1:15 pm | 1:15 pm | 1:15 pm | |
| Physical Setting/Physics RCT Science | Integrated Algebra | Physical Setting/Earth Science | RCT Reading | Algebra 2/ Trigonometry RCT U.S. History & Government | Physical Setting/ Chemistry RCT Mathematics | GOOD LUCK! |

All tests are Regents exams unless otherwise noted.

New Classes to be added to Student Schedules Next Year

by Alexis Crespin

Students have a Spanish, music, or art independent study, eighth period Tuesdays. The independent study consists of worksheets to complete during the 53 minutes period. Students have these worksheets so they can get the credit required by New York State to graduate. Next year, this will change, said Ms. Ocampo, assistant principal of Pupil Personnel Services.

Instead of having only one period a week of independent study, students will take classes to earn the necessary credit. The classes will be taught by teachers licensed in the subject they'll teach, and the students' work will be averaged and graded into report cards. Freshmen will receive Spanish and one semester of health. The sophomores will receive one semester of art and the other semester of music. This will not lengthen the school day for students and teachers, said Ms. Ocampo.

In January 2012, the New York State Education Department announced a "new high school academic policy," a result of an audit of over 200 public city schools in Fall 2011. Queens Voc was not one of the audited schools. The audit found that many schools were skirting state graduation requirements in an effort to make their graduation rate increase, said Ms. Ocampo.

This new policy no longer allows schools to give independent study in place of a class. Next year, they are required to have licensed teachers teach foreign language, art, and music. "Students will more likely enjoy the class because it's a more positive experience. Before, students complained about how they were being taught these subjects," said Ms. Ocampo.

Students who passed the independent study won't have to take the class, but students who failed an independent study project will have to take

the class next year.

Students are required same number of credits for these classes to graduate, but now instead of a pass or fail mark, it will be averaged into their final grade, and the class will be throughout the week.

It has been suggested that these courses be implemented in the ninth or tenth grade because the students have fewer CTE hours said Ms. Ocampo. "This new policy is good because now you are actually going to learn something not just sit there answer questions and do nothing for the rest of the period," said Jessica Alcaide, a junior. Jessica said she would have liked to take these classes but won't, because she passed the courses.

Principal Burg will have to hire four new licensed full-time teachers, two music/art teachers and two Spanish teachers or any foreign language. The school may have to reduce the number of teachers in other subjects because it can't afford the new teachers. Ms. Burg is "begging the Department of Education for more money to keep the teachers."

250 GRADUATES AND COUNTING

by Yanil Ortiz

"Three hundred and twenty six students who entered Queens Voc in 2008 are expected to graduate on June 25, 2012," said Ms. Ocampo, assistant principal of Pupil Personnel Services, but the school administration is sure that "more than 250 seniors will be graduating," she said.

Fifty-nine percent of the seniors are on track to graduate, that is, one hundred and ninety-four seniors are in official classes 400 to 428. Thirty-one percent of the students who should be seniors are currently in sophomore (200s) and junior (300s) official classes.

Out of 326 seniors, 37 students have dropped out since 2008. Seven students have been put in the Non Degree Graduate program. In the NDG program, these students are transferred out of the school, sent to a hospital, or sent to jail. Some of these seven students have the

option of earning their General Education Diploma. To earn a GED, students can either go online to take courses or they can take these classes at chosen high schools. When these classes are completed, students must take a final exam.

Ms. Ocampo said that this year students are doing better academically; fewer students are attending PM classes because fewer students need to.

Apexonline.com is a credit recovery program that juniors and seniors can go on to graduate on time. There is a whole class of advance students using that program. Students can gain high school credits by completing online courses.

"I'm very proud of all our students that have been struggling for years to pass many of their classes, I know it's challenging with all the social pressure and being a teenager. I wish our students the best of luck," says Ms. Ocampo.

Senior Prom

continued from front page

table cards. At the entrance Jasienowski Studio had up to take professional pictures at costs as low as \$15.

After seniors finished taking pictures and dancing, they settled down to eat. "The food was delicious," said Kent Vara, who attended the prom. "I had lasagna, mashed potatoes, salad, and spaghetti," he said.

When seniors were done having dinner, Mr. Vega along with the senior officers, President Maximilian Manticof, Vice President Jessica Polanco, Treasurer Andrea Sacharsky, and Secretary Fitore Morina, announced the prom royal court. Brian Vasquez and Judith Mercado won Duke and Duchess, Andres Romero and Jessica Polanco won Prince and Princess, and Geovanny Duy and Lorissa Rosario won King and Queen. Prom royalty is picked randomly, Mr. Vega said, because "a variation of students from different groups is usually picked giving everyone a chance to win, not just popular students."

Mr. Vega took the time to call up the senior boys' varsity baseball players and their coach, Mr. Schimenz, to congratulate them for making it to the semifinals, which the team played two days later, on Sunday. The Tigers won the



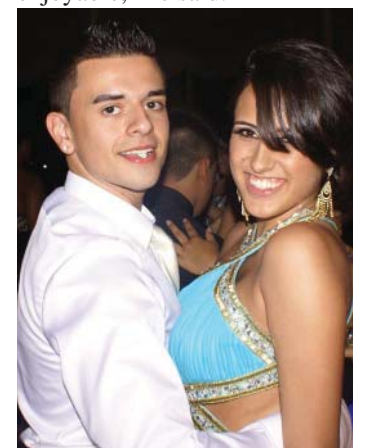
Eliana, Andrea, and Fitore cut the cake at prom.

game, propelling them into the championship.

Mr. Vega then called up the senior officers and Eliana Moronta to cut the Class of 2012 cakes. Eliana was called up because "of all her hard work and the dedication she showed," said Mr. Vega. The two identical cakes said Senior Prom 2012 with the school website's banner at the top and a tiger in icing in the middle of the cake. There were two decorative chocolate-covered strawberries around the squared cakes.

The cakes weren't the only things looking good that night. "Prom was exciting because everyone was looking fabulous and it was our last night together, which made every moment of it cherishable," said Christine Hawkins.

"It was a memorable day not just because it was my prom but also because Johan Santana threw the first no-hitter in the history of the Mets," said Maximilian Manticof. "I want to thank Mr. Vega for all he has done for us, the Class of 2012, and for making this year enjoyable," he said.



Herwell and Jackie dancing.



Guest speakers at Queens Voc's 10th annual Career Day.



Chancellor Walcott & cosmo students at UFT conf.

Cosmo Shows Manicure Skills

by Kelly-Ann Kato

Eighteen cosmetology students--four freshmen and 14 sophomores--attended the Spring United Federation of Teachers (UFT) conference at the New York Hilton on May 12 to showcase Queens Voc's cosmetology

In the past, only sophomores attended the annual UFT conference. The freshmen attended this year because Ms. Torres, a cosmetology teacher, asked for some of her freshmen to go and she also filled in for Ms. Spallone, a cosmetology teacher, to attend the conference.

Along with Ms. Torres, were Ms. Lingstuyt, who teaches cosmo and geometry, attended to see what the program was about, and Ms. Mitchell, a business teacher, who attended and served as the manager-receptionist. Ms. Mitchell had also attended the UFT conferences for three years with Ms. Spallone, who usually attends the conferences but was unable to attend this year.

Freshmen Diana Diyaraz, Giselle Martinez, Zinniah Munoz, and Chelsea Velasco, and Sophomores Lorena Alatorre, Iveth Duran, Eylin Flores, Sofia Mexca Flores, Jazmin Fragoso, Karina Gomez, Sahury Gonzales, Xiomaira Inga, Suleima Macancela, Michelle Pereda, Elissa Perez, Suzette Perez, Emily Quizhpilema, and Cynthia Vidal attended the conference.

The Spring UFT conference was held "to showcase the educational and academic activities that each school produces," said Ms. Torres. The students showcased their manicuring skills, which they had been practicing after school, said Diana. The

students attended to 108 clients from 9am to 12pm and gave their clients regular, color, and clear manicures said Zinniah. "They were very professional," said Ms. Torres.

"The conference was a great experience," said Zinniah. The students were able to apply their hands-on training to a real job experience. "The clients made conversation during their manicures," said Diana. The students received many compliments from their clients, said Zinniah.

At the end of the conference, the students were given \$15 iTunes cards and MetroCards as a gift for their hard work, said Ms. Torres.

Ms. Spallone usually uses the Spring UFT conference as her sophomore cosmetology project. The conference, which has many benefits for the students, is the only trip she takes her sophomores on all year. She prepared her students after school for two and a half hour a day, for a week.

Ms. Spallone chose her students by first making them write an essay where they had to research the pros and cons of manicuring and also had to explain how they felt about manicuring. "Once I reviewed the essays I chose those who showed interest or whose interest I could sway towards manicuring," said Ms. Spallone. "And, of course, I chose students who were on track with their school work."

Ms. Spallone will be retiring next June. This is her last year with the program, she said.

Ms. Spallone said she would like to thank Ms. Torres, Ms. Lingstuyt, and Ms. Mitchell for filling in, at the last minute to help make the school's participation in the show a success.

After Busy Year, Advance to Merge with SCEET

by Brenda Jerez

Throughout this year, the Advance SLC has gone on trips to places such as the Museum of Natural History in May, to Central Park for a picnic in March, to see *The Hunger Games* in March, and to ice-skate at Bryant Park in February.

On Friday, June 8, they also attended the PSAL baseball championship game between Queens Voc Tigers and South Bronx.

On June 26, they will have a BBQ from 11am to 1pm. On

June 27, they will go to a field in Astoria to celebrate the last day of school.

Advance students participate with the Rising City Arts program, in which students gain self-confidence, and learn to feel more comfortable asking questions. "The program is going very well. They are currently working on conflict resolution, and are writing their own monologue," said Ms. Kramer, the director of Advance and one of the teachers involved in the program. The other teachers involved with this program are Mr. Hammond, and Ms.

Kim: a total of eight classes are involved with the program.

The students utilize APEX, an online credit recovery program. In the program, teachers monitor the progress that the students are making in order to accumulate the credits that they didn't gain during their freshman year.

Ms. Kramer said that since the school is currently in good standing, it is no longer receiving the improvement grant that funds the Advance program. "Since this fund is being cut off, it's going to be hard to run a credit recovery program like Advance," said Ms. Kramer. Next year Advance will likely merge with SCEET because of the similarity of their schedules.



Business on Ice

by Sylvester Nimako

Business was on ice on May 15, at the World Ice Arena in Flushing Meadows Park.

Forty-one business students saw an ice show and got to skate on the rink while on the trip coordinated by Mr. Mugan.

"I liked the skating more

since you got to do it instead of just watching other people," said junior Kevin Segura. Suveer Seemangal found it enjoyable. "Skating was more entertaining since you got to see people fall and have fun."

Students paid \$4 to skate.

The trip was a reward for the business students who passed

all their CTE courses this year, such as sophomores who passed their Microsoft Office course, the juniors students who passed Accounting, Economics, Virtual Enterprise, and Business Law, and the seniors in Web Design.

"It was a nice break and we had a lot of fun," said Enxhi Begaj.

Elite Salon Provides Special Services

by Diony Perez

Seven female students from P77K in Park Slope traveled to Queens Voc to have their hair and nails done, and make-up applied by the senior cosmetology students in preparation for their prom.

"The girls were excited; it was a big deal for them," said Tina Pahlad, one of the cosmetologists who worked on the visitors.

The young visitors to the Elite Salon went to Queens Voc on Wednesday, June 6, and were at the school from 10am until 1pm.

Several of Ms. Quartuccio's seniors, along with several of Ms. Gonzalez's seniors, provided the services.

The eighth grade girls who trekked to Queens Voc for the services of the Elite Salon

were: Samirah Bond, Krystal Cepin, Meredith Cohn, Jasmine Jones, Shanice Lanbright, Tamara Lewis, and Alana Rousseau. They were escorted by Ms. Nadine Marques and Ms. Kathy Rychalski. "It's wonderful how a community school works so well with a District 75 school. The Queens

Voc students should be proud of what they did for our girls," said Ms. Rychalski.

To show their appreciation, the students' chaperones bought pizza for the senior cosmetologists.

To receive the cosmo services, the students needed permission of their parents.



P77K girls get spiffed up for their prom.



Skills USA winners have big reasons to smile.

Ellie Brienza & Miguel Garcia Head to National Competition

by Lisbeth Marmolejos

Ellie Brienza and Miguel Garcia will be going to the 48th annual National Leadership and Skills Conference to represent New York State from June 23 through June 27 in Kansas City, Missouri.

Ellie, a senior, won first place in Residential Wiring. She is very excited to represent New York State in Kansas City. "I feel amazing to be going to nationals! I'm upset that I will be missing my graduation on June 25. But it is a huge accomplishment, and I have been trying to win since last year's competition," Ellie said. "This competition has been around for a long time at Queens Voc. Mr. Vega participated in Skills USA in the '80s. I liked that this year every shop class was represented in the competition with at least one person," Mr. Cintron said.

Ellie has been preparing for the competition with Mr. Vega, an electrical installation teacher. "I have been preparing by practicing sample jobs that were done in the 2011 nationals. I will be going a mock job in Vega's electrical room," Ellie said. Mr. Cintron said he is

proud of Ellie especially since it has been 16 years since a student from Queens Voc won in the category of Residential Wiring.

Miguel Garcia also placed first place in Residential Systems Installation and Maintenance at the Skills USA conference. "I feel spectacular to be going to nationals. I'm grateful for Ms. Ramdeo for training me and giving me this amazing opportunity," Miguel said. He is training for this competition by doing networking and building different types of cables in his Robotics class.

Besides Ellie and Miguel, according to Mr. Cintron, an advisor, three seniors won metals in the Syracuse conference. Katherin Arias placed second in Industrial Motor Control, Ashley Deaza placed third in Job Interview, and Kelly Kato placed third in Electronics Technology. "My experience this year was more hands-on than last year's competition due to my competition in Industrial Motor Control. The competition gave me a new insight on an industrial field that I might pursue in the future," Katherin Arias said.

ROBOTIGERS:

"It was the best week of my life."

"It was an experience to remember."

"...I'm looking forward to next year."

by Zuleyma Pena

The RoboTigers are ranked 43 out of 2,200 teams around the world!

On April 25, the Queens Voc robotics team traveled for 18 hours in a coach bus to St. Louis, Missouri. Even though it was a long bus ride, "the road trip was very fun," said Andres Cadavid. It was a 4-day trip that included staying at Hotel

Archimedes division, which consisted of 90 teams. "Because everyone in our division was really good, it caused a little pressure," said Mr. Esguerra. But that didn't faze the team; they worked hard and finished with a record of 6-3 against the best high school robotics teams in the United States. "It was the best week of my life, we really didn't care about winning, we were there for the

enjoyed themselves and I'm looking forward to next year," said Mr. Ali.

The RoboTigers who went to Missouri were, Safreen Akbar, Jonathan Amon, Htet Aung, Mohammed Aziz, Alex Bedoya, Marylin Bonilla, Gabrielle Butler, Andres Cadavid, Denise Carbo, Thalia Cia, Andres Eras, Edwyn Flores, Raymond Gong, Lesly Hamud, Jose Hernandez, Eileen Herrera,



RoboTigers gather during competition in St. Louis, Missouri, in April.

Lumiere, competing in the For Inspiration and Recognition of Science Technology (FIRST) competition at the Edward Jones Dome and RoboProm. "It was an experience to remember. We got to meet teams from around the world, made new friends, and showed off our hard work over the season," said Khiran Samsundar.

The team competed in the

experience," said Abdul Khan, safety captain.

The \$21,000 dollar trip was covered by the Department of Education. The bus cost \$6,500 to go and come back, the hotel cost \$9,300, and registration was \$5,000. Mr. Ali paid for breakfast and dinner, which cost \$1,200, and the students only had to bring money for lunch. "It was great, the kids

Mohammed Hossain, Abdul Khan, Maximilian Manticof, Milton Mendez, Isaac Morales, Antonio Parada, Maria Perez, Elma Rahman, Arun Rai, Adan Romero, Amrita Saini, Khiran Samsundar, Julio Urgiles, and Richard Vega; teachers: Mr. Esguerra, and Mr. Ali; mentors: Amreen Akabar, Peter Beninati, and Brian Green; and parents: Mr. and Mrs. Akbar.

E.I. To Work Force One: Come In Please

by Luis Gonzales

Scholars at Work, a branch program of Work Force One, provides career and technical education students with proper job interview skills. The program comes to Queens Voc and has seminars in the lunchroom during CTE classes.

The seminars are run by mentors, who teach the students resume writing, job interview skills, and professional presence

through various activities, said Harunur Roshid, a senior in electrical installation. The job interview activity is student-to-student interviews. In another activity, students work on and present a 30-second elevator speech, which is a pitch that gets interviewees to be succinct while discussing themselves. "The 30-second speech is very helpful because it gives a brief explanation to the employer to start off the interview," said

Jersoon Garcia, a senior in EI.

Scholars at Work also provides this education to Queens Voc students who are not in EI, outside of school. The classes are held in Jamaica, Queens, where the students take classes from 2pm to 8pm from Tuesday to Thursday. The students will finish classes during the first week of June, and will also be interviewed for job internships, according to Ms. Newman.

Thomas Tinsley, Cristobal Cuazitl, Esteban Vega, and Jose Peralta were selected to take part in the program. To qualify for the program students must turn 18 by graduation. "It is a great experience because you



Javier and Bryant at Work Force One seminar.

get to meet important people in the transportation field," Thomas said.

