



Mentoring Program Students Learn to Succeed

by Kevin Hernandez

Thirty-six Hispanic and African American male freshmen from Queens Voc participated in the closing ceremony of the Expanded Success Initiative program on Friday, May 30. Samantha Pineda opened the ceremony with the National Anthem, Zinniah Munoz recited one of her poems, and Valerie Cruz and Samantha Pineda sang “Unwritten” by Natasha Bedingfield. The students then were called up individually and received certificates from ESI and from the

city council.

ESI sponsored a mentoring program that was begun this year in Queens Voc. The Queens Voc participants were paired with adult mentors who are Queens Voc staff members. According to Mr. Stuart, a Queens Voc math teacher who coordinated the mentoring program, ESI was developed to help Hispanic and African American males achieve academic success, with the goal of making each mentee college and career ready.

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Mentees look distinguished as they gather on stage after receiving their certificates.

Thousands Awarded in Essay Contest

by Pamela Abreu

Over \$5,650 in prize money was awarded to students at the entrepreneurship essay contest assembly on Friday, April 25, by izzit.org, in partnership with the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation. Twelve class winners were awarded \$75, seven grade level runners up were awarded \$250, four grade level winners were awarded \$500, and one school wide winner was awarded \$1,000. John Stossel, host of the “Stossel Show” on the Fox Business channel, was the guest speaker at the award assembly, which took place during third period in the auditorium. “The assembly was wonderful. The students were well behaved,” said Ms. Ocampo, assistant



Guest speaker John Stossel.

principal of Pupil Personal Services. Principal Burg agreed. “I thought it went great. We had such a distinguished speaker, which was amazing. And there was more money given away than last year,” said Ms. Burg. “Seeing the students who won walk on

stage and feel proud of themselves was nice.” “Mr. Stossel spoke about entrepreneurship and got the kids to think about individual liberty and social responsibility, being innovative and engaging in a capitalist world, never giving up on their dreams, and essentially being a renaissance man—a well-rounded individual,” said Ms. Ocampo. Mr. Stossel also told the students and teachers in the packed auditorium how he overcame stuttering. Htet Naing Aung, a junior in Journalism, a senior honors English class, was the school winner, as well as a grade level winner and class winner. “Last year, my idea was the hybrid generator. I thought I would win grade level runner up at most. I was surprised to be the school winner,” said Htet.

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Big Schedule Changes Coming Next Year

by Jesse Clark

Next year the school day will begin at 7:45am, SLC lunch periods will rotate, and Monday through Thursday will be longer in order to shorten Fridays. According to Mr. Davidson, program chair, the change to the periods was proposed to shorten classes on Fridays to make time for department and faculty meetings.” The teachers voted on Friday, June 6, to accept this change. SLC lunch periods will rotate to reduce SLC complaints. According to Mr. Davidson, “lunch periods will be rotated. SED will have period 5, SSBT will have period 6, SES will have

period 7, and SCEET will have period 4.” No SLC will have to have early or late lunch every year, he said. “Fridays will be shorter so students will get out earlier and teachers will get out earlier twice a month,” said Mr. Davidson. “The other two times a month the teachers will stay after the students leave and work together for the good of the students and the school.” Principal Burg said that “to make up the time lost on Friday, classes on Monday through Thursday will be a little bit longer—approximately 47 minutes for each period.”

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Regents Schedule

compiled by Nikolas Amirian

June 17 Tuesday	June 18 Wednesday	June 19 Thursday	June 20 Friday	June 23 Monday	June 24 Tuesday	June 25 Wednesday
9:15am	9:15am	9:15am	9:15am	9:15am	9:15am	9:15am
US History	Global History	Comprehensive English	Integrated Algebra	RCT Global Studies	RCT Science	RCT Writing
1:15pm	1:15pm	1:15pm	1:15pm	1:15pm	1:15pm	1:15pm
Living Environment	Algebra 2/ Trigonometry	Earth Science	Geometry	RCT Reading	RCT US History	RCT Mathematics
			Physics			

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“This year I tried harder because I thought many more people would compete. I didn’t know if I would win but I did my best. I think it was imperative to focus on supporting my entrepreneurial idea.”

Htet’s idea was an automatic train control system that would slow down trains when they were approaching a curve. He was inspired by this idea when he was scrolling down his Facebook newsfeed when a train incident appeared. Htet believes that many problems “could be solved through entrepreneurship.”

The essay contest gave students an opportunity to “think, write, and be creative,” said Mr. Schimenz, who coordinated the contest for izzit.org. Mr. Schimenz has been working with izzit.org as a teacher-advisor for seven years. izzit.org has produced 39 classroom videos.

“I believe the contest was a really good way for students to write a different type of essay,” said Ms. Rejalaga, one of the judges from the contest, “like an expository essay where students explain something. Also the students liked the idea of thinking about something new and getting money for writing.”

Out of 49 English classes, 11 fully participated, with additional individual students submitting

Thousands of Dollars Awarded in Entrepreneurship Essay Contest



AP Ocampo, Principal Burg, and Stossel Show host John Stossel, with contest winners.

essays. Mr. Elfreich, Ms. Moreau, Ms. Rejalaga, and Ms. Ridge had their students participate. Mr. Schimenz had his Journalism class participate as well.

There were 225 essays submitted, about the same number of essays as last year. “The contest would have been better,” said Mr. Elfreich, “if there were more essays and teachers involved. The contest helped students with their writing and think of new

ideas.” Mr. Elfreich said he gave his students the entrepreneurship essay as an assignment. “I made the essay contest a unit. I showed four of the six videos and counted the essay as a test, as a cumulative assignment,” he said.

Ms. Rejalaga also gave the essay as an assignment. “I teach freshmen and the contest made them practice their thought process and be creative,” she said.

Mr. Schimenz said, “We

had an opportunity for students to win money and to look at entrepreneurship to see that entrepreneurs do well and do good—that they help others.”

Ms. Rejalaga and Mr. Elfreich judged last year’s contest and scored the essays again this year. “I liked some of the ideas from last year,” said Mr. Elfreich, “so I was interested to see some new ideas this year.” Ms. Rejalaga said that some of the essays

“were interesting and had really good ideas like phones having holograms.” The judges did not score their own students’ essays. “Each essay was read twice,” said Mr. Schimenz, “and we averaged the scores.”

Prior to the assembly, Ms. Burg spoke with John Stossel. “I saw him as a writer, not realizing what he did in the past and how he fit the theme of entrepreneurship. Kids look at successful people but don’t realize you have to work at it. If you fail, you have to learn from failure,” said Ms. Burg.

Entrepreneurial Essay Contest Winners

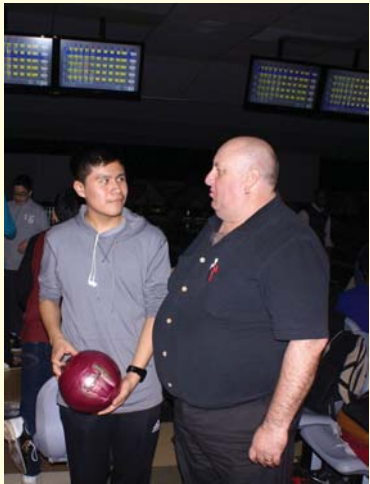
Grade 9: class winners Jewel Clarke, Pinki Chumber, and Norman Lopez; class winner and grade level runner up Celinda Milland; and grade level winner Sujoy Das.

Grade 10: class winners Christian Chamba, Diego Jimenez, and Juan Juarez; class winner and grade level runner up Angela Ayora; grade level runner up Angel Luis Escalante; and class winner and grade level winner Mauricio Gomez.

Grade 11: grade level runner up Xiaoping Wang, grade level runner up Breanna Losak, and grade level winner Xiao Wen Cai.

Grade 12: grade level runner up Gabriella Martinez and class winner, grade level winner, and school winner Htet Naing Aung.

Mentoring Students Learn to Succeed



Omar and Mr. E bowling.

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“You can meet with your mentor, discuss any problems that are occurring, and get advice,” he said. “We get to visit colleges, go bowling, and go to the movie theater. These trips help us clear our minds and get us away from our problems,” Johan added.

“The key reason for this program is to understand where the kids are coming from and help them grow as students,” said Mrs. Burg, principal of Queens Voc. According to Principal Burg, Hispanic and African American males tend to graduate less than other males, so this program is

also used to understand why that is and help solve that problem.

These students have gone on trips to colleges and movie theaters, and have gone bowling. The first college the students got to visit was Stony Brook, where they attended classes such as Sociology and Pathology, and later on the students watched a college baseball game. Student Derrick Huertas said he learned that the school has many activities for its students.

Mr. Elfreich, a teacher and mentor, said that the program started slowly, but picked up at the end with different trips for the students to see colleges. “The only thing I would improve on about the program is the scheduling. Some students weren’t able to meet with their mentors as much as others because the mentor and mentee had different lunch periods, but the trips were very beneficial,” he said.

Students in the mentoring program got a chance to go to Boston for two days and toured Boston College, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Harvard. The students spoke with college students about topics such as what it is like living in a dorm, different types of events that go on during the year, and how high

school students are accepted into a college.

Freshman Ben Caraballo believes that the program was very useful; he got to meet new friends, go to colleges, and experience how students live on college campus. “My favorite moment was going to Boston because I got a tour of great colleges like Harvard, Boston, and MIT.”

Freshmen in the ESI program were: Malcolm Abney, Jeffrey Acosta, Kevin Amaro, Johann Astudillo, , Benedetto Caraballo, Jesse Cazarez, Omar Contreras, Bruce Astudillo Cruz, Tyrel Darden, Johan Diaz, GianCarlos Galvez, Luis Gonzales, Derrick Huertas, Anthony Juca, Tyheim



Mr. Gallagher helps out.



Mentor program participants at Boston College.

Kennedy, John Lema, Marlon Mark Ronco, Daniel Santiago, Loja, Enzo Mateos, Alexis Juan Simmonds, Jonathan Sumba, Morales, Hamza Nazir, Austin Luis Toro, Angel Luis Vasquez, Nelson, Axel Pena, Randy Quiroz, Geovanny Velez, Jeffery Rivera, Jovanny Rodriguez, Jay Rojas, Vijay, and Kevin Villacres.

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2014-2015 Time Schedule

PERIOD	MONDAY-THURSDAY			FRIDAY		
	Begin	End	Time	Begin	End	Time
1	7:45 AM	8:32 AM	47	7:45 AM	8:25 AM	40
2	8:35 AM	9:22 AM	47	8:28 AM	9:08 AM	40
3	9:25 AM	10:15 AM	50	9:11 AM	9:54 AM	43
4	10:18 AM	11:05 AM	47	9:57 AM	10:37 AM	40
5	11:08 AM	11:55 AM	47	10:40 AM	11:20 AM	40
6	11:58 AM	12:45 PM	47	11:23 AM	12:03 PM	40
7	12:48 PM	1:35 PM	47	12:06 PM	12:46 PM	40
8	1:38 PM	2:25 PM	47	12:49 PM	1:29 PM	40
9	2:28 PM	3:15 PM	47	1:32 PM	2:12 PM	40
10	3:18 PM	4:15 PM	57	2:15 PM	3:10 PM	55
11	4:18 PM	5:05 PM	47	CONFERENCE		2X MONTH I
12	5:08 PM	5:55 PM	47			
TEACHER TIME						
M-Th	Session I	7:40 AM		2:30 PM		
M-Th	Session II	8:30 AM		3:20 PM		
M-Th	Session III	9:25 AM		4:15 PM		
Friday	All teachers	7:40 AM		2:30 PM		2x month
Friday	All teachers	7:40 AM		3:15 PM		2x month

Hacking Gets Students Rewarded



Youthful programmers with lots of “know how.”

by Pamela Abreu

Queens Voc hosted the first city-wide Hackathon on Saturday, April 26, from 10am-6pm, in the cafeteria. The Hackathon was a computer programming competition for sixth and ninth graders from city schools with pilot SEP—software engineering program—classes.

Ms. Zagada, MOUSE Squad advisor and coordinator of the competition, said she was expecting 150 students to come to the event, but only about 30 students, mostly six graders, showed up.

Volunteers from SEP introduced the competition. “They had to create something like a game or a trivia program based on the theme ‘How to use technology to create a smaller world to bring people together,’”

Ms. Zagada said.

Students, working in pairs, were briefed on their theme, then brainstormed storyboard ideas on construction paper and created their program on the computer. At the end of the competition, each pair presented its project. The three judges rated the pairs on creativity, use of the theme, most detailed program, and best presentation.

Ms. Zagada blamed the low turnout on poor advertising. SEP emailed the flyers to teachers and expected them to let the students know about the event.

MOUSE Squad members attended the event to help maintain the laptops, but also ended up participating in the competition.

Since there weren’t many students participating in the competition, most of the students were awarded prizes, including

free subscriptions for online programming classes and tickets to programming events. The prizes were funded by the city in partnership with AT&T.

Despite the turnout, the competition went well, said Principal Burg.

Ms. Zagada said that the Hackathon “was a really good experience. It was something fun and different.” Wen Li Chen, MOUSE Squad member and Hackathon participant, thought the competition was interesting because she was exposed to new online software and had a limited time to create an animation.

Students created their programs using Scratch, a free online programming application. “Scratch is the most ‘very beginner like’ programming app,” said Ms. Zagada. Some students made two-player games such as using rocket ships to destroy alien ships that were trying to get the user dirty, said Dillon Laland.

“It was surprising to see these kids had these skills at such a young age,” Ms. Zagada said.

Principal Burg looks forward to hosting the Hackathon again next year. “I agreed to hold it next year, and I would love to have more students participate and have the competition advertised better,” she said.

“These are opportunities that don’t happen often. You could put this on college applications and resumes. Young people aren’t always thinking about this but they should,” the principal said.

and lost, I promise to bring the title back to my class,” he said.

Ms. Quartuccio, a cosmetology teacher, said she was “disappointed that we didn’t bring as much as we should have. I think it went so quickly that the students didn’t realize.” Ms. Gross, a business teacher, said, “The weather and school break affected the students amount of collected cans.”

All students who brought in food received a certificate of participation for contributing to City Harvest, said Mr. Vega.

Mr. Vega thanked all those who participated. “It was a great effort to fill in New York City’s pantries,” he said.



El students atop the massive amount of food they collected.

the winning shop class went ice skating at the City Ice Pavilion and had lunch at New York Eats, on Queens Boulevard.

Eight shop classes competed this year.

“Mr. Yu’s sophomore shop class was the runner-up with 150 items,” said Mr. Vega.

“The students were motivated and eager to participate but only on the last two days, so it showcased a habit of procrastination,” said Mr. Yu. “After not participating for one year, our class came back

Vega’s Class Wins Battle Collects more food than rest of school

by Tania Puchuela

Mr. Vega’s junior EI class took first place in the battle of the shops, collecting 576 items, more than half of all food collected in the school. “It was a group effort. Everyone was bringing in cans,” said junior Jorge Ceballos, “It felt good to donate to the needy.”

Queens Voc students and staff helped fight hunger and malnutrition by participating in the City Harvest food drive again this year, donating 956 cans and other nonperishable food.

City Harvest, which runs the food drive citywide, measures donations by weight. “City Harvest credited Queens Voc with 1,500 pounds of collected food this year,” said Mr. Vega. IS 34 in Tottenville, Staten Island, collected the most, with a total of 12,500 pounds.

The food was collected by CTE classes in a “Battle of the Shops,” a competition between CTE classes for the most items collected. Each CTE class was invited to participate in the yearly competition. In March,

FBLA Chapter Recognized for Community Service

by Edwyn Flores

Emily Perez, a junior, was elected FBLA state vice president for District 2, Esteban Ansaldó, won first place in networking concepts, and Suveer Seemangal took third place in member recruitment at the annual FBLA leadership conference, held April 8 through April 11, in Rochester, New York. There, members of FBLA participated in business competitions against other schools.

The FBLA team was given recognition for community service. They cleaned Astoria Park and put mulch around trees. “A go green and clean effort,” Ms. Mitchell, FBLA advisor said.

While at the annual leadership conference, FBLA members attended workshops and helped Emily campaign for state vice president. “It was a great experience for students to meet and interact with other FBLA members across the NY state,” said Ms. Mitchell.

On Valentine’s Day, FBLA members volunteered at an extended care facility located on Queens Blvd. Members gave elderly people printed Valentine’s Day cards. “It was nice to give out cards to people there. A lot

of them smiled and one of the people even cried when they read it. There was one person that read it and threw it to the floor. After, Suveer played the piano. It was nice to hear,” said Maritza Murudumbay, FBLA member.

The FBLA team was also recognized for their charitable contribution to March of Dimes. The March of Dimes is a charity that helps to improve the health of babies by preventing birth defects, premature birth, and infant mortality. FBLA members would save and give coins to the charity in order to contribute.

FBLA members have participated in several volunteer and charitable activities that led to their recognition at the annual conference. Members “collected pop tops to help support the Ronald McDonald House,” said Ms. Mitchell. The small tops are made out of high quality, high-grade aluminum that is recycled. The money raised helps keep the Ronald McDonald House of Durham that offers a comforting home away from home and a community of support for seriously ill children and their families.

Ribbons were given to each FBLA member for their contribution.

Students’ artwork displayed at Centerview Partners

by Maritza Murudumbay

Artwork by sophomore Michael Ortega and seniors Michael Alvarado and Mayte Negrete was chosen by art teachers Ms. Volpe and Ms. Miaoulis for an art exhibition by Arts Connection. The students’ artwork was displayed at Centerview Partners, located at 31 West 52nd Street, in Manhattan, on Tuesday, May 12 from 5-7 pm.

The students’ artwork will be framed for two years. Afterwards, they can either take it home or give it to the school. “I sent kids’ artwork that met the criteria,” said Ms. Volpe. “I chose their work based on their hard work, not the best artists.”

There were 350 entries but only 100 were chosen by Arts Connection.

Michael Ortega drew a baby superhero, which he chose to draw because “it popped out of my head,” he said. He believes Ms. Volpe chose his artwork because she thinks he’s really talented. He received a \$100 gift card for B&H Photos.

Mayte Negrete drew five



Art by Michael Ortega.

“gender-less and race-less” figures as tall as New York City skyscrapers in New York City. She drew this because “the theme for the competition was ‘All the World’s a Stage’ so when I thought about the word ‘world’ I thought about New York City and how diverse it is. And for the word ‘stage,’ New York is full of talent.”

During the year, artwork by Queens Voc students was chosen for three different exhibitions. “It’s a nice way for Queens Voc to contribute to New York,” said Ms. Volpe.

Looking Back at

AP Results

January Regents Results

by Elma Rahman

AP courses are supposed to be a way for students who maintain a high average to get college credits.

But approximately 80% of students who took AP exams last year received a 1, which means no recommendation, 11% received a 2, which means possibly qualified (depending on the college the student plans to attend), and 9% received a 3, which means the student is qualified for college credit.

According to some teachers, Advanced Placement classes are a waste of resources, especially when most students in Queens Voc aren’t achieving a passing score and the money could be put to better use, such as by having smaller class sizes.

“The number of kids who score higher than a 2 is not so tremendous,” said Mr. Gorman, assistant principal of the Math and Science Department. “It’s good to show college admission officers that you’ve taken AP courses. It also helps develop academic scores,” he said. “I hope to see scores go up this year as well as each year, especially because of the new enthusiastic teachers,” Mr. Gorman added.

Students who received an 80

or above on their English Regents are accepted into Advanced Placement courses such as AP Psychology, AP Art History, and AP European History. Students who earned an 80 or above in their math Regents are accepted into AP Physics, and AP Calculus AB.

According to Ms. Ocampo, assistant principal of pupil personnel services, “students are offered these courses that cost about one thousand dollars for free.” Mr. Papadopol, second year AP Physics B teacher, said that “it increases the opportunity to earn college credits for all types of students, whether they’re from poor neighborhoods or rich.”

“The Advanced Placement material is much more difficult than the standard academic class,” said Ms. Ocampo.

“Students are exposed to vigorous courses and materials which push their thinking,” said Ms. Ocampo.

Even though the past year’s AP test scores show a low percentage of students scoring a 2 or above, teachers such as Ms. Ocampo and Mr. Papadopol, both of whom teach AP classes, claim that the knowledge acquired from taking AP courses prepares students for college and exposes them to national assessments.



Ms. Wilson’s AP Euro class preparing for the big exam.

Teachers Evaluated

Based on MOSL Test

by Antonio Parada

This year, students took the first ELA MOSL test. The test, required by state law, was administered in October and late April. A Measures of Student Learning test was produced for each grade level. The test measures the same skills for all grades, but the higher the grade, the more difficult the test becomes, said Mr. Gallagher, assistant principal of Humanities.

The test focuses on argumentative writing, in which where students take a position

and support it based on supplied readings.

Teachers were urged to count the test as part of the students’ grade to encourage them to take the test serious and some teachers did. Mr. Elfreich, an English teacher, counted the test towards his students’ third marking period grade.

The initial results of the test will be in early in June, but the individual results for teachers’ rating will not be in until next year.

Teachers are evaluated, in part,

Exam	Year	# Registered	# Taking	# Passing	% Passing
Algebra 2/ Trigonometry Regents	2013	23	19	0	0.0%
	2014	157	73	0	0.0%
Algebra Regents	2013	258	167	73	43.7%
	2014	883	604	426	70.5%
Chemistry Regents	2013	16	14	2	14.3%
	2014	6	1	0	0.0%
Earth Science Regents	2013	30	20	7	35.0%
	2014	23	11	3	27.3%
English Regents	2013	123	72	32	44.4%
	2014	414	251	142	56.6%
Geometry Regents	2013	28	23	10	43.5%
	2014	26	16	7	43.8%
Global History Regents	2013	76	46	8	17.4%
	2014	66	42	8	19.0%
Living Environment Regents	2013	118	86	14	16.3%
	2014	143	104	15	14.4%
Physics Regents	2013	3	2	0	0.0%
	2014	4	4	1	25.0%
U.S. History Regents	2013	225	127	30	23.6%
	2014	235	149	25	16.8%

Three Semesters = Trigonometry Fail?

by Maria Perez

Not one student who took the Algebra II Trigonometry Regents in January passed.

Seventy-three of 157 students registered took the test on Thursday, Jan. 28, and according to Mr. Davidson, program chairman, the scores ranged from 13 to 51.

According to Mr. Gorman, assistant principal of Math and Science, the majority of these students were taking the Regents for the first time after completing three semesters of acquiring Algebra II Trigonometry class credits. For the 2012-2013 school year, an extra semester was added to the course for those students who have difficulties with math.

According to Mr. Davidson, program chairman, an additional semester was added to the course for these students because the teachers believed students with low grades in the Algebra and Geometry Regents should take the course for three semesters to obtain a better understanding of the subject, and to have a better chance of passing the Regents. “I think it is better that way because it is a lot of material to cover in one school year,” said Mr. Altenburg, a math teacher. “This way, the weaker

students have two legitimate chances to take the Regents, in January and in June,” he said.