Queens Voc EI students were the main target of the program, according to Ms.

Newman, because this year the job opportunities are in the transportation industry such as the MTA, airports, bus companies, and automotive repair shops.



This looks tougher than a day at school.

SCEET goes to Six Flags

by Marcia Leva

Two trips to Six Flags were held this spring, to reward students for their hard work.

One of the trips was held on Thursday, May 17, for students who participated in the Skills USA competition. And the other trip was held for SCEET on April 27.

“The school is very proud of the students who represented in Skills USA this year. They

represented themselves and the school proudly and well. The purpose of the Six Flags trip was to thank the students for their hard work they put into the competition. Skills USA is open to every student in every shop. We start recruiting again in September. and all students are welcomed to join,” said Mr. Cintron

Wenli Chen, who attended, said, “It was a good experience. I was excited, especially

on going onto the rides like Kingda Ka because it’s so intense looking. I believe I deserved the trip because I’m an excellent student. I hope to go again next year.”

Another student Brandon Lopez who also attended, said, “The experience was great. I went on a lot of rides that had me screaming. We also had a buffet afterwards.”

The Six Flags trip for SCEET, according to Mr. Raushan, “was a reward for the kids who constantly performed well in their classes.” To be able to go to the trip, you had to have passed the first, second, and third marking periods. Also, the student had to get positive recommendations from their teachers.

Luis Cruz, who attended, said, “The Six Flags trip was great to go on, even more because we went with the people I met in Skills USA. It was nice to take a break from all the stress of studying that we had to do for the Skills USA competition. Overall it was a lot fun.”

Teachers Teaching Teachers

by Priscilla Delgado

Twelve teachers took part in the residency program in Queens Voc this year. The residency program provides an alternative route to teacher certification, and is primarily for people who change their careers to become teachers. In the first year of the program, the residents spend time in a classroom with a mentor teacher to gain experience with a class.

The residents are all students at St. John’s, studying to get their master degrees in secondary education.

Ms. Romeo, a resident, said that being part of the program has taught her many things about teaching. One of them is that she has to be open-minded to be able to understand each class.

“There are very amazing

students in Queens Voc and there are great teachers in this school, too. I’m glad that I am a resident here because I am able to learn and gain first-hand experience from the masters.”

The mentor teachers were Mr. Ackerman, who mentored Ms. Millsap, Ms. DeCarlo mentored Ms. Antoine and Mr. Pierini, Ms. Ferrara mentored Ms. McCombs, Mr. Gallagher mentored Ms. Romeo, Ms. Green mentored Ms. Frias and Ms. Nadler, Mr. Stefanidis mentored Mr. Lucas and Mr. Salas, Ms. Wilson mentored Ms. Gardner and Ms. Wilson-King, and Ms. Green and Ms. Radovich mentored Ms. Morel.

Ms. Ridge was the original mentor teacher for Ms. Nadler, but then later gave up her resident to Ms. Green, who needed more assistance for her

Regents classes. Although her 10th and 12th grades classes were used to having a second teacher, Ms. Ridge said, “It’s what was best for the students, especially if the students are getting ready for the Regents in June.”



Ms. Romeo teaching.

QV Aces the Quality Review

by Jarin Rahman

Queens Voc scored 97 points out of 100 on the Quality Review that took place April 30 through May 1.

For two days, students and teachers were observed by reviewer Ms. Eve Bois. With a background as a CTE educator, Ms. Bois found Queens Voc to be a well-developed school, the best rating a school can get.

According to the New York City Department of Education website, “The Quality Review

is a two- or three-day school visit by experienced educators to each New York City school. During the review, the external evaluator visits classrooms, talks with school leaders, and uses a rubric to evaluate how well the school is organized to educate its students.”

Last year, the school scored 95, and was rated well-developed.

Now, the school is being removed from the PLA list of schools that are rated persistently lowest achieving.

The school now has a good rating and that will improve its reputation, but there will be a downside. The school will no longer be getting extra funds that were used to improve education.

School officials were exuberant. The principal, Ms. Burg, said, “I am extremely happy with the results. I thought we did very, very well and I am proud of all the teachers and students for working hard every day to make the school as terrific as it is.”

What’s the Hatch?

by Muhammad Allie

Walking down the fourth floor hall in the new wing, you look up and you see a big opening. The big access in the fourth floor ceiling wasn’t put there by mistake, it actually serves a purpose. “I think this is to bring in large supplies into the school that can’t fit in the stairs,” said Robert Gonzalez, a junior. “I think this opening is to drop packages through the roof of the building,” said Kiara Delarosa, a junior.

None of these responses are right, however. “The opening is there in case of an emergency,” said Mrs. Jarret-Holland, the custodian engineer. “That opening is called a hatch,” she said. “In case of a fire, the fire department can use the hatch to gain access to the school building,” said Mrs. Jarret-Holland.

“The hatch works manually: it is opened by the fire department,” said Mrs. Jarret-Holland. “If the hatch wasn’t there, the fire department would have to use other means of access to the school building, such as the windows and doors,” she added.

“The hatch is not only for fire emergencies, it can be used for other types of emergencies as well,” said the Veteran custodian engineer. “The hatch serves an important role for the school building in case of emergencies,” she concluded.



The opening that leaves people wondering.

C-Tech Seniors Prepare for A+ Certification

by Chorten Dolma

Since the beginning of the fifth marking period, the C-Tech seniors have been preparing for the A+ certification, said Mr. David, the C-Tech senior teacher.

Samuel Point Dujour said that he has been “reviewing most recent test and taking practice exams that explain why the answers are correct/incorrect or right/wrong” to prepare for the certification.

The A+ certification exam covers “everything from the start of the computer to its shut down,” said Mr. David. He said that the certification “helps you understand the foundation knowledge of computer hardware, software, printware, and networking.” Mr. Rodriguez said, “The point of the certification is to gain the entering level position in IT field.” The certification will help students financially in the future. Pawel Pietraszko believes the certification will help him in his job. “I will be able to apply whatever I learned to my job,” he said.

Mr. Rodriguez said that Queens Voc started administering the A+ certification test in 2005.

This year, the first student to take the test was Philip Borisuck Jr, who achieved a perfect score. “There are two parts to the test,” said Philip. “The first one is A+ Essentials, on basic computer knowledge, and the second one is A+ Practical Applications, on basic computer troubleshooting, including software and hardware,” he said. The two parts of the test are taken on separate days. The test score scales from 100 to 900, with 675 as the minimum passing score.

“CompTIA is the organization that sponsors the test,” said Mr. Rodriguez. Until this year, the school had to pay \$178 per part per student. This year, however, the school paid \$80 per part per student. Our school received a membership discount because Queens Voc has joined CompTIA.

The students don’t take the test at the same time or the same place. “Mr. Rodriguez assigns each student the time and place to take the test,” said Mr. David. Mr. Rodriguez said that he assigns the test site that is most convenient to the student distance-wise.

Cosmo Earns Recognition from NYS Assembly and State Senator Gianaris for Service to Sunnyside Community Center

by Alice Chee

Queens Voc's cosmetology staff and students were recognized for their volunteer services to the Sunnyside Community Center.

The department received the Volunteer Recognition Award "to recognize 20 years of volunteer service by the cosmetology department to the Sunnyside Community Center," said Mrs. Quartuccio, a senior cosmetology teacher.

A Volunteer Recognition Award was awarded by the Sunnyside Community Center, located a few blocks from the school. Along with the award, three certificates were also awarded. State Senator Michael N. Gianaris presented the Certificate of Recognition for outstanding service to the community. A Certificate of Merit from the New York State Assembly was also presented. The Board of Directors at



Queens Voc staff members receive volunteer awards.

Sunnyside Community Services presented the Certificate of Appreciation for Dedicated and Caring Volunteer Service 2011-2012.

"They realized that after 20 years of dedicated services, we should be recognized for the work that the girls do," said Mrs. Quartuccio. "I'm really proud of the students and they deserved the award

because they are hard working, compassionate, skilled, caring, and responsible," she said.

The award ceremony was held on Thursday, April 19, from 3pm to 6pm. All the senior cosmetology students and their cosmo teachers were invited. Eighteen students, three teachers, and AP Newman represented Queens Voc at the award ceremony.

"Community, city, and state politicians also attended the event," Mrs. Quartuccio said.

Mrs. Newman, the assistant principal of the School of Entrepreneurial Studies, thinks "It's great! It's long coming because we have been dedicated to providing services for senior participants at Sunnyside."

Mrs. Quartuccio finds the Queens Voc-Sunnyside relationship mutually beneficial. "Senior citizens and students all benefit from the services provided, and that is our greatest reward," she said.

Most people who attended the ceremony enjoyed it. "I liked the ceremony, everyone had fun," said Mrs. Quartuccio.

"I had a good time at the ceremony, it was festive. There were food, music, dancing, and presentation of the award by representatives in government," said AP Newman.

"I thought it was a wonderful opportunity for the students to

see that they are appreciated by the community. The gifts that were given to the students by the Sunnyside Community Center were in high quality," said Ms. Lingstuy, a cosmetology teacher.

Tanisha Northington, a senior cosmetology student who attended the award ceremony, also enjoyed it. "I was very excited about getting awards. I enjoyed seeing people get awards."

Betzabeth Astudillo, another senior cosmetology student who attended the event, said that "I felt welcomed at the ceremony. It feels great being recognized for helping the community."

"The ceremony was well organized and I had a lot of fun there," said Lisbelt Lopez.

Mrs. Quartuccio said "Sunnyside Community Center should be recognized for helping students gain the confidence they will need to work on real clients."

"Every minute of everyday, someone needs blood."

by Jonathan Gordon

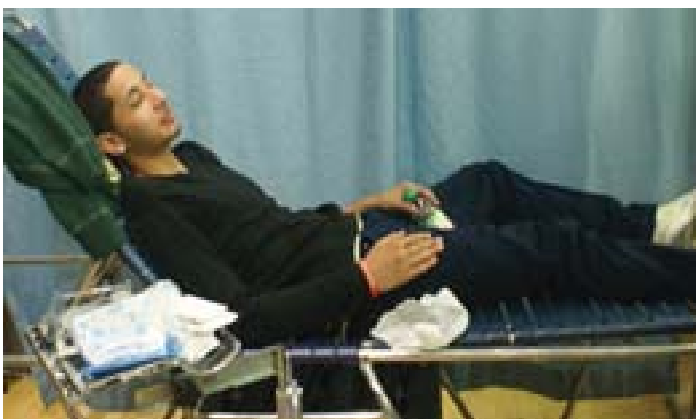
The second blood drive of the year took place on Tuesday, June 5. Mr. Vega said he wanted more participants, and got four more participants this time around.

"Most schools hold a blood drive twice within the school year," said Mr. Vega. "Those who sign up enjoy donating blood, and the benefit is saving lives."

Mr. Vega distributed blood drive wristbands this time, as well as the usual blood drive blood drop pins to indicate who participated in the blood drive. Mr. Vega aimed for more students for this blood drive because 100 students signed up last time, but only 40 were able to donate. The others either weren't eligible or just didn't show up. "I want our upperclassmen to participate because they're older and can handle it more," said Mr. Vega.

This time, 66 people signed up to give blood, but only 44 of them were able to donate, the other 22 were turned away for not meeting the weight requirements or low iron levels.

Kevin Salinas, a senior who donated blood, said, "I wanted to help other people in need." He described the experience as feeling as though



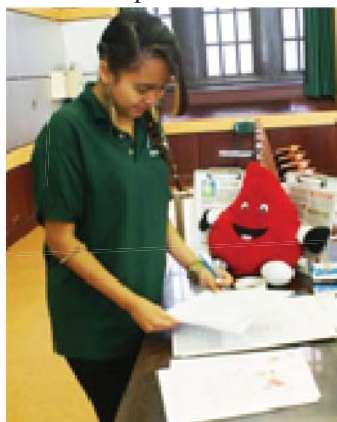
Ferdinando ready to be someone's hero.

time was slowing down and his temperature rising. "I would have to think about donating again," Kevin said.

Senior Kent Vara participated in the drive. He said that "It's something I've never done before, and I wanted to donate." He described the experience as being worse than he thought because the needle was so huge. "I would do it again because I could save another life."

Mr. Gallagher, a social studies teacher, said he "wanted to donate blood because I know how important it is for hospitals to have adequate blood supplies. It is senseless for someone to lose their life because of something so easy to prevent. Basically, 20 minutes of my day could eventually save someone's life. The personnel

running the drive were very professional. The experience was really painless. It ended up being the most relaxing part of my day," is how he described participating in the drive. "I would definitely donate blood again in the future. It is an easy way to contribute something that is so important."



Jessica at the Blood Drive.

Nineteen Seniors to Receive HSTW Achievement Award

by Fitore Morina

To some students, doing well in school pays off. High Schools That Work established the Award of Educational Achievement for graduates who demonstrate academic achievements.

Queens Voc partnered with HSTW to implement small learning communities. Further, HSTW provides professional development to the school's teachers. It also provides the HSTW Award of Educational Achievement. Each year, HSTW asks one hundred seniors to take an assessment test. "The High Schools that Work assessment test allows the team, and the state, to get inside on how small learning communities are working and how students are advancing," said Ms. Ocampo, AP for pupil personnel services. Students who meet the requirements of the achievement award receive a certificate and a letter of congratulations from the regional education board. Nineteen Queens Voc students received these awards.

There are three requirements for earning the HSTW Award of Educational Achievement.

Students taking the assessment test must complete at least two of the three parts to the test: four or more English courses, four or more mathematics courses, and three or more science courses. The goal for the test assessment is to score at least an 85% average in reading, an 85% average in mathematics, and a 75% average in science.

At the graduation ceremony, the Queens Voc seniors who will receive the HSTW Award of Educational Achievement are: Muhammad Allie, Juan Alzate, Katherin Arias, James Batista, Jonathan Calderon, Alice Chee, Santiago Criollo, Christian Diaz, Chorten Dolma, Eduardo Gil, Kelly Kato, Brandon Lopez, Tanisha Northington, Michelle Pineda, Joel Polonia, Jaime Quizhpi, Evelin Ramirez, Jennifer Rojas, and Joshua Zuniga.

Congratulations to the seniors receiving the HSTW Award!

R=AIN Walks For Hope



by Muneeza Ahmed



Students exercise good judgement raising money.

R=AIN participated in the annual AIDS Walk on Sunday, May 20. Forty-four people representing Queens Voc showed up to help raise money for a cure for AIDS. The AIDS Walk is sponsored by Gay Mens Health Crisis.

Ms. Kurnitz, the R=AIN advisor, led the school's AIDS walk participation.

The 6.2 mile walk started and ended at Central Park.

During the walk, R=AIN wore spray-painted tee shirts. "It's a lot of fun to see unique people. There was music, food, and dancing," said Ms. Kurnitz. Kent Vara, a R=AIN member, said he enjoyed participating to help raise money and he had lots of fun walking with his friends.

R=AIN held a bake sale and a jewelry sale for Mother's Day to raise money for the

AIDS walk and for a Steffi Garcia plaque. R=AIN raised \$1,316.15 in the bake sale and the jewelry sale for the AIDS walk. \$100 was taken out for the Steffi Garcia plaque. \$863.17 of the money raised was set aside for the AIDS Walk, but with the donations, it came out to be a total of \$2,316.47. Students have until June 15 to donate money towards the AIDS walk.

The students who walked were Arif Abdul, Jessica Alcaide, Syarifah Andi, Jocelyn Andrews, Mayra Andrews, Rashad Andrews, Inocencio Becerril, Sofia Bonilla, Tyra Borders, Alexis Crespín, Josue Cruz, Priscilla Delgado, Margaret DeLuca, Alyssa DeSantis, Thalia Dutan, Karla Garcia, Evelyn Guerra, Lorena Guzman, Christine Hawkins, Dassy Jadan, Kelly Laynes, Marcia Leva, Danielle Moore, Victoria Noel, Tina Pahlad, Yachira Perez, Yadira Perez, Jarin Rahman, Evelin Ramirez, Joanna Rocano, Nicholas Rodriguez, Sonia Sanchez, Stefanie Sierra, Marju Sotto, Claude Stuart, Karena Tangarife, Anthony Thomas, Javier Tomala, Kent Vara, Nohely Vazquez, Justin Velez, Melanie Velez, Nesla Velovic, and Todius Williams.

Ms. BURG PLANS FOR A NEW YEAR

by Tina Pahlad

Thursday, September 6, 2012, will officially begin Ms. Burg's third year as Queens Voc's principal. For the upcoming year, she plans to achieve three goals.

Her first goal is to achieve at least an 80% graduation rate for the 2012-2013 school year, because Ms. Burg said, the graduation rate in a "good" school is 80% and she would like Queens Voc to become part of this category. This year, Queens Voc has its highest percentage of seniors in history and according to Ms. Burg, "hopefully 250 students will graduate in June." Ms. Burg hopes that the percentage of graduates will go even higher in the upcoming year than it will in June.

Ms. Burg's second goal is to achieve at least a 90% attendance rate for the school year. In March and April, the attendance rate was just over 89% for each month. Ms. Burg said that 90% attendance is part of being a "good school." "I think it would be great to end the school year with at least a 90% attendance for the year," said Ms. Burg. "Unfortunately, when the weather starts to get warmer, attendance starts to drop." The overall attendance rate from September to June is

currently 90.5%.