On the January 2013 Trig exam there was also a zero percent passing rate, said Mr. Gorman.

In contrast to the zero percent passing rate in January, there was a 43 percent passing rate on the June 2013 Trig Regents, said Mr. Gorman. The June Regents was taken by

“...there is a strong correlation between Regents passing rates and the teacher’s ability to effectively present the course material...”

the two semester course students, students with high grades in their previous math Regents.

“I believe that there is a strong correlation between Regents passing rates and the teacher’s ability to effectively present the course material and the level of student effort put forth in class and at home,” said Mr. Gorman. “Algebra II Trigonometry is a high-level math course requiring both of these factors working together for students to achieve high scores,” he added.

Students were astonished after

finding out that nobody in Queens Voc passed the January 2014 Trig Regents. “I was pretty shocked to find out that not even one person was able to pass the Trig Regents,” said Lisbeth Lopez, a senior who took the exam after the three semester course. “With three semesters, over the summer we kind of forget what we learned. The test was extremely difficult, so I guess that’s why everyone failed,” she added.

After two years of zero students passing the January Trig Regents, the school took action. According to Mr. Gorman, during Regents week, trainers from College Board provided the math teachers with professional development. Teachers took these classes for two days, and were taught new skills they could incorporate into their classrooms. New SpringBoard textbooks were also purchased.

These textbooks were not only for the Trigonometry course, but for Algebra and Geometry as well. “I believe the use of these books gives the students extrinsic motivation. As a resource, they are valuable if utilized properly,” said Ms. Dimech, a math teacher. “With these books, I believe they’ll do better on the Trig Regents,” she added.

Gallagher. “The ELA MOSL counts for all teachers evaluations that do not teach a Regents class.” Ms. Poltawsky, a physical education teacher, said, “It’s unfair. I don’t agree with being

evaluated on something that is not in my subject to teach.” The MOSL counts for 40 percent of teachers’ evaluations and the other 60 percent is based on ratings from supervisors such as evaluations.

Queens Voc Establishes 2nd Honor Society

by Htet N. Aung

Sixty-five of 78 candidates were inducted into the President’s Education Honor Society on Tuesday, March 4.

Eleven of them were also Queens Voc’s first-ever inductees of Arista, also known as the National Honor Society.

In addition to the inductees, approximately one hundred and fifty people attended the Honor Society induction, which began at 7:30am in the auditorium. The event was coordinated by Ms. Basirico and Ms. Dattner, guidance counselors.

After brief remarks by Principal Burg and AP Ocampo, two inductees, Maria Perez and Zinniah Munoz, shared their success stories. “Success comes to those who work hard for it and sacrifice more than the average Joe,” said Zinniah, a junior in Arista.

During the ceremony, the inductees received Honor Society certificates and medals. Arista members received gold certificates and President’s Education Honor Society members received silver certificates.

The traditional candle-lighting ceremony had an added Arista component. Three candles were set up in front of the stage; each was lit by an Arista member. Assistant Principal Garcia, who was an Arista member in high school, lit the Candle of the Past, symbolizing history. Junior Htet Naing Aung lit the Candle of the Present, symbolizing a commitment to learning. Sophomore Jhun Rhenz Martinez lit the Candle of the Future, symbolizing hope for the world. The light was then passed on to other inductees from the three lit candles. “I think the candle-lighting ceremony was unique and very memorable,” said Ms.

Basirico.

“The ceremony was a success. I especially liked the candles because it was very emotional. It was a great experience to share with my family,” said sophomore Pamela Tavarez.

After the ceremony, parents and the inductees were invited to the cafeteria for coffee, cake, and beverages. The cake was “tasty,” said junior Udayan Puthenkalam.

This year, students were required to have a minimum



Gabrielle Butler receives her medal.

average of 90 on their transcripts to become candidates for the President’s Education Honor Society. Principal Burg said she initiated the change from the average of 85 to 90 because there were “a lot of students getting 85s in the past years” and she wanted to “raise the bar.”

Eligibility for the honor societies is determined by the student’s cumulative average as of the previous June and the student’s suspension record in high school.

Another change this year was the addition of Arista. Queens Voc’s Arista requires members to have “a cumulative high school average of 95 percent or more for four consecutive terms.” The student must also possess “acceptable standards of behaviors and citizenship,” have

a minimum of 10 service credits for sophomores, and a minimum of 15 service credits for juniors by the end of the school year. Once admitted into Arista, students have to maintain a 95 average, perform service to Queens Voc each term, and demonstrate leadership and responsibility.

Eileen Herrera, valedictorian of the senior class, thinks that Arista membership is more than an honor. “Joining Arista is a great opportunity for students to show the full potential they have. By striving to join Arista, students show their motivation and willingness to learn, which will enable them to have many open doors in their future,” she said. “Education is very important and societies like Arista help students stand out as knowledgeable young people with strong skills and capabilities,” she added.

Ms. Basirico, the Arista advisor, believes that the membership also helps in college applications. “Arista and President’s Education Honor Society are very prestigious honors. The membership speaks to a dedicated, educated, well-rounded student,” she said.

Students inducted into the President’s Education Honor Society were charged a \$5 membership fee, which helped cover the cost of the ceremony; the school administration covers the rest, said Ms. Basirico.

The school charged Arista members \$10, because, Ms. Basirico said, Arista is a club and the fee will help fund trips, food at monthly meetings, and certificates for Arista members. Arista members do not pay for the membership fee of the President’s Education Honor Society.

Unless a legitimate reason for the absence, such as sickness, is given, those absent candidates will not get medals, she added, because they were not inducted into the honor society.

The following is a list of the 78 candidates:

Arista Candidates:

- Htet Naing Aung
- Pedro Bonilla
- Gabrielle Butler
- Eileen Herrera
- Breanna Losak
- Jhun Rhenz Martinez
- Zinniah Munoz
- Andres Ng
- Michal Piekarz
- Xiaoping Wang
- Na Zheng

President’s Education Honor Society Candidates:

- Mariam Abbasi
- Pamela Abreu
- Lisette Acosta
- Nolett Ahmed
- Melissa Alvarado
- Argelia Angeles
- Ashley Arango
- Katia Ascencio
- Karina Astudillo
- Mohammed Aziz
- Paulette Baque
- Xiao Wen Cai
- Melissa Carbo
- Anthony Chauca Cambi
- Anibelka Checo Rodriguez
- Saite Chen
- Wen Li Chen
- Jennifer Cosme
- Katerin Coyago
- Marc Dutan
- Helen Eng
- Adalid Enriquez
- Rene Espiritu
- Betsy Flores
- Edgar Gomez
- Lena Grala
- Kevin Henao
- Bryan Hernandez
- Mohammed Hossain
- Veronica Huerta
- Xiomaira Inga
- Catrell Jewell
- Brian Kazi
- Adham Kenawy
- Vasiki Konneh
- Pawel Kowal
- Disorn Kwunchaithanya
- Karla Loor
- Eric Mcpherran
- Lisbeth Mejia
- Jasmin Mrkulic
- Maritza Murudumbay
- Alexis Nieves
- Carla Ordenez
- Michelle Paguay
- Lesley Paucar
- Emily Perez
- Maria Perez
- Josue Pina Velez
- Udayan Puthenkalam
- Arun Rai
- Alissa Rivera
- Josy Rodriguez
- Stephanie Rojas
- Anthony Shi
- Amritpal Singh
- Pamela Tavarez
- Clariza Tejada
- Derek Toohey
- Jasmine Torres
- Cheyenne Traill
- Shih Bin Tsao
- Estefania Villegas
- Lesly Vivar
- Qingsi Yu
- Rukhsana Zafer
- Erika Zumba

Senior Wins Rotary Award



Estefania at Awards Lunch.

by Antonio Parada

Senior Estefania Villegas received the Rotary Club Award on Tuesday, May 20, at Ponticellos Ristorante in Astoria, for her contributions in school and community.

“Every year, the Queensborough Rotary Club presents an award to a graduating senior who has made some significant accomplishment in his or her community,” said Ms. Abrams, Queens Voc’s college counselor, who nominated Estefania. “This year’s recipient was Estefania Villegas, who is serving as Queens Voc senior class president,” she said.

There were other recipients from western Queens high schools such as Aviation, Bryant, Long Island City, and High School for Arts and Business.

Estefania said she was honored to have been selected. She said she was nominated for her grades and extracurricular activities, such as being senior class president, participating in yearbook, and her role in the bowling and softball teams. Estefania was a four-year softball captain. “I was asked to select a student with excellence in scholastic achievement and extracurricular activities,” said Ms. Abrams. “After reviewing the senior class, I chose Estefania.”

“I am proud of myself and honored Ms. Abrams chose me,” said Estefania. “Anyone can win it if they put his or her effort and time to help others out,” she said.

Vocational Voice has again earned a First Place designation among high school newspapers in the American Scholastic Press Association annual review.



Honor society inductees reciting the Ephebic Oath during the March morning ceremony.

Skills USA FUN-draising isn’t Just a Pie-in-the-Sky

by Nikolas Amirian

The Skills USA chapter raised \$800 with its pie smashing fundraiser on April 4. The fundraiser included a basketball game between teachers and students, and at half time there was a “smash a pie” in a teacher’s face game. The teachers who had pies smashed on them were Ms. Ramdeo, Mr. Burkhart, and Mr. David. “I agreed to volunteer to be voted on for the pie smash because it was for charity and I’m a nice guy,” Mr. Burkhart said. The teachers were chosen by the students, who donated money in the name of the teacher they wanted to see get hit with pies. The three teachers who had the most money in their box were the ones who got pies thrown in their faces.

“The MVPs of the game were Mr. Daniel for the teachers and Jacob Sobilo for the students,” Ms. Ramdeo said. “I think it was a good fundraiser and I don’t see why we wouldn’t do it again next year.”

The Skills USA New York



An electrifying experience.



Competitors at the state competition in Rochester.

City competition took place on Saturday March 8, 2014. Out of the 13 students from Queens Voc who competed, 11 of them placed in the top three in their contests. The results were:

Cosmetology 11th Grade
Zinniah Munoz – 1st Place
Raven Walker – 3rd Place

Cosmetology 12th Grade
Katherine Quindi – 1st Place

Plumbing
Moises Ramoz – 1st Place
Henry Montero – 2nd Place
Jared Martinez – 3rd Place

Internetworking
Hasan Christy – 3rd Place

Job Skill Demonstration A
Jazlyn Inga – 2nd Place

Pin Design
Christian Pineda – 2nd Place
Electrical Construction
Wiring
William De Los Angeles – 1st Place
Tarek Ahmed – 2nd Place

“The New York City competition went well and now we looking forward to the state competition.” Ms. Ramdeo said.

The Skills USA New York State competition took place April 23 to April 25 in Syracuse, NY. Eight Queens Voc students won medals and the results were:

Computer Maintenance
Technology
Jasmin Mrkulic – 3rd Place

Residential Systems
Installation & Maintenance
Pedro Bonilla – 1st Place
Jonathon Pioquinto – 2nd Place

Industrial Motor Control
William Callanan – 2nd Place

Related Technical Math
Qingsi Yu – 3rd Place

Electronics Technology
Xiaoping Wang – 2nd Place
Eileen Herrera – 3rd Place

CONGRATULATIONS!

Students Selected for Construction Skills are on the Fast Track to Union Jobs

by Jose Hernandez

Sixteen of 21 students who applied were accepted into Construction Skills, a training program that prepares the students who want to work in a trade union.

Senior Kimberly Pisfil foun out about Construction Skills by Mr. Vega, her junior EI teacher. “I’ve liked doing electrical work since I was about 12 years old. I like that it’s not only hands-on work, but we have to know all the codes to follow. I also like that we can get certified,” she said. “I want to get into Local 3 because it’s the electricians’ union. Another field that has my attention is carpentry because it’s a part of construction that I really like.”

The 16 students accepted

into the program are: William Callanan, Jesse Clark, Jorge Estrada, Alex Gonzalez, Mike Hernandez, Pamela Infante, Sebastian Lupercio, Orlando Martinez, Eric McPherran, Henry Montero, Kimberly Pisfil, Moises Ramos, Brian Sevilla, David Soto, Christian Teran, and Marcin Trzeciak.

Senior Mike Hernandez wanted to join so he could work after graduation. “I enjoy working in EI, which is a great experience as well as the internship. The union offers benefits and better wages. I could use the money I earn to pay for college. I know that in the real world when I’m working, it’ll be tough, but I’m up for the challenge,” Mike said.

Mr. Ali says he knows that the

students chosen for Construction Skills will do well in the union but he doesn’t want them to rush into a decision. “I want them to wait and make the right choice,” he said.

Students need to have met the requirements both academically and through their skills in their major. Students need an overall average of 75 in their English class and at least a score of 75 on their English Regents. For their math class, they need an overall average of 80, and at least an 80 on one math Regents. The student must be on track to graduate by their senior year.

Also required are two recommendations—one from the junior year shop teacher and one from the senior year shop teacher.



What Time is it? Who Knows!

by Valentin Martinez



Only 51 percent of the clocks in Queens Voc keep accurate time. Of the 110 clocks Voc Voice staff found, 56 work properly. Rooms that were inaccessible to students were not included in data.



Of 48 clocks in the new wing, 19 are functioning properly. The old wing has 37 functioning clocks out of 59. The percentage dips to 50 percent for classroom clocks.



The third floor has the highest number of non-working clocks. The clock in the Cosmetology Lab 321/323 “hasn’t been working for four years,” said Ms. Lingstuyt, a cosmo teacher.



“The clocks aren’t priority,” said Mrs. Marcia Jarrett Holland, head custodian engineer of Queens Voc and building manager. Mrs. Holland said that if the PA system and bell schedule function properly, clocks shouldn’t be a main concern because they have other pending issues in the building. “Everyone usually has a watch or a gadget and manages time from there, so it isn’t a big issue,” said Ms. Holland.



But not everyone agrees. “The clocks are essential to our school,” said Mr. Raynor, a math teacher. “A working clock doesn’t only help manage our classes, but working clocks say a lot about our school. They should be fixed to maintain a good image and environment.”



Junior Daisy Urgiles said that “the broken clocks are not convenient for teachers or students because you can’t pace yourself. Students and teachers still look at the clocks even if they’re not working.”



Senior Gerardo Amigon said, “You get used to it. After three years in Queens Voc, I’ve heard many complaints from students and teachers.”



Mrs. Holland pointed out that people who want work done are supposed to put in work requests. “No one has complained so far, you’re the first student who asked about clocks in Queens Voc. There’s nothing in writing,” she said.



All pictures were taken at noon.

CTE Night a “Valuable Evening”



Mr. Yu, once a freshman at Queens Voc, welcomes families.

by Jose Hernandez

freshmen attended.

CTE Night gave freshmen the opportunity to explore Queens Voc’s eight majors.

This year, CTE Night took place on Thursday, April 10, from 6pm to 8pm. About 200 of the 350

According to Ms. Dattner, guidance counselor for freshmen, the students’ experience and grades will determine which major they are placed in. Seventy-two students chose electrical installation, 53 chose computer

technology, 40 chose business, 31 chose cosmetology, 30 chose graphic arts, 30 chose plumbing, and 17 chose pre-engineering. Thirty-five students have not yet handed in the form.

“I selected plumbing as my first choice and cosmo as my second. I found plumbing to be the most interesting since it looked fun, and I liked cosmetology because of the license that we could get,” said freshman Myriam Avila.

Students who did not attend still have the opportunity to fill out the form and hand it in. The students who did attend had first priority for the available seats.

Each sophomore CTE class has a maximum of 28 students. There are three classes that start with a freshmen shop class; cosmo, C-Tech, and graphic arts.

Freshman Hamza Nazir said, “I didn’t want to go to CTE night because I knew I wanted to stay in C-Tech. I liked doing software programming,

robots, and working on Arduino boards. I’m really looking forward to staying in SCEET for next year’s software engineering program.”

After a brief introduction in the auditorium, the students and parents were split up into groups and sent to the classrooms. Teachers and their current students demonstrated the skills, and explained class requirements and certifications available. Students and their parents could visit every shop class. They then filled out a form to choose which major they want. CTE Night is intended for students in Exploratory, but is open to all freshmen in C-Tech, cosmetology, and graphic arts.

“It’s a very valuable evening, especially for the children,” said Ms. Dattner. “I think it’s wonderful for the teachers who took their time to help freshmen make their decisions. The freshmen have experienced five majors by CTE Night, and it’s



Decision time for Karen.

good for them to get to know next year’s teachers,” she said.

“For some classes, such as EI and plumbing, too many students in the room can be a safety issue. That’s why they have a certain number of individual work stations. Whereas classes like C-Tech can accept more students since they don’t work as much with tools.”

Water Fountains in Old Wing to be Replaced

by Raymond Gong

“Vandalism in the school needs to be reduced,” she added

The water fountains in the old wing of the school were recently removed and will soon be replaced.

“The water fountains are not working because of vandalism,” said Mrs. Holland, the school’s custodial engineer. “The school’s custodians have to turn off the water fountains because kids break them. The water fountains don’t break by themselves.”

Six water fountains were removed from the old building in February. Three of the 12 water fountains are not working in the new building and there are no available water fountains in the old building.

The water fountains should be replaced in a few months, said Mrs. Holland. “It depends on how long it takes the [DOE plumbing] shop to get here.”

Both Schoolwide Dances Cancelled this Year

by Kenneth Marin

Two dances were scheduled this year, and both were cancelled. The Valentine’s dance was cancelled because of a snowstorm, and the Spring Fling was cancelled because of insufficient ticket sales.

Students said they were looking forward to the Valentine’s dance because it was to be the first dance of the year for students of all grades.

“I was looking forward to hanging out with some friends, just relaxing and having some fun. I’m disappointed that it was cancelled because it happened last year too,” said senior Kenya Olmedo.

Junior Brian Reyes, who had purchased tickets to the dance, said, “My girlfriend and I were interested in the dance because we wanted to do something new. I was looking forward to dancing with her.”

Students were looking forward to the Spring Fling for the same reasons. “It stinks that it got cancelled because we have dances every year and this year we had none,” said senior Eylin Flores.

Mr. Vega, COSA, held the money of students who purchased tickets for the Valentine’s dance and planned on that money going towards the Spring Fling as long as the students brought in new permission slips. Sixty-six students purchased tickets for the Valentine’s dance, but only about ten of those students brought in the permission slips, and the dance was cancelled.

The Valentine’s dance has been cancelled three years in a row. Mr. Vega said that two years ago the dance was cancelled because of a snowstorm. Last year, not enough tickets were sold because of “a lack of interest,” said Mr. Vega.

There were no school dances open to all grades this school year.



Ms. Dimech and her chess tournament finalists.

Chess Club Hosts First Chess Open

by Gabriella Martinez

The chess club held its first ever chess open, on Friday, May 23, from 4:30pm to 7pm in the library. Anthony Pippis, won first place, followed by Efstratios Stavrianos who came in second place, and Gabriel E. Miller finished in third place.

“The chess open is a celebration of time and effort over the school

year,” Ms. Dimech said. “I plan to hold the chess open bi-annually in the spring and the fall.”

Sixteen students participated out of 27 people who signed up.

Anthony said, “I enjoyed competing against different people and enjoyed the new experiences.” He added, “I feel that hard work and dedication pays off, it’s not about how the game starts but how it finishes.”

Gabriel said, “While competing against other players, I learned different techniques through trial and error.” He added, “I had quite a lot of fun watching my opponents try to adapt to new techniques, moves, and skills. I also enjoyed the opportunity to participate in the chess open and to face new opponents.”

During the competition Brandon Taveras ended two games in a stalemate while trying to advance to the final three. “I liked the chess open because I got to compete against other players, some of whom were very skilled and who I previously had underestimated,” he said. He added, “My goal in this tournament was to work to win the championship. The players felt the tension build as other players were being eliminated.”

“The chess open gives players a chance to enhance their skills,” said Ms. Dimech. She added, “Next year I plan to send the top players to the regional chess tournaments to compete in the regional chess tournament for a chance to win trophies and have fun competing against other skilled players.”

AP Results: No News is Good News

by Phillip Gooding

From May 5 through May 22, five AP Exams were administered at Queens Voc.

These AP exams were Psychology, taught by Ms. Rejalaga, Art History, taught by Mr. Altenburg, Physics B, taught by Mr. Papadopol, European History, taught by Ms. Wilson, and Calculus AB, taught by Mr. Raynor.

Of 82 students enrolled in AP

classes, 69 students took the tests. In Physics B, 11 out of 15 students sat for the exam, Psychology had 11 out of 18 students, and Art History had 6 out of 8 students.

Only for the Calculus and European History AP exams did every student take the exam, 23 for Calculus and 18 for European History.

Ms. Rejalaga said her students were prepared very well for the multiple choice section but, she added, “I wish I had more time for

my students to study free response questions.”

Mr. Altenburg said he too was “confident that my students performed well on the exam.”

Students Jesus Espinal and Amritpal Singh thought they performed well on their tests. “I was ready and I believe I did the very best I could,” said Jesus.

Students who took the AP exams will receive their individual scores some time during the summer.



Senior Luncheon was fun and well attended.

Senior Year Going, Going, Gone...

by Maritza Murudumbay

A flurry of senior activities will end on June 25, the day Queens Voc seniors graduate.

Graduation will take place at Queens College in Kupferberg Center for the Arts on Wednesday, June 25, at 4pm. Four tickets will be given out to seniors who paid their senior dues. Graduation rehearsals will be held on June 17, at Queens College from 12:30pm-2:30pm; June 23, at Queens Voc at 10am; and June 24, at Queens Voc, at noon. Caps, gowns, and tickets will be distributed on June 24.

There will be a senior breakfast on Monday, June 16, at 8am in the cafeteria, for yearbook and ring distribution.

The prom was held on Friday, May 30, at Terrace on the Park, from 8pm-1am. The first 100 students to purchase their tickets paid a discounted price of \$100 because of the senior bake sale, and later tickets were sold for \$125. Approximately two hundred and thirty seniors attended the event. Prom royalties were chosen randomly, with all seniors' name in a hat. This year, the duke and duchesses were Omar Isaza, and Karina Gomez and Nazanin Somarin. The prince and princess were Amritpal Singh and Elissa Perez. Prom king and queen were Harsimar Jassar and Alondra Vasquez.

There will be no ring ceremony

this year because only six seniors purchased rings. To purchase a ring, seniors had to make an \$80 deposit in room 143 from 10am to 12pm.

The Senior Luncheon, coordinated by Mr. Vega, senior advisor, was held at Bruno's On the Boulevard on Wednesday, April 2, from 12pm-4pm. The tickets cost \$30 each. One hundred forty-five seniors attended the event. There were three dance competitions, bachata, merengue, and salsa. First place winners for the bachata competition were Thalia Cia and Kevin Martinez. The winners of the merengue competition were Pamela Infante and Natalie Mercado. Joseph Fleming and Katherine Quindi won the salsa competition. First place winners received a \$25 discount off their prom ticket and second place winners received a \$15 discount off their prom ticket.