Her third goal is for all students to earn an 80 on one math Regents and a 75 on their English Regents, to help make sure students don't have to take remedial courses in college. "If students do not pass this course, a lot of times the college doesn't let you take an upper class course, meaning you won't be



Principal Burg at work.

able to graduate on time," said Ms. Burg.

Ms. Burg is working to create advance placement (AP) courses at Queens Voc. The courses are Human Geography, European History, Art and History, English Composition and Writing, Physics, and Environmental Science. European History and English Composition and Writing is for 11th and 12th graders. Human Geography, Physics

and Environmental Science are for only 12th graders. Art and History is for all the students. Each class is a year long and counts as a two-credit course, except for Art and History, which is a one-credit course.

In September, just about than 400 freshmen will be enrolled in Queens Voc. The school is starting to work with its Expanded Success Institute Team (ESIT), which consists of administrators, students, parent coordinators, and guidance counselors to help the students become more successful at their academic courses. "This is a program in which Queens Voc has already had success," said Ms. Burg, who is trying to expand it. This program originally works with black and Hispanic males who plan to graduate high school and go to college. Queens Voc, however, decided to use this program on all the freshmen. Sixty schools have sent in an application, but only forty get the grant. If Queens Voc is able to get the program, the Department of Education will give Queens Voc of \$250,000; \$100,000 the next school year, \$100,000 the following year, and \$50,000 in the third following year.

Ms. Burg has high hopes that she will achieve her goals. "We have an amazing school," said Ms. Burg. "When we put our mind on something as a school, we work towards it."

R=AIN Celebrates Pride Month

by Tina Marie Callanan

June is Pride Month, according to Ms. Dayna Kurnitz. For Pride Month, GSA/R=AIN conducted presentations in health classes and made posters for the halls.

They also put together a survey to help us make GSA/R=AIN more appealing to the general student population. Every student who participated in the survey received cookies as an incentive. The members of GSA/R=AIN made original Pride-themed jewelry that they wore throughout the month.

"I'm really proud of everyone who helped out making jewelry. Some people discovered new talents that they didn't know they had, as we introduced a new fundraiser to the school. GSA/R=AIN

participated in new events and fundraisers this year to promote the club more. I wanted the group to try new activities and fundraisers," said Ms. Dayna. The members of GSA/R=AIN went to room 151C on their free periods or during lunch to help make jewelry.

GSA/R=AIN had 2 bake/jewelry sales. According to Ms. Dayna, the jewelry sale went "really well and it was a lot of fun." \$1,308.65 was raised. \$863.17 of the money raised was given to the AIDS Walk, but with the inclusion of donations, it came out to a total of \$2,316.47. One-hundred dollars of the money raised went toward a memorial plaque for Steffi Garcia, and the rest went on the supplies of the jewelry making. The plaque will be dedicated in September.



Lunch time sale included jewelry and baked goods.

FBLA Supports Autism Speaks

by Diony Perez

On Sunday, June 3, FBLA members and their advisor, Ms. Mitchell, went on the "Walk Now for Autism Speaks" walk.

The Future Business Leaders of America raised money by asking family, friends, and teachers to donate to the cause. Members raised over \$200, a whopping amount considering the number of members who actually raised money, said Ms. Mitchell. The walk was 1.2 miles long, "shorter than expected but we all had a great time," said Christian Flores.

The members who participated in this event were: Jose Recinos, Sonia Sanchez, Suveer Seemangal, Kevin Segura, and Christian Flores, who coordinated FBLA's role in the walk.

Ms. Mitchell, who has been the FBLA advisor for the past four years, said, "It's been an

FBLA tradition to have an annual dinner, but this year because of senior activities, FBLA members have had difficulty choosing a date for the dinner. Andrea Sacharsky, president of Queens Voc's FBLA chapter, said, "I would still like to have a dinner and believe it's better late than never."



Students' Views Vary on School Lunch

by Diony Perez

Is school lunch good or bad?

Twelve hundred and twenty nine students in Queen's Voc have a scheduled lunch period, according to Mr. Davidson. Period four has 290 students, period five has 323 students, period six has 384 students, and period seven has 232 students.

Ten percent of the students in each lunch period were asked whether they thought school lunch was good or bad.

Sixty-five percent of the students surveyed in period four said school lunch is good and 35% said it was bad. Sophomore Robinson Adames said, "School lunch isn't that good, but I wouldn't say it's bad because it's something to eat. Plus it's free, well, for most of us."

Fifty-six percent of the period five students surveyed said that school lunch is good and 44% said it is bad. Junior Michelle Silva thinks school look is good. "I think people

who say school lunch is bad just say that because that's how school lunch comes across in the media, but in reality, school lunch is pretty good," she said.

Only 21% of the freshmen interviewed said that school lunch is good, while 79% said that school lunch is bad. Freshman Emeli Diaz said she thinks "school lunch is bad because the food tastes old and isn't well cooked." Dyanmond Collins, another freshman, agreed with Emeli. "The cafeteria serves food from the

previous day and most of the times is always raw."

Period seven, had 26% of the respondents say school lunch was good, and 74% said that school lunch is bad. "School lunch tastes good and there's a lot of options to choose from," said junior Joseph Taveras. But most students seem to disagree. Sophomore Louis Thomas said, "There isn't really a variety of food to choose from, the food taste as if it were reheated, and the meat from the chicken fingers are always pink."



Hot dog! Lunch is good!

Cosmetology Expertise Tested

by Biaani Garcia

"The National Occupational Competency Testing Institute exam was taken by the senior cosmetology class in Queens Voc in order to receive an endorsed diploma," said Ms. Newman, director of SES. "The exam proves that the students met the state requirements of the industry and master what they've learned," she said.

There are different difficulty levels of NOCTI exams. The only one provided in Queens Voc is the high school level.

Students have the option to take a higher level exam and receive 30 hours for their CTE hours. Ms. Newman said that the exam is highly difficult and she doesn't recommend it be taken.

The exam consists of a written part and a performance part. According to Ms. Newman, next year the written part might be taken online instead of using scantrons.

The Cosmetology NOCTI exam was taken May 14 to May 17. The written part took place Monday, May 14, in the

cafeteria. All students had to arrive at 7:45am, 15 minutes prior to the test. Students who arrived once the exam started weren't allowed to take it. The seating was arranged one student per table to ensure that there would be no cheating. After finishing the test, the students went back to the Elite Salon, room 344. The practical part was held May 15 to May 17 in the Elite Salon. There were two sessions per day, one at 8am and the other at 11am. There were 10 students per session since there were only

two proctors to evaluate them. Students performed different services they've learned, while being timed. The proctors were Ms. Torres, who teaches freshman cosmetology, and Ms. D'Onofrio, who teaches cosmetology to juniors.

While the tests were in session, senior cosmetology teachers weren't allowed in the room to prevent any form of cheating.

"I felt well prepared to take the test because the teachers worked hard to prepare us," said Emily Diaz. The teachers would run drills based on how the test is given, but in a shorter amount of time. They also give

practice tests for theory. "It was easier than I expected it to be," said Betzabeth Astudillo.

"My advice for future seniors is to not take anything for granted, take all the opportunities to learn. Always show up to class because later you'll realize that it's all important," said Lucy Ramirez, senior cosmetologist.

The only requirement to take the NOCTI exam is to be a senior cosmetologist. Results came in Monday June 4. Out of the 49 students who took the test, only one failed. Failing the NOCTI exam does not affect the ability to earn an endorsed diploma.

GET COLLEGE HELP: ASAP

by Muneza Ahmed

ASAP, Accelerated Study in Associate Programs, provides students attending a community college with both academic and personal additional financial support, free Metrocards, and textbooks, and allows students who want to transfer to a four-year college to be prepared.

ASAP is only available to students who attend CUNY community colleges such as Borough of Manhattan Community College, Bronx Community College, Hostos Community College, Kingsborough Community College, LaGuardia Community College, and Queensborough Community College, and are New York City residents and full time students receiving some financial aid and needing no more than two remedial courses, according cuny.edu.

ASAP is designed to help community college students earn their degrees as quickly as possible with the goal of

graduating at least 50% of students within two years. ASAP features include a consolidated block schedule, cohorts by major, small class size, required full-time study and comprehensive advertisement and career development services, according to the CUNY website.

ASAP is involved in the workshops led by the CUNY Creative Arts Team, CAT, where students practice strong leadership, teamwork, confident public speaking, active listening, advocating for self and others, and promoting mutual tolerance and respect.

"The program is a great opportunity to encourage and support students attending community colleges," said Ms. Abrams. Students have to apply for ASAP information sessions as quickly as possible because seats are limited. ASAP does not qualify for students who want a teaching or nursing degree and is only a two year program.

POETRY MANIA

by Daniel Corona

Ms. Himmel, the coordinator of the poetry club, said she was very happy with cooperation, participation, and support of the staff and students during poetry month.

On Friday, May 25, Ms. Himmel held the sixth annual poetry slam in the library, during periods 8 and 9. First prize went to Gabrielle Butler, 2nd prize to Andy Urueta, and 3rd prize to Upasana Tyagi. The judges were Kiara Delarosa, Kan Singh, Mr. Daniel and Mr. Esguera.

The poetry club also ran Poetry Share 2012, where staff and students were invited to read poetry over the PA system. Some of the staff members who read in the poetry share were Ms. Burg, Ms. Dattner, Ms. Radovich, Ms. Rousey, and Mr. Schimenz.

Staff members and students participated in creating a poetry-related bulletin board display, which featured the poem "Barter" by Sara Teasdale, students and staff posted poems around the board, together with the ones that were read over the



Ms. Himmel gives out certificates to club members.

PA system.

On Thursday, April 26, the poetry club members participated in "Poem-In-Your-Pocket Day," which "was successful for a first time event," said Ms. Himmel. During fifth period, the fourteen poetry club members walked into various classrooms and shared their poems.

The poetry club members who participated in "Poem-In-Your-Pocket Day" are Katia Ascencio, Gabriella Butler, Wenli Chen, Ryan Khaloo, Gabriella Martinez, Valentin

Martinez, Michael Murphy, Maritza Murudumbay, Mary Paguay, Maria Perez, Michael Piekarz, Emily Quizhpilema, Nazanin Somarin, and Jeremy Vargas. Each of these students received awards thanking them for their contributions on "Poem-In-Your-Pocket Day." Mary Paguay said sharing her poem "was a fun experience. Because of the poetry club and their events, I understand and like poetry more."

Ms. Himmel said she is "looking forward to making future poetry events better."



Yearbook signing in early June reminds seniors that the end of high school is near.

Class of 2012: The Final Moments

by Daniela Vidal

For most seniors, the end of high school is here. And they've been celebrating.

Senior Prom was held on June 1 at Terrace on the Park, in Flushing Meadows Park in Queens. The event started at 8pm and lasted until 1am. Tickets were sold for \$100 for the first 125 people, after that, the price for the ticket was \$115. There were 297 students and guests and 20 chaperones at the prom.

Yearbooks were distributed on Wednesday, June 6, in the student cafeteria during second period. In previous years, yearbooks were distributed during the senior barbeque, but this year, there has been no barbeque and senior officers have not announced any plans. "I don't think there will be another senior event, but things might change. I might decide to have an event

somewhere in June," said Maximilian Manticof, senior class president.

Graduation will be held on Monday, June 25, in the Colden Auditorium at Queens College. The event is scheduled to start at 7:30pm and end at 9:30pm. Seniors will receive four tickets for their guests.

For some students, college is the next step. Yet, there are some students who have not applied for college and think it's too late. "Those students should run to see me," said Ms. Abrams, "We can probably find them a seat at a community college."

Before students register in CUNY schools, students must have paid their commitment fee, completed their math placement test, and completed their immunization form. The original diploma must be shown to the CUNY college before starting class.

Students who have decided

which college they're going to should notify the college that they will attend. "Students should have already paid their commitment deposit of \$100 to CUNY. If their EFC is less than \$3,000, they don't need to pay the deposit, but they should go to the school and make sure," said Ms. Abrams. The deposit for CUNY secures their seat at the college to which they were accepted.

Students who applied for FAFSA or TAP should have received or will receive their Financial Aid Award letter said Ms. Abrams, who recommends that students call the college they are attending to know if everything is fine with their financial aid process.

CUNY colleges start class on August 27.

"Students who are attending other colleges besides CUNY colleges, should see me to send a transcript to the school," said Ms. Abrams.

ceremony at the end of June, either the 25th or 26th.

Ms. Radovich, director of SED, and assistant principal for Humanities is moving on to become principal of Flushing High School.



Mr. Gallagher leads 6th period SED meeting.

NEWS from SED

by Tina Marie Callanan

On May 25, freshmen were informed of their CTE majors for next year.

Next year's freshmen class will have 402 students, 20 fewer than next year's class. The school is also accepting 72 sophomores from other high schools.

Orientation for new students will be held on Wednesday, Aug. 29. Ms. Burg, Ms. Dattner, and Ms. Baez, will split the group into morning and afternoon sessions, because of the large number of new students.

According to Ms. Dattner, the freshmen class is selected into the school by their grades in 7th

grade and also by their scores on the state testing in math and ELA. The new sophomores will be selected the same way except their grades from 8th grade.

SED will have a final awards

Books Down For the Book Club!

by Sylvester Nimako

be available at the beginning of next year.

Reader's Realm, the Queens Voc book club, is ending the year with new activities and a new book.

On May 3, the book club held a meeting to discuss *The Chronicles of Vladimir Tod*, Eighth Grade Bites by Heather Brewer. The club members were quizzed on events that occurred in the story, while stating their opinions on characters and their actions.

Also at the meeting, they also voted for book club sweatshirts by it's Style, color, and logos were some of the category. The sweatshirts will

During the meeting the members also obtained their last book of the year, *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*, by Stephen Chbosky. The members had until May 24 to finish the book and were quizzed on May 31. They discussed their favorite parts of the book and rated it. Most of the members gave it a high rating. Ms. Lewis the book club coordinator said, "This was one of my favorite books." Starting May 3, the book club had 4 meeting left. The book club will end the year with a pizza party at Dominos on June 11.



Ms. Lewis began a very popular book club this year.

Master Teachers' Success Leads to their own Demise

by Philip Borisuck Jr.

Mr. Diamont, Mr. Gallagher, Mr. Lederer, and Mr. Papadopol all have something in common. They are known as master teachers.

Two years ago, Ms. Vittor, the principal at the time, picked the four teachers because "they are exceptional teachers in their field."

The master teachers received an increase in their wages to "...mentor and serve as resources for other teachers," said Mr. Papadopol, the master science teacher.

Queens Voc was able to support a wage increase for the master teachers because the school qualified for a grant, which was initiated by President Barack Obama, known as Race to The Top. The grant is awarded "to improve schools that are graded as PLA"—

Persistently Lowest Achieving, said Ms. Burg, about a rating Queens Voc received a couple of years ago.

Mr. Papadopol teaches physics and photonics. "I was grateful...flattered, and tried my best to actually deserve the trust that was put in me," said Mr. Papadopol on his reaction when he was selected to be a master teacher. "As a master teacher, I have to be able to model for other teachers how lessons are taught," said Mr. Papadopol.

Queens Voc has been getting better grades from the city and the state. Because of success, Queens Voc is not being awarded more Race to the Top money. As a result, the master teacher positions will be eliminated and the master teachers are expected to return in September as regular teachers.

Health Awareness Day at York College

by Priscilla Delgado

Ms. Torres and Mr. Daniel, along with Ms. Kurnitz and Mr. Guerrier, took 56 health students to York College for a health fair. “The purpose of the trip was to expose the students to community services like health insurance, HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs), drunk driving, diabetes, and much more,” said Ms. Torres. “I liked that the representatives were willing to interact with the students and talked to the students like people, instead of viewing them as kids who didn’t understand,” Ms. Kurnitz said.

“I enjoyed going on the trip. It was fun and there were a couple of women from the Clinic of Women’s Health



Ms. Torres speaks with a health professional at fair.

Services that taught me things I didn’t know before,” said Melanie Velez, a senior from Ms. Torres’ class. The Clinic of Women’s Health Services had a display and pamphlets

about breast cancer, and also had rubber breasts to show teen girls and women the correct way to perform a monthly self-examination. If the woman feels strange lumps in her

breast, she should get checked out by a doctor to ensure it’s not cancer developing.

“I liked that the variety of topics provided free samples, for example condoms. I learned that safe sex is great sex because it prevents so many STIs, and I will make sure to keep that in mind for the future,” said Javier Tomala, a senior in Ms. Torres’ class. And, apparently so will many of Queens Voc’s students, as many of them grabbed a few condoms just to be safe.

A lot of students on the trip seemed to find the Alcoholic Anonymous (AA) table very fascinating. The representative from AA had ten cups in a pyramid form, and the purpose of the activity was to take down the pyramid and to restack it. But after the first time, the student would have to take it down and restack it again with a pair of goggles on, which

gave the student the vision of a drunk person. About twenty Queens Voc students tried to restack the cups with the goggles on, and all failed. Just before the fair was over, the students borrowed the goggles and tried to walk in a straight line. Even Mr. Daniel tried the goggles and found himself with his arms out, trying to balance himself. “I don’t think the kids got the seriousness of the activity. They all thought it was funny but they didn’t realize that if they were to be in that state of mind, they can actually cause damage to themselves and to others around,” said Ms. Kurnitz.