Senior Oscar Night, coordinated by the yearbook committee and Ms. DeCarlo, was held in the auditorium on Friday, March 28, from 4pm-7:30pm. Approximately one hundred tickets were sold at \$2 each.

Seniors held a fundraiser on Monday, March 17, outside the cafeteria, and raised \$1,100. Breakfast was sold in the morning, and during lunch periods, the leadership team sold snacks, such as cupcakes, cookies, and chips. The sale was held to reduce the cost of the prom tickets.

Good Times at the Senior Trip

by Ashley Arango

Ninety-one students attended the three-day, two-night senior trip to the Honors Haven Spa and Resort, during Martin Luther King weekend. "What made this trip stand out more than the rest was how much fun it was," said Mr. Vega, the senior advisor. Senior Lisbeth Lopez agreed. "I had a great time at senior trip," she said.

The cost of the trip was \$260 and included room, breakfast, lunch, and dinner. It also covered activities such as karaoke, swimming, and clubbing. However, snowboarding, skiing, and paintballing were available at additional cost.

As soon as the students arrived at the resort they kicked off with the traditional senior football game with seniors and teachers. After, they ate dinner then got

ready to attend the teen club until curfew which was 1am. There they danced to different genres of music such as hip-hop, bachata, merengue, and salsa.

The next day, most of the students went rollerblading. "Rollerblading was fun to experience with my senior class since there aren't any rollerblading rinks in the city," said Estefania Villegas. Wendy Tupacyupanqui said, "I fell so many times! My friend Jatinder Bhatti was about to fall so he pulled me down and we both fell. It was fun, even though I was sore the next day."

After rollerblading, the students ate lunch and then went snowboarding and skiing. The students learned and practiced the two sports on a small slope. "Snowboarding was the most fear overcoming experience I ever had because I felt invincible as I was

going down the steep mountain slope with my friend David Soto," said Joseph Peterson.

On the last day the students went paintballing. "Paintball was frightening and exciting at the same time. I didn't want to get hurt but I wanted to get the full experience of the sport. It hurt when I got shot, but I made sure to return the pain," said John Gamble.

While the trip turned out to be a success, "there was a lot of negativity prior to the trip. Students claimed that they wouldn't enjoy it because their friends weren't attending so they did not go, but I knew in my heart that it was going to be fun and I was right," said Mr. Vega. "I hope in the future students won't miss the opportunity because of other influences such as their friends not going," he said.

"I roomed with the best people ever! They were Mayte Negrete, Estefania Villegas, and Natalie Martinez. I also enjoyed the activities while I was there. I wish we stayed there longer though. I didn't want to leave so soon," said Lisbeth Lopez. "It was especially great for the senior class as a whole because it united us and allowed us to bond," she said. Similarly, Estefania Villegas thought the trip brought students together. "It united everyone, even people that didn't really speak to each other," she said. "I really enjoyed senior trip. It was one of the best experiences in my life. If I never went I would have regretted it because of how close I got with my friends and teachers," Estefania said.



Bringing in the troops for paintballing.

Seniors Raise \$1,900 at Food Fest

by Suveer Seemangal

The senior food festival held December 2013, by Mr. Vega and seniors in his student leadership organization raised \$1,900 to fund senior activities.

Seniors cooked and brought in trays of food that would typically be served in their countries.

"There were 65 to 70 trays of food at the festival this year," said Mr. Vega, the senior advisor. Students were able to go to the auditorium lobby during their lunch period to purchase food. Two entrees and two sides cost five dollars, and a can of soda or a bottle of water was one dollar.

Senior officers and seniors in

leadership decided to divide the money among the senior activities to reduce their price, according to Mr. Vega. The price of prom tickets has been reduced on the first 100 tickets sold. The price of the senior trip, and senior luncheon was also reduced.

"I think the seniors did well. I mean, really, the senior food festival is supposed to bring the class together, and at the same time help they reduce the price of their activities," said Mr. Vega.

"The Music Never Stopped"

by Ashley Arango

The music club had been a part of Queens Voc for two years. But this year the club did not return because the advisor, Mr. Zambrotta, could not participate because a shortage of social studies teachers for the after school credit recovery program led Mr. Zambrotta, a social studies teacher, to volunteer to teach PM school.

"I blame the students as to why there wasn't a music club this year. Since a high percentage of students have little concern

and care for grades, they're forced to take credit recovery. What bothers me the most is that responsible students who do well in school should be rewarded with extracurricular activities, but their peers, who do not take school as seriously, take away the opportunity from them," said Mr. Zambrotta.

In the past, students stayed after school to practice independently or with others in the club. "Music club had a whole band with drummers, singers, bassists, and guitarists. The band even practiced with the glee

club. We anticipated a rock show performance at the end of the year, but we couldn't do it because Mr. Zambrotta had to do Regents scoring at Newtown High School and it interfered with the show," senior David Soto said. "That's why I was upset to hear there wasn't going to be a music club because I wanted to perform."

"I hope music club will return, but as long as no social studies teacher is willing to teach the PM courses it is not a reality. Perhaps if the students pass their classes there will be an opportunity," said Mr. Zambrotta.



Fundraisers helped keep down the cost of senior events.



Performers take the stage for a final bow.

Sold Out Talent Show Rocks the Auditorium

by Natalie Martinez Trujillo

The annual talent show, held on April 9, included 15 acts and 17 participants singing, dancing, and rapping.

The show started with Samantha Pineda singing “Hurt” by Christina Aguilera. “I was terrified and knew I couldn’t back down, but once I started singing, I felt like no one was there,” she said. Following her was Maritza Murudumbay with an Ecuadorian cultural dance group named Ñaupa Rimaykuna. Jazlyn Espinal then sang “Give Me Love” by Ed Sheeran. Sarah Kay Basil belly danced to Arabic music. “The audience was actually really good. I didn’t expect them to act the way they did,” Sarah said. “Overall it was a really fun experience.”

Pamela Taveras sang and played guitar to “I Won’t Give Up” by Jason Mraz. Wen Li Chen, Pamela Abreu, and Xioaman performed a Korean hip-hop song called “Ice Cream.” Kenneth Marin followed, singing “Cough Syrup” by Young the Giant. The band Infinite Slim Jim, which featured three seniors, guitarist David Soto, bassist Arnaldo Ojeda, and drummer Joseph Peterson, performed “Enter Sandman” by Metallica, “Let Loose” by The Expendables,

and “Pride and Joy” by Stevie Ray Vaughan. Joseph Petterson also performed a solo act, “Pardon Me” by Incubus.

Infinite Slim Jim members were also part of another act featuring Maria Perez, who performed “Locked Out of Heaven” by Bruno Mars. Maria also took part in a hip-hop dance with Thalia Cia and Gabriella Biondo.

Valerie Cruz sang “Roses” by James Arthur. Alex Pena performed an original rap. Jessica Pichardo, who took part in the talent show last year, sang “Your Song” in the style of Ellie Goulding.

The closing act was talent show veteran Elliot Ortiz, who performed a mix of Michael Jackson songs.

“The most difficult part was making the acts rehearse so their performances were on point,” said Mr. Vega. The COSA said it worked out well because “the performances were better than what I expected. They gave their heart and soul and had full support of the other acts, which was amazing. This shows how supportive our students can be towards their peers.”

Audience member Natalie Mercado said, “I really enjoyed the talent show, I thought the talent

show acts this year gave their all. I really enjoyed the cultural dance because it was unique.”

Auditions began in January with 20 different acts trying out. Sophomore Samantha Pineda said, “I was frightened because the judges showed no emotion and I thought I was doing badly in my audition.”

There were five callback performances rescheduled and some students did not show up for their re-audition. Along with that one participant dropped out.

Mr. Vega had a chart inside room 143 organized by Mayte Negrete. Practice varied depending on how many acts signed up for the day. If no acts signed up, then practice on that particular day would be canceled.

“Practice was fun even though there were some rough days but we got through it and supported each other,” said Jessica Pichardo.

Stage crew members Pamela Abreu, Ashley Arango, Lisbeth Lopez, Sebastian Lupercio, Kenneth Marin, Mayte Negrete, Devindra Raghunandan, David Soto, and Diego Vega, stayed from beginning to end of rehearsals to set up lighting and sound equipment.

SES Students Attend International Hair Show

by Xiomaira Inga

Cosmetology and business students attended their annual trip at the International Beauty Show at the Jacob Javits Convention Center on March 11. About 95 juniors and seniors attended.

“It was a good experience because I got to see professionals do haircuts and I learned new haircutting techniques,” said senior Cynthia Vidal.

Students are brought to the show to view new trends and techniques. Students may attend classes, and watch demonstrations and shows. Different types of classes were offered such as makeup, chemical services, and hair extensions.

Lorena Alatorre, a senior, said, “It’s a great way to meet professionals and to learn tips from them. The implements are worth buying because they last long.” Students are introduced to new products with free samples and demonstrations. Products are sold at a discount rate.

Carla Ordenez, a junior, attended the show for the first time “It was a nice learning experience. I learned how people in the industry endorse their products.”

“The majority who attend are cosmetology students because the show is a cosmetology gear trade show,” said Ms. Gonzalez, a cosmetology teacher who coordinated the trip.

Lorena said she “went to the show for the products and to get cosmetology hours.” Cosmetology students earn 10 hours towards their work base learning. Cynthia said, “It is

worth the hours because you learn something from the show.”

Ms. Newman, director of the School of Entrepreneurial Studies, attended the show with some business students. “I took some business students so they could learn to produce trade shows and get ideas about businesses,” she said.



Spinning for prizes.

“Every year is different. I found this year to be better than last year,” said Ms. D’Onofrio, a cosmetology teacher. Jennifer Penafiel, a junior, went last year and she found the show different too. “There were a lot more companies that I knew about and the companies had a lot of samples,” she said.

Cosmetology teachers got 15 tickets per class to sell from Ms. Gonzalez. Students paid \$20 for a ticket. The tickets originally cost \$37. The school gave the cosmetology teachers money to pay for part of the students’ tickets.

Ms. Basirico, Ms. D’Onofrio, Ms. Gonzalez, Ms. Lingstuy, and Ms. Newman chaperoned the trip.



Lorena gets a demo airbrush design.

and participated in an advertising campaign for the YMCA. “I feel working there taught me a lot. I think that it’s going to help me out a lot in the future when I go for another internship or a real job,” said Eudeirys.

Students who do not want to go into a professional setting can earn their 60 hours by volunteering at Queens Voc assisting teachers, and helping out at events such as CTE Night and open house.

Students Need “Real World” Experience

by Suveer Seemangal

Work Based Learning (WBL) has opened doors for students in Queens Voc. Maria Vargas, a junior, has landed a summer internship with the Virtual Enterprise International program, as a result of the interviewing skills she learned in WBL. Maria was a student assistant to Ms. Gross, who is a WBL coordinator.

WBL is a required part of the school-to-career transition for some students at Queens Voc. “Many students complete school with inadequate academic skills and few real-world work place skills. This limits their understanding of how they should act in the professional world,” said Ms. Gross.

“WBL gives students the

opportunity to extend their learning from the classroom and apply academic and technical skills in a real work environment,” said Ms. Gross. There are about 100 students in WBL. “Students learn many things in school, but when they apply it in the real world they realize that it’s different. This is why Work Based Learning is important, because students need that real world experience. Ideally, the experience is to help develop the technical as well as the soft skills of the student,” she said.

To attain their CTE endorsed diploma, every student, at Queens Voc is required to complete 60 hours of Work Based Learning. Starting their sophomore year, students have to go to either Ms. Gross or Ms. Zagada, who are both

WBL coordinators, to coordinate a match for a WBL opportunity. “There are some employers that want high school students, and then there are some that don’t. We try to match a student to an employer based on their major, and also the student’s interest,” said Ms. Gross.

WBL is partnered with the Sunnyside Community Center and Virtual Enterprise International. Students have the opportunity work in salon and spas, retail, small businesses, senior centers, the teachers union, graphic arts companies, doctors’ offices, insurance companies, and jewelry companies.

Eudeirys Espinal, a junior, worked with the Long Island City YMCA. There he worked the front desk, made membership packets,

The Vocational
Voice Staff
Wishes Our
Readers A
Relaxing And
Productive
Summer ☀️



The Blues Brothers onstage live, one night only.

QV Goes Hollywood

by Elma Rahman

Singer/songwriter Hayley Williams performed at Queens Voc to a crowd of students, friends, and teachers. Well...it wasn't really her. But according to many who attended Oscar Night, it sure seemed that way. The audience cheered on as senior Ashley Arango lip-synced "Misery Business." "The crowd was very supportive and hyped up, which made my performing that much easier," she said.

Oscar Night took place on March 27, from 6:30pm to 8pm in the auditorium. Ms. DeCarlo, the advisor of the yearbook committee, organized the event. Over 100 people paid the \$2 admission and attended the Oscar Night. Students in all grades were welcomed to this event. Money was also raised through the sales of refreshments during the intermission. "All the money raised was used to pay for supplies and decorations, which cost around \$250-300," said Ms. DeCarlo.

At the beginning of the show, a video was shown presenting teachers doing skits. This video was produced by Mr. MacDonald and Ms. DeCarlo, and starred staff members willing to be in it. Mr. MacDonald edited the video and created a final movie with soundtrack. "The video they showed during the show was so funny! I really enjoyed it," senior Dillon Lalchand said.

There were four performances. Kevin Olivares dressed up as Justin Bieber and Michael Feliz as Tyga. Together they performed to "Wait for a Minute." Jamillet Moronta, Shantell de Jesus, Yubelyn Cruel, and Selena Belloso dressed up as music group Danity Kane, and danced to the song "Show Stopper." Angel Fermin lip-synced to the song "Headlines" as Drake. The final act of the night was Elliot Ortiz, who dressed up as Michael Jackson and performed to a remix of his hit songs.

- The winners were:
- | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Head Turner: | Paola Munoz | Christian Solarte |
| Best Dressed: | Paola Munoz | Jarvis Perez |
| Most Studios: | Sandy Abiad | Suveer Seemangal |
| Most Athletic: | Thalia Cia | Phillip Gooding |
| Drama King/Queen: | Anthony Ventimiglia | Jennifer Czerwinski |
| Best Smile: | Adriana Rojas | Sebastian Lupercio |
| Class Sweetheart: | Monica Orellana | Harsimar Jassar |
| Most Talented: | Pamela Abreu | Elliot Ortiz |
| Class Clown: | Mayte Negrete | Greamy Urena |
| Biggest Flirt: | Rachel Ackerman | Juan Prado |
| Best Laugh: | Jamilett Moronta | Kevin Santos |
| Most Fun to be with: | Estefania Villegas | Greamy Urena |
| Most Changed: | Cindi Alvarez | Diego Vega |
| Dynamic Duo: | Pamela Infante | Natalie Mercado |
| Cutest Couple: | Maritza Murudumbay | Jose Hernandez. |



Is that Drake or Angel Fermin? People want to know.

Oh...OSHA

by Thalia Cia

Seniors in electrical installation, plumbing, and cosmetology get OSHA training in Queens Voc. OSHA, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, "is a body of the federal Department of Labor that has as its main goal to provide safety for people in the workforce," said Mr. Bowen.

This year the certification was supposed to be introduced to pre-engineering students but was not taught because of behavioral issues. "Some students didn't act appropriately so we didn't get it at all. It was completely unfair," said pre-engineering student Eileen Herrera. According to Mr. Ali, five or six students acted inappropriately which caused the whole class to lose the certification. "Some students don't care what the school is offering them," said Mr. Ali.

Ms. Quartuccio's cosmetology class receives OSHA training in infections and fire hazards, said senior cosmetologist Kitzel Montes.

Seniors in plumbing are trained in construction industry safety by Mr. McCarthy.

Mr. Bowen's senior electrical installation students are trained for safety in confined spaces, and the proper use of goggles. During the week of June 2, Mr. Bowen's class took national stand down to prevent falls in construction. "Falls are the number one cause of death in construction, 34% of deaths," said Mr. Bowen.

Students in Job Readiness Program

by Lesly Vivar

Five senior students are participating in the Scholars at Work Career Exploration Program operated by Workforce 1. The students are Kevin Brito, Sebastian Lupercio, Kimberly Pisfil, Christian Teran, and Mirian Zhagui.

"I am working with Quad Logics and I assemble pieces for meters that the company distributes after," Mirian said.

The Scholars at Work internship program offers job experience through a fourteen - week paid internship. This year students are working at Quad Logic and Hilton Golden Touch Transportation.

"I think the program is helpful because it taught me new things, like a 30-second pitch. It will help benefit those who want to gain more experience in their shop but can't because they are still in high school," Kimberly said.

According to Ms. Newman,



Students work together to help others.

Orgs Unite to Fight AIDS

by Sebastian Lupercio

Queens Voc's Skills USA chapter and Robotics team united to raise \$920 for GMHC and 40 other AIDS service organizations in the Tri-State area.

About thirty Queens Voc students from the two organizations participated in the AIDS Walk on Sunday, May 18, in Central Park where they walked a total of 6.2 miles.

The AIDS Walk started at 10am and finished around 1:30pm. "It was exciting and tiring because the weather was warm. We showed QV spirit by chanting and cheering," said Zinniah Munoz, president of the school's Skills USA chapter.

"It was the first time I've done something like this, which was really fun. We wanted to get involved and give back to the community," said Ms. Ramdeo.

Esteban Ansaldo Places 6th in National Competition

by Alexander Borges

Esteban Ansaldo, a junior majoring in Cisco, traveled to Rochester this spring and placed sixth within the US and Canada for the CCENT competition, beating more than a thousand high school and college students. The entire class competed, and the scores from round one made candidates eligible to move into the second round of the competition.

According to CISCO's website, the Cisco Certified Entry Networking Technician competition is an opportunity for students and alumni in the United States and Canada to "showcase their networking abilities, learn valuable new IT skills, and gain visibility among talent recruiters in the growing ICT and networking field." The content is geared toward CCENT Certification which demonstrates

the skills required for entry-level network support positions, the starting point for many successful careers in networking.

"For a student to place sixth coming from a program in its first year is incredible, especially ranking as the first high school within the top 10. It's an awesome accomplishment," said Mr. Haripersaud, the SVA working for Mr. David.

According to Esteban, the competition was hard, especially since he rushed the curriculum, based around networking protocols, and only had two weeks of practice. He had to cover the material for the second semester for the competition as well. He felt he did pretty well for his first year, he said, and hadn't expected to place in the top 10. "The competition helped me know what's relevant. It was definitely worth it," he said

who coordinates Scholars at Work at Queens Voc, students participate in a job readiness program, which helps them learn from experts on how to self-analyze, write a resume, prepare for an interview, and give a 30-second pitch. A 30-second pitch is a brief self-promotion on what skills a person can offer to a company. After the job readiness program, students are assigned their jobs based on their shop class. They are sent to work from 2pm to 5pm Monday to Friday. The students started their internships in late February.

Eight students applied for

the program in late November. Students who applied had to submit the application before the due date, pass an interview, and have good attendance. All students participating in the program had their schedules adjusted, so they can go to the mandatory meetings, but normally have to report after they finish their regular day at school.

"These students signed an attendance and disciplinary contract to understand that they are responsible all their actions in school and at their job site," said Ms. Newman.

Everyday is a Science Fair in Lab Squad

by Iveth Duran

“The Lab Squad is a group of science-loving students who donate their time in the school to aid in the running of the science department,” said Mr. Rosenthal, the lab specialist who runs Lab Squad periods five through seven in room 205.

The students, he said, help with the day-to-day running of the labs. They also get to learn about what goes on in the labs. “It provides students interested in science an opportunity to be involved behind the scenes of a real laboratory.” Lab Squad looks great on college applications, the lab specialist said. Mr. Rosenthal said he appreciates the help, which ranges from “organizing equipment to washing glassware. The squad makes sure the labs are in tip-top shape.”

Students get to see first-hand



It only looks like spaghetti.

science in the school, said Mr. Rosenthal. One of the students, Katia Ascencio said, “It’s fun, Mr. Rosenthal is full of jokes. It’s easy, nothing hard. I learned about some of the cool experiments he did with the Chemistry class. Mr. Rosenthal also tutors us when we need help.”

“The students are wonderful. They are a pleasure to be around. The Lab Squad keeps running because students are a great help,” said Mr. Rosenthal.

Lab squad members include Devon Almonte, Katia Ascencio, Regina Bartels, Xiawen Cai, Ashley Cena, Emily Gomez, Xiaoping Wang, and Qing-Si Yu.

Readers Realm has a Prolific Year

by Sadia Chowdhury

Members of the school’s book club, Reader’s Realm, are reading their sixth and final book, Veronica Roth’s *Divergent*.

“The story takes place in a dystopian society, where a girl has to choose to either leave her parents and live in a new society or to live with her parent in her current faction,” said Ms. Lewis,

the book club advisor and school librarian.

As a culminating activity, members went to see the movie *The Fault in Our Stars* on June 6. The movie is based on the book of the same name, which members read in October.

Moreover, book club members fundraised by selling chocolates during the month of March and donated the proceeds to Doctors

without Borders, an international humanitarian organization that provides healthcare and medical training to people in various countries, and are often involved in aid in conflict zones around the world. The members raised 250 dollars.

Ms. Lewis asks students interested in applying for book club next year to meet her as soon as possible in September.

A Divergent Book Review

by Nikolas Amirian

Divergent by Veronica Roth is the first book in the *Divergent* Trilogy. The book takes place in a post-apocalyptic future with society divided into five factions: abnegation, amity, candor, dauntless, and erudite. The five factions believe in different ways of living life.

The main character, Beatrice

Prior, is sixteen years old and has to choose whether she will stay in her faction or transfer to another. The results of her aptitude test—which indicates what faction the person is best suited for—were inconclusive.

Beatrice wasn’t suited for a faction, making her *divergent*. *Divergents* are people who can think for themselves and don’t need others to tell them how they

should live. Being *divergent* might sound good but it’s against the law.

Divergent was well written with plenty of action and twists. There was even a love story mixed in as well. The plot was interesting and similar to the plot of *Anthem* by Ayn Rand. Roth was very descriptive without over doing it, and made Beatrice a lovable character.

Eudirys wins Dream Job Competition

by Phillip Gooding

Junior Eudirys Espinal was one of 73 winners of the My Dream Job Essay Competition. The winners got a one-day shadowing experience in the industry they selected in New York City. Eudirys shadowed VP of Business Development Nihar Singhal at the start-up company SeatGeek. “It was an amazing experience to be a part of such a fun and friendly environment,” said Eudirys. “It

also gave me a chance to get feedback on my business idea.” The shadowing experience was made possible through Virtual Enterprise International.

Eudirys wrote about his dream job to be a tech entrepreneur and create online products and services. “I did not know I was going to win the competition but I am very happy that I won,” he said.

AP Jeanette Newman said, “I am very proud of him and his

accomplishment.”

The purpose of this essay was to describe a dream job and why an individual would be right for the shadowing experience. Students were expected to use information they learned in their Entrepreneurship class taught by Ms. Newman and Mr. Mugan. Ms. Newman entered seven students’ essays from her class and Mr. Mugan entered four from his class.



Working with chemicals can be dangerous--and fun!

Graphic Arts gets Technology Upgrade

by Andres Diaz

Inside the graphic arts room are 14 new desks, 28 new Mac minis, and 28 new 19-inch monitors.

The new equipment was installed “to help teachers teach more effectively by using newer technology,” said Mr. Alikakos, the assistant principal of organization/security.

According to Mr. Garcia, graphic arts teacher and assistant principal of Graphic Arts and Foreign Language, the new Mac minis are able to run iCloud, an online backup service that stores data on remote computer servers. iCloud is convenient because it gives students access to their programs at home.

The Mac minis are also capable of using the new Adobe software, including Adobe CS6 Creative Cloud, which helps

prevent students from losing their work.

“The bigger screen gives graphic arts students a more spacious working environment,” said Mr. Garcia. Junior Yarisbel Hermita said, “I like the new equipment because it’s easier to use, advanced, and has nice features.”

The new desks use a lever that allows students to alternate between hiding their computer and monitor in a compartment that goes below the desk and having their computer out for use. “The new desks will give students the space they need for drawing,” said Mr. Garcia.

“The old equipment had to be replaced to keep in line with industry standards,” said Mr. Alikakos. Before the new equipment, the graphic arts room had 16 art desks and 57 iMac

laptops with 12-inch screens.

According to Mr. Alikakos the old equipment has been recycled to other classrooms for student and teacher use.

“Microsoft Settlement School Technology Voucher Program (STVP) gave Queens Voc the option to buy new equipment,” said Mr. Alikakos.

Refurnishing the graphic arts room was a decision made by Principal Burg, AP Alikakos, and Mr. Garcia. According to Mr.

Alikakos, Queens Voc paid around \$50,000 for the new equipment, which is protected by the use of lock on devices and other security measures.

According to Ms. Zagada, MOUSE squad members worked on the networking portion of the installation by installing new CAT 5 cables during January Regents week. EI teachers Mr. Abreu, Mr. Mendez, and Mr. Cintron, and plumbing teacher Mr. Rivera installed the new desks.



New equipment gets students working to industry standards.

ARI at QV



Professor Bernstein speaks to Journalism students.

Professor Andrew Bernstein spoke to journalism students recently about author and philosopher Ayn Rand. The journalism students read Rand’s *Anthem* earlier in the year.

Prof. Bernstein is associated with the Ayn Rand Institute, holds a PhD in philosophy, and has written numerous books on laissez-faire capitalism.

Robert Begley, president of the New York Heroes society, joined Professor Bernstein for the talk.

SLC NEWS

by Htet N. Aung

Mr. Raushan, SCEET coordinator.

Computer and Electronic Engineering Technologies

This year, three of the five highest ranked seniors are SCEET students.

SCEET students took home multiple medals from the SkillsUSA State Competition held April 24-26, in Syracuse, NY. Pedro Bonilla and Jonathon Pioquinto, electronics juniors, placed first and second, respectively, for Residential Systems Installation and Maintenance. Qing-Si Yu, a junior in C-Tech, placed third for Related Technical Math. Xiaoping Wang, an electronics junior, placed second and Eileen Herrera, an electronics senior, placed third in Electronics Technology. Hasan Chisty, a junior majoring in Cisco networking, placed third in Internetworking. Jasmin Mrkulic, a junior in C-Tech, placed third in Computer Maintenance Technology.

Junior Esteban Ansaldo, majoring in Cisco networking, placed sixth out of more than a thousand high school and college students in Cisco Networking Academy CCENT Netriders Competition held on Friday, May 2. The competition is an IT skills competition that showcases students' networking skills in a theoretical and virtual exam.

Eighteen of 20 SCEET seniors in pre-engineering program are earning endorsed diplomas this year. Students do not need to pass all certifications to get endorsed, but are required to pass two of three ETA certifications and two of four C-Tech certifications, have 60 hours work based learning activities, and pass at least one required college class. Students with Individualized Education Plans are given special considerations to get endorsed.

As of June 3, 85 percent of senior C-Tech students are earning their endorsed diplomas.

SCEET students have also been involved in community service. On Sunday, May 18, students in SCEET and other SLCs, representing SkillsUSA and the Robotics club, participated in the 2014 AIDS Walk in Central Park. The students walked 6.2 miles and raised \$920, according to Ms. Ramdeo, the SkillsUSA advisor.

An annual SCEET awards ceremony was held on March 20 in the auditorium. "The idea behind the awards ceremony is to acknowledge our SCEET students, not only the students who are exceptional in academics, but also the students who are involved in extracurricular activities, take leadership roles, and students with good moral characters," said

Exploration and Discovery

Queens Voc held a CTE night for all freshmen and Advance students on Thursday, April 10, to help them make their selection for their majors. It was held primarily for the parents to get involved in decision-making because the parents have a big part in which program their children go into, according to AP Gallagher.

Freshmen currently taking Algebra took the Common Core Algebra Regents exam and a number of freshmen took Common Core English Regents exam on Tuesday, June 3. Current freshmen are not required to take the English Regents exam until they are in 11th grade.

On Wednesday, June 4, about two hundred and fifty freshmen went to the Bronx Zoo to celebrate the end of the year.

On Friday, May 30, there was an end of the year recognition ceremony for the mentors and mentees. Some SED students are a part of Expanded Success Initiative program. "It is a city program that gave funding to promote college readiness of African American and Hispanic male students," said AP Gallagher. Forty freshmen male students were matched with mentors, school personnel from Queens Voc. "It was an opportunity to have those students form connections with adults in the building and be able to talk about academic interests and pursuits," said AP Gallagher.

ESI students also participated in social events. There was a bowling event with the mentors and mentees. ESI students went on two college trips: One to Stony Brook University and one overnight trip to Boston University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Harvard University on April 24 through 25. The purpose of the trips was to get students to think about where they want to be when they graduate high school, to see themselves in college, and to get more information about what will take for them to go to college, according to AP Gallagher.

Entrepreneurial Studies

Mariam Abbasi, a junior majoring in business, was elected as the New York State Treasurer of SkillsUSA for next year at the state conference.

In the School of Entrepreneurial Studies, graphic arts students are finishing their portfolios for the year. They went to Fashion Institute of Technology and Art Institute on Nov. 11, Lehman College on March 10, School of Visual Arts on May 16, and Pratt Institute on May 30. AP Garcia and Ms. Abrams

coordinated these trips. Also this year, room 325 was upgraded with new tables, computers, software, and books.

Virtual Enterprise students are writing their fiscal reports. This year, the business program offers two different classes to align with VE curriculum: business etiquette and web design.

Future Business Leaders of America members participated in four events this year: the National Fall Leadership Conference in November, the Fall District Meeting in November, the Spring District Meeting in March, and the State Leadership Conference in April.

Skilled Building Trades

William Callanan, a senior majoring in Electrical Installation, placed second in Industrial Motor Control in the SkillsUSA State Competition.

Mr. Rivera and Mr. Bowen, SSBT shop teachers, are GPRO certified and they are ready to teach it in their CTE classes next year, said AP Ali. According to gpro.org, "GPRO is a comprehensive national training and certificate program developed by Urban Green Council, USGBC New York, that teaches the people who build, renovate, and maintain buildings the principles of sustainability combined with trade-specific green construction knowledge."

This certification will be offered next year as a part of SSBT because "all construction workers are required to have a basic knowledge of what green technology means," said AP Ali.

"We have more students in SSBT who are college ready because they have obtained 80 or above in math Regents and 75 or above in English Regents than in previous years," said AP Ali.

SES goes UFT

by Valentin Martinez

Ms. Lingstuyll took 26 cosmetology students who "were interested and willing to give up their Saturday for an invaluable experience," to participate in the UFT Spring Conference.

Zinniah Munoz, a second year participant and junior cosmo student, said the trip was "a chance for students to do what they love and gain real-life experience."

UFT members gathered at the Midtown Hilton for a celebration of their profession and a chance to attend relevant workshops on April 17. Many teachers and students from CTE high schools attended to show their skills, said Ms. Lingstuyll.

Ms. Mitchell brought three

One more Blood Drive



Joseph Fleming looks relaxed while giving blood.

by Raymond Gong

Queens Voc held its second blood drive of the year on Friday, May 9.

"Fifty-three pints of blood were donated, over our goal of 50. We reached our goals on both blood drives this year," said Mr. Vega.

There were 68 people registered to donate, but only 42 of them were able to. "Some people weren't able to donate blood because their height and weight didn't match up," said Mr. Vega, coordinator of student activities. "There's a specific formula they use to determine if your height and weight meet their requirements." Others were turned down because either they had low iron levels, were out of the country recently, or had recent tattoos or piercings.

Dillon Lalchand, a senior, said he "wanted to donate to help someone who needed it."

Thirty-one people were whole blood donors, and 11 were

automated red cell donors, also called an Alyx donation. "There was one pint of blood drawn from each whole blood donor, and two pints for each Alyx donor."

Participants needed to be over 110 pounds and people age 16 needed parental or guardian permission to donate blood. People age 17-76 are able to donate blood with their own consent, and people over age 76 are allowed to donate with their physician's approval.

According to the New York Blood Center, participants should drink plenty of fluids and eat at regular mealtimes before donating. Whole blood donations have the blood separated into red blood cells, platelets, and plasma for distribution to hospitals. Whole blood donations can be done every 56 days. Automated blood cell donations (Alyx) just have red blood cells taken out. Then, the plasma and platelets are returned to the donor. Both types of donations take about an hour.



Cosmo students do nails for conference attendees.

students to represent the Future Business Leaders of America. "FBLA students were giving a helping hand to cosmo students, plus it was community service," she said.

FBLA member Jesus Espinal said, "it was interesting plus we got free food. Our task was to refill Cosmo's bottles when emptied and help with anything needed."

"Cosmetology students participated by giving manicures and doing facial and thermal styling. Students benefited from attending the UFT conference because

they worked on actual people rather than manikins," said Ms. Lingstuyll, a cosmetology teacher. Sophomore Melissa Alvarado, said "It was interesting and fun, plus we had the opportunity to see different personality and do what we love."

Ms. Lingstuyll said "there were tons of compliments on the level of professionalism, skill, and dedication of our students." It was a success, she said. "In fact, students from Greene Co. Tech High School, kept admiring and complementing our stand."

by Ahtesham Hoque

Cosmo has Egg-Cellent Dolls

Room 321 provided the setting for the “Simply Eggscellent” makeover contest, where creativity and patience were the key terms towards victory.

Before winter break, Ms. Lingstuyt’s 7th and 8th period sophomore cosmetology class was given a project that was also submitted as a contest entry.

Ms. Lingstuyt said she asked her students to bring in an egg, with the contents removed, to use as a head for the body of a doll. “For hair, students were given options of using wool, yarn, or synthetic hair. For make-up, students were given the option to use nail polish, colored markers or pens, and paint,” said the Cosmo teacher. “To create that special face that catches everyone else’s eye,” added Ms. Lingstuyt. “Students were able to use any materials they thought were appropriate for the body, or for accessories

such as jewelry, scarves, and hats. Students used straws, ice cream sticks, Play-doh or clay as a base for their doll while the head of the doll was an empty egg,” said Ms. Lingstuyt. For clothing, students had the option of using strips of cloth, paper, and yarn to dress their egg.

There were three winners from Ms. Lingstuyt’s class. Amanda Hess, whose doll resembled a mermaid, won. “I felt I won first place because my doll was unique and mystical. I created a mermaid because as a child I loved mermaids,” said Amanda. Jessica Pichardo took second. She



Humpty Dumpty had nothing on these dolls!

clothed her doll with a ballroom dress made of toilet paper. Sofia Vergara took third place with two dolls that represented a couple.

The project had two parts. Part one was creating the doll. Part two was creating an instruction manual with step-by-step instructions for creating the doll. Part two

included a cover page, story line, list of materials used, details of steps involved, list of the length of time it took for each step, the amount of time to complete the entire project, and the final page that included the student’s name, and a picture or sketch of the finished project.

During the building process there were multiple complications and obstacles the participating students faced. Amanda said she couldn’t get the synthetic hair on the egg and ended up breaking two eggs in an attempt to glue fake hair. “I resolved this issue with the use of a pair of tweezers

to reduce the pressure as I slowly applied each strand of hair on the egg,” she said.

Queens Voc staff and students were allowed to vote in the contest. “We had 120 votes and even Ms. Burg voted,” said Ms. Lingstuyt.

The primary purpose of this assignment, Ms. Lingstuyt said, was to challenge students in the development or improvement of their fine motor skills.

“There was more to this project than just creating the prettiest doll. It was to teach students the value of patience and to be firm but gentle when working on a job, because if the student can’t be gentle with an egg, then dealing with an actual client would present itself to be rather difficult,” said Ms. Lingstuyt.

“For example, when doing someone’s hair or nails, if the employee is not gentle he or she could end up hurting the clients,” she added.

Mock Trial Team Judged Harshly in 3rd Round

by Ahtesham Hoque

The Queens Voc Mock Trial team lost in the third round of the citywide competition on March 12, eliminating the team from the competition. The competition took place at the Queens Criminal Courthouse in Queens, New York.

“In the last trial, one of our best lawyers became sick and was replaced. We won the case, but lost the performance,” said Mohammed Hossain, a member of the team.

The Mock Trial team argued the case of the People of the State of New York v. Penn Hydra Gas, Inc., and Mitchell Tomley, CEO. The company was accused of contaminating the drinking water supply of an entire village.

The team represented the defense in the first round on Tuesday, Feb 25, and lost to John Bowne High School.

The team, representing the prosecution, won the second round against Cambria Heights Academy on Thursday, March 6. Mohammed Hossain, Elizabeth Maldonado, and Fatima Veras played the lawyers, Daniela Ortiz played the farmer, and Carla Ordonez and Stephanie Rojas played the witnesses.

“I joined because it looks good on a college application,” said Fatima Veras. “I am also interested in law and government,” she added.

Joshua Norkin is a criminal defense attorney at the Legal



Mr. Davidson was proud his team got to the third round.

Aid Society in the Bronx who played a big role for the team as an attorney advisor. “I went to all the teams practices and helped students develop legal arguments, questions, courtroom decorum, trial procedures, how to properly write an opening or closing statement, and developing questions for direct and cross-examination of witnesses,” said Mr. Norkin. I also coached witnesses on how to properly portray their roles during the competition, properly introduce evidence, how to object at trial, and how to properly address a judge and witnesses,” Mr. Norkin added.

The Mock Trial team is part of a statewide competition. According to Mr. Norkin, the purpose of Mock Trial is for students to develop critical thinking skills and get courtroom experience. Each case is argued between two schools in the courtroom. One school acts as the defense, while the other school acts as the prosecution. The student lawyers are required to give an opening and closing statement during each case. Each school is permitted to call upon three witnesses.

The case is decided by a judge. “The judge is required to make two decisions: whether or not the prosecution approved the charges against the defense, and which team gave the better performance,” said the team’s advisor, Mr. Davidson.

The NYC finals took place on May fifth. According to Mr. Davidson any teams that participated are invited to attend the finals at U.S Federal Court house in downtown Brooklyn. “The Queens Voc team attended the finals. It was a good experience watching the top teams compete,” said Fatima Veras. “After the finals, the competition organizers provide students with awards and dinner,” said Mr. Davidson.

The students who participated on the team were Ashley Carvajal, Mohammed Hossain, Elizabeth Maldonado, Carla Ordonez, Daniela Ortiz, Stephanie Rojas, and Fatima Veras.

Mr. Davidson said he started the program at Queens Voc in 1985. “I received the information from the Board of Education. It sounded interesting and was a great opportunity for students,” he said.

Demise of the Dollar Deal

by Phillip Gooding

At the beginning of the school year, extra “dollar lunches” were sold, allowing students to purchase an additional entrée for \$1, but these extra lunches stopped in late November.

Officially referred to as “dollar deals,” the main course items were offered a la carte throughout all public high schools, that is, students could get an additional main course item for a dollar.

But the dollar deals were a budget-breaker for the city. While these extra dollar lunches worked out well for the Queens Voc

cafeteria, they were not profitable in other public high schools, said Ms. Luna cafeteria supervisor. “The headquarters stopped the extra lunches and they will not return to our school anytime soon,” she said.

Students had to adjust. “I miss the extra dollar school lunches. When I was feeling hungry, I knew I could count on the extra dollar lunches to satisfy me,” said freshman Daniel Santiago. Senior Adam Todorovic also found the dollar deals fulfilling. “I used to purchase an extra lunch often, but now I have to buy food before I get to school to hold me.”

MOUSE Squad Struggles to Save Energy

by Antonio Parada

MOUSE Squad students participated in a school-wide energy challenge, designed to reduce the school’s electric usage. The top five schools with the greatest electricity reductions won cash prizes up to \$50,000.

Queens Voc finished 63 out of 74 competing schools, increasing its electrical consumption by 11%, according to the sponsors at Green Lab Design, which checked the school’s electric consumption from December 2013 to March 2014 and compared it to the same time period in the previous two years.

To try to reduce electricity consumption, MOUSE Squad students “went around after school during MOUSE squad hours, turning off equipment when it was not in use,” said MOUSE Squad

member, Dillon Lalchand.

“Our plan,” Dillon said, “was to turn off all the lights, SMART Boards, and other devices when not in use, however, teachers did not participate so our efficiency did not go down.”

Ms. Zagada added, “We found that printers and SMART Boards consume a lot of electricity when we tested the amount used. We should have turned off more lights and unused equipment.”

Ms. Moreau’s English class and Mr. Papadopol’s Photonics class has also raised awareness by putting up posters throughout the school.

“We were chosen to participate because our school has a MOUSE Squad and the students would be in charge of trying to conserve energy,” said Ms. Zagada.

For more information, visit www.thegreenlabdesign.org

Robotics Team Strives for Success

by Ahtesham Hoque

The robotics team isn't taking any rest after the recent regional competitions. According to Mr. Ali, the advisor, the team is participating in three off-season matches.

The RoboTigers traveled to Montgomery High School in New Jersey, and beat out 41 other teams to win. The second match will take place on Saturday, June 14, at Wolcott High School in Wolcott, Connecticut. The third match will be on Friday, June 28, at West Windsor Plainsboro High School North in Plainsboro, New Jersey.

Each year the robotics team has participated in two regional matches. In their first match this year, they placed fourth out of 50 teams at Hofstra University, in



Alex and Mr. Ali making some last minute adjustments.

March. Their second match, in April, was held at the the Javits Center in Manhattan. The match did not go so well: they placed 51 out of 66 teams.

This year the robotics teams were tasked with building a robot that would be able to shoot an exercise ball into two goals, a goal 11 feet high and 6 inches wide and a low goal that was 2 feet high and 5 inches wide. According to mentor Brian Green, the majority of the points are earned by team work. Arun Rai, a senior, explained. "With the help of a human player and two other robots we are trying to assist each other to get the ball over an obstacle and score the highest goal for the most points."

Last year the robotics team had to build a robot that could pick up

and shoot discs. The team placed first in the regional at Hofstra, allowing them to continue to the nationals. The team placed 32 out of 100 in nationals.

During the build process this year, the team faced many complications. "The design of the shooter for the robot came into question. There were debates between the team members on the design and what kind of shooter to use," said senior Mohammed Aziz, captain of the electronics team.

"We tested a catapult shooter and yes, we are missing a tile in the ceiling of electronics room 346. The shooting accuracy of the catapult was inferior to our final motor powered wheel shooter that we will be using in our Final robot," added Mohammed.

Senior Amritpal Singh said that the "pickup system would not work with the shooting designs, so we had to adopt a different approach. Instead of using a claw-based robot pick up, we invested in the idea of a hollow inside with a wraparound pick up."

According to Brian, a Queens Voc graduate, the robotics team consists of 31 students, ranging from freshmen to seniors.

During the season the team met in room 346 after school from 4:30pm to 6:30pm on weekdays, and from 9am to 6pm on weekends.

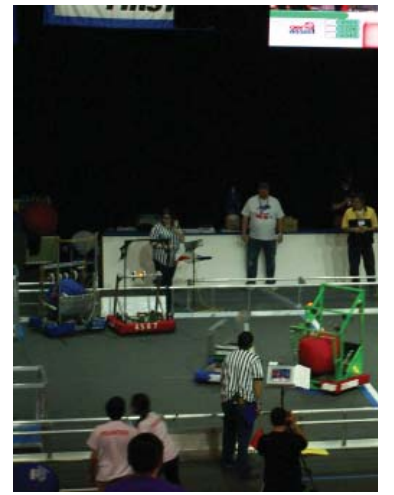
"Any student from any major



Raymond "in the driver's seat."

can participate in the robotics club," said Mr. Ali.

Mr. Ali started the robotics club in 2006. "I felt that it was important and educational that our



Battle for Hofstra.

kids be able to apply what they are learning in his or her classrooms to the real world, apply theory to real world situations," he said.

The club has to secure its own sponsors. Recent sponsors include Port Authority of NY & NJ, Con Edison, and BnG Foundation.

The 31 students on the robotics team are Johnell Artis, Htet Naing Aung, Mohammed Aziz, Alexander Borges, Jatinder Bhatti, Gabrielle Butler, Thalia Cia, Pamela Diaz, Edwyn Flores, Isabel Flores, Robert Francis, Raymond Gong, Valentina Gutierrez, Anthony Herrera, Eileen Herrera, Mohammed Hossain, Guadalupe Juarez, Vasiki Konneh, Valentin Martinez, Bradley Moog, Ayeisah Ortega, Udayan Puthenkalam, Arun Rai, Adan Romero, Jason Seino, Brian Sevilla, Davier Simmons, Amritpal Singh, Tia Singh, Jonathan Vargas, and Sanjidah Wahid.



Pit crew setting up the robot.

Sophomore Business Students Work to Solve European Economic Problems



Students work to save Europe one country at a time in the Euro challenge.

by Harsimar Jassar

Sophomore business students took part in the Euro Challenge again this year, but similar to last year, the team did not score well enough to make the semi-finals.

According to Ms. Gross, who coordinated Queens Voc's participation, Mukta Roy, Cosme Tellez, John Ulloa, and Vanessa Urrutia presented at the competition that took

place in April at Credit Suisse. Sophomores Purnata Anwar, Michael Bennett, Malcom Romero, and Sally Santiago also contributed to the team by coming up with solutions. The team also received help and advice from last year's team members Eudeirys Espinal, Jesus Espinal, Upasana Tyagi, and Marie Vargas.