“The students enjoyed the trip and I hope they learned something from it and I will try to have guest speakers from the fair come to the school in the future and speak to my health classes,” Ms. Torres said.

ETA Certification: AC/DC

by Abdoulaye Diallo

Electronics has increased the number of certifications they offer to their students with the introduction of ETA certifications. Prior to this year, electronics students could only earn two certifications, copper cabling and fiber optics communications.

“This is the first year ETA certifications have been administered and it provides a great opportunity for the students,” said Ms. Ramdeo, an electronics teacher and ETA site administrator. The two new ETA certifications are for AC and DC electrical theory. DC, direct current, is the flow of electrons in one direction, while AC, alternating current, periodically reverses direction.

Sixteen senior electronics students took the DC ETA certification exam on March 20 and all 28 juniors took the exam on April 5. All senior and junior SCEET students, however, were eligible to take the certification exam, but some of the students came late or were absent on exam day, said Mr. Ali, an electronics teacher and assistant principal of School of Skilled Building Trades. The tests have been sent out to the ETA grading center, said Ms. Ramdeo, and the students are going to receive the results and certification by mail. Certified students bring their certification to Ms. Ramdeo for school records.

The DC ETA certification exam consisted of 75 questions covering topics such as resistor color code, magnetism, electron theory, series & parallel circuits, Thevenon’s theorem, Norton’s theorem, Wheatstone

bridge, combinational circuits, and OSHA safety, said Mr. Ali. “The students studied most of the subjects their sophomore year and reviewed them at some point during their junior year,” he said.

“It [the certification exam] was pretty easy, it’s just basic concepts and things we’ve learned the past three years,” said Maximilian Manticof, a senior electronics student. “I feel like I performed well enough on the exam to receive my certification,” he added.

“The students were very prepared,” said Ms. Ramdeo. In preparation for the certification exam, Mr. Ali, said that he “formulated some questions that aligned to the curriculum of the DC module and the questions were discussed in class in the form of presentations.” Maximilian said “The review refreshed our memory and prepared us very well for the exam.”

Navindra Singh is another senior electronics student who thinks that he performed well enough on the certification exam to earn his certification. “I’ll be going into the electronics and engineering field and this certification will show that I know basic DC theories,” he said. Maximilian said he “plans on applying for internships while in college to prepare for the workforce in the engineering field,” and he thinks that the ETA will help in that endeavor.

Some students that have received notification of their certification are Jonathan Calderon, Chorten Dolma, Kelly-Ann Kato, Maximilian Manticof, and Joshua Zuniga.

SSBT News: Awards Ceremony

by Kelly Ann Kato

The School of Skilled Building Trades had an awards ceremony on May 30, to present SSBT students with awards in four categories: Best in Class, Professionalism, Honor Roll, and Perfect Attendance. For students to be on the Honor Roll, they must have an average of 85 or above.

Thirty-six students received the award for Best in Class: Muhammad Allie, Henry Alvarez, Rodrigo Bringas, Jose Cabrera, Hang Chen, Jesse Clark, Saul Cruz, Michael Feliz Gomez, Albert Ferrari, Gregory Guevara, Mike Hernandez, Ahtesham Hoque, Salvatore Isabella, Christian Lopez,



Mr. Vega presents awards.

Valerie Lara Lopez, Kenneth Marin, Jennifer Martinez, Orlando Martinez, Eric McPherran, Brayan Morales, Gabriel Nana, Kenal Ortega, Elliot Ortiz, Andres Ospina, Diego Palacios, Alexander Pena, Kimberly Pisfil, Juan Prado, Devindra Raghunandan, Luis Ramirez, Moises Ramos, Gregory Rousseau, Louis Thomas, Antonio Torres, Monica Vega, and Grebb

Ventura.

Forty-one students received the award for Professionalism: Jordy Abreu, Radfan Ali, Muhammad Allie, Giovanni Alonso, Henry Alvarez, Carlos Bacecos III, Marilyn Bonilla, William Callanan, Andy Collado, Nicholas Cornier, Saul Cruz, Kiara De Iarosa, Luis Delatorre Hern, Priscilla Delgado, Kevin Foronda, Isaiah George, Robert Gonzalez, Jon Guaman, Mike Hernandez, Salvatore Isabella, Ismael Khalil, Nicholas Kotsakis, Andrew Labiessiere, Valerie Lara Lopez, Steven Lugo, Orlando Martinez, Clemente Martinez, Eric McPherran, Henry Montero, Michael Murphy, Sonia Orellana, Diego Palacios, Nahuel Sanabria, Karina Tavares, Christian Teran, Louis Thomas, Marcin Trzeciak, Arturo Valencia, Javier Yunga, Dino Zambrano, and Mirian Zhagui.

Nine students received the award for Honor Roll: Radfan Ali, Natalie Guanga, Mike Hernandez, Christian Lopez, Eric McPherran, Diego Palacios, Gregory Rousseau, Thomas Tinsely, and Dino Zambrano.

Thirty-nine students received the award for Perfect Attendance: Jordy Abreu, Giovanni Alonso, Henry Alvarez, Kevin Brito, Leonel Ching, Francisco Cornier, Manuel Cruz, Sthephane Duran, Harlinson Gaviria, Alex Gonzalez, Hang Chen, Mike Hernandez, Zheng Hu, Valerie Lara Lopez, Jun Li, Lisbeth Marmolejos, Agustin Martinez, Clemente Martinez, Rosalva Martinez, Eric McPherran, Jeffery Montoya, Leonardo Morales, Arnaldo Ojeda,

Andres Ospina, Diego Palacios, Alexander Pena, Jamie Quizhpi, Jesse Quizhpi, Luis Ramirez, Gregory Rousseau, Ismael Ruiz, Steven Rychalski, Christian Teran, Marcin Trzeciak, Carlos Vargas, Monica Vega, Grebb Ventura, Dahai Xia, and Dino Zambrano.

Along with these 125 students who received awards in the main four categories, were five students who received an award for Best in Public Address Announcements: Jose Cabrera, Isaiah George, Krzysztof Jakubowicz, David McCullough, and Andy Urutea. Three students received an award for being on the Poem-In-Your-Pocket Celebration Team: Ryan Khaloo, Michael Murphy, and Jeremy Vargas.

At the New York State SkillsUSA conference in Syracuse, April 25-27. Ellie Brienza took first in Residential Wiring and Katherin Arias took second place in Industrial Motor Control. Ellie will be going to nationals, June 23-27 in Kansas City, Missouri. “Nationals is a showcase for all the winners from different states, who competed and won their SkillsUSA state contest,” said Mr. Cintron, a SkillsUSA advisor. “They have an opportunity to meet with companies, colleges, and others from their area of expertise.” High school competitors also compete with college level competitors simultaneously, added Mr. Cintron.

Corbin Aldridge, Derek Atson, Elixandria Brienza, Salvatore Isabella, Alejandro Obando, Kenal Ortega, and Gregory Rousseau completed the spring session of Construction Skills on May 17.

What is Quality Teaching?

by Daniel Corona

“My teacher isn’t doing a good job... they don’t prepare me... I haven’t learned this before...” These are all comments we’ve all heard, Queens Voc students say about their teachers.

What is quality teaching?

To be a quality teacher, teachers must incorporate many things, said Principal Burg. Teachers should engage students intellectually in standards-based work, and plan a formative assessment, like a exit slip, to make sure the students understand the work, she said.

“A highly effective teacher is able to design effective and engaging lessons that lend to high levels of leaving,” said Mr. Gorman, director of SCEET. Why do we need quality teaching?

“We need quality teaching because the teachers have one of the most important job in the world; preparing young people to become grown-ups is so important. Teachers need to stop and think how much we affect the lives of the kids who sit in front of us,” said Ms. Burg.

If teachers are not as effective, what can they do to be more effective?

“The administration’s job is to work with teachers to teach them to be better teachers,” said Ms. Burg. Mr. Gorman said much of that involves getting the teacher to be self-reflective. “I believe teacher improvement comes about through a teacher’s own reflection on the work they do each day,” he said.

How does the administration know if a teacher is not effective?

If a lot of students are saying that the teacher isn’t good, Ms. Burg said there’s a reason why so many kids are complaining. If she hears many complaints about a teacher, she said she would look further into the complaints.

How can the administration help create more effective teachers?

“Administration can help by focusing on improvement in future tasks. This includes classroom management, lesson planning, establishing a culture for learning, student engagement strategies, assessment strategies and finally, continued encouragement to improve,” said Mr. Gorman.

Annoying Announcements?

by Eliana Moronta

“Sorry for the interruption. All students who are going on the trip should meet in the auditorium at this time.” At Queens Voc, announcements such as this are common during class at any time of the day. According to the bell schedule, announcements are to be made during the assigned time from 10:48am to 10:53am. But that has been ignored; almost every day, classes are disrupted at other times of the day.

Staff and students who want to have an announcement made must fill out, a form and have it approved by Mr. Alikakos. Often, though, when staff can’t contact a person or group they need, or have information believed to be so important as to interrupt classes, they will make an announcement on the loudspeaker without the request form. This is a last minute solution that has become an ongoing nuisance. Numerous times, the announcements remind teachers to attend a SLC meeting.

“Announcements should be made during third period because it is appropriate,” said Mr. Vega, who occasionally makes announcements during class. “I dislike interrupting

classes, but there are times we have to make announcements during the day to inform students about deadlines and events,” he added. “Sometimes I have to make announcements because often I have students come to me telling me, “I didn’t know, no one told me,” and this avoids this problem.

Are announcements throughout the day taking time from learning? A freshman, Liliana Fernandez says that she doesn’t listen to them and continues working. Senior Margaret Deluca said she can “barely hear them, but once they go on most of my classmates and I stop working.”

“I dislike the [unscheduled] announcements, sometimes when they can’t make announcements they call the class many times and it just gets annoying,” said Mr. Davidson, an economics teacher.

Perhaps, students and teachers should remain quiet during the regular morning announcements so that the main means of communication with students and staffs is allowed to work. If teachers can keep their students quiet, they’d be fewer interruptions throughout the day. If announcements are heard more, “I didn’t know about...” would be heard less.

Vocational Voice

Queens Vocational & Technical High School

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

Tel 718.937.3010
Fax 718.392.8397

Online at VocVoice.org

Ms. Melissa Burg
Principal

Mr. Alikakos
AP, Administration

Ms. Radovich
AP, Humanities

Mr. Rob Schimenz
Advisor

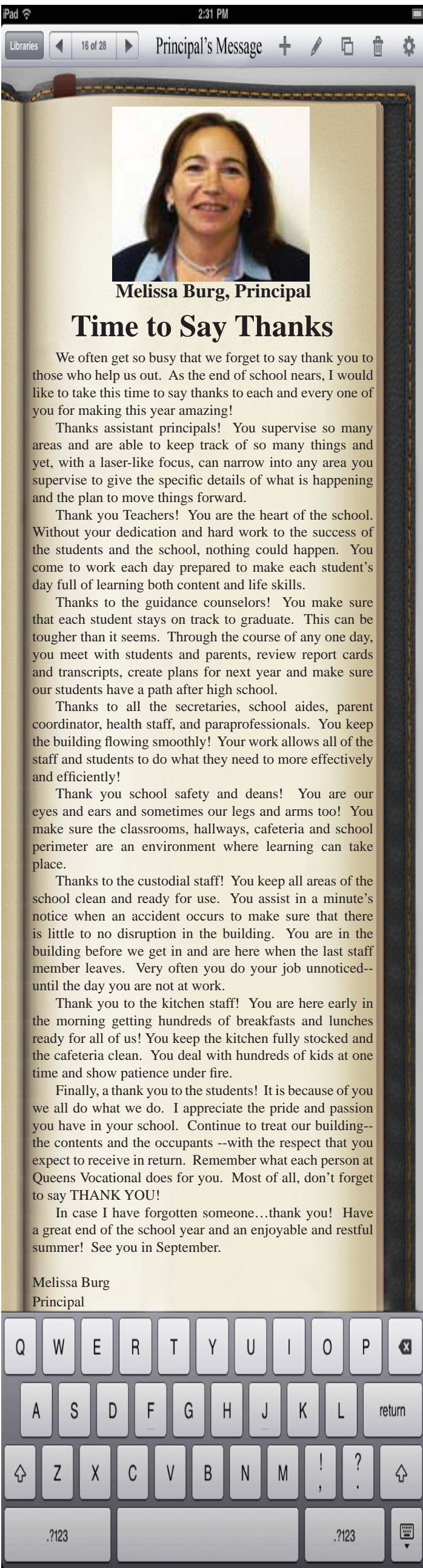
Managing Editors
Bryant Cartagena
Tina Pahlad
Diony Perez

Layout Editors
Francisco Frias
Brenda Jerez
Marcia Leva
Evelin Ramirez
Stefanie Sierra
Nohely Vazquez
Daniela Vidal

Contributors
Muneeza Ahmed
Muhammad Allie
Juan Alzate
Philip Borisuck Jr.
Tina Callanan
Alice Chee
Daniel Corona
Alexis Crespín
Ashley Deaza
Priscilla Delgado
Abdoulaye Diallo
Chorten Dolma
Biaani Garcia
Luis Gonzales
Jonathan Gordon
Keivan Jimenez
Kelly-Ann Kato
Lisbeth Marmolejos
Fitore Morina
Eliana Moronta
Sylvester Nimako
Yanil Ortiz
Zuleyma Pena
Jarin Rahman
Yaw Teh
Sanjeev Thapa
John Tosado

Photographs by:
Bryant Cartagena, Marcia Leva,
Diony Perez, and Evelin Ramirez

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



OUR READERS SPEAKOUT

by Abdoulaye Diallo

We received 56 feedback letters about the spring edition of *Vocational Voice*, more than double the 25 letters we received about the winter edition. We have endeavored to include comments from each letter we received, and in the writer's own words. No anonymous letters were included.

We received the most feedback about Tina Callanan's article, "New Equipment Works Out Well." Among the 11 letters, we received one by **Chelsea Valasco**, who thanked Tina for writing about the new weight room equipment. "It is good that you are writing to inform us of the progress of

“Congratulations on a job well done. I look forward to your next edition.”

the weight room," she wrote. **Monica Peralta** agreed, saying that a lot of people are excited for the new equipment because it's "brand new and fresh." **Avinash Singh** wrote that Tina's article "was very good and well written," and that she liked the article because she uses the weight room. **Kathiana Jean-Louis** wrote, "It is great to know that the weight room is good as new, with the new equipment.... Now, I see that there is a lot to do in the weight room." **Richard Uranga** wrote that he hopes the new weight room will inspire him "to workout unlike before with the old equipment." **Vanessa Pareja** wrote "One thing I found interesting was the new equipment, the bicycles. I can't wait to try it out, it's gonna be a lot of fun." **Kevin Vilchez** wrote "...I was interested in how much all the new equipment in the weight training room cost, seems like they did spend a lot of money." **Carlos Negron** agreed, writing "\$35,000? Isn't that a little much for a weight room." **Roberto Villanueva** wrote "I think its good that you [Tina Callanan] mentioned how much the new equipment cost. Now people could take care of the equipment." Daisy Urgiles wrote "I hope QV students keep it safe and in good conditions not only for themselves but for others as well."

In response to the article "Q.V. Music Mania: New Music Club," by Priscilla Delgado, **Katherine Asprina** wrote that the article was interesting "because there's a lot of students in QV that are very talented." **Lesley**

Pimentel agreed. "There are many talented students here in Queens Voc that are interested in playing an instrument and now with a music club being provided these students can finally fulfill their dreams. Thank you for advertising it to grab the readers attention. It will allow these students to be free and enjoy something in school," she wrote. **Esli Salgado** said she "really enjoyed" the article. **Sophia Hormaza** wrote "The article you wrote about the music club was great... the music club finally came to Q.V."

Charly Tenesaca responded to Tina Pahlad's article "Horoscopes." "This is the first time Vocational Voice has an article about Horoscopes. Hopefully you keep the horoscopes section for the next and following Vocational Voice newspaper," he wrote. **Santiago Ramirez** wrote, "I usually read horoscopes daily, this is why I'm impressed that the horoscopes were really close with what I usually read. I liked the horoscopes." "Since my birthday is in October I always enjoy reading about my horoscope, 'Libra.' Thanks for writing about the horoscope in the newspaper," wrote **Jazlyn Inga**.

In response to Tina Pahlad's other article, "What's the C.A.T.C.H.?" **Jose Martinez** wrote, "Thank you for writing about C.A.T.C.H, an urgent topic in society.... I hope Queens Voc increases the amount of programs like this one."

In response to Eliana Moronta's article "Queens Voc Got Talent," **Valentina Gutierrez** wrote "I think that you wrote a good review of the talent show.... All hopes for more talents next year." **Carmen Quintuna** wrote "I think it is good to know that people have courage to go up on stage in front of 210 people.... I hope more people sign up for the next talent show...." **Orlando Flores** suggested that next year's article about the talent show should "describe the main acts for people who weren't there and wanted to know what went down."

Kevin Andrade liked the "Crossword Puzzle" by Eliana Moronta. "...It's [the crossword puzzle] actually pretty fun. I think you should make it a little harder though," he wrote. [Unfortunately there were two mistakes in the puzzle published in the print edition.]