Just like last year, the team selected Spain and the banking system weaknesses. They picked

the same issue as last year because the junior mentors had an idea of what was expected and they helped this year's team by giving them valuable advice and tips. "It is better to pick something you already know a bit about and doing better, than picking something new and doing worse," said Ms. Gross, the advisor.

Although the team did not qualify for the semi-finals they did much better than expected said

Ms. Gross. She said that the kids really rose to the challenge and impressed her by surpassing her expectations. "This challenge is difficult for the students because they never really learned about economics and they have to come up with a way to address the problem and find a solution with little prior knowledge of the subject," said Ms. Gross.

Last year's participants were a big help to the students this year, according to Ms. Gross. They gave advice to the team on how to present properly and told them what the judges would be looking for.

Marie-Louise Jacques, an executive from the pharmaceutical industry mentored the team again this year. She was also a big help, according to Ms. Gross, because she helped the team with presentation skills and also gave them some tips with the economics part of the competition.

The Euro Challenge is a program created by the Delegation of the European Union to the United States in order to promote understanding of the European Union (EU) and the Euro. It gives freshmen and sophomores the opportunity to research and explore different economic issues that countries in Europe are

facing. According to the website euro-challenge.org, the Euro Challenge aims to foster economic and financial literacy, develop communication, critical thinking, and cooperative skills.

The task for the competition is for teams to pick one challenge from a list of 10 and one country in Europe that uses the Euro as currency, and recommend policy changes. Each team is to describe the current economic situation in the country and recommend policies to address that situation. The teams then have to give a presentation on what they came up with which is then followed by 10 minutes of questioning from the judges. The teams that participate in the challenge are provided with professional development, information resources, and coaching to provide guidance.

Schools from all over the nation participated in the Euro Challenge and there were five overall winners. Princeton High School from New Jersey was the overall winner and Hunter College High School was the only school from New York to place in the top five. The top five schools received monetary awards from the Moody Foundation, which is a partner of the Delegation of the European Union to the United States.

Allow Phone Use in School to Improve Education

by Htet N. Aung

We are in the 21st century. It's time the use of cellphones and other electronics devices is allowed in every school.

Technology is advancing rapidly to make lives better for everyone and to create educational opportunities for students. Through the internet, we can connect to a myriad of information and make better use of it. No students should be left behind especially when they are in school.

According to the NYC Department of Education discipline code, students are not allowed to bring "prohibited equipment or items to school without authorization (e.g., cell phone, beeper, or other electronic communication/entertainment devices)." But every school should be able to authorize the use of electronics in school buildings. This policy affects 1.1 million students in about one thousand and eight hundred schools in New York City.

Many teachers and administrators think that devices such as cellphones and iPods are distracting to students in and out of the classrooms. Some teachers say that with electronics, the students will pay less attention in classrooms, and it will be more likely that information about tests will be passed among the students. But Queens Voc does not have lecture halls with hundreds of students. At most, we have 34 students in a class. Teachers themselves should be able to prohibit the use of devices in their classrooms. When students misuse the devices, teachers could have the students suspended. The NYCDOE should not be deciding for every public school teacher, as teachers know their students best.

Every classroom is unique, with its own set of students and teachers. But there are some similarities: one SmartBoard and one laptop—and perhaps thirty-five cellphones—in each classroom. This technology increases the possibilities to be creative in learning and teaching. Students may even suggest how they could use their phones for their own education. They may suggest the use of "i>clicker" (instant question-and-answer polling and records results for "real-time measurement and assessment of student understanding," according to www1.iclicker.com) for exam reviews and classroom activities.

Mr. Esguerra suggests that teachers could even try a flipped classroom, where teachers would post links to instructional videos online and students could watch the videos and learn, not just at home, but in school. A flipped classroom would also resolve the one-size-fits-all problem, by allowing students to go at their own pace. They may use MIT OpenCourseWare, Khan Academy, educational videos on YouTube, and many other sources. Individual teachers will decide how best to help their students learn, not only to meet their educational goals, but essentially to improve their evaluations and school ratings.

As students, teachers, and schools try new ideas, more options will come along, which is very unlikely when someone or some organization, such as the NYCDOE, decides what is best for all of us.

Teachers who think that cellphones are distracting may prohibit the devices in their classrooms. But those who see them as opportunities would allow their classrooms to be more successful.

Another point that is worth looking at is Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. According to many educators, promoting STEM fields is vital because we need engineers and scientists more than ever. It is not to say that the use of devices alone would bring more engineers and scientists, but by using the devices in the right way, we could promote STEM even more.

This change will not be costly. There are already Wi-Fi routers in every classroom in Queens Voc. The only cost that we could imagine is hiring technicians to block the real non-educational websites.

The costly side of increasing technology will be buying more computers to meet the needs of all the students. Why don't we let the students use their iPads, iPods, and smartphones, which almost every student already owns?

Changing these policies may be radical, but we have either underestimated the positive impact technology can have on education or overestimated the negative impact—or both. The change in policy is essential for students to thrive in the contemporary world. Technology can be put to good use at the right time in the right way, and it all starts with schools. We must change the current policy for good — soon!

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



Forever

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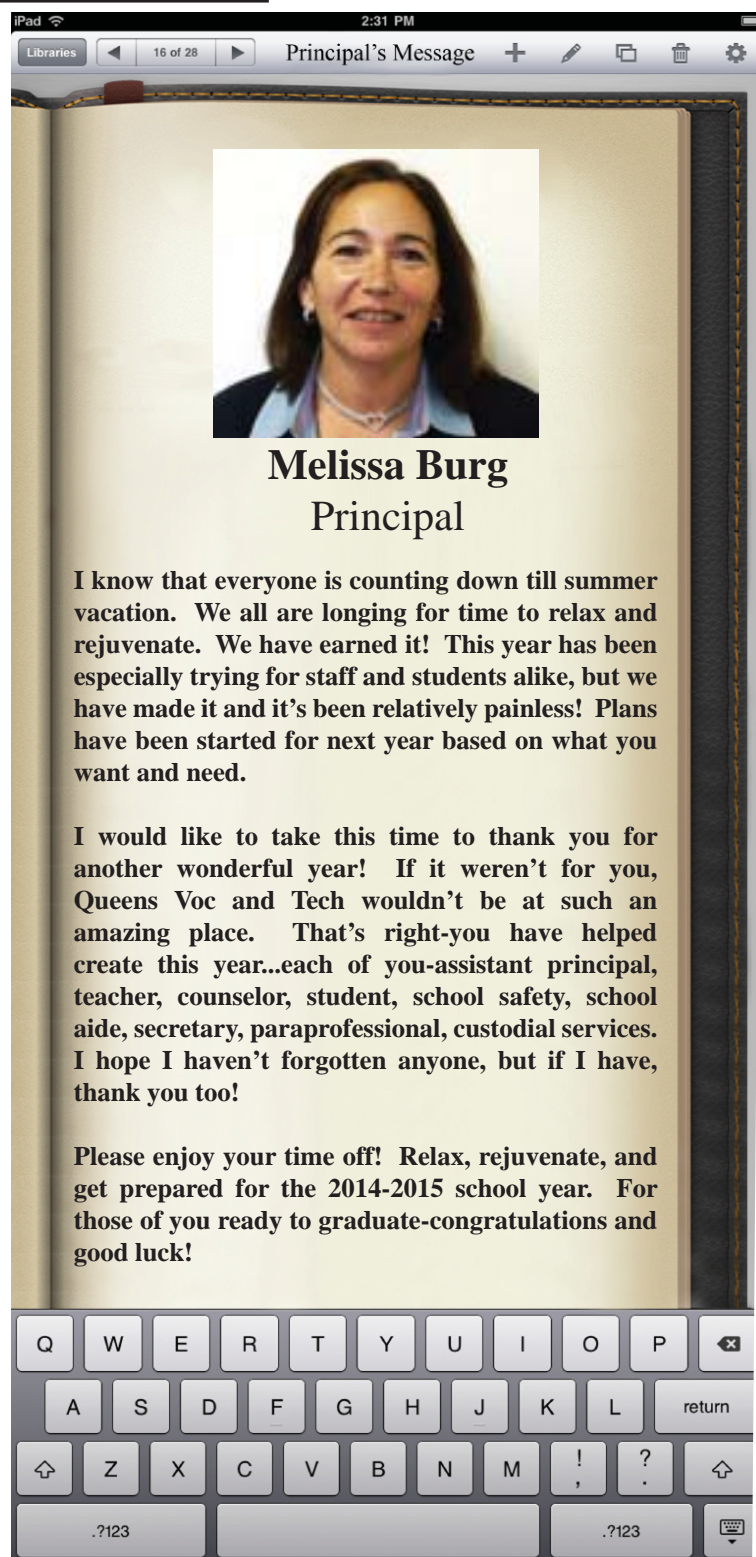
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**“Good enough”
is the enemy of “it
can be better.”**



Student-Swiping Makes Us Safe Everybody has a Role to Play

by Edwyn Flores

Students are coming into school and not swiping their IDs at the entrance in front of the security desk. People are walking into this school without having to tell anyone whether they attend this school or not. Trespassing seems to have become less of a concern. All students should have an ID and swipe each morning to keep themselves and others safe.

Strangers and non-visitors may be entering our school and they might have bad intentions. For all we know, that one kid who doesn't swipe could be trying to seriously harm someone. Why should we take the chance? There are enough employees to make sure that our main entrance is secure.

Queens Voc is not a school with metal detectors at the front entrance. Because of this, trespassers can enter with weapons with a less chance of being caught. Let's just stop any of that from possibly occurring by doing our best to keep out trespassers.

School safety agents at the main entrance are supposed to "carefully check for student ID or program card." Yet, kids are not usually asked for their program cards as an alternative to showing identification when they walk in. School safety agents shouldn't be expected to learn the name and face of every student who goes to our school, but as a precaution they should be checking those who don't swipe.

Queens Voc may not be your home, but at least make sure you're safe and undisturbed for the hours you are trapped in it by swiping a piece of plastic through a machine.

Readers can also write us at Editor@VocVoice.org

Seniors Create Lifelong Memories at Midnight Rendezvous



Seniors pose for prom picture during their fun-filled evening.

by Thalia Cia, Sadia Chowdhury, and Nemesis Noel

A Midnight Rendezvous themed prom was held on Friday, May 30 from 8pm until 1am at Terrace on the Park.

There were 230 attendees including seniors, their dates, and 20 chaperones.

Musical Madness set up a photo booth for attendees to have pictures taken for free. Michael Feliz said, “It was an unexpected scenario, I liked it.” Emily

Quizhipilema said, “It was fun, nice, and I think people had fun taking pictures.” Students were given gift bags that included a picture frame, sunglasses, a beaded necklace and a cup.

According to Mr. Vega, the senior advisor, the royal court is selected randomly to eliminate it from becoming a popularity contest. This year the duke was Omar Isaza, the duchesses were Karina Gomez and Nazanin Somarin; the prince was Amritpal Singh, the princess was Elissa

Perez; the king was Harsimar Jassar and the queen was Alondra Vazquez.

As per Queens Voc tradition, the senior officers cut the prom cake. This year the senior officers were Ahley Arango, Natalie Martinez, Maritza Murudumbay, and Estefania Villegas.

“The prom was fun because the music was good. I wasn’t happy that there was a lot of house music; I would have liked to dance more. But the food was good,” said Alexander Tirado. Overall,

William Callanan said, “Everyone looked amazing in their dresses and suits. Prom was awesome. I had so much fun.”

Mr. Vega was in charge of the prom. “I like the fact that most people respected what I asked for and they enjoyed everything there was to offer. The dresses were elegant and appropriate, and the guys looked sharp,” he said.

Ms. Burg, the principal, was also complimentary. “Prom was lovely, it’s always lovely. Prom is one of my favorite events of the year. I love to see everyone dress up; it gives me a different perspective of my students. It makes me very happy.”



Dancing the night away.



Senior officers cutting the cake as the evening winds down.

Which Teacher Would *You* Hang Out With?

by Lesly Vivar

We asked students “If they could hang out with a teacher who would it be and why.” These were their responses:

Charly Tenesaca, Junior- “I would hang out with Mr. Vega because he really cool to be with.”

Beatriz Castro, Sophomore- “I would hang out with Mr. Cintron because he is funny and together we would crack jokes.”

Juan Rodriguez, Junior- “I

would hang out with Ms. Bloom because she always has interesting facts to share.”

Kevin Martinez, Senior- “I would hang out with Mr. Davidson because he is a very intelligent person.”

Amritpal Singh, Senior- “I would hang out with Mr. Harrington because other students should learn the way of The Harrington.”

Wen Li Chen, Senior- “I would hang out with Mr. Samuelson

because he is awesome. I can learn a lot of interesting lyrics from him. One example is “Mister, I like your sister.”

David Valenzuela, Sophomore- “I would hang out with Mr. Mugan because he’s pretty cool and outgoing.”

Lisa Ruiz, Junior- “I would hang out with Mr. Raynor because his personality is so bubbly. He is amazing.”

Carmen Morel, Junior- “I

would hang out with Mr. Mendez because he is my favorite teacher/dean ever.”

Salma Jailina Rivera, Freshman- “I would hang out with Mr. Yu because he is very funny and he helps me when I really need it.

Sandra Lucas Kranacher, Sophomore- “I would hang out with Mr. Bascone because he is a swell old sport and has a great sense of humor.”

Katia Ascencio, Senior- “I would hang out with Ms. Mitchell because she is a very funny lady and always willing to listen to any ideas we have.”

Mauricio Gomez, Sophomore- “I would hang out with Ms. Roberts because she is cool and I want to see how mad she can get.”

Luis Angel Vasquez, Freshman- “I would hang out with Mr. Elefreich because he is really cool and a good mentor.”

Girls’ Basketball Recap

by Sebastian Lupercio

The girls’ basketball team finished the season 14-1, becoming division champions for the fourth consecutive year.

But the girls lost their first round playoff game 39-32, to Manhattan Village Academy on Feb. 24. “We expected a very close game and a really competitive team,” said Coach Devaux, who said the Lady Tigers were out rebounded because they were missing Yadira Perez, the team’s center. The team also had trouble communicating. “We needed to play smart and listen to our coach. We made many mental mistakes and it hurt us,” said member Na

Zheng. Coach Devaux added, “As a team we need to play smarter and work together to be on the same page when we are playing on the court. We’ve made many mental mistakes that could be worked on and fixed.”

The coach was positive about the team overall. “We had a really good season, which was more than I expected. We can still improve to get better,” said Mr. Devaux.

Coach Devaux said he is always on the lookout to find potential players who can benefit the team and looks in Physical Education classes for girls who have basketball skills. He holds meeting for girls who are interested in playing for the team

and this helps him figure out what players he has and what players he might need for a competitive team.

Mr. Devaux said he tries to keep his team within the range of 12-15 players.

There were 15 girls on the roster this season: seniors: Ashley Arango, Gabriella Biondo, Lucila Molina Cortes, Yadira Perez; juniors: Karen Carrasco, Jasmine Torres, Na Zheng; sophomores: Joana Benavides, Dana Johnson, Katelynn Santiago, XI Zheng; and freshmen: Larisa Cuccurullo, Victoria Guerrero, Jordalin Ortega, Amber Rivera.

Confronted with other school teams being put into the A division, coach Devaux said that “Moving from Division B to Division A

means we were able to sustain a level of success. If asked, I would move up to Division A,” said Mr. Devaux.

Mr. Maloney, the school’s

athletic director said. “We have thought of moving the girls’ basketball team to Division A. I would love to have all of the teams in Division A.”



Coach Devaux led his team to another division championship.

by Gabriella Martinez

Zinniah Munoz, a junior, at Queens Voc, took classes taught by celebrity stylists and makeup artists over the summer that helped to improve and expand her skills in cosmetology. From these classes she has developed new skills, enhanced previously learned skills, and gained new experiences. While training alongside her mentors, she has networked with other celebrity hairstylists and makeup artists. She said they were impressed by her passion and desire to succeed, taught her some priceless information, and have kept in touch with her even after the course ended.

Q. Why did you choose this as your major?

A. I don't necessarily feel like I chose cosmetology, I feel more like it is in my blood... my DNA. As if I was born to make people feel beautiful inside and out. Being a beautician has been a goal of mine since I was three, when my Barbie dolls had no say and would get their hair cut, makeup, and nails done.

Q. What are you learning currently at school?

A. In school we are currently learning about hair color, hair dye, and perfecting previous skills.

Q. What do you specialize in?

A. Well one quality that I am very thankful for learning is from my mom, is to be passionate about everything and anything I do. I specialize in anything I fall in love with, and feel very passionate toward makeup, hair, and business altogether. What I do tend to

The Amazing Story of Zinniah Munoz



Zinniah learns from Scott Barnes, in Los Angeles.

enjoy a little more is makeup, being able to transform someone's appearance and bring them from the "girl next door" to "red carpet ready."

Q. Over the summer, did you take any classes related to cosmetology?

A. Yes, I did. I traveled across the country. I went to places such as Atlanta, and Los Angeles, to take a course by celebrity makeup artist Scott Barnes, who published two books I have read. He is also the man that gave JLO her "glow." He has a large cosmetic line and currently does Christina Aguilera's makeup on The Voice. I also made friends with Gina Brooke, better known as the woman who has reinvented Madonna's face for the past ten years. I also made friends with Arsinéh Ghazarian, a celebrity stylist. I traveled to Atlanta to meet with Tatiana Ward, also known as BeatFaceHoney, who

is better known as Nicki Minaj's makeup artist. I also met Renny Vazquez, celebrity makeup artist and stylist. While there I gave them a sample of my "lip therapy" I created, which I labeled "Make Out Session." It is a lip scrub and lip balm that I created out of natural and organic products. They were both very impressed and wanted to give this out in their gift bags for their seminars. I was also involved in smaller projects in a professional music video for upcoming singer Alinn Levee. I also did hair and makeup for various reality TV celebs from Bravo, MTV, and VH1 for Fashion Week.

Q. How did you get these fabulous opportunities?

A. Opportunities never knock on your door, you have to go out there, look for them, and chase them. I stay very current with anything beauty related, and with the support and encouragement

of my family, I was able to chase these opportunities around the country. It was a lot of restless nights of research. I did it mainly for networking opportunities, which have led me to where I am today.

Q. How does it feel to work beside these celebrities? Did you feel a little bit intimidated or nervous around these celebrities?

A. I did work with my mentor, Gina Brooke, Madonna's and Cher's makeup artist. I love working with her and being exposed to people that I look up to and aspire to be. To know celebrities it is a little nerve wracking at first. You don't know what to say or how to act. At the end of the day they are flesh and blood just like us. It is intimidating but I was surprised to see how humble they can be. Not all, but most. Definitely a mix of emotions to work with them, talk to them, and be instructed by them. They are my idols, so I feel



Zinniah applies her skills.

much more intimidated by them and nervous around them. At the same time I look at them like my competition. They are humble and extremely insightful, and offered a great amount of inspiration and priceless experience.

Q. Were any of the celebrity mentors surprised to see a teenager taking their class?

A. Tatiana Ward, Nicki Minaj's makeup artist, was so willing to help and willing to offer advice and wisdom. It was all love and not competition. People actually love to see young teenagers pursue what they love, and I feel like in QV it is often taken for granted, we should all give ourselves more credit than we deserve. The same went for Brandy's makeup artist, Renny Vasquez. He was truly admirable, warm hearted, and was willing to help and share in any way possible. That is something rare in this career, someone who is actually willing to help and share advice, and is humble. Usually once people make it big or feel famous, they forget the little people.

Q. What did you gain from this experience?

A. I gained priceless knowledge, great mentors who are celebrity artists, and amazing celebrity clientele. The best part is the knowledge and networking.

Q. What advice would you give to your peers or aspiring people in this career?

A. The advice I would give to my peers or aspiring people in this career is don't give up. Don't ever give up and don't let people tell you "You can't." My mantra is "Dream It, Believe It, Become It."

Before I Taught in Queens Voc...

compiled by Kenneth Marin

"Before I taught in QV, I taught for five years in Flushing High School. I watched a student walk into the school speaking no English and graduate with a full scholarship to MIT. She came to my Saturday classes. I was also on TV, getting sued on People's Court. I was in the newspaper a bunch of times, defending my old school against changes that were detrimental to the students."

-Ms. Dimech

"Before I taught in QV, I worked in an SVA program for five years. I graduated from that program in June of 1999. I taught in different schools as an intern. I taught in Thomas Edison High School from September of 1999 to February of 2000. I also did private electrical work and apprenticeships for five years."

-Mr. Cintron

"Before I taught in QV, I was a truck driver, a cab driver, a pizza delivery guy, I had a dog walking business, and a silk screen shirt

business. I also worked for the village of Freeport. Many of these I did at the same time, I taught in Far Rockaway High School from the end of 2002 to 2009."

-Mr. Elfreich

"Before I taught in QV, I scooped ice cream, and worked at a weight loss center. I also worked in a radiology office as a receptionist for four years. After that, I was teaching at FDR High School in Brooklyn and coached the cheerleading team. At the end of 2012, they said they needed to let me go because there was an enrollment drop. I spent the summer working as a server in a restaurant while going on interviews all around and eventually got hired here for September 2012."

-Ms. Poltawsky

"Before I taught in QV, I was a student here. I had a paper route delivering the New York Post, and when I was 15, I worked in a grocery store. After graduation, I was offered to be a trade teacher in training through the new SVA

program, which at the time meant Substitute Vocational Assistant. Thirty years later, I'm still here."

-Mr. Maloney

"Before I taught in QV, I graduated from Queens College, and was hired right out of college. But while I was in college I had to work to pay for school because I didn't qualify for financial aid, and I hate debt. To pay for school I worked at an accounting and consulting firm, called J.H. Cohen LLP, where I worked as an executive assistant to a partner in the firm. I did that for two years before I graduated. My schedule consisted of working from 8am-5pm and went to school 6pm-10pm."

-Ms. Rejalaga

"Before I taught in QV, I was a student at St. Joseph's University. I was hired right after college. While as a student studying English education, I worked at Commerce Bank as a teller. Unfortunately, I was fired for miscalculations in money. I had a thousand dollar difference over

my till, which means someone tipped me \$1,000 because I'm very charming and friendly. My manager suggested I quit, and I agreed because it was the best choice for me. Banking wasn't for me. I started subbing in a school on Long Island. In February of 2007, I was hired as a leave replacement and then at the end of the year, offered a permanent position which I accepted."

-Ms. Green

"Before I taught in QV, I was a senior at Boston College about four months before teaching here. I was in a work study program, in which I worked for the basketball team and catering staff. I was in the Teaching Fellows Program at Queens College, which was like teacher training. In September of 2006, I started teaching here at the age of 22. I got stopped by school safety because they thought I was cutting!"

-Mr. MacDonald

"Before I taught in QV, I was in the military for five years in the Caribbean. While in the military, I

went to college. After I graduated college, I drove a taxi, and then I came back to America and played music in the NYC subway system. After that, I worked in Brooklyn Hospital for 10 years in microbiology. After my job at the hospital, I've been working here ever since, for 14 years. The week after my first week teaching here, the World Trade Center bombing happened."

-Mr. Harrington

"Before I taught in QV, I worked in construction for nine years as a construction manager and general contractor. I was also an estimator and worked out in the field. I worked on the Foley Square, and a big building at 11 Madison Avenue, which was probably the biggest job I ever got. I worked at Ground Zero for about two months, from 7pm to 7am for four nights straight. I had always wanted to be a teacher but I was a horrible student when I was in my early 20s. Going back to college to become a teacher was the best thing I ever did."

-Mr. Altenburg

Eco Students are VERY W!SE

by Alexander Borges

In 2010, the W!se Financial literacy program was piloted by a single class. Now the financial



Valentin scored QV's first 100.

literacy certification is taken by all students taking economics in Queens Voc.

This year, eight students scored a 95 or above, earning the

designation Financial Literacy Scholar.

Five of the students, Katia Ascencio, Alexander Borges, Eileen Herrera, Valentin Martinez, and Nemesis Noel, were from Mr. Davidson's class. Two, Nikolas Amirian and Robert Cornwallis, were from Mr. Stefanidis' classes. And Andres Diaz was in Mr. Schimenz and Mr. MacDonald's class.

Valentin Martinez was the first Queens Voc student to get a perfect score. "I feel accomplished. I found the certification really easy, and I feel prepared for the future in terms of financial management. I expected more business students to score higher," he said.

There were also three Gold Star Teachers—teachers with a 90 percent or higher passing rate—recognized this year, as Mr. MacDonald and Mr. Schimenz joined the perennial Gold Star Teacher Mr. Davidson.

The students and teachers were



Financial Literacy Scholars celebrate their high scores on the financial literacy test.



Andres Diaz, who scored a 98, receives his certificate.

recognized in a ceremony on June 9, at the Museum of American Finance on Wall Street.

Queens Voc again earned the Blue Star School designation, and has been since 2011.

This year, 78.4 percent of students who took the exam passed, surpassing the 75 percent or more threshold.

W!se, Working In Support of Education, claims, "Most students drop out of college, not because of academic failure but because of personal debt." W!se works to change this by giving teachers access to training, educational resources, pretests, and online practice tests.

"I am very supportive of the program," said Mr. Davidson, "students need to understand how

to handle money."

The certification does have criticisms concerning its place in the economics curriculum, however.

"Most students drop out of college ...because of personal debt."

According to Mr. Schimenz, "The financial literacy program helps us focus on what students

should do as they go through life, but neglects the big picture. We teach students the importance of saving, but we end up not teaching them about irresponsible economic policies that penalize savers at the expense of debtors."

Mr. Zambrotta sees both sides. "These are concepts I never learned in high school, and was thus less prepared for the real world. At the same time any student taking college economics even at the introductory level will be lost and not benefit from this course."



NOCTI Certifications Show Student CTE Competency

by Johnathan Espinosa

The NOCTI exam is a nationally recognized exam that tests students' skills and knowledge in their field of study.

The NOCTI exam consists of a written portion and hands on practical portion. Queens Voc requires its business, cosmetology, and computer technology students to take the NOCTI. The NOCTI offers students who pass it up to three free college credits.

Senior cosmetology students took the exam May 12 and 13. A total of 100 percent of cosmetology seniors passed the exam. "The NOCTI is a requirement for cosmetology students and helps them to receive their CTE endorsement," said Ms. Quartuccio. Lorena Alatorre



Cosmo students on their path to certification.

said that "if you studied for the test and came to class, then it would be easy. It took a while to complete since there was a written and hands part of the test." Cynthia

Vidai said "The test wasn't so hard. All you needed to do was study and you'll be fine."

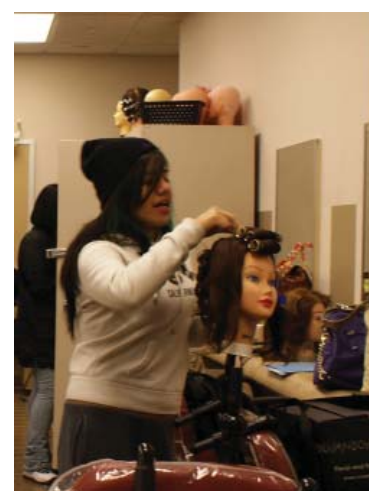
Seniors in computer technology took the exam May

27 and 28. The results of the class grade have not been fully evaluated yet and will be out within the last week of school. This senior year is the first to take the NOCTI for C-Tech. "The exam was easy. I studied in advance when I was taking the A+ exam and had no problem with the written and practical part," said Shagur Hasan.

From May 19 through 21, the junior Accounting students completed the NOCTI exams. "The test was very stressful. There were over 190 questions, and the writing portion was just as bad," said Erika Juarez. "The results will be in by the final week of school," said Mr. Alohan.

NOCTI stands for National Occupational Competency Testing Institute. A non-profit organization

that was initially funded by the federal government, NOCTI provides technical competency assessments products and services to secondary and post-secondary educational institutions.



Lorena's state board set.

“Real World” Representatives Speak at Career Day

Principal Burg and the Queens Voc community thanks all the guests who took time to come speak to our students at Career Day 2014.

by Antonio Parada

More than 40 guest speakers attended Queens Voc's 12th Annual Career Day, speaking to more than 100 classes during periods one through six.

“Career Day was a huge success,” said Principal Burg. “Having professionals from an assortment of careers speak to our students, is a wonderful and enlightening experience.”

[Because of the timing of Career Day and the newspaper layout, we have opted to include the names of the Career Day guests, and pictures of them as they spoke to students.]



Nathalie Alonso*
Isabel Apolinar
Brian Ascutto
Daniel Bader
Mirkeya Cappellan
Domingo Canate
Jerry Castanos
Ebony Conely-Young
Linda Craine
Dean Dobbins
Jenna Dunlay
Joseph Engelbert
Carolyn Fanning
Randi Fleishman
Jesse Friszell
Jonah Gensler
Tania Goicoechea
Cacharel Greene
Yasser Hassebo
Erica Ianowski
Habib Idris
Marvin Jeffcoat

Laurie Kilpatrick
Helen Kogan
Samara Levine
Jaime Lopez*
Ira Margulis
James Martin
Audrey McDonald
Janine Medina
Joanne Pappas
Darlenzo Pena*
Michael O'Leary
James Pretikki
Leslie Pineda
Angel Pineiro
Karim Raoul
Fabienne Sameyah Gabbaizadeh
Victor Sankari
Gareth Shihadeh
Alison Simmons Brown
Kristen Treglia
Lewis Urena*
Joshua Votaw
Hui Zheng*

* Denotes Queens Voc alumni



“Thank you to our staff for making Career Day a success!”
Ms. Burg.





CLASS OF 2014 COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES



compiled by Xiomaira Inga

The class of 2014 is moving on. Many of the graduating seniors will start college in the fall, some will go straight to their major-related field, others will pursue a different career path, and some are heading off to serve our country in the military.

Here is a list of colleges that our seniors have been accepted to. The schools in bold represent the school the students plan to attend. We have also included seniors who have chosen to enlist in the military.

Sandy Abaid
Borough of Manhattan
Community College
John Jay College of Criminal
Justice
St. John's University
State University of New York at
New Paltz
State University of New York at
Stony Brook
State University of New York at
Old Westbury
University at Albany

Pamela Abreu
**Parsons the New School for
Design**
Art Institute of Chicago
California Institute of the Arts
City College of New York
School of Visual Arts
University of the Arts

Rachel Ackerman
LaGuardia Community College
Broome College
State University of New York at
Cobleskill

Lorena Alatorre
**Borough of Manhattan
Community College**
Queensborough Community
College

Giovanni Alonso
**New York City College of
Technology**
Kingsborough Community
College

Cindi Alvarez
**John Jay College of Criminal
Justice**
Borough of Manhattan
Community College

Gerardo Amigon
Borough of Manhattan
Community College
University at Buffalo

Nikolas Amirian
**Central Piedmont Community
College**
Winthrop University

Ashley Arango
City College of New York
Borough of Manhattan
Community College
Lehman College
Queens College

Alan Arturo
**New York City College of
Technology**

Kristoff Austin
Queens College

Mohammed Aziz
City College of New York
Borough of Manhattan
Community College
State University of New York at
Farmingdale
State University of New York at
Stony Brook
Queens College
York College

Shubham Basra
Queens College

Selena Belloso
**Queensborough Community
College**
Borough of Manhattan
Community College
LaGuardia Community College

Jatinder Bhatti
Queens College
Borough of Manhattan
Community College
LaGuardia Community College
New York City College of
Technology
Queensborough Community
College
State University of New York at
Buffalo
State University of New York at
Farmingdale
York College

Gabriella Biondo
Marymount Manhattan College
Hunter College
Queens College
Queensborough Community
College

Alexander Borges
US Marine Corps
State University of New York
Maritime College

Cristian Boror
**New York City College of
Technology**
Queensborough Community
College

Maciej Bozek
Baruch College
Hunter College
LaGuardia Community College
New York City College of
Technology
Queens College

Szymon Bozek
Baruch College
Hunter College
LaGuardia Community College
New York City College of
Technology
Queens College

Kevin Brito
**Borough of Manhattan
Community College**
John Jay College of Criminal
Justice
New York City College of
Technology
Queensborough Community
College

Wisthon Brito
Bronx Community College
Hostos Community College
LaGuardia Community College
Queensborough Community
College

Gabrielle Butler
City College of New York
Wentworth Institute of
Technology

Phoenix Butler
**State University of New York at
Delhi**

Stheffany Carrasco
**Borough of Manhattan
Community College**
Queensborough Community
College

Brian Carvajal
**John Jay College of Criminal
Justice**
Kingsborough Community
College
Pace University

Anna Ceden
**John Jay College of Criminal
Justice**
Berkeley College
Borough of Manhattan
Community College
York College

Janaya Celestine
**Kingsborough Community
College**
Medgar Evers College

Wen Li Chen
Queens College
City College of New York
John Jay College of Criminal
Justice
Queensborough Community
College

Thalia Cia
Queens College
Borough of Manhattan
Community College
Hunter College
LaGuardia Community College
York College

Lucila Cortes
**New York City College of
Technology**
Kingsborough Community
College
Queensborough Community
College
York College

Ivonne Cruz
**Borough of Manhattan
Community College**
LaGuardia Community College
Queensborough Community
College

Manuel Cruz
**New York City College of
Technology**
LaGuardia Community College
Queensborough Community
College

Edwin Cuamani
**New York City College of
Technology**
Hunter College
John Jay College of Criminal
Justice

Andres Diaz
**Queensborough Community
College**
Borough of Manhattan
Community College
Hostos Community College
New York City College of
Technology

Cynthia Duque
City College of New York
Borough of Manhattan
Community College
Hofstra University
Hunter College
New York City College of
Technology
Philadelphia University
Temple University
Queens College

Iveth Duran
**Queensborough Community
College**
Borough of Manhattan
Community College

Jose Duran
**New York City College of
Technology**
Borough of Manhattan
Community College
LaGuardia Community College

Jazmin Fragoso
**Borough of Manhattan
Community College**
Guttman Community College

Ashley Espejo
Borough of Manhattan
Community College
Guttman Community College
LaGuardia Community College
Medgar Evers College
Queensborough Community

College

Jazlyn Espinal
**Queensborough Community
College**

Johnathan Espinosa
**New York City College of
Technology**
Hunter College

Michael Feliz
**Borough of Manhattan
Community College**
LaGuardia Community College
Queensborough Community
College

Carlos Fernandez
**Queensborough Community
College**
Bronx Community College
Hostos Community College
LaGuardia Community College
New York City College of
Technology

Edwyn Flores
Queens College
Lehman College
New York City College of
Technology

John Gamble
Berkeley College
LaGuardia Community College
New York City College of
Technology
Queensborough Community
College

Ricardo Garcia
**Queensborough Community
College**
Borough of Manhattan
Community College
New York City College of
Technology

Raymond Gong
**New York City College of
Technology**
Borough of Manhattan
Community College
Brooklyn College
Hunter College
Queens College
York College

Boris Gonon
Queens College

Sahury Gonzalez
**Borough of Manhattan
Community College**

Phillip Gooding
University at Albany
Queensborough Community
College

Shagur Hasan
**John Jay College of Criminal
Justice**
Borough of Manhattan
Community College



CLASS OF 2014 COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES



New York City College of Technology
St. John’s University

Jose Hernandez
New York City College of Technology
LaGuardia Community College

Kevin Hernandez
John Jay College of Criminal Justice
Borough of Manhattan Community College
Hostos Community College
Kingsborough Community College
Queensborough Community College

Mike Hernandez
Union
Borough of Manhattan Community College
City College of New York
LaGuardia Community College
New York City College of Technology

Eileen Herrera
City College of New York
New York Institute of Technology
Rochester Institute of Technology
Wentworth Institute of Technology

Ahtesham Hoque
Queens College
Lehman College
John Jay College of Criminal Justice
Queensborough Community College
York College

Charles Hughes
New York City College of Technology

Billy Ibarra
New York City College of Technology

Patrick Ibe
New York City College of Technology
LaGuardia Community College
Queensborough Community College

Pamela Infante
Queensborough Community College
LaGuardia Community College
Hostos Community College
New York City College of Technology

Xiomaira Inga
New York City College of Technology
John Jay College of Criminal Justice
Queens College
Queensborough Community College

Harsimar Jassar
Hunter College
Borough of Manhattan Community College
Brooklyn College
City College of New York
John Jay College of Criminal Justice
St. John’s University
University at Buffalo

Steven Jerez
New York City College of Technology

Jesus Jimenez
Queensborough Community College
LaGuardia Community College
New York City College of Technology

Dillon Lalchand
John Jay College of Criminal Justice
New York City College of Technology
Queens College

Rick Lim
New York City College of Technology
LaGuardia Community College

Lisbeth Lopez
Borough of Manhattan Community College
Lehman College
John Jay College of Criminal Justice
York College

Sebastian Lupercio
Union
Borough of Manhattan Community College
Medgar Evers College
Queensborough Community College

Isiah Lyons
Kingsborough Community College
Borough of Manhattan Community College
Bronx Community College

Monet Mabra
Medgar Evers College
Borough of Manhattan Community College

Suleima Macancela
Borough of Manhattan Community College
LaGuardia Community College
Queens College
Queensborough Community College
University of Buffalo
University of Georgia
York College

Feng Yi Mai
Queensborough Community College
Queens College

Stephanie Maracayo
Guttman Community College
Borough of Manhattan Community College
Kingsborough Community College
LaGuardia Community College
Queensborough Community College

Kenneth Marin
Queens College
City College of New York
Hunter College
LaGuardia Community College
York College

Clemente Martinez
New York City College of Technology
Borough of Manhattan Community College
Guttman Community College

Queensborough Community College
York College

Gabriella Martinez
New York City College of Technology
Borough of Manhattan Community College
John Jay College of Criminal Justice
Kingsborough Community College
LaGuardia Community College

Jennifer Martinez
New York City College of Technology
Borough of Manhattan Community College
Medgar Evers College
Queensborough Community College

Kevin Martinez
New York City College of Technology
Borough of Manhattan Community College
LaGuardia Community College
Queensborough Community College

Natalie Martinez
Fashion Institute of Technology
Borough of Manhattan Community College
Lehman College
New York City College of Technology
Queensborough Community College

Rosalva Martinez
Queens College
Borough of Manhattan Community College
LaGuardia Community College

Valentin Martinez
Hunter College
New York City College of

Technology
Queensborough Community College

Lisbeth Mejia
Baruch College
Hunter College
St. Johns University
University of Bridgeport

Eduardo Mendez
New York City College of Technology
Queensborough Community College

Cesar Mendoza
New York City College of Technology
LaGuardia Community College
Queensborough Community College
York College

Natalie Mercado
Queens College
York College

Sofia Mexca Flores
Guttman Community College
Borough of Manhattan Community College
Cazenovia College
Queensborough Community College

Kitzel Montes
School of Cooperative Technical Education

Albert Mora
New York City College of Technology
Hunter College
LaGuardia Community College
Lehman College
York College

Ajna Morina
Borough of Manhattan Community College
Queensborough Community College

Jamilett Moronta
Borough of Manhattan Community College

Rabeh Mostafa
New York City College of Technology
York College

Joan Mulato
Borough of Manhattan Community College
Alfred State College
Hostos Community College
John Jay College of Criminal Justice
LaGuardia Community College
State University of New York at Delhi
Queensborough Community College

Paola Munoz

Borough of Manhattan Community College
Kingsborough Community College
New York City College of Technology
York College

Maritza Murudumbay
Queens College
Borough of Manhattan Community College
St. John’s University

Mayte Negrete
New York City College of Technology
Borough of Manhattan Community College
LaGuardia Community College
Queensborough Community College

Licerio Nique
Borough of Manhattan Community College
LaGuardia Community College
Queensborough Community College

Nemesis Noel
US Marines Corps

Kenya Olmedo
John Jay College of Criminal Justice
Borough of Manhattan Community College
York College

Monica Orellana
York College

Elliot Ortiz
Private Acting School

James Pacheco
New York City College of Technology

Shoanyn Palomeque
Queensborough Community College
LaGuardia Community College
St. John’s University

Antonio Parada
New York City College of Technology
John Jay College of Criminal Justice
Queens College
Queensborough Community College

Lesley Paucar
Hostos Community College

Luisa Paz
Queensborough Community College
Borough of Community College
Bronx Community College
Kingsborough Community College
LaGuardia Community College
New York City College of



CLASS OF 2014 COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES



Michelle Pereda
State University of New York
College at Buffalo
 Hunter College
 State University of New York at
 Canton
 Queensborough Community
 College

Elissa Perez
Guttman Community College
 Borough of Manhattan
 Community College
 LaGuardia Community College
 Queensborough Community
 College

Maria Perez
College of New Rochelle
 Long Island University
 Manhattanville College

Suzzette Perez
John Jay College of Criminal
Justice
 Borough of Manhattan
 Community College
 Kingsborough Community
 College
 Queensborough Community
 College

Yadira Perez
Mohawk Valley Community
College
 LaGuardia Community College
 Queensborough Community
 College

Joseph Peterson
LaGuardia Community College
 Hunter College
 Queensborough Community
 College

Michal Piekarz
St. John's University

Thalia Pintado
John Jay College of Criminal
College
 Borough of Manhattan
 Community College
 City College of New York
 New York City College of
 Technology

Kimberly Pisfil
York College
 LaGuardia Community College

Steven Polanco
Queensborough Community
College
 New York City College of
 Technology

Juan Prado
Queensborough Community
College
 Borough of Manhattan
 Community College
 Kingsborough Community
 College
 LaGuardia Community College

Tania Puchuela
Queensborough Community
College
 York College

Andres Puli
 Borough of Manhattan
 Community College
 Queensborough Community
 College

Monica Puspasari
Fashion Institute of Technology
 Academy of Art University
 Sullivan County Community
 College

Katherine Quindi
Queensborough Community
College
 Borough of Manhattan
 Community College
 Guttman Community College
 Kingsborough Community
 College
 LaGuardia Community College

Emily Quizhpilema
Hostos Community College
 Queensborough Community
 College

Devindra Raghunandan
New York City College of
Technology
 City College of New York
 Syracuse University

Elma Rahman
New York City College of
Technology
 Hofstra University
 Hunter College
 LaGuardia Community College
 John Jay College of Criminal
 Justice
 Queensborough Community
 College
 University at Buffalo

Arun Rai
City College of New York
 New York City College of
 Technology
 Rochester Institute of Technology
 Wentworth Institute of
 Technology

Valerie Ramirez
LaGuardia Community College
 John Jay College of Criminal
 Justice

Carlos Ramos
Guttman Community College
 LaGuardia Community College
 Queensborough Community
 College

Moises Ramos
New York City College of
Technology

Gabrielle Rodriguez
Borough of Manhattan
Community College
 Kingsborough Community

College
Adriana Rojas
LaGuardia Community College
 Borough of Manhattan
 Community College
 Medgar Evers College
 New York City College of
 Technology
 York College

Samantha Rojas
York College
 Borough of Community College
 Queensborough Community
 College

Nefertari Roman
Aveda Institute
Ultrasound Institute

Adan Romero
 LaGuardia Community College
 New York City College of
 Technology

Dasia Ruddock
Guttman Community College
 Borough of Manhattan
 Community College
 Bronx Community College
 Kingsborough Community
 College
 Queens College

Joel Salcedo
Queensborough Community
College
 Borough of Manhattan
 Community College
 State University of New York at
 Cobleskill
 York College

Nahuel Sanabria
Queensborough Community
College
 Borough of Manhattan
 Community College
 LaGuardia Community College

Kimberly Sanay
 Adirondack Community College
 Borough of Manhattan
 Community College
 Paltz Smith
 York College

Lorick Sanichar
 Finger Lakes Community College
 Hostos Community College

Suveer Seemangal
Johnson & Wales University
(North Miami)
 Borough of Manhattan
 Community College
 John Jay College of Criminal
 Justice
 State University of New York
 College at Buffalo

Brian Sevilla
Union
 Hostos Community College
 LaGuardia Community College
 New York City College of
 Technology

Noman Shahzada
New York City College of
Technology
 Borough of Community College
 LaGuardia Community College
 Queensborough Community
 College

Omar Silva
New York City College of
Technology
 Hunter College
 Queensborough Community
 College

Amritpal Singh
City College of New York
 Borough of Manhattan
 Community College
 Brooklyn College
 New York City College of
 Technology
 NYU Polytechnic School of
 Engineering
 Queens College

Christian Solarte
John Jay College of Criminal
Justice
 Queens College

Jenifer Suarez
John Jay College of Criminal
Justice
 Borough of Manhattan
 Community College
 Guttman Community College

Jocelyn Talavera
State University of New York at
Old Westbury

Joanna Tan
Queensborough Community
College
 Lehman College
 New York City College of New
 York

Brandon Taveras
Queensborough Community
College
 Borough of Manhattan
 Community College
 LaGuardia Community College
 State University of New York at
 Delhi
 York College

Louis Thomas
Bronx Community College

Tyreck Thorpe
Borough of Manhattan
Community College
 New York City College of New
 York

Michael Timoney
Borough of Manhattan
Community College

Wendy Tupacyupanqui
New York City College of
Technology
 Borough of Manhattan

Community College
 College of Staten Island

Alondra Vazquez
Borough of Manhattan
Community College
 LaGuardia Community College

Diego Vega
LaGuardia Community College
 Queensborough Community
 College

Vivian Vega
New York City College of
Technology
 Borough of Manhattan
 Community College
 John Jay College of Criminal
 Justice

Jesus Victorio
Borough of Manhattan
Community College

Estefania Villegas
Hunter College
 Brooklyn Community College
 LaGuardia Community College
 Lehman College
 State University of New York at
 Oneonta
 Queens College
 York College

Lesley Vivar
 Borough of Manhattan
 community College
 Iona College
 Lehman College
 John Jay College of Criminal
 Justice
 Mercy College
 St. John's University
 St. Michael's College

Daniela Vivar
New York City College of
Technology
 Borough of Manhattan
 Community College
 Queensborough Community
 College

Javier Yunga
New York City College of
Technology

Dino Zambrano
New York City College of
Technology
 Borough of Manhattan
 Community College
 Queensborough Community
 College

Mirian Zhagui
 Borough of Manhattan
 Community College
 Hostos Community College
 New York City College of
 Technology
 State University of New York
 College at Buffalo
 State University of New York
 Maritime College
 University at Buffalo

In My View... You Know that we Know: Move On

by Edwyn Flores

Accessibility to the school Wi-Fi was changed during spring break because so many students knew the wireless password and their use slowed down the internet speed. But many students already know the new password.