Gissell Fernandez wrote in response to the article "Seniors Get Red Carpet Treatment," by

Marcia Leva. **Gissell** thinks Marica "did a great job with the news article about senior Oscar night. I think that senior Oscar night is a great way to... celebrate the best of 2012." **Maria Martinez** wrote that she "really like this article. It was a great idea to write about it so people that didn't show up, know how it was like. I really did like how seniors did get to dress up like celebrities." She added, "that was a great picture that you guys took of the Jersey Shore cast in QV." **Wendy Palacios** wrote, "I think it's actually pretty fun to do events like 'Seniors Get Red Carpet Treatment.' Everyone can dress like any actor."

In response to the article "Have You BIN Recycling?" by Runqing Fang, **Udayan Puthenkalam** wrote, "I think that you should give more people's opinion's on not recycling. I think you should also show how recycling actually works." **Eric Diaz** wrote "have we been recycling? I think not. If you look inside of a recycling bin and a trash bin your going to see trash and paper/bottles in both cans." **Almadely Leal** wrote "Thank you [Runqing Fang], for writing this article hopefully people see this article and realise the true meaning of recycling." **Luis Zillagas** "I like the fact that you put both sides of why people don't recycle and why they do. I also like when you put all the factors of why you should recycle."

In response to the article "Bloopers: Student & Teacher Edition," by Nohely Vazquez, **Jayson Fernandez** wrote, "it was pretty funny and it had me amused and interested. I wish to see something like this again in the next newspaper because everybody likes a good laugh." **Erik Juarez** wrote, "this articles was very funny and it caught my attention." **Mike Flores** wrote, "most of their [students and teachers] stories were funny.... I recommend to do this next year... this is what the newspaper needs."

“I have to commend you again for an excellent issue of the Vocational Voice.”

Brian Reyes responded to Nohely Vazquez's other article, "180 Students have 100% Attendance." "Thank you for telling the whole school who has perfect attendance," he

wrote.

Jeffrey Guevara wrote in response to Muhammad Allie's article "Tuskegee Airman Dabrey Montgomery Visits Queens Voc" that he was "actually jealous that Mr. Gallagher's class was lucky enough to meet WWII veterans." **Justin Vazqua** wrote "I was there when it happened and enjoyed his presentation."

Ashleigh Gooden and **Lizbeth Ramirez** both liked the article "Nutrition Program Shows Students How to Eat Well," by Lisbeth Marmolejos. "I feel it was a good idea to teach students how to eat right..." wrote Lizbeth. **Ashleigh** added that she "had no idea that the school had a nutrition program until reading this article. This program could really help change many people's eating habits..."

Jose Martinez and **Melisa Campos** wrote in response to Yaw Teh's article "The beginning of the End." "It was interesting and helpful for the seniors to remember all the dates of graduation and practices," wrote **Melisa**. **Jose** added, "Mr. Vega pointed out in the story, that he tries to have a lot of senior events. In the future, I hope Queens Voc increases the amount of activities for the seniors."

In response to Sanjeev Thapa's article "Queens Voc Neighborhood Take a look Around," **Merry Shill** wrote, "your article informed me which place to stop by for pizza..." **Monica Gonzalez** wrote, "It is very interesting to look around high school and notice the stores and especially... the Empire State Building."

Katie Payano wrote that she "really enjoyed reading," Keivan Jimenez's article "9th Grade Cosmo Hosts Fashion Show." "I'm taking Cosmetology next year so you gave me a head's up so now I know what I can expect!" she wrote. **Shantal Teran** wrote that she "liked how this article was short and simple."

Xachit Torres wrote in response to Biaani Garcia's article "Senior Yearbook is Complete," that she didn't know senior Oscar night "was open to all the students, of all grades," and that she would have liked to go. **Mary Sato** also didn't know that all grades were invited to senior Oscar night, yet "it seemed so fun," she wrote.

Both **Xachit** and **Mary** were surprised to know that prom pictures aren't going to be in the yearbook. "Prom is the most memorable night for the

seniors..." **Mary** wrote.

Jin Wei Lee responded to Biaani Garcia's other article "RoboTigers Among Nation's Best." "I like how you talk about the robotic team and talking about the competition. It is really interesting how you talk about one robot which can shoot basketball hoops."

Alejandro Coyotl wrote that the articles were boring, he thanked us, however, for writing the boring articles. "I don't find that articles interesting or good. You should have interesting articles. Also fun articles," he wrote.

In response to Abdoulaye Diallo's article "Our Reader Speak Out," **Dave Bisesar** wrote, "Thank you for writing this article about the comments from the people. This will show that people write back about articles in the school newspaper."

In response to Zuleyma Pena's article "Girls' Football Kicks Off," **Cynthia Mejia** wrote, "thank you for writing about the girls football team. I think it is good that we know who the girls that play in the team are."

Denny Tavarez wrote in response to "Calendar of Events," by Stefanie Sierra. "Thank you for writing about the events, a useful calender to let people know what's coming up. Such as when are we getting our report cards, when is regents week and the last day of school," she wrote.

Justin Green suggested that next year *Vocational Voice* "should write articles about how it is to be a part of sports teams and how people feel while playing on the field."

Ms. Abrams, the school's college adviser, wrote, "I have to commend you again for an excellent issue of the *Vocational Voice*. I always enjoy reading it and learning about everything that is going on in the building.... I can't think of anything that a school newspaper could have that is not part of the wonderful *Vocational Voice* and I praise you for a continued excellent product."

Mr. Davidson, a social studies teacher, once again wrote a lengthy feedback letter to the *Vocational Voice*. He has been critiquing the editions for more than 10 years. After numerous suggestions, constructive (and non-constructive) criticisms, and corrections, **Mr. Davidson** wrote, "I enjoyed reading this issue of *Vocational Voice*. Congratulations on a job well done. I look forward to your next edition."

We asked our fellow students: What is your most prized possession?

Eris Gines
Sophomore – Electronics



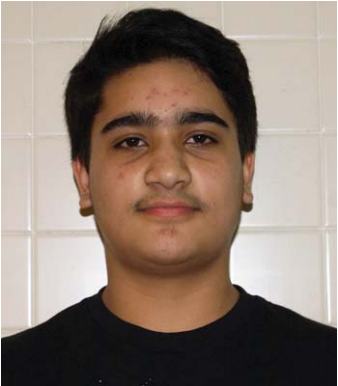
“My piano, because I am very artistic. I enjoy drawing and playing music. I like to express myself through music.”

Alan Arturo
Sophomore – Electronics



“My camera, because I can take picture of great memories.”

Hamil Arshad
Freshman – Exploratory



“My Xbox, because I like playing games all the time.”

Johnathan Espinosa
Sophomore – Electronics



“My guitar, because it is good for playing metal.”

Ashley Fernandez
Freshman – Exploratory



“My iPod, because I love dancing and listening to music.”

Kenneth Chung
Sophomore – Electronics



“My guitar, because I get to play any kind of music I feel like playing.”

Shubham Basra
Sophomore – Electronics



“My violin, because I can learn different keys with it.”

Erick Loja
Junior – Electronics



“My phone, because I use it for work, texting, and facebook.”

Milton Vinanzaca
Freshman – Exploratory



“My iPod, because I like listening to my music all day.”

Lisseth Guzman
Freshman – Advance



“My bed, because I love sleeping on it. It is so comfortable.”

Inquiring Photographer

by Evelin Ramirez

Erick Gallegos
Freshman – Exploratory



“My soccer shoes because I enjoy playing soccer with them.”

Casey Minor
Senior – Cosmetology



“My necklace, because my mom gave it to me. I never want to lose it.”

Jamie Quizphi
Senior – Plumbing



“My dog, because I find him very funny. When he tries running he slips and falls.”

Antonio Parada
Sophomore – C-Tech



“My phone, I can’t live without it because of my music and texting.”

Oljer Quito
Junior – Electronics



“My phone, because I have a red iPhone.”

James Batista
Senior – Plumbing



“My phone, because it has my music and I can take pictures whenever. I can’t go a day without my music.”

Tiffany Crespo
Freshman – Exploratory



“This pair of jeans that I have, because they are really nice and comfortable.”

Paola Dutan
Freshman – Exploratory



“My earrings, because my grandmother gave them to me.”

Sandra Campis
Freshman – Exploratory



“My necklace, because I have owned it since I was small.”

Betzabeth Astudillo
Senior – Cosmetology



“My dog, because he is like a baby to me. I love taking care of him.”

What is *your* most prized possession?

Queens Voc Senior College Acceptances

by Evelin Ramirez

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Jordy Abreu | York College |
| Jenifer Aguilar | Queensborough Community College |
| Victor Aguilar | Borough of Manhattan Community College |
| Muneeza Ahmed | Queens College |
| | Queensborough Community College |
| | York College |
| | The City College of New York |
| Cristian Alacantara | Queensborough Community College |
| Shady Albakry | New Paltz |
| | Hunter College |
| | York College |
| | Lehman College |
| | Queensborough Community College |
| | University at Albany |
| Muhammad Allie | New York City College of Technology |
| | Borough of Manhattan Community College |
| Juan Alzate | Hunter College |
| Katherin Arias | Stonybrook University |
| | University at Albany |
| | The City College of New York |
| | John Jay College of Criminal Justice |
| | Baruch College |
| | Brooklyn College |
| | Hunter College |
| Betzabeth Astudillo | Borough of Manhattan Community College |
| | LaGuardia Community College |
| | York College |
| | Queensborough Community College |
| James Batista | Queens College |
| | Queensborough Community College |
| | LaGuardia Community College |
| | New York City College of Technology |
| Alex Bermejo | New York City College of Technology |
| | John Jay College of Criminal Justice |
| | Borough of Manhattan Community College |
| Philip Borisuck Jr. | Hunter College |
| | Queens College |
| | The City College of New York |
| Elixandria Brienza | Local 3 |
| Stacey Carrasco | New York City College of Technology |
| Bryant Cartagena | Borough of Manhattan Community College |
| Andre Castillo | Queensborough Community College |
| | Borough of Manhattan Community College |
| Steven Castillo | Queensborough Community College |
| | LaGuardia Community College |
| | John Jay College of Criminal Justice |
| | New York City College of Technology |
| | Borough of Manhattan Community College |
| Jashua Cora | John Jay College of Criminal Justice |
| | LaGuardia Community College |
| | Army |
| Josue Cruz | New York City College of Technology |
| Luis Cruz | Borough of Manhattan Community College |
| Gustav Danquah | New York City College of Technology |
| Priscilla Delgado | Queensborough Community College |
| | Borough of Manhattan Community College |
| Abdoulaye Diallo | New York City College of Technology |
| Christian Diaz | LaGuardia Community College |
| | Borough of Manhattan Community College |
| | Queensborough Community College |
| Remilekun Diaz | Borough of Manhattan Community College |
| | Medgar Evers College |
| | John Jay College of Criminal Justice |
| Rodolfo Diaz | Queensborough Community College |
| Chorten Dolma | State University of Albany |
| | College of Technology at Delhi |
| | Alfred State College |
| | York College |
| | Queens College |
| | Hunter College |
| | Baruch College |
| | Queensborough Community College |
| | The City College of New York |
| Irving Duran | Borough of Manhattan Community College |
| Geovanny Duy | Borough of Manhattan Community College |
| Francisco Frias | The City College of New York |
| | Queensborough Community College |
| | Borough of Manhattan Community College |
| Biaani Garcia | New York Institute of Technology |
| Jonathan Gordon | John Jay College of Criminal Justice |
| Denise Gualpa | Queens College |
| | The City College of New York |

C L A S S S O F 2 0 1 2

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Gregory Guevara | Borough of Manhattan Community College |
| | New York City College of Technology |
| | Queensborough Community College |
| | LaGuardia Community College |
| | Borough of Manhattan Community College |
| Samantha Hasbun | Queensborough Community College |
| Taha Hatab | The City College of New York |
| | Brooklyn College |
| | John Jay College of Criminal Justice |
| | Kingsborough Community College |
| Christine Hawkins | Queensborough Community College |
| | New England Institute of Technology |
| Manli Hu | York College |
| Yaniri Infante | The City College of New York |
| Salvatore Isabella | New York City College of Technology |
| | Queensborough Community College |
| | The City College of New York |
| Malgorzata Jakubowics | LaGuardia Community College |
| Brenda Jerez | The City College of New York |
| | Queensborough Community College |
| | SUNY Institute of Technology |
| Keivan Jimenez | Borough of Manhattan Community College |
| Neyli Juncal | Borough of Manhattan Community College |
| | Queensborough Community College |
| | York College |
| Kelly Kato | Milwaukee School of Engineering |
| | LaGuardia Community College |
| Andrew Labbissiere | New York City College of Technology |
| Marcia Leva | Buffalo State University |
| | State University of New York at New Paltz |
| | Queensborough Community College |
| May Lin | Queens College |
| Christopher Lutchmidat | New York City College of Technology |
| Lisbeth Marmolejos | John Jay College of Criminal Justice |
| Raven McCoy | LaGuardia Community College |
| Andrew Medina | U.S. Marine Corps |
| Casey Minor | Borough of Manhattan Community College |
| | New York City College of Technology |
| Eliana Moronta | Borough of Manhattan Community College |
| | Queensborough Community College |
| | York College |
| | Lehman College |
| | New York City College of Technology |
| Fitore Morina | John Jay College of Criminal Justice |
| | Borough of Manhattan Community College |
| | Queensborough Community College |
| | Berkeley College |
| | Borough of Manhattan Community College |
| Wanjing Nan | Queensborough Community College |
| Brendan Nichols | New York Institute of Technology |
| Sylvester Nimako | New York Institute of Technology |
| Tanisha Northington | Medgar Evers College |
| | Queensborough Community College |
| Alejandro Obando | Queensborough Community College |
| Tina Pahlad | John Jay College of Criminal Justice |
| | LaGuardia Community College |
| Constantinos Papakostas | LaGuardia Community College |
| | Queensborough Community College |
| | New York City College of Technology |
| Luis Pascual | New York City College of Technology |
| Washington Pazmino | Borough of Manhattan Community College |
| Zuleyma Pena | University at Albany |
| Jose Peralta | Queensborough Community College |
| Christopher Perez | St. John’s University |
| | Hofstra University |
| | Rochester Institute of Technology |
| | Hunter College |
| | Baruch College |
| | City College |
| | Queens College |
| | York College |
| | University at Buffalo |
| | University at Albany |
| | New Paltz |
| Diony Perez | Queensborough Community College |
| Pawel Pietraszko | John Jay College of Criminal Justice |
| | New York City College of Technology |
| | LaGuardia Community College |
| | Farmingdale State College |
| | University at Buffalo |
| | University at Albany |
| Michelle Pineda | Queensborough Community College |

College Acceptances Continued

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Mark Puma | John Jay College of Criminal Justice Monroe College |
| Jarin Rahman | Queensborough Community College Borough of Manhattan Community College |
| Evelin Ramirez | John Jay College of Criminal Justice The City College of New York Queensborough Community College Borough of Manhattan Community College |
| Jhovani Ramos | New York City College of Technology Queensborough Community College Queens College LaGuardia Community College |
| Kelly Rios | Borough of Manhattan Community College Queensborough Community College York College LaGuardia Community College |
| Sindi Rodriguez | Fashion Institute of Technology Stony Brook University |
| Jennifer Rojas | Borough of Manhattan Community College |
| Vanina Romero | University at Albany Queens College Brooklyn College John Jay College of Criminal Justice |
| Andrea Sacharsky | LaGuardia Community College |
| Kevin Salinas | St. Johns University The City College of New York John Jay College of Criminal Justice Queens College |
| Ferdinando Santos | LaGuardia Community College |
| Kadeem Sappleton | Lincoln Technical Institute |
| Julio Sempertegui | New York City College of Technology Medgar Evers College |
| Miguel Sierra | Borough of Manhattan Community College |
| Stefanie Sierra | Borough of Manhattan Community College Queensborough Community College |
| Javier Tomala | Borough of Manhattan Community College |
| John Tosado | University at Albany |
| Nohely Vazquez | University at Buffalo LaGuardia Community College Queensborough Community College New York City College of Technology Borough of Manhattan Community College |
| John Velasquez | Queensborough Community College University at Albany Buffalo State University St. John’s University John Jay College of Criminal Justice The City College of New York |
| Daniela Vidal | John Jay College of Criminal Justice Borough of Manhattan Community College The City College of New York |
| Daisy Zarate | LaGuardia Community College |
| Edwin Zhagnay | New York City College of Technology Queensborough Community College La Guardia Community College Borough of Manhattan Community College |

BOOK
REVIEWS

by Yaw Teh

Mockingjay

Katniss has managed to stay alive in both *The Hunger Games* and finds herself in an unknown place in *Mockingjay*, the third and final book. It turns out that District 13 was never totally destroyed as the Capital had said. The news reports that were on TV were the same recorded image played over and over again in the Capital’s attempt to lie to the other districts. Katniss soon realizes that Peeta has been taken by the Capital. What bothers her most is the idea that the Capital can do anything to him. Torn between the decision of choosing Gale or Peeta, Katniss prepares for war with the Capital and leads the rebels to war.

Will a group of supporters



be enough to fight against the Capital that conquered and rules over them? Is Peeta even alive? What will Katniss find when she gets there?

Mockingjay is a good conclusion to the *Hunger Games* Trilogy. Suzanne Collins did not lose a single detail and connected the story between the books very well. This book is filled with action, tear-jerking, and heart-wrenching moments. This book finishes up the trilogy pretty well, so be sure to read the final book of this trilogy!

MOVIE
REVIEWS

by Yaw Teh

★★★★★

The Avengers has lived up to the expectations of many fans. There was enough action and funny scenes to keep viewers interested and that, overall, made



this movie a box office smash. Some of these superheroes such as Thor, Captain America, The Incredible Hulk, and Iron Man, had their own movie before *The Avengers*. Despite the characters being so different, the actors collaborated well.

The personalities of the characters were exactly as the original stories portrayed. Loki, the only villain that has come to earth, was probably the star of the movie in terms of acting. Perhaps fighting a team of heroes might have been asking for too much, but the actor’s attitude and character did not back down till the end.

There were a few scenes that were unclear. Hulk had a small ego, but since he had taken down a jet and had fallen tens of thousands of feet, the next time he appeared, he had full confidence and control of himself. Iron Man also had a major change in character. After the death of an agent, he finally felt that he had to work as a team. As a character that was always “for me,” he changed rather quickly.

Tips for
the Regents

by Alexis Crespin

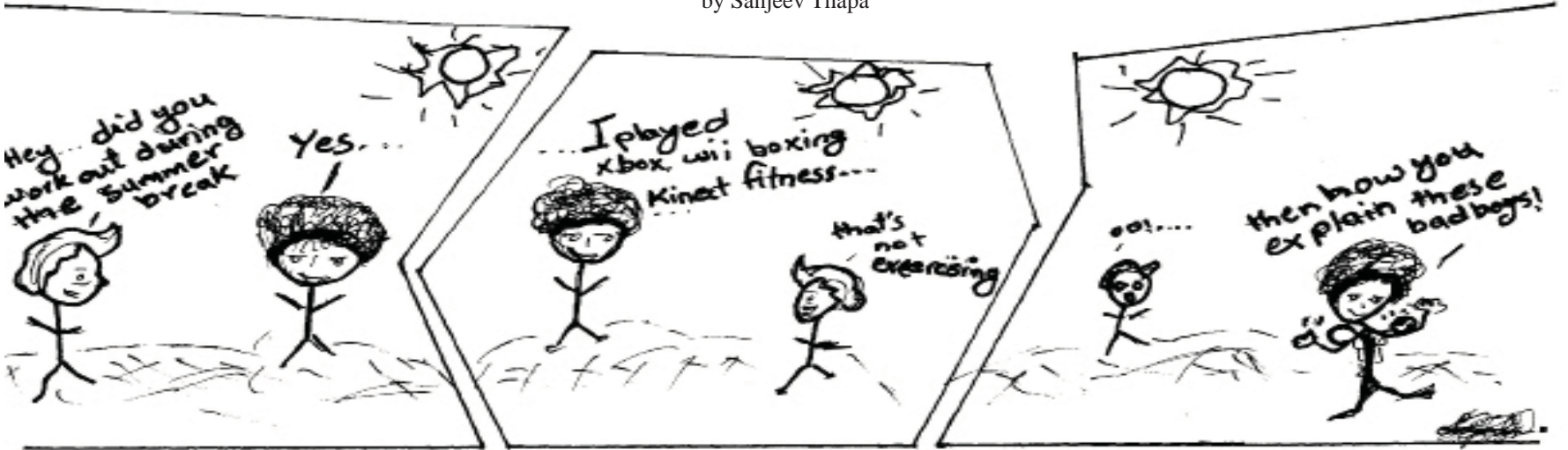
With the arrival of June, students are required to take the New York State Regents exams, which is held from June 13 to 21. Here are some tips that could help you for the upcoming Regents exams:

- Have a notebook with all the notes taken in class. Use them to review; your notes may have a clearer definition than a textbook. Also go over the homework you received back from teachers.
- Practice Regents questions. Go online and look up previous Regents exams (regentsprep.com, jmap.org), or ask your teachers to help you practice, so you know what to expect when taking the test.
- Use your resources to your advantage. Your teachers can help you with questions you don’t understand. Your friends can be your best advantage before taking the Regents. Ask them for question about topics you didn’t understand, and to quiz you outside the classroom. Anything you might not know they could know and help you with.
- Ask teachers if they offer tutoring the day before the Regents, and many teachers offer tutoring the same day as the Regents. Your teachers can be helpful, use them to your advantage to get extra help and review.
- Rewrite notes. Rewriting notes help us remember information better and is also a good way to keep yourself organized and neat.



Comic

by Sanjeev Thapa



MUSIC REVIEWS

by Stefanie Sierra

Part of Me
Artist: Katy Perry

Katy Perry is recognized by her top three songs which started her career, “I kissed a girl,” “Hot n Cold,” and “Waking up in Vegas.” “Part of Me” her new single from her album Teenage Dream: The Complete Confection. This song is said to be about her situation with her ex-husband Russell Brand. The song attracts listeners because it demonstrates that Katy is able to maintain self-confidence even in this situation. The song is a preview of what this album has to offer. Katy performed this song at the 54th annual Grammy Awards. After listening to this song, you will know why it is a major hit.

Good Feeling
Artist: Flo Rida

“Good Feeling “ is a new single by Flo Rida, a rapper, had this new single from his new album The Only One Rida (Part 2). This non rap song is loud and makes you want to dance along. It’s a good song for partying with your friends, yet it does not include any bad influences such as profanity and violence. Expect to hear this as part of a set list at your next school dance.

Stronger (What Doesn’t Kill You)
Artist: Kelly Clarkson

Kelly Clarkson, winner of American Idol in 2002, has made it back to the top. What puts this song on top is the beat. Kelly Clarkson continues to strengthen her performing career with this new album. With empowering lyrics, this song sends a positive message to the listeners to be strong.

We are Young
Artist: Fun
featuring Janelle Monae

Fun is an American Indie pop band that got into the spotlight because of this song, which has been on the Billboard for 16 weeks, and continues to be number one. That’s an achievement. This song is about the recklessness of youth, a theme that engages their audience and makes it different from other songs.

Young, Wild & Free
Artist: Snoop Dog & Wiz Khalifa ft. Bruno Mars

Snoop Dog is a rapper, and Wiz Khalifa is known for his song “Black and Yellow.” “Young, Wild & Free” targets a younger audience, teenagers and young adults. It’s popular because of the collaboration of the rappers who sing about their journeys.

MOVIE REVIEWS

by Evelin Ramirez

21 Jump Street
Rated: PG

21 Jump Street is the comedic action story of a pair of police officers known as Schmidt (Jonah Hill) and Jencko (Channing Tatum). They are given an undercover assignment to investigate a violently dangerous drug ring, by posing as two average high school students. By infiltrating the drug ring, they will be able to stop the illegal use of drugs in the high school. The movie is based on the `80s, TV show of the same name, which starred Johnny Depp.

Schmidt is the intellectual, who is not lucky with girls, Jencko is the popular jock, who is smooth with the ladies. Throughout the movie Schmidt and Jencko act as mischievous high school students and wind up getting themselves into a lot

of trouble, but manage to find a way out of it by the end of the movie.

21 Jump Street will have audiences laughing from beginning to end with Hill and Tatum and their hilarious lines. *21 Jump Street* is a movie that will generate lots of laughter.

The Hunger Games
Rated: PG-13

The Hunger Games is a dramatic action film and the first installment of The Hunger Games Trilogy by Suzanne Collins. The film takes place on what used to be the continent of North America in what is known as the country of Panem. The country is divided up into 12 districts. Every year the country hosts what is known as The Hunger Games, in which a teenage boy and girl are chosen at random to compete. The goal of these games is to have representatives

Students in Queens Voc were asked to come up with ideas that would cause them to lose a job.

Christine Hawkins
Senior

“I would photocopy my butt and dress inappropriately.”

Jonathan Castro
Senior

“I’d lose my job by destroying my boss’s car.”

Daniela Ortiz
Freshman

“I could lose my job by cursing out my boss.”

Raul Rosario
Junior

“I could have a water gun fight in the office.”

Adriana Rojas
Sophomore

“I could lose my job by robbing the cash register.”

Kevin Munoz
Junior

“I could lose my job by being excessively late.”

Hate your job? Want to lose it? Here’s how!

by Yanil Ortiz

Maria Lissete Estrada
Senior

“I would blast music and pop some bottles.”

Nathaniel Alexander
Freshman

“I could lose my job by smoking weed in the building.”

Marilynn Bonilla
Junior

“I’d lose my job by taking advantage of my break.”

Andy Collado
Junior

“I would spend too much time in the bathroom.”

Nathalie DeLaRosa
Sophomore

“I would steal things from my job.”

David Pena
Junior

“I’d spit in my co-worker’s

food.”

Ellie Brienza
Senior

“I could lose my job by throwing tools at people.”

Bryant Arango
Freshman

“I would lose my job by taking forever to do things.”

Sabrina Spiecker
Junior

“Not following proper safety procedures.”

Taha Hatab
Senior

“I’d show my belly to the customers.”

Robert Gonzalez
Junior

“I would lose my job by flirting with my boss.”

Advice Column

by Ashley Deaza

I don’t know what to study in college, what do you advise so I can figure out what I’m interested in?

Don’t worry, many students who recently applied to college or who already attending college still don’t have any idea of what career to pursue. You have about two years in college before you finally have to decide what you will like to major in. In the meantime, make sure you research the different classes your college offers, talk to the college career guidance counselor, and at least talk to students from different fields, these steps will lead you to choose your career choice.

If you know that someone likes you, but you see them as a friend, how should you tell them that “I want to be friends” without hurting them?

from each district fight each other until there is only one survivor. Katniss Everdeen (Jennifer Lawrence) volunteers to participate in place of her younger sister.

While in the competition, Katniss must rely on her instincts and follow the

You should be honest with him and tell him how you really feel about the situation. Take that person aside and talk to him calmly. You might feel like you are breaking his heart at the moment, but at least you put a stop to his hope and feelings.

I like this kid and he knows I like him, but he hasn’t acted like he likes me in that way. What should I do?

Let’s stop the kid games. Do you really want to know if he likes you or not? Sometimes signals don’t just cut it. My best advice is to take him aside and ask him about it. The answer you might receive might not be what you expect, but at the end of the day, if it’s bad at least you won’t have any more curiosity and you can keep looking for something better.

I am really not liking a person in school. She is provoking me into wanting to confront her and fight her.

guidance of her mentor in order to be one of the top competitors. Her disadvantage, however, is that she is up against other teenagers who have prepared for this competition their entire lives, while she went into the competition with no previous knowledge or training.

What should I do?

If you fight, there will be consequences. Do you really want to lose all your privileges for a person who is not important to you? It is not worth the stress or the trouble. Try not to bump into her; the more you do, the more you will be tempted to do something.

I’ve been with my girlfriend for over a year. I feel like I want to get to know other people, but I don’t want to hurt her. What should I do?

Forcing yourself to stay with her is not going to make it better. You should talk to her and tell her that you would like some time away from the relationship. Or you can decide to just end it there to get over with it. Remember the truth might hurt at the moment, but lying to yourself and her about feelings is much more hurtful.

The Hunger Games will keep audiences at the edge of their seats from beginning to end. This is an excellent movie to watch for people who enjoy action movies, but be warned people who see *The Hunger Games* won’t be able to wait for the next movie.

SENIOR SHOP PROFILES

by Ashley Deaza

We asked the CTE teachers of senior classes to choose their best seniors. These are the chosen CTE students from the senior shop classes:

- Questions:**
- 1. Why did you choose this major?
 - 2. Are you planning to pursue a career in this major?
 - 3. Are you graduating with your endorsed diploma?
 - 4. What do you like and dislike the most about this major?
 - 5. For girls: How do you feel being a girl in this major?

**Kenal Ortega
Plumbing - Mr. Rivera**

- 1. I thought it would be the most interesting and helpful shop.
- 2. Yes, I want to join the Local 1 union.
- 3. Yes, I am graduating with my CTE.
- 4. I like learning new things in plumbing. I don't dislike anything, why would I pursue something I don't enjoy.

**May Lin
Graphic Arts - Mr. Garcia**

- 1. A friend recommended I choose this major. I looked into this program and thought maybe it would be a good idea to work with computers to create my own piece of artwork. When I was accepted to graphic arts, everything was new to me, but I picked up my pace.

- 2. I am not sure yet if I would continue with Graphic Arts as a lifetime career, but it will definitely be part of me. I can design in my free time.
- 3. If I complete my 60 hours on time, then yes, I will be graduating with the endorsed diploma.
- 4. I enjoy using software like Photoshop, Illustrator, and InDesign. I enjoy projects and assignments given by Mr. Garcia and the process of completing the assignment. What I dislike about this major is that by the time I'm finally concentrated on my jobs, the bell has already rung. We have one less period than other shop classes.
- 5. Well, unlike in other classes such as Electronics and C-tech, being a girl in Graphic Arts is not much of a big problem. I feel really comfortable being in this major.

**Steven Castillo
C-Tech - Mr. David (PM)**

- 1. I choose C-Tech mainly because I was interested in how computers worked and how to repair them.
- 2. I do plan to continue this major in BMCC.
- 3. I expect to graduate with an endorsed diploma. I had to join mouse squad and complete my 60 hours there. All I really need to get it is pass the CompTia A plus test.
- 4. So far I really like everything about it. I really

like experimenting with laptops and Macs. I really don't like dealing with printers, especially broken ones.

**Philip Borisuck Jr.
C-Tech - Mr. David (AM)**

- 1. I chose this major because I had and still have a strong interest in this field of work.
- 2. Yes, I am pursuing a career in this field, especially a career in new technology.
- 3. I am graduating with my endorsed diploma.
- 4. I just dislike that I have to renew my A plus license every three years. I like this field because computer technology is enhancing, and I am able to analyze, maintain, and troubleshoot computers.

**Gustav Danquah
EI - Mr. Maloney**

- 1. I chose this major because I like the electrical field. I like working hands-on, dealing with electrical fixtures and devices.
- 2. Yes, I would be pursuing this career after high school and college and hopefully becoming an electrical engineer.
- 3. Yes, I am due to qualify because of the level of work I've produced throughout the course of my high school years.
- 4. I like this major because electricity is a big part of the world that we live in, it's useful, and it's efficient. I dislike this major because it's a lot of energy out of me at the end of

the day.

**Ellie Brienza
EI - Mr. Bowen**

- 1. I chose this major because it's what I have always wanted to do for the rest of my life. EI is my passion!
- 2. I am going to keep pursuing this career after high school. I will be going into the electricians union.
- 3. Yes, I am going to graduate with my endorsed diploma.
- 4. I don't dislike anything about this major; I love everything about it. What I love the most about this major is the hands-on work.
- 5. It feels great to be a girl in this field.

**Amaris Lugo
Business - Mr. Mugan**

- 1. I chose this major because I want to be successful in life and I was always told that knowing the basics of business gets you far in life.
- 2. Actually, I love business but I'm too young to limit my options for success. I know I'm capable enough to achieve a lot so I'd like to have many careers in different types of fields. Just to keep life interesting.
- 3. Yes, I will be graduating with an endorsed diploma.
- 4. I enjoy bringing my creative side into business and taking advantages of the money opportunities this major gives me. Just because of business I have many certifications and college courses that helped me polish my skills in business.

With all this achievement, the only thing that bothers me is having to work everything out into a schedule and accomplish everything. Sometimes things don't go the way I want, which gets me extremely frustrated.

5. Being a girl in this major makes me feel no less than how I felt when I wasn't in this major. I've always had the confidence to achieve many things but this major gave me that push to go after all my dreams.

**Sindi Rodriguez
Cosmetology - Ms.Gonzalez**

- 1. I chose being in cosmetology because I've always enjoyed doing my hair, make-up, and nails. Cosmetology is something I enjoy and look forward in doing in the future.
- 2. I'm definitely attending college and pursuing a cosmetology career on the side. This will help me pay for college while I am doing something that I enjoy.
- 3. When I graduate, I'll be receiving my endorsed diploma.
- 4. There are several things I enjoy about cosmetology, but what I mainly enjoy is making others feel confident and beautiful after they have gotten their hair done. However, I dislike the minor accidents that can occur, like cutting or burning myself with the implements.
- 5. Being a girl in this major is very common. That is why I feel like there is more competition.

What Teachers Used To Do?

by Nohely Vazquez

Mr. Altenburg - Math

"I used to work as a substitute teacher for three years. And before that, I worked as a construction estimator for nine years. It was a tough job; I didn't really like it. I always had a desire to be a teacher since high school."

Mr. Cintron - EI

"I graduated from Queens Voc in June of 1994. Over the summer I worked as an electrician, for more experience. My twelfth grade electrical teacher advised me to pursue a career as an electrical teacher, so in August, I got a teacher internship and received a job at Queens Voc."

Mr. Rivera - Plumbing

"I worked in the plumbing industry for five years. It was a learning experience. I attended college at New York City College of Technology. I wanted to fly jets but unfortunately I didn't have the vision for it."

Ms. Kim - English

"I was a Peace Corp Volunteer for two years. I traveled to Madagascar to teach high school students. The Peace Corp Volunteer program is the reason I became a teacher. It was a great learning and life experience, and I encourage people to go far away from home to experience new things too."