The wireless encryption was upgraded from WEP to WPA2 to reduce the chances for someone to use a simple program to hack the wireless access point and get the password to access the internet.

But students aren’t getting the school Wi-Fi password by

hacking the system.

Changing the password and encryption type is meaningless because there is an easy way to get the wireless password just from using any laptop connected to the wireless access point. Yes, there is even a way to find the password through a simple search on Google. Students are getting the new encryption settings through laptops in our school, friends, teachers, and search engines. Perhaps not all students know the password yet, but that is in part to a rumor that students caught could be suspended.

Even though the wireless access point was upgraded and strengthened, there is no way to prevent a student from accessing the password. It is a flaw in the operating system we are currently using and that is what allows students to find the new password. Thank Bill Gates for an operating system that allows people to access the wireless encryption password.

In our first edition, I wrote that students should be given the password and allowed to use the school’s Wi-Fi. The effort to stop us has been ineffective, and until the technology changes, we will continue to access the Wi-Fi regardless of the attempts to stop us.

What’s Your Favorite App?

by Elma Rahman

We asked some students: “What’s your favorite smartphone app and why?”

“My favorite app is 8-ball Pool because you can play with anyone in the world as well as earn coins and win more coins.”
- Omar Silva, senior

“My favorite app is Instagram because I get to post beautiful pictures of myself. I’m very photogenic so I get to show the world my beautiful face.”
- Albert Mora, senior

“My favorite app is WeChat because it’s convenient and I can send voice messages to my friends.”
- Wen Li Chen, senior

“My favorite app is FIFA 14 because I can spend hours playing it and never get bored. It’s a great way to pass time when I’m bored.”
- Kevin Martinez, senior

“My favorite app is Flappy Bird because it’s very entertaining and it’s intense. It’s really hard to reach a high score which makes it challenging.”
- Cynthia Duque, senior

“My favorite app is Ruzzle because it makes you critically think as well as pose a challenge against my friends Jason, Mir, and Chris.”
- Alexander Pena, junior

“My favorite app is Facebook because it’s entertaining and I can view the photos of my family and friends.”
- Eslin Salgado, junior

“My favorite app is Infinity Blade. It’s a game that has a kid who lost his father and starts to take revenge. The game is very

intense.”
- Jose Moncion, junior

“My favorite app is Sound Cloud because it allows me to listen to all my favorite music by different artists.”
- Jenny Lin, junior

“My favorite app is At Bat because I am a baseball fanatic and with that app I can keep track of all the standings, individual players, and view some highlights from previous games.”
- William De Los Angeles, junior

“My favorite app is What’s App because I can directly message someone and not have to give them my number.”
- Jazlyn Inga, junior

“My favorite app is Snapchat because I can take pictures attached with a funny caption and send it to my friends.”
- Charly Tenesaco, junior

“My favorite app is Snapchat because I can take a funny picture of myself and send it to my friends without them being able to save my picture.”
- Randy Shiblajak, sophomore

“My favorite app is Clash of Clans because it’s a game that requires a lot of strategy. I find it really intriguing.”
- Tia Singh, sophomore

“My favorite app is Messenger because my friends and I can have an ongoing conversation about practically anything. It’s very enjoyable.”
- Bryan Arias, sophomore

“My favorite app is Pinterest because I get to “pin” or put a tab on my favorite food, recipes, makeup tutorial...and pretty much anything. I absolutely love it! It makes my life so much easier.”
- Pamela Tavaréz, sophomore

“My favorite app is CandyCrush because it’s entertaining as well as challenging. I spend hours playing that game when I have nothing better to do.”
- Xi Zheng, sophomore

“My favorite app is Kik because I don’t have to give anyone my phone number and instead I can text them through my Kik account.”
- Yohoi Ramirez, freshman

“My favorite app is WorldStar Hip Hop because I can watch hilarious videos on it. People do the craziest things.”
- Brandon Fernandez, freshman

“My favorite app is Pandora because it’s music you can listen to for 24/7 and it’s also free.”
- Sebastian Montenegro, freshman

“My favorite app is Hot or not because it helps my self-esteem.”
- Dakota Elbettah, freshman

Who’s the Teacher?

by Xiomaira Inga

Teacher 1
I have big blue eyes. I attended New York Institute of Technology. I have six grandchildren. I love Montauk. I put on a sad face when people fail tests. My class is a no cursing zone.

Teacher 2
I have been in Queens Voc for 30 years. My favorite team is the Patriots. I am in the building by 6:30 am. I am an owner of a Samsung flip phone, that is why I don’t text. I hate obnoxious Jets fans. I shoot free throws better than the basketball team. My favorite girls are Maxine and

Seniors’ Parting Advice to Incoming Freshmen

compiled by Kenneth Marin

“Don’t do what your friends do. Follow your own path. Don’t fail your classes because you will regret it.” –Kenya Olmedo

“Join every club and team you can. You want to have the full high school experience and you will make everlasting friendships.” –Estefania Villegas

“Don’t let popularity be your priority.” –Wendy Tupacyupanqui

crowd.” –Rodrigo Bringas

“High school is about to get serious. You can’t afford to mess up.” –Pamela Infante

“Don’t mess up because that one class you mess up in will affect you later on.” –Natalie Mercado

“Pass all your Regents exams with a high grade so you don’t have to retake them later on.”
–Maciej Bozek

“Don’t roam the halls. Take your years here seriously because they will fly by. Don’t be a burden on all of the other students and teachers.” –Alex Payano

“Watch out for senioritis. Keep doing your work and don’t get lazy. Senior year is a great opportunity to take college courses. –Ahtesham Hoque

“Don’t wait for things to happen, make them happen.”
–Christian Teran

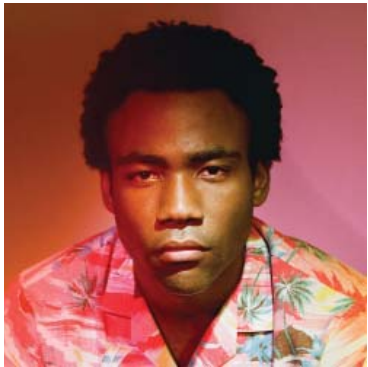
“Act smart, don’t be dumb. If you start off good then you will end good, so try and do well from the beginning. Do your work and it’ll pay off. Don’t fall into the wrong

Mollie.	USA advisor.
Teacher 3 I have been teaching since Sept. 1984. I am a graduate of Queens Voc. I drink a lot of coffee. My class is always on the fourth floor. I am a shop teacher. I always yell “get to work.”	Teacher 7 I consider myself a strict teacher. I love to engage my students. I love Christmas. I love creativity. My favorite colors are dark colors. I have two dogs, Alex and Lucy.
Teacher 4 I attended University of Wisconsin. I am serious about my job. I wear heavy sweaters to stay warm. I am known to be a caring teacher. Sometimes I give my classes cookies.	Teacher 8 I always wear business attire. I have dimples. I walk with a swing. I drink a lot of water. I am always looking for my eyeglasses. I give exams every Friday.
Teacher 5 I always make you question your answers. I give extra credit points based on knowledge from other subjects. I smile at least once per class. I previously worked at a hospital, and at a jewelry and fashion company. I love food but I am a picky eater. You can determine my “mood” by the color of my shirt. I am told I look like an 18-year old.	Teacher 9 I love animals. I have a Chihuahua. This is my second year teaching at Queens Vocational. I always put music on in class. I used to play basketball in high school. I attended Queens College. I used to be a tattoo artist.
Teacher 6 I am considered a strict teacher. I teach 9th, 10th, and 11th grade. My favorite color is yellow. I am a shop teacher. I require straight lines to be drawn. I am the Skills	

MAPELA'S MUSIC BEAT

by Pamela Abreu

Tired of Foster the People, Passion Pit, Kid Cudi, Drake, Kanye West, Lorde, or The Xx? New music from Childish Gambino, Basic Vacation, and Chvrches might be what you need.



Because the Internet

Because the Internet by Childish Gambino is a breaking through album that explores and mashes the art of studio music, indie rock, and underground rap. Childish Gambino can be described as the more fun and amusing “Kanye West.” The album is “an indulgent kaleidoscope of studio tricks and celebrity problems that’s still wildly attractive thanks to its smarts and ability to swing,” said David Jeffries, a critic from Allmusic.com. The album features Jhene Aiko and Lloyd and is divided into chapters by short instrumental intervals that reveal the more artistic side of the album. Childish Gambino’s “3005,”

“The Worst Guys,” and “The Party,” are examples of the unusual studio music rarely heard today on the radio but still addicts listeners who listen to Kid Cudi, Drake, and Kanye West.

The album is full of experimental music that catches the attention of many. Because the Internet is recommended for listeners who want a new sound within the rap world. “Connecting with the album is nearly impossible, understanding it is difficult, and often enough, its inflated ego is irksome,” stated Davide Jeffries, “but Because the Internet is too free and fascinating to be dragged down by these complaints.”



Basic Vacation EP

Basic Vacation EP is Basic’s Vacation newest pop and rock album that has many indie rock and alternative styles. The New York City band composed its new album with coherent electrifying indie pop sounds and lyrics about

relationships and love. Basic Vacation is reminiscent of popular bands such as Foster The People and Passion Pit.

“I Believe,” the biggest hit of Basic Vacation EP, has a positive, passionate, and joyful indie rock flavor, mixed with a catchy sing-along chorus that repeats, “I believe, I believe in me and you. I believe in me and you.” This song is gaining popularity because of its enticing introduction and use of synthesizers, guitars, drums, and pianos.

“I Believe” is a great song to listen to because it blends in perfectly with today’s indie rock music and many people can relate to the lyrics.

“You’re In My Head,” another song from the album, starts with an alluring and calm melody that switches quickly into the song’s main melody by introducing the powerful drum beat and rhythmic tune of the guitar. “You’re in my head. You never left and now I’m just another dumb kid. Let you get into my head,” sings Chris Greatti, lead singer, “You never left and now I’m just another dumb kid wishing that we never even met.” These lyrics are relatable to many people, making “You’re In My Head” an emotional song uniform with Basic Vacation EP’s other songs.

“You’re In My Head,” is very enjoyable and appealing to hear because each section has a catchy melody. This song can make anyone “bop” his head to the tune.

The Bones of What You Believe

The Bones of What You Believe is an ironic album because lead singer Lauren Mayberry sings harsh words of regret, heartache, and despair yet the melody of the album sounds sweet, bubbly, and wintry. “The Mother we Share” and “Lungs” exemplify the album’s frosty melody. The album offers a unique sound that doesn’t approach the usual artistic, studio sound but instead the catchy,

pop sound that catches listener’s attention. Chvrches is similar to Lorde and The Xx.

“Lungs” is a primary example of what the album is about. “You should know that I will sell you a future you don’t want. Like I did last time,” sings Lauren, “I won’t go slow. All these things you tell yourself offer no resolution.” These lyrics are relatable to many people, which may be why Chvrches is making their way onto the music scene.

QV Romantics

by Maria Perez

We asked some students: “What is the most romantic thing you’ve ever done?”

Joanna Tan: “Last 4th of July, I went on a date. We went to the beach and we watched the fireworks from there.”

Alexander Toirac: “I went to the marina with my girlfriend. We sat on a bench and looked out at the water.”

Kimberly Sinche: “I took a walk in Central Park with my boyfriend and then we played volleyball, which is the sport I love. Later on, he took me out to eat my favorite food, that’s why I love him.”

Jose Moncion: “When I used to go out with my ex-girlfriend, I went to the roof of my house with her and sang her Happy Birthday.”

Samantha Pineda: “Once, I went on a date to Six Flags and my date and I went on the ferris wheel. When we were all the way on the top, we enjoyed the view together.”

Alex Minchala: “I walked through a garden with my girlfriend and then we had a picnic at a park. After the picnic, I walked her home.”

Nicole Pineda: “When my ex-boyfriend and I were still together, we took a walk on the beach. It was nice and peaceful.”

Daniel Puerta: “I took my girlfriend out to eat at Red Lobster, then we went to Central Park and had a nice talk. Afterwards, I took her home. We talked some more on her porch, then I kissed her goodbye.”



Five Years from Now...

by Tania Puchuela

We asked students what they think they will be doing 5 years from now. Here are their answers.

Geovanny Velez –Freshman

In five years from now, I will probably be working at Wendy’s.

Steven Astimbay –Freshman

I see myself being the manager at Wendy’s.

Jewel Clarke –Freshman

I will still be studying graphic arts and graduate with a professional degree there.

Carolina Leon –Freshman

I will be graduating from high school. I will also continue with cosmetology.

Gustavo Flores –Sophomore

I will be in college, driving a BMW.

Cheyanne Trail –Sophomore

I see myself in medical school while doing cosmetology.

Carmen Morel –Sophomore

I will be in college with a job. I will also continue being an electrician.

Travis Savino –Sophomore

I see myself getting my master’s degree, then pursuing a Ph.D. I would also continue being an electrician while playing basketball.

Anthony Angel –Junior

I will be in college for criminal

justice to become an FBI agent.

Robert Francis –Junior

I will most likely be in the Air Force or in college for anything related to pre-engineering.

Erika Zumba –Junior

I will be a lawyer. I will also continue doing cosmetology.

Mariam Abbasi –Junior

I will be at my fourth year in college. Hopefully I’ll have a part-time job that relates to my career path.

Thalia Pintado –Senior

I will start pursuing my dream career, which is criminology. I will also become independent and get a job.

Gabrielle Butler –Senior

Five years from now, I’m going to be an LCS professional League of Legends player and compete at the world championships of 2019.

Albert Mora –Senior

I want to do something creative, like creating a new computer. I would also study to become a shop teacher or professor.

Shubham Basra –Senior

I will be starting a fundraiser to donate money, clothes, and food for anyone who gets affected by a natural disaster. I also see myself in college pursuing a major in computer science to hopefully become a cyber-security agent.

Dedicated Students have Perfect Attendance

compiled by Tania Puchuela

Seventy-eight Queens Voc students have had perfect attendance since the first day of school this year.

Of the 78 students, 29 are freshmen, 26 are sophomores, 20 are juniors, and three are seniors. Queens Voc attendance coordinator Mr. Daniel said that these students attended school every day from September 9 through June 6. Of the 98 students, 31 students had no latenesses.

Freshmen

Abreu, Diego
Amigon, Flor
Carchi, Katherine
Carroscio, Rebecca
Cazarez, Jesse
Clarke, Jewel
Figueroa, Mike
Florez, Jovany
Galvez, Giancarlo
Garcia, Nicolas
Gonzalez, Luis
Guaman, Brian
Hu, Yan Feng
Juarez, Evelyn
Loja, Marlon

Moscoso, Lisette
Orduna, Jennifer
Ortega, Jordalin
Paguay, Daisy
Perez, Marcos
Pucha, Ambar
Rodriguez, Karen
Sanchez, Giselle
Sarker, Shanto
Seixas, Carlos
Tufino Lopez, Jose
Velez, Geovanny
Villashanay, Jhenifer
Wang, Randy

Sophomores

Ahmed, Nolett
Bhumak, Harnoor
Caranqui, Cindy
Cedeno, Eduardo
Dolma, Passang
Enriquez, Adalid
Flores, Ariz
Gallardo, Miguel
Garcia, Noe
Kwunchaithanya, Disorn
Miranda, Ismael
Miranda Angel, Luis
Nahuacetyl, Guadalupe
Sacramento, Justin
Sankarsingh, Dylan

Santiago, Daniel
Seino, Jason
Shand, Tysain
Shi, Anthony
Toro, Luis
Tsao, Shih Bin
Yauri, Joseline
Zaavedra, Andrea
Zafer, Rukhsana
Zheng, Xi

Juniors

Angel, Anthony
Aung, Htet Naing
Blake, Khirey
Bonilla, Pedro
Bordais, Frank
Garcia, Marcos
Hermita, Jason
Hernandez, Robert
Hoxha, Azra
Losak, Breanna
Morales Tinoco, Alan
Quintuna, Carmen
Ramirez, Aylin
Ruiz, Christopher
Varela, Cristal
Vargas, Jesus
Villca-Choque, Kevin
Wang, Xiaoping
Yu, Qingsi
Zheng, Na

Seniors

Ali, Radfan
Rychalski, Steven
Vivar, Lesley

Senior Shop Profiles

by Iveth Duran

Teachers were asked to pick their top student in their respective shop classes.

1. What interested you in this major?
2. Was this year what you expected?
3. Are you planning to pursue this major after high school?
4. What do you like about this major? Why?
5. What is the hardest skill you have learned?

Pamela Abreu
Graphic Arts - Mr. Petrilli



1. I really enjoyed drawing and graphic design. It was the major that let me pursue my passion.
2. I didn't know what to expect, but so far this year has turned out really amazing with all the projects we have done.
3. I am going to be incorporating all my graphic design skills into my next year at college for fine arts.
4. What I like most is whatever project I am given I am allowed to use my own artistic style.
5. Most challenging is studying for the Photoshop test and passing it. You need to know the program like the back of your hand.

Sofia Mexca Flores
Cosmetology - Ms. Quartuccio



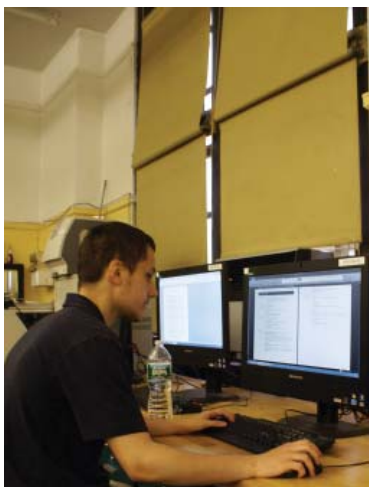
1. Because of the license.
2. No, I thought it was going to be easy but it is way harder.
3. Yes, at least for part-time.
4. The finished results of a service.
5. Haircutting.

Mohammed Aziz
C-Tech - Ms. Zagada



1. Since I was a kid, I have always been enthusiastic and passionate about computers and Queens Voc. C-Tech gave me the opportunity to learn more about it.
2. Yes. This was what I expected.
3. Yes. I am planning to continue as a computer science major after high school.
4. I like to work with computers and a computer science major will help me understand how computers function.
5. The hardest skill I have learned was the commands for the Command Line Interface (CMD) because I have to memorize the command and perform different functions for each.

Michael Pickarz
C-Tech - Mr. Rodriguez



1. Learning about computers.
2. Yes.
3. No. I plan on going into pharmacy.
4. You get to learn about computer networking and customer service.
5. RAID types.

Rodrigo Bringas - Electrical Installation - Mr. Maloney



1. It's hands-on. It can take me anywhere, and it's knowledge that can take me anywhere.
2. More than what I expected because I learned how to do residential and commercial wiring. I thought I was going to learn basic electricity.
3. Of course, MTA or any electrical company.
4. It's a field that is always changing. I'm always going to learn new things.
5. Telecommunications systems. It's a lot of computer programming stuff.

Karina Gomez - Cosmetology - Ms. Gonzales

1. I love the idea that you can learn skills on how to beautify yourself.
2. The cosmetology class is more than what I had expected.
3. I plan to work in a salon while I continue school.
4. I like that I can perform personal services and get the satisfaction of the clients. I feel proud and accomplished when I deliver a service that will make them feel great about themselves.
5. Probably haircutting because it was difficult for me to do it under a certain time frame.



Eileen Herrera - Electronics - Mr. Ali



1. I liked the hands-on. Overall, it will help me in the future and it is very fun.
2. Yes, because from 10th grade my teacher told us what we were going to do.
3. Yes. I'm going to a 4-year college to get Bachelor's degree for engineering.
4. I enjoy that even though it's engineering it touches a lot of subjects within the electronics and STEM field.
5. Constructing the digital final circuit.

Eric McPherran - Electrical Installation - Mr. Abreu

1. My dad showed me aspects of electrical work when I was younger so it stayed with me.
2. Yes I did because first I had Mr. Maloney which was all hands-on. Then I had Mr. Abreu which was less hands-on. Now I have Mr. Bowen which is no hands-on.
3. Yes in the union.
4. The work and the challenge that it brings.
5. Bending conduit.



Kenneth Marin

Electrical Installation - Mr. Bowen



1. I chose it because my brother told me it was a great program to be in and a great skill to have.
2. I heard it was a lot of book work. It was a great challenge with the hands-on.
3. No. I want to be a teacher.
4. It's always going to be around even if I'm a teacher, I have that handy.
5. The physical work.

Moises Ramos
Plumbing - Mr. Rivera



1. The hands on training; the ability to fix and create something that works.
2. Yes, I got to learn how to install interior drain systems and basic plumbing.
3. Yes, in a plumbing union.
4. It's hands-on and you can see visually what you've accomplished.
5. Soldering.

Ms. Mitchell was unavailable at the time the article was being written.

Junior Shop Profiles

by Xiomaira Inga

Vocational Voice asked junior CTE teachers to recommend their best-in-class student. Here are the students they picked.

Questions:

1. Why did you choose this major?
2. How is this or is not what you expected?
3. What do you dislike the most about your shop?
4. What are you planning to do with your CTE endorsement?

Pedro Bonilla
Electronics
Ms. Ramdeo



1. I like to work on hands-on activities. Plus, electronics involves math concepts and that interests me.
2. Not really what I expected because throughout this year I learned a lot more of electronics that I wasn't aware of.
3. The construction of cables.
4. I was thinking of using my certifications to get in a good college and work in military engineering.

Shourov Deb
Cisco
Mr. David



1. Mr. David came to one of my classes' sophomore year and made it sound really good. I was absent for the rest of the shop classes that came to talk to my class. Plus, I like networking.

2. At first shop was hard. But the teacher had said Cisco was the hardest shop. Later on it got easier.
3. What I dislike the most about Cisco is so much reading and memorizing.
4. I'm hoping to get a job in college because Cisco pays good money. However, the job of Cisco will be just for college, not a career.

Jose Mata
Computer Technology
Ms. Zagada



1. I chose this major because I use the computer a lot and I thought it would be interesting for me to learn how computers work.
2. It's what I expected because what I expect to learn I am learning.
3. I don't know what I dislike about my shop.
4. I am planning to use my certification to get a job in a computer repair field.

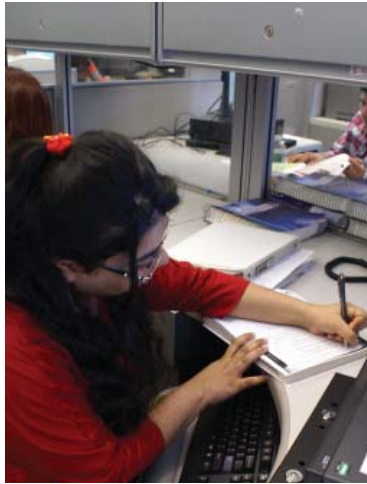
Erika Jara
Cosmetology
Ms. Lingstuy



1. So I could have a new experience.
2. I didn't think it would be this difficult. You have to have a lot of patience, skill, and time. It isn't as easy as it looks.
3. It is frustrating when I try to do a set and it doesn't come out how I want it to. It's frustrating when things don't come out as you want.

4. I am planning to keep it on the side as a backup plan. Maybe use it for money for college or in general. Or maybe even open a salon.

Mariam Abbasi
Business Entrepreneur
Ms. Newman



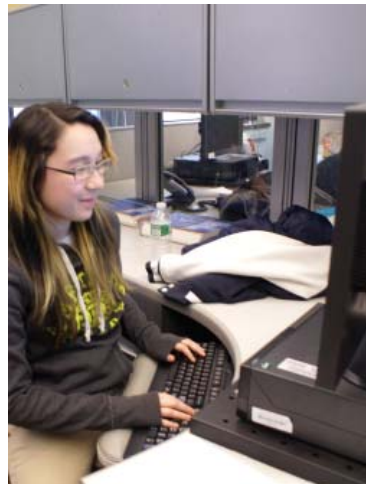
1. I chose business because of the accounting course.
2. The professionalism, we dress up on Wednesdays. The business programs teach me what I want to know, especially for accounting, because that is what I want to do when I grow up.
3. We have to take a NOCTI for accounting.
4. I plan to go to a business college and continue majoring in business.

Upasana Tyagi
Business Etiquette
Ms. Gross



1. I chose business because I want to start my own inner designing company in the future.
2. Sort of what I expected. I was originally interested in E.I but I changed my mind.
3. Some of my classmates are rude, so it's hard for the teachers to teach.
4. Since we learn to run businesses and business plans it will help me run my own business and get investors to invest in my business.

Breanna Losak
Business Accounting (Per 7)
Mr. Alohan



1. I was very interested in business at an early age.
2. It's not what I expected because I didn't think it would be so many courses and certifications. But it's a good thing that there is.
3. Having to dress up for "dress for success".
4. Apply for internships and put my endorsement on my resume.

Alexander Pena
Business Entrepreneur
Mr. Mugan



1. I chose business because in college I am planning to major in advertising.
2. Business isn't the most fun but it doesn't have to be fun.
3. It's boring but I expected it to be boring.
4. I plan to try to get into Baruch.

Marcos Garcia
Electrical Installation
Mr. Mendez



1. I chose this major because it seemed the most interesting in the school.
2. It's better than I expected.
3. I don't dislike anything.
4. I hope to become an engineer.

Agustin Gutierrez
Electrical Installation
Mr. Vega



1. I like hands on work.
2. Not really what I expected because it's hard but I like it like that. I like difficult things.
3. Nothing really.
4. I plan to go to college and study more electrical installation.

Sebastian Holguin Sanchez
Electrical Installation
Mr. Abreu



1. I came in sophomore year so it was already in my schedule.
2. I didn't think it would be so real, like we actually do real work. People go out and do this.
3. There's not enough equipment.
4. I think I am going to join the union.

continued on page 28

Students are reminded to clean out their hall and gym lockers by Friday, June 13.

Sophomore Shop Profiles

by Nazanin Somarin

Sophomore CTE teachers were asked to select one outstanding student in their class. The students were then asked...

Questions:

- 1. Why did you choose this major?
- 2. What do you like about this major?
- 3. Why did your teacher choose you as the best student in class?
- 4. Would you recommend this shop to freshmen? Why or why not?
- 5. What are you planning to do after high school?

Pawel Kowal
Computer Technology
Mr. Yu



- 1. I chose it because I like dealing with computers and software.
- 2. I like that the work is hands-on.
- 3. I think he chose me because I had the highest grade for two marking periods and I get along with him.
- 4. Yes, because the modern world involves a lot of technology and it's a better major to study in for the future.
- 5. I plan on going to college and start working as well. I might also start my own business for computer repair and building computers.

Rukhsana Zafer
Cosmetology
Ms. Lingstuy1



- 1. I chose it because when I was little, I enjoyed the idea of working

- with hair and makeup. Since Queens Voc had the cosmetology major, I became interested in applying.
- 2. I like that you can enhance beauty instead of completely changing a person's natural feature.
- 3. I think she chose me because I do the work and I do my best in the jobs.
- 4. Yes, because it's fun and it's not complicated. You could also try the new ideas you learned on yourself.
- 5. I plan on going to college to study under cosmetology and get a job which involves makeup and hair.

Tysain Shand
Graphic Arts
Ms. Ogunka



- 1. I like to draw and I thought it would be cool to use software for drawing.
- 2. I like how they teach you how to deal with clients and fix pictures using Photoshop.
- 3. I think she chose me because I am always on task and I help out my classmates. For example, before we have a test, I help to tutor my classmates.
- 4. Yes, because it's a fun class and you get to use what you learn in real life.
- 5. After high school, I plan to become a graphic artist and go to college to major under culinary arts.

Bruce Sorrosa
C-Tech
Mr. David



- 1. I chose it because it was the subject that interested me the most.
- 2. I liked dealing with the battery, circuits, and the labs.
- 3. I think he chose me because I showed interest and would ask a lot of questions. I also put in extra time to learn.
- 4. If the freshmen like to work with technology, I would recommend it. If they choose it for the wrong reasons, the lack of interest would make the work seem harder.
- 5. I plan to go to college and study computer science. I also plan to work in the computer field.

Johnell Artis
Electronics
Mr. Raushan



- 1. I was interested in electronics when I was younger.
- 2. I enjoy wiring circuits because it makes me feel cool.
- 3. I think he chose me because I was good at the jobs and I would help out my classmates.
- 4. Yes, because I was interested in Ms. Ramdeo's class during my freshman year and it prepared me for Mr. Raushan's class.
- 5. After high school, I plan to work in a technology company and go to college at MIT to study electronics.

Yatziri Mendoza
Electrical Installation
Mr. Cintron



- 1. I chose it because it looked different than what other girls

- were doing.
- 2. It's new to experience and it's fun to do.
- 3. I try my best and do all the work. I also put in effort to do all the jobs.
- 4. Yes, because it's hands-on and has electrical related work. I was also able to bond with different people and learn new things.
- 5. I plan on going to a medical college to become a surgeon and keep EI as a side job.

Anthony Shi
Electronics
Mr. Raushan



- 1. I started by practicing with computers. I became interested because my family also repairs computers as a hobby.
- 2. I was able to learn the fundamentals of computers and learn more about how they function.
- 3. He chose me because I completed all the work and would stay on task.
- 4. Yes, because it is a highly needed job.
- 5. I plan to work in Cisco and have pre-engineering as a backup job.

Stephanie Alvarez
Electrical Installation
Mr. Bowen



- 1. I thought that it was fun and it involves a lot of hands-on work.
- 2. We can work with tools and it prepares us for the work field in the future.
- 3. I think he chose me because I do all the work and I help him out

- sometimes.
- 4. Yes, because it is a fun shop class and you can learn many things.
- 5. I plan on getting into the union or go to college to major in EI.

Michael Bennett
Business
Ms. Gross



- 1. I chose it because I want to work as an accountant.
- 2. I like that I get to work with the computers.
- 3. I think she chose me because I do all my work and I understand what she teaches in class.
- 4. Yes, because the work we do is fun.
- 5. I plan on going to the military.

Cheyenne Trail
Cosmetology
Ms. Crosby



- 1. I was interested in styling hair.
- 2. I like the hands-on work and I get a break from doing book work.
- 3. I think she chose me because I get my jobs done quickly and efficiently.
- 4. Yes, because you can use what you learn in your everyday life.
- 5. I plan on going to college to study in the medical field.

Are you in the school paper? Want to be? Become a better student. Get more involved in school activities.

Junior Shop Profiles

Gina Marin
Graphic Arts- Mr. Petrilli
1. I'm actually interested in photography and I thought that graphic arts was the closest to it.



2. It isn't what I expected but actually it's good because I learn to edit pictures and use Adobe Illustrator and InDesign.
3. Reading the books and following the instructions from the book instead of having a traditional lesson.
4. I'm saving it as a backup plan.

Dean Dedios
Plumbing- Mr. Rivera
1. Because it seemed fun.



2. It's harder than I expected.
3. The dirt.
4. Just keep it as a backup plan.

Jared Martinez
Plumbing- Mr. McCarthy
1. I chose plumbing because I like it and its hands on.



2. It's challenging.
3. I dislike changing into my work clothes.
4. I plan to join the union and do the best I can.

Diana Diyarza
Cosmetology (Afternoon)
Ms. D'Onofrio
1. I chose this major because my mom is a cosmetologist.



2. I expected it to be only hands on, not a lot of theory.
3. Theory.
4. I will help my mom open a salon.

Shantal Teran
Cosmetology (Morning)
Ms. D'Onofrio
1. Mainly because I am into beauty and fashion.



2. It is what I expected, but it could be a little hard.
3. Finger waving, I don't like it.
4. I plan to open a salon.

Mark Vazquez
Business Accounting (Period 5)
Mr. Alohan
1. I chose business because I wanted to get into Queens Voc at the moment.



2. Somewhat what I expected. Actually it's better. I actually took interest in it.
3. I have to write.
4. Go to Baruch, and open a business someday.

Advice Column: Ask Natalie

by Natalie Martinez

Q: How do I apologize to a person who meant so much to me? What if that doesn't work?
A: Tell the person how much he or she means to you, and then apologize. If apologizing doesn't work at least you know you tried.

Q: I've been dating someone for the past few months and I'm unsure of how to proceed in the relationship. Our backgrounds are completely different, and at first I thought we were too. As

God I'm so sorry!" and then she left. It turned out her car was two spots away from where my car was. I told my grandma about it when she came back and she just laughed.

-Tyler M. Parris

During summer vacation in 2007, I was in the 5th grade and my family was having a BBQ by the pool. I wasn't an expert on swimming so I stayed in the 3 ft.

days have passed and I have been privy to my partner's idiosyncrasies, I realize that even though we have cultural and language differences, our work ethics and moral beliefs are closely aligned. My question is, how should I face my own preconceived notions about interracial or intercultural relationships? How do I know level. I was curious so I proceeded to the 5 ft. level. The family went inside to eat and left me unattended. For some reason the 5 ft. level looked approachable, so I swam toward it. When I realized I couldn't touch the bottom, so I panicked. I began to drown and gasped for air, and I was thinking that I was a goner. What saved me was that I remembered a good skill is to doggy paddle which helped me back to the stairs by the pool. I got out crying to my family.

-Michael Feliz

Sophomore Shop Profiles



Alan Reyes
Plumbing – Mr. McCarthy

1. I enjoyed the class when I was in exploratory.
2. I like the hands-on work.
3. I think he chose me because I focus on the work and I try to finish all the work on time.
4. Yes, because it has a good opportunity after high school and its fun, although sometimes it can be stressful.
5. I am not sure.

Argelia Angeles
Cosmetology – Ms. Quartuccio



1. I am really interested in make-up and fashion.
2. I like learning everything because you can use what you learn for yourself and for other people.
3. I think she chose me because I put effort in the jobs and class work that I have to do.
4. Yes, because it is something you can use in the future and it can be handy.
5. I would want to work as a lawyer and have cosmetology as a side job.

Anibelka Checo Rodriguez
Electrical Installation – Mr. Maloney



1. In exploratory I was good at EI and it really caught my attention.
2. It's hands-on and it's easier to find a job in this field.
3. I think my teacher chose me because I have more jobs completed.
4. Yes, because it's fun and easy to understand if you pay attention.
5. I plan on going to college and work in the EI field.

that this relationship is worth the stereotype we would face from others?
A: It's said that opposites attract. Nowadays interracial and intercultural relationships are commonly accepted. It seems you are worrying about a hypothetical. If you really like your significant other, you shouldn't let the differences that you are willing to overlook get in the way. Other people's potential reactions shouldn't change your mind.

Q: I feel like school takes up all my time and I never have time to myself. What should I do?
A: Create a schedule to utilize your time wisely. Remember the minutes you spend idle add up, and could be used productively. If you have a free period, start your homework or study so that when you get home you've created more time for yourself.

Q: I've been pretty close with these girls throughout high school and now that senior year has arrived we've become distant. I've found myself having a new group of friends and I know that it bothers my old friends because I have heard comments about it. If they were my "real" friends it wouldn't bother them. They don't do their part by being good friends anyway. Do you think I should try to make an effort to talk to them or not?
A: You can hang out and be friends with whomever you want to. As your friends, they should be able to accept your new pals. It shouldn't bother them because they should want to see you happy, even if it doesn't involve them. You should still try to talk to them, but if they can't accept the fact that you've made new friends, you should move on.

Inquiring Photographer

by Nemesis Noel

We asked students: “What would you do if there were a zombie apocalypse?”

Ralphie Cabrera
Freshman



“Jump out the door and start shooting at them.”

Tenzin Chosang
Sophomore



“I’ll run! I’ll go find my girlfriend and save her.”

Meztli Cardoso
Junior



“I’d cry in my bathroom.”

Katherine Quindi
Senior



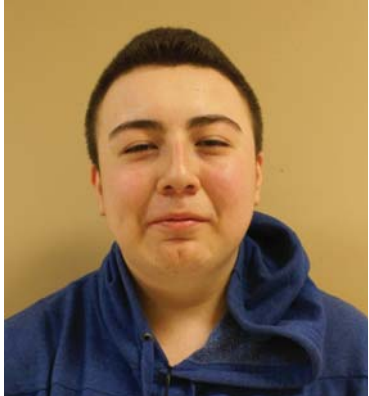
“There are going to be too many zombies to defeat, so I’ll just shoot myself, but before I’ll just tell my parents and brother that I love them a lot.”

Emily Tavares
Freshman



“I would use anything as a weapon and defend myself until I die.”

Mario Medina
Sophomore



“I would go to a survival bunker and fight while trying to find survivors.”

Lesley Pimentel
Junior



“I would just like hide somewhere. Then shoot the zombies in the face. I would find survivors and become the leader of the group.”

Kimberly Pisfil
Senior



“I would run and try to kill them all.”

Jessenia Tejado
Freshman



“I’ll go to a safe place and I’ll take my friends with me. I’ll grab a weapon and stab the zombies until they kill me.”

Jose Moncion
Junior



“I would probably pick up two other friends, go to my house, and build a fort while I’m twerking and create my own weapons.”

Charles Hughes
Senior



“I would hide in the plumbing room because the plumbing room has the most tools.”

Brandon Fernandez
Freshman



“I’ll run home and I’ll get the first weapon I can find and I’ll call my girlfriend and family to make sure they’re safe. I’ll find somewhere else that is safe other than my house.”

Darryl Robinson
Junior



“I would bring all the food in the world, get grocery bags at the store, eat and run at the same time until I kill myself.”

James Pacheco
Senior



“I would first hit up a Sports Authority then hit up a mall to get canned food and water.”

Students’ and Teachers’ Embarrassing Stories

compiled by Nemesis Noel

“I was responding to a fight in the cafeteria. There was a crowd, like there always is, and I couldn’t get through, so decided to be a super hero and I jumped on a table to try and get through and slipped on a tray sideways and landed on my butt in front of everyone.”
- Mr. Mendez

“I am a Dominican-chick magnet. They chased me around because I made fun of them. So I was running around the cafeteria and slipped because the floor was wet and fell between the garbage cans in front of everyone.”
- Johnny Tsao

“When I was little, about fifth grade, I was playing a game where my eyes were covered and the other people start teasing you like saying “over here” and you would have to chase them. So I was trying to chase them down and I fell down the stairs. When I looked back I realized that they were right next to me. I still fell down the stairs for nothing because I didn’t have to chase them.”
- Yulia Valeria

“When I was a sophomore in high school, I was on the JV football team. I was in the locker room and the varsity players pushed me out of the building naked. I ended up running around the building because the nearest entrance was like 50 yards away and I had to walk in naked through one of the main entrances.”
- Mr. Esguera

“In sophomore year in college, I was part of a hypnotist act and was hypnotized to dance the flamenco in front of at least 300 students. I don’t remember dancing but I remember the event, but apparently I did because there’s a video. I thought I did ok.”
- Mr. Diamont

“When I was in third grade, I sneezed in class when the room was quiet and everyone looked at me, so I pointed at some other kid and blamed him for it.”
- Charlene Meza

“One time when I was a sophomore, my friends were playing around and made another friend of mine give my bag to my crush, who was a junior at the time.”
- Mary Paguay

Students’ Favorite Lunches: What We Like to Eat

by Andres Diaz

Sixty students were asked what their favorite school lunch was and this is what they selected:

School Lunch	
Mozzarella Sticks	21.6%
Cheeseburger	18.3%
Pizza	13.3%
Chicken Tenders	13.3%
Chicken Wrap	8.3%
Potato Wedges	5.0%
Peanut Butter and Jelly	5.0%

Turkey Sandwich	5.0%
Turkey Burrito	5.0%

The same 60 students were asked what their favorite fruit or vegetable from Queens Voc’s cafeteria was.

They said:

Fruit or Vegetable	
Orange	43.3%
Banana	30.0%
Apple	25.0%
Green Peas	1.6%

Here’s How *You* Annoy *Us*... Students VS. Teachers

compiled by Nazanin Somarin

We asked some students what teachers do that they find annoying. The students replied with...

Tia Singh

What I find most annoying is when the teachers tell me to participate, but then they never call on me. Also when teachers are unfair because they have favorites in the class.

Wen Li Chen

I find it annoying when teachers are sarcastic and force you to answer a question. Also when they don’t allow you to make up any work or tests.

Carlos Vasco

I find it annoying when teachers say “I won’t talk until the room is quiet,” and the students in class just continue talking.

Yulia Valerio

When you raise your hand, the teacher doesn’t call on you, but when your hand is down, the teacher calls on you.

Noman Shahzada

When the teachers don’t allow you to retake a quiz and when they give you a lot of work. Also when the teacher comes to class late.

Michelle Pereda

I find it annoying when teachers over-tell their personal life stories. I also get annoyed when teachers go off topic and at the end of class we have to finish the lesson quickly.

Rick Lim

I find it annoying when teachers joke too much and when the jokes are corny. I also find it annoying when the teachers won’t let you go to the bathroom and when they are disrespectful.

Alex Minchala

It’s annoying when they don’t let you go to the bathroom. Also when they yell at you for dumb reasons such as when you ask to throw something away or when you ask for a pen or pencil.

Amber Rivera

I find it annoying when teachers give too much work and there is not enough time to complete the work.

Kenia Mejia

It’s annoying when teachers give too much homework. I also find it annoying when they don’t know how to teach and when they give too many tests.

Shoanyn Palomeque

I find it annoying when teachers give last minute projects.

Franco Aisa

It’s annoying when they make changes to rules and it affects you finishing projects and assignments.

Natalie Mercado

It’s annoying when they tell me what to do and give me attitude.

It’s also annoying when they try to be sarcastic and compare us to other classes.

Albert Mora

The way they talk annoys me. Also, when they teach a different subject then they are supposed to and accuse you of things you didn’t do.

Mahbub Ali

It’s annoying when their act changes when the principal is around.

John Gamble

I find it annoying when teachers are sarcastic.

Ralphie Cabrera

I find it annoying when they complain about everything and try to get you in trouble.

Camila Restrepo

I find it annoying when teachers yell at you and give you a lot of homework during the vacation.

Pinki Chumber

It’s annoying when they think you are doing something wrong and they try to be funny. Also when they get mad for no reason and when they don’t teach well.

Ngawang Dawa

I find it annoying when they help me too much.

Lizabeth Espinal

When they complain and say that I’m late. Also when they walk around me too much and make us read a lot.

Sebastian Montenegro

I find the mood that the teachers have and the sassy comebacks really annoying.

Brandon Fernandez

I find it annoying when the teachers complain and yell. I also find it annoying when they insult you.

Bryan Lopez

When they give projects, essays, and 50 question tests.

Raynier Rosario

When they tell you not to pack up until the bell rings and when they call the deans for anything.

Andres Ng

I find it annoying when they give handouts and they forget to give me one or they miss me.

Jorge Ceballos

I find it annoying when they promise trips and when the amount of work given is based on their mood.

Leslie Puebla

It’s annoying when they give quizzes every week and when they expect too much from you.

Joana Benavides

I find it annoying when they pick on their favorite students and always claim that they’re right.

Clariza Tejada

When they give surprise tests.

Elizabeth Maldonado

It annoying when they don’t discipline the students in the class.

compiled by
Gnatalie Martinez

Mr. Ackerman

When students ask you something right after you explained it to the class, and when they don't take notes.

Ms. Dimech

Students who text in class and don't ask enough questions. When students believe everything I say, because questioning is an important part of mathematics.

Mr. Garcia

I think the most annoying thing is when students expect us to go after them to get things done, when they know what they have to do. Students who come in late I find annoying because I have to repeat myself. Lastly, when I'm lecturing the class and as soon as I say it someone asks me what it is after I just said it.

Mr. Garofano

Students who don’t adhere to the discipline policy.

Ms. Poltawsky

When students say: “Miss, Miss, Miss, Miss, yo Miss.”

Mr. MacDonald

Losing work and asking for extra copies.

Mr. Burkhart

Students with cell phones and those who say will change their work habits but don’t.

Mr. Stefanidis

I wouldn’t use the word “annoying” but I’d like to use “frustrating.” Coming in late to class and forgetting things in other classes. When students have

too much going on outside of the class. Students who don’t give me assignments and forget it in their notebook’s and those who wait last minute to figure out what they’re missing to get a good grade.

Ms. Ogunka

Students who say “nigga.” When I began teaching I thought it would be a professional environment. Sometimes I feel like I’m in the streets.

Mr. Maloney

Students who come in late and don’t bring me coffee.

Mr. Devaux

I find it annoying when students try to come into gym because they have a substitute and when students steal out of the locker room.

Mr. Cintron

Students who always give excuses for everything. Students who come in late. I hate that! No common sense; I find that annoying. You tell them not to do something and they do it anyway.

Mr. Davidson

I would say two main categories, number one is disrespect. When students disrespect other students in the class by talking when other people are talking. And when students text in class. The second category I would say is students who are capable of doing excellent work and choose not to. I don’t mind