Ms. Muskaj - English

"I was a legal assistant working in a law firm for six years while going to college to get my masters in teaching. I always knew I wanted to be a teacher. I enjoy teaching law and logically arguments."

Ms. Ramdeo - Electronics

"I wanted to be an engineer; I went to City Tech to study career and technical teaching. In high school I studied electronics and my teacher told me to get into the SBA program, which helps pay for tuition and teaching. Once I got into the program and because of financial problems, I decided to go for electronics."

Mrs. D'Onofrio - Cosmetology

"I worked in a salon for about an year and worked for Estee Lauder as a sales consultant for skin and makeup. I also went to college; I attended Nassau Community College majoring in liberal arts and New York Institute of Technology majoring in vocational education."

**Mr. Stefanidis
Social Studies**

"I worked in the law firm while going to college. For my undergraduate degree, I attended Hopkins and then transferred to Queens College, where I majored in history and minored in philosophy. I also lived in Vegas for a year and worked in a hotel."

Mr. Yu - Electronics

"I worked in a jewelry company, a fashion company, and a hospital. In the hospital, I worked as an IT staff member, and helped fix and maintain the computers. For the fashion company I did some modeling and did some of Macy's tag designs. Then I joined the SBA program, interned and taught at the same time, which helps CTE teachers build experience."



Room 307 Undergoes Remodeling

Among the CTE rooms remodeled so far this year were rooms 307, 406 and 416. Room 306 will soon be remodeled, too. Mr. Alikakos, AP administration, spearheaded the effort to revitalize the shop rooms, as well as the weight room.





by Marcia Leva

With the summer just around the corner, students have been making their plans for their summer vacation. *Vocational Voice* asked: “What are you going to be doing this summer?”

Seniors

Katherine Arias - Senior
“I will be working to save up for college, and mentally preparing myself for college. I might be traveling to Mexico with my sister or going on a cruise.”

Julio Sempertegui- Senior
“I’m going to be working for my father over the summer, spending time with my brothers because they’re going away, and I’ll do some partying.”

Andrew Medina - Senior
“I’m going to be physically and mentally preparing myself for basic training for the Marines. I’m going to be working out the whole summer at PT. Hoorah!”

James Batista - Senior
“This summer I’m going to Warped Tour with a bunch of my friends. Warped Tour is an event where a bunch of bands come down to play music. Then I’m going to head out to Pennsylvania and checkout the cities. On my free time when

I’m not working, I’m going to be fighting dragons.”

Juniors

Denise Carbo - Junior
“I’ll be going to the beach a lot since I live near one. I will be practicing my football skills for next year. I’m hoping to get an internship for photography, architecture, or engineering.”

Andres Cadavid - Junior
“I’m going this summer to Colombia to visit my relative. And then I’m heading out to California to play a new game called Call of Duty Black Ops 2.”

Nathanael Feitosa - Junior
“This summer I’m going to be going to SAT prep. I’ll also do

an internship for electronics to get my 60 hours done.”

Sophomores

Ana Medina - Sophomore
“In the summer, I’m going to be leaving to California. During my time there, I will be visiting my family and spending time with them, and visiting some cities.”

Yadira Perez - Sophomore
“During the summer I’m going to try and work. I’m hoping to find a job at the mall since I go there a lot. But aside from trying to work, I’m going to hang out with my friends.”

Freshmen

Mildred Alvarez - Freshman

“This summer I’m going out of state to Boston to attend my cousin’s baby shower. I’ll also go around and experience Boston, by seeing the cites and everything.

Ladi Sanchez - Freshman
“This summer I will be dancing with a traditional dance group. I will be practicing my dance moves. Then in the other half of the summer, I will go to New Jersey to visit my godparents, to spend time with them.”

So what are you doing this summer?

WORD SOUP

by Daniela Vidal

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

1. Advance
2. Algebra
3. Baseball
4. Business
5. College
6. Cosmetology
7. Exploratory
8. FBLA
9. Freshmen
10. Global
11. Graphic Arts
12. Handball
13. Juniors
14. Lady Tigers
15. Leadership
16. Plumbing
17. SCEET
18. Science
19. Seniors
20. SES
21. SED
22. SSBT
23. Sophomores
24. Softball
25. Vocational Voice



by Stefanie Sierra

WHAT ANIMAL WOULD YOU BE?



Melanie Velez - Senior
“The animal I would like to be is a bird. So I could fly all over the world.”

Qianjie Qu - Senior
“The animal I would like to be is a dog. I picked a dog because the dog symbolizes something in the Chinese calendar.”

Miranda Rivera - Senior
“The animal I would be is a lion. Lions are fierce and they protect their family. As well my zodiac sign is a Leo.”

Taha Hatab - Senior
“The animal I would like to be is a lion. I picked a lion because he is the King of the jungle.”

Pamela Rodriguez - Senior
“The animal I would like to be is a cheetah. I picked a cheetah so I could run fast.”

Christopher Perez - Senior
“The animal I would like to

be is a dog, because from being loyal and friendly dogs are awesome!”

Emily Liguori - Freshman
“The animal I would like to be is a zebra, because it’s my favorite animal.”

Azra Hoxha - Freshman
“The animal I would like to be is a cheetah, because they are fast and beautiful.”

Mariam Abbasi - Freshman
“The animal I would like to be is a koala, because they eat and sleep all day.”

Christian Flores - Junior
“The animal I would like to be is a dolphin, because they swim a lot and they are smart animals.”

Melissa Espinosa - Junior
“The animal I would like to be is a panda, because they are fluffy and cute.”

Xiomara Paredes - Junior
“The animal I would like to be is a rabbit, because they are adorable.”

Sonia Sanchez - Junior
“The animal I would like to be is a dog, they are cute and playful.”

Kevin Segura - Junior
“The animal I would like to be is a snake, because their skin is smooth.”

Ivonne Cruz - Sophomore
“The animal I would like to be is a giraffe, because they’re tall and it’s like their above everyone.”

Gabriela Morales - Sophomore
“The animal I would like to be is a cheetah, because it’s fast and it’s able to catch their prey.”

Kitzel Montes - Sophomore
“The animal I would like to be is a dove, because they’re innocent, white, and beautiful.”

Alondra Vazquez - Sophomore
“The animal I would like to be is a bird, because they could fly to where they want to.”

HOROSCOPES

by Lisbeth Marmolejos

Aries: (March 21-April 19)
Believe in your dreams, especially those childhood ones. Don’t let any bad influences put you down or make you forget what you love to do. If you put your mind to it, your dreams will become reality.

Taurus: (April 20-May 20)
It’s impossible for everyone to like you, and for you to be nice to everyone. Try to be on good terms with the people you know, because they can make your life a living hell. Make sure you know what you will say before you say it.

Gemini: (May 21-June 20)
You will be going through some obstacles in a relationship. Put your pride aside, and accept part of the blame for the problem. This will be the only way the relationship will overcome obstacles.

Cancer: (June 21-July 22)
Be careful to whom you tell your secrets. The person you trust the most will let you down. Tables will turn when the truth comes out. Your only true friend is yourself.

Leo: (July 23-Aug. 22)
You are always seen as the loud one in the group. Wherever you hear music, don’t go crazy with your dance moves. Being part of a group isn’t always a bad thing. You will have your time to shine.

Virgo: (Aug. 23-Sep. 22)
You take interest in everything you do, which is why it’s hard for you to make a decision on a career. In the next few days, a specific goal will light the bulb, and you will know exactly what you want.

Libra: (Sep. 23-Oct. 22)
The past is the past, you must let it go. Getting over your past will be difficult, but it should be done in order to have a better future.

Scorpio: (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
You have always been told what to do, at work and at school. Make sure you take time out for yourself while obeying what you are told, because you only live once.

Sagittarius: (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
This is the perfect time to make your goals come true. You know what you have to do to go from where you are now to where you really want to be. All you have to do is work hard, and you’ll make it happen.

Capricorn: (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
You will have to take a risk, and bend the rules. You will overcome events that you thought were impossible to overcome. With faith, dedication, and hard work, you will achieve what you have always wanted.

Aquarius: (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
You will go through some major changes in your life. You will not know exactly what to do, but just accept it. Changes are always good. Life goes on, and it won’t wait for you to catch up with it.

Pisces: (Feb. 19-March 20)
There will be a situation in which you will realize who your true friends are. It’s not about having a lot of friends, but about having one or two who will hold you down no matter what.

Embarrassing Stories at Queens Voc

by Daniela Vidal

“I went to the kitchen one morning. I wasn’t fully awake and I went for a cup of coffee and by accident, instead of putting in sugar, I put in salt.”

“I got a phone call while I was sleeping so, I picked up. I thought it was 6am so I told them I’ll call them back on my way to school. However, it was really 6pm and I felt embarrassed because of my confusion.”

“I remember I was in sophomore year, and someone threw chocolate milk and it splattered on my white sweater. I was really embarrassed.”

“I was in third grade and the teacher told us to pack up. As I bent over for my bag, I let out a big fart. The girl next to me looked at me, and I started coughing to play it off.”

“I was walking to the bathroom and I slipped on an orange peel and fell. I stood there while everyone watched me.”

“I was on the bus with my friend Abdul when I received a phone call. I picked up and thought it was my mom so I put her on loud-speaker. It turns out it was my brother and he said I had to go back home because my mom was really mad because I messed up the bathroom and she wanted me to go back and clean it.”

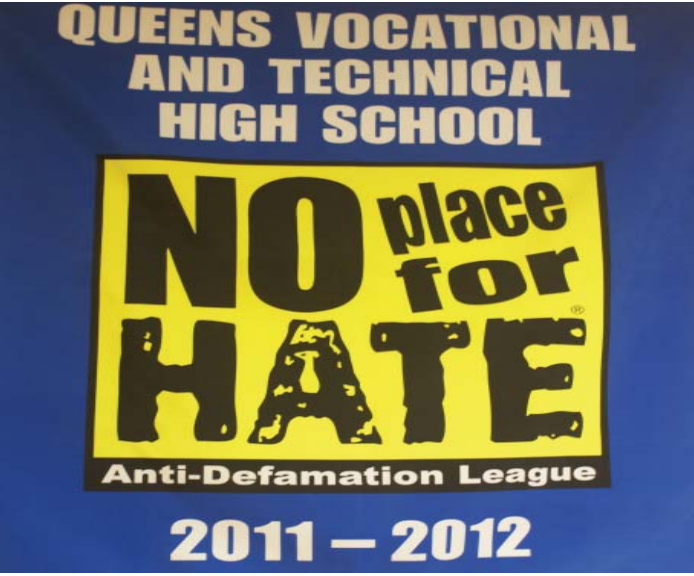
“I was in the laundry and my phone rings, so I pick up.

The guy on the phone tells me the tacos are outside and I told him I didn’t order any tacos and he tells me yes I did. He tells me he’s waiting for me outside my house. I was going to go back to my house to check but I kept doing my laundry. On Tuesday, I went to school and my friend asks me if I received the taco call and I asked if it was him. Everyone began to laugh and I felt embarrassed because I actually thought someone was outside with tacos.”

“One night I went out for dinner with Ms. D’Onofrio and Ms. Basirico. Ms. Basirico dropped us off in Jamaica station and we were supposed to get on the train to go home. We were talking so much we got on the wrong train. We realized after 45 minutes we were on the wrong train. It was about 10pm and we had to go back to Jamaica station to get on the right train. We laughed so much.”

“I was teaching and I heard two students use a word that I thought was a video game emote. So I used it in class. As it turned out, there was a whole other meaning to the word I used. My students laughed because I used that word and didn’t know what it meant. I was so mortified that I can’t even say what the word was.”

“I was jogging down the hall and I tripped over my feet and went flying past the stairwell doors. I landed on my butt and I sat their laughing. Mr. Raynor stood there trying to figure out what to do and I just kept laughing.”



Reflecting on a Successful Season



SENIOR SPORTS PROFILES

by Daniel Corona

Daniel Corona
Age: 17



Team: Boys' Varsity Baseball
Position: Pitcher
Years on team: 4
"He is a great player. His pitching skills led the team to many wins." - Joseph Taveras
"Solid pitcher, fielder, batter. I haven't forgotten that Dan helped run the team for years. I sincerely wish him well." - Coach Schimenz

Alexander Cruz
Age: 17



Team: Boys' Varsity Baseball
Position: Short Stop
Years on team: 1
"He is a good person. He has good skills and he is a good team player. He will be missed." - Jesse Santander
"Alex is a sweet kid. I don't usually take rookie seniors, but I'm so very glad he was on the team this year." - Coach Schimenz

Bryant Cartagena
Age: 17



Team: Boys' Varsity Baseball
Position: Short Stop
Years on team: 3
"Bryant was a solid player, he gave 100% every day and it was a pleasure to play with him." - Erik Castro
"Bryant was an integral part of the team on and off the field. A solid player and hard worker, I'll miss him a lot. He'll be hard to replace. Hey Bry..." - Coach Schimenz

Jason Perez
Age: 18



Team: Boys' Varsity Baseball
Position: Catcher
Years on team: 3
"Jason Perez is an exceptional baseball player. He is a great catcher, is among the fastest on the team, and is smart on the bases. Playing with Jason was a privilege. We had a great connection on the field, and we relied on each other to do well." - Henry Alvarez
"Jason is a very solid player. This year was his best, on and off the field. And this year, too, he helped out some of his team members, on our year-long journey to the championship. It was a thrill to watch him play." - Coach Schimenz

Diony Perez
Age: 17



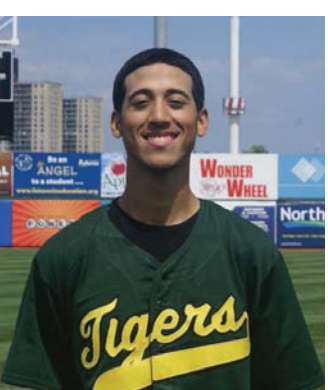
Team: Boys' Varsity Baseball
Position: Second Base
Years on team: 4
"Diony was a great team member this year and a great captain, he kept the team running and always made sure we had everything we needed for a game. Diony is a solid infielder and knows the game well." - Kevin Hernandez
"Dio-NY was a 4-year veteran who was always on this team because of his skills. This year, he knew we needed someone to step up and help run the team—and he did what his team and his coach needed. He became the team captain, he became THE example of a team player, and he's been a great role model for the younger players. Now what?" - Coach Schimenz

Javier Pasarin
Age: 19



Team: Boys' Varsity Baseball
Position: Catcher/Outfield
Years on team: 3
"Cuba really stepped up this year, skills-wise, he's done a lot to help out the team, and he really has become a solid player." - Alexander Pena
"Javier always wanted to play. And he was always willing to help. This year, I think he shined—and I'm glad." - Coach Schimenz

Rodolfo Diaz
Age: 17



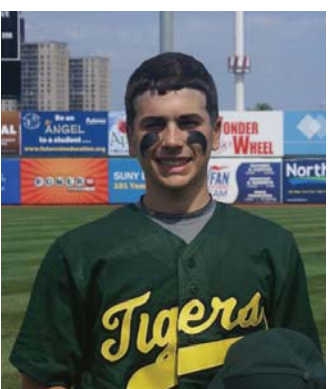
Team: Boys' Varsity Baseball
Position: Outfield
Years on team: 1
"Rodolfo is a good player and a great presence on and off the field." - Jordan Balcacer
"I looked up to Rodolfo all year! He's been a pleasant contributor; I'm glad he joined us this year." - Coach Schimenz

Radison Moronta
Age: 17



Team: Boys' Varsity Baseball
Position: Center Field
Years on team: 4
"Playing with Radison was real fun, and interesting. He cared about the team greatly and taught me very well the things I need to know about the game." - Cristian Trujillo
"Radison helped out a lot in the past. This year, he focused on playing baseball—and he played well. Have you ever had a goldfish?" - Coach Schimenz

Maximilian Manticof
Age: 17



Team: Boys' Varsity Baseball
Position: Outfield
Years on team: 1
"Max is an easy going teammate. He was a good player that should have been with the team longer." - Andy Collado
"Rookie seniors are unusual on this team, but Max is one reason we'll likely have more. He's a nice kid and a team player." - Coach Schimenz

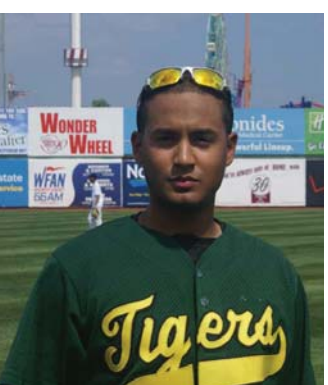
Jose Monegro
Age: 19



Team: Boys' Varsity Baseball
Position: First Base
Years on team: 4
"Jose is a great player. He has a lot of talent and a lot of heart. He's a great first baseman and he's a cool guy to be around." - Saul Cruz
"Jose has been a big part of this team for four years. Because he's one of the quietest players, he hasn't gotten the attention he should have. His first base skills kept us in many games this season. I'll miss having him around." - Coach Schimenz

Gary Santos
Age: 17

Team: Boys' Varsity Baseball
Position: Pitcher
Years on team: 3
"Gary was always a dedicated player, he didn't cause any trouble and always tried to help the team out, he always wanted to play but when he didn't, he just worked harder for next time." - Brandon Taveras



"Gary's pitching helped us through some rough spots this season. He's a solid baseball player. He's got a good heart, too. And what more could I ask for in a baseball player?" - Coach Schimenz



Congratulations to the 2012 varsity baseball team on your Division Championship and on making it to the PSAL B Division Championship game!

JV Baseball Players Understand “Team”



Team approaching .500 record this season.

by Tina Marie Callanan

The JV baseball team's record is currently three wins and five losses. The team's final game is on June 12 against Grover Cleveland at Flushing Meadow Park Field # 10.

According to William Callanan, one of the captains, “The season went rather well because we are starting to come together as a team and not

putting ‘I’ in team. I believe the first game of the season was more of a mental game rather than a physical game because we got more out of the game by becoming more of a team than with batting averages and strike outs,” he said.

Osvaldo Nunez, the other captain, believes the season could be going better; we’ve had many close games that could’ve come up to be a win.

I think the season will end on a good note because we have a lot of potential. “We give it our all on the field,” said Kevin Olivares

On Saturday, June 2, Queens Voc won with a score of 24-6. While playing against Grover Cleveland, in the last inning with two outs Steven Polanco dislocated his thumb playing third base trying to tag a kid out stealing third base. That injury ended his season.

Steve Polanco, William Callanan, Mario Salcedo, and William De Los Angeles are the team's top players, said Mr. Cintron, the coach. The top players' have a batting average of .250 or higher. “The season has not gone as well as I thought. It could have been better,” said Mr. Cintron.

The members on the team are captains William Callanan, and Osvaldo Nunez, both sophomores; Robinson Adames, Roeny Castillo, Jorge Estrada, Michael Feliz Gomez, John Gamble, Kevin Olivares, Steven Polanco, and Mario Salcedo, also sophomores; William De Los Angeles, Dexter Moy, and Kevin Vilchez, freshmen. To see final record and stats, see PSAL.org.

Inaugural Season is a Success



continued from back page

the field,” he said.

The girls aren't the only people enthusiastic about the new interscholastic sport. “Our students are the true beneficiaries of the generous donation by the NY Jets and USA Football because they get the chance to participate in sports, and vie for scholarships to college,” said New York City Schools Chancellor Dennis M. Walcott in a press release. Jets Executive Vice President of Business Operations Matt Higgins was also thrilled. “Making a difference in the community, particularly for young people, is one of our organization's top priorities off

“We'll miss Stacey, Karla, Lisbelt, and Kimberly after they graduate,” said junior Denisse Carbo, referring to the four seniors on the team. But the 15 veterans able to return next year are “eager to tackle next season,” she said.

The team members were Abigail Arriaga, Marilyn Bonilla, Denisse Carbo, Melissa Carbo, Stacey Carrasco, Laura Duarte, Karla Garcia, Lisbelt Lopez, Natalie Martinez, Charlene Meza, Zinniah Munoz, Nemesis Noel, Kimberly Nunez, Nabila Parnella, Monica Puspasari, Michelle Silva, Brenda Taveras, Dayana Zamora, and Na Zheng.

Soccer Team Looks for New Talent



Coach Ali looks to replace his captain, Jonathan Avila.

by Juan Alzate

Queens Voc's soccer team had its first tryout for the 2012-2013 season, on Thursday, May 10. Mr. Ali, the soccer coach, was leading the tryouts along with some of this year's seniors helping him out.

The tryouts were held at Flushing Meadows Park at soccer field number nine. The students who are trying out right now will have their first game next school year, in September.

“I know a lot of student will go to the tryouts because there were more than 40 of them when we had the soccer meeting a couple of weeks ago. I also hope they will tryout hard and with passion because those are the types of players that I want on my team,” said Mr. Ali.

“I have not chosen any new players because I am waiting for the sixth marking period grades to see if any of my

players failed, and the official tryout which will be held over the summer vacation,” said Mr. Ali. The soccer team will lose 13 players, the seniors from this year. There are seven returning players, two of which were starters. All of the positions are open and students from any grade can be starters.

The first day of the soccer season starts on August 28, and the first game will be on September 6, the first day of the 2012 school year.

Queens Voc is still in the same division, QB II. There are 14 games in the season with Queens Voc's opponents being Arts and Business, Franklin K. Lane, Grover Cleveland, Newtown, Richmond Hill, Robert F. Wagner, and Townsend Harris.

The official tryout date will be posted on the school website before the summer vacation begins.

A Review of the Girls' Basketball Season

by Ashley Deaza

The Lady Tigers varsity basketball team had a successful season, becoming division champs with a record of 16-0, and going all the way to the semi-finals.

The girls had a bye in the first round of the playoffs, which meant they automatically advanced to the second round without playing a game.

The second round of the playoffs was a home game against Brooklyn High School for Law and Technology. The Lady Tigers won 50-27, advancing them to the third round.

The girls won the third round on Feb. 29, when they defeated American Studies in the Queens Voc gym, 33-29. It was a suspenseful game, said Samantha Hasbun, who attended the game. During the last few seconds of the game, the Lady Tigers were down by 3 points. Michelle Rojas scored a 3-pointer and the crowd went wild, Samantha said.

The Lady Tigers defeated Pace HS on March 7, in the Queens Voc gym, in the quarter-

finals. The final score was 56-41.

The girls advanced to the semi-finals for the first time ever. The game was played at the Hunter College gym. The Lady Tigers faced Bedford Academy High School, losing 44-43.

Mr. Devaux said, “The girls gave a 100% and that's all he asked for.” Steven Artunduaga, a student who attended the game, said, “It was the best game I have ever seen them play.”

This season has been the best Mr. Devaux has had. They went 25-1 throughout the season, which included league games, scrimmages, and playoff games.

Shakirra Smith, the team captain, had a very successful season, said Mr. Devaux. She became the leading scorer for the team and attracted numerous college scouts. “It was a great season. I love my team and coach, and I wish I could stay an extra year. I am going to miss the Lady Tigers, Shakirra said.

PSAL officials selected the best players in the city to play

in the Mayor's Cup, a senior all-star tournament. Shakirra Smith was one of those players. The team Shakirra was on won the game and got to meet Mayor Bloomberg.

“I want to thank the seniors for all the hard work and dedication. This was a season I will never forget and I was proud to be their coach. I wish all the seniors best of luck in their future endeavors,” said Mr. Devaux. The seniors this year were: Ellie Brienza, a four year veteran, Eliana Moronta, Michelle Rojas, and Shakirra Smith.



Michelle pulls up for a shot.



Softball Team makes Playoffs after Winning Season

by Keivan Jimenez

The Lady Tigers ended the regular season with a record of 10 & 6 and made it to the playoffs.

The girls, fourth in the Queens B division, had a 21 seed in the playoffs. They faced 12 & 1 Brooklyn Tech, which finished second in the Brooklyn B II division, and had a 12 seed. The Lady Tigers lost in the first round, 12-2.

"We played well," said Coach Boyle. "But our defense wasn't as good." Captain Ellie Brienza said, "I'm very proud of my teammates because I know everybody gave 100 percent," she added. "I'm going to miss the team very much next year."

"Even though the team lost in the first round of the playoffs, we had a very good year individually," said Coach Boyle. Ellie Brienza was ranked second in hits in their division with 30, second in



Ashley batted .500.

RBIs with 37, first in doubles with 10, second in batting average with a .698, second in on base percentage with .745, and second in slugging percentage with 1.233 percent. She was also nominated for the softball exceptional senior all-star game by Coach Boyle. "I nominated Ellie because she's an exceptional and hard working player." Only 45 players made the team citywide, and Ellie was one of them. "I felt honored to

play with the best players of the division," she said. Tina Marie Callanan was also nominated for the exceptional senior all-star game but couldn't attend because of medical reasons.

The team consisted of seven seniors: Elixandria Brienza, Tina Marie Callanan, Ashley Deaza, Jaqueline Jimenez, Fitore Morina, Zuleyma Pena, and Lucy Ramirez; nine juniors: Dorothy Bailey, Kimani Brown, Naiya Bustamante, Cindy Collado, Kiara Delarosa, Heather Gonyon, Nicole Osorio, Nicole Perez, and Sabrina Spiecker; three sophomores: Gabriella Biondo, Maria Perez, and Estepania Villegas; and five freshmen: Samantha Collado, Emeli Diaz, Ashley Fernandez, Gissell Fernandez, and Stephanie Rojas.

"I'm very excited for next year's team," said Coach Boyle. "We have a nice core of girls that are passionate about the game."



A successful year had Coach Boyle and his softball team smiling all season.

QV Hopes to Start Cricket Team in 2013



continued from back page

"I am looking forward for a good set of athletes who are willing to play and win," said Mr. Raushan. "Cricket is a fun and exciting sport," said Mr. Raushan, students who are interested in playing cricket or want to join the team, should see Mr. Raushan in room 307.

"Cricket is one of the most popular sports in the world but not popular in the U.S., however there are about 30 cricket teams in PSAL, so I would like to have a cricket team in our school," said Mohammed Aziz,

a sophomore and a potential Queens Voc cricket team member.

"Cricket, to me is a fun sport especially when played with friends. Since some of my friends chose to join the team, I was encouraged to do so as well," said Arun Rai, a sophomore and a potential Queens Voc cricket team member.

"I believe Mr. Raushan would be a great coach because he knows about the sport. He also has a great, fun spirit when dealing with kids," said Eileen Herrera.



The Wait is Over: Weight Room Remodeling Completed

by Yaw Teh

The weight room has reopened after being closed for a little less than a month. New equipment, to the tune of \$35,000, was installed in May. "With all the new machines such as the jungle gym and bikes in the weight room, the exercises you can do in there are unlimited," said Mr. Devaux, a physical education teacher at Queens Voc.

The main changes in the weight room are the jungle gym, the leg press, and about 10 new bikes. The new weight equipment offers activities and room for more students to exercise simultaneously.

"There were a few machines that were permanently removed, the others were replaced," said Mr. Devaux, "The old multi-station machine has been replaced with the jungle gym. The jungle gym includes a dip and pull-up machine so we removed that altogether. The leg press machine has been replaced with a newer model."

Jonathan Lopez, a senior, said that it's a good weight room. "You can get a good workout there," he said. Jonathan suggested some minor additions though. "They should have heavier weights, more chest machines, and a decline bench," he added. "That would give it more versatility."

Handball Team Disappoints Coach

by John Tosado

The Queens Voc handball team did not end the season as well as Coach Maloney had hoped. The team began the season with an impressive victory against Arts and Business, but then went on an eight-game losing streak. The final record was 2-8.

Coach Maloney said that the season did not go well because of the poor leadership of the team captain and a lack of players. According to the coach, the team also had trouble during the season because it did not have enough players to change the team line up. Furthermore, some players were unable to attend matches because of vacations or academic troubles.

Despite the rough season, players did not play half-heartedly, according to the coach. "Jashua Cora stepped up. He showed determination and heart," said Coach Maloney. Alejandro Obando, a third singles player, also showed skill. The coach said Alejandro,

a third singles player, played well and went against first and second players during matches. Pawel Pietraszko, a first singles player, said that "the season was a decent one. I believe the lack of dedication played an important role in the outcome of the season." Pawel feels that the team, and as a player, more practice and focus would have made a better outcome for the season.

This year's handball team was mainly comprised of senior players: Juan Alzate, Eric Aucapina, Jashua Cora, Gregory Guevara, Andrew Medina, Alejandro Obando, Constantinos Papakostas, Pawel Pietraszko, and Julio Sempertegui. Andres Ng was the only freshman on the team. Next year, Coach Maloney said, that Andres will return.

Coach Maloney plans to lead the team differently. "In the future, I need to have more players," he said. He said he wants to ensure that the team has a decent amount of players as well as players who are committed to the team.



by Francisco Frias

The boys’ varsity baseball team had an incredible season, winning their division championship with a 15 & 1 record, and becoming B division finalists, losing 2-1 to South Bronx in the PSAL championship, before hundreds of fans at MCU Park in Brooklyn on Friday, June 8. “It was nice to make it to the championship,” Diony Perez, the team captain, said.

In their first playoff game, on May 25, the boys defeated Beach Channel, which they had defeated 14-4 in the regular season, 11-1. The Tigers faced Harry Truman in their second playoff game on May 29, and won 3-2. Two days later, in the third round, the quarter finals, the boys’ varsity baseball team demolished Grover Cleveland scoring ten runs, leaving Grover Cleveland scoreless, and ending the game on a triple play. Queens Voc had defeated Cleveland 4-1 and 10-2 in the regular season. The boys then defeated East New York Transit Tech 4-2 in the semifinal match. “We have tremendous playoff experience. We have many players that have been in the playoffs multiple times. We all have a common goal, and experience definitely came

Tigers Varsity Baseball Team Goes to City Championship



into play this postseason,” said three-year veteran Bryant Cartagena.

“The boys have talent; we have beaten some good teams,” said Coach Schimenz. Jose Monegro, a four-year veteran believes “The team had a successful season because we came together as a team to accomplish a four-year mission, to bring back a championship to Queens Voc.” Diony Perez, the captain, said he expected to make it this far in the season because he worked with most of the same players for three years and knew they had skills.

In the final game of the season, the Tigers faced South Bronx for the championship title. The Tigers played well, but came up short, losing 2-1. “It would have been nice to win,” said Mr. Schimenz, who added that the “season seemed very long.”

To become division champions, the boys’ varsity baseball team had to get past Flushing High School, their division rivals. The Tigers’ beat Flushing 4-1 in their first game and then sealed their division champion title the next day defeating Flushing 7-1. “I’m

happy we became the division champs,” said Diony, a four-year veteran.

“It’s an end of an era,” said Bryant. The coach agreed. “Next year will be a rebuilding year,” he said. “Eleven players are graduating. There’s been a lot of talk about us being an A team next year, but we’re losing almost all our might.” Reflecting on the 15 years he’s been coaching, Coach Schimenz said, “We’ve had a great run over the past 15 years that I’ve coached, including a city championship, two trips to the championship, three

division championships, and 13 playoffs in 15 years. I couldn’t ask for more than that.”

The coach said he’ll miss the players who helped out and the ones who worked hard. “Diony has been a good right-hand man. He started helping and leading when it wasn’t popular, and Bryant began to help more consistently, working well with Diony and me,” said Mr. Schimenz. Javier Pasarin “was very helpful as well,” said the coach. He looked for ways to help.” And sophomore Kevin Hernandez, together with freshmen Jordan Balcacer and Hamza Naseer “stayed a lot to help, and were fun” the coach said.

There were 28 members on the team, seniors Bryant Cartagena, Daniel Corona, Rodolfo Diaz, Maximilian Manticof, Jose Monegro, Radison Moronta, Javier Pasarin, Diony Perez, Jason Perez, Gary Santos. The other players, eligible to return next year, are Henry Alvarez, Jordan Balcacer, Erik Castro, Andy Collado, Alexander Cruz, Saul Cruz, Daniel Henao, Kevin Hernandez,JoanMulato,Hamza Naseer, Alexander Pena, David Pena, Adonis Rosario, Jesse Santander, Brandon Taveras, Joseph Taveras,Cristian Trujillo and Greamy Urena.

Inaugural Season is a Success

by Bryant Cartagena

The newly introduced girls’ flag football team went to the playoffs in its inaugural season. The girls defeated Eleanor Roosevelt HS, 26-19, in a play-in game during the postseason that determined which team would advance to the playoffs. The girls’ season ended after losing to Goldstein HS in the first round.

The Lady Tigers finished the season with a record of 4-4 and in third place in the Queens division. “I am very happy with my team, they’re very competitive,” said Mr. Garofano. “The first game was bittersweet. We bounced back from then, and made the

playoffs,” the coach said.

After surrendering their first game to American Studies by seven points, the girls went on to win four straight. The girls defeated Queens HS of Teaching twice, and beat both Townsend Harris and American Studies before losing to John Adams twice, and then had “a devastating loss to Townsend Harris in the season finale,” said freshman Zinniah Munoz. Freshman Na Zheng is “labeling this season a success. Having a .500 record in a newly introduced team is accomplishment enough,” she said.

The new sport, according to Marilynn Bonilla, “gives girls something new to try. It gives the



Lisbelt on defense.

school more versatility. There is basketball, softball, bowling, volleyball, co-ed wrestling, and now football. There is almost as many girls’ teams as there are boys’ teams,” she said. “Na added that as a freshman she has “all the opportunity to develop in the new sport. There is a bright future for Queens Voc football.”

continued on page 22

QV Hopes to Start Cricket Team in 2013

by Muhammad Allie

Queens Voc is looking to start off next school year with a cricket team.

But Queens Voc will have a cricket team only if there are enough participants. “There are already nine member signed up to join the team, however a team should consist of 12-15 and a potential coach,” said Mr. Raushan, an electronics teacher.

The students who signed up for the team are Arif Abdul, Mohammed Aziz, Eileen Herrera, Mohammed Hossain, Mohammad Mukta Hossain, Moaawiah Khan, Elma Rahman, and Arun Rai.

Once PSAL approves the

cricket team, and there are enough members signed up to join the team, Queens Voc will have a cricket team, however there are no request made yet. When the request is made to PSAL, it will take a month or two for PSAL to approve the team.

“The team will be coached by me,” said Mr. Raushan. “The team will be financed by fundraising, student support, and personal finance by the coach,” said Mr. Raushan. “Practice for the team will be held at fields in South Ozone Park, there students will be coached on how to play cricket,” he added.

continued on page 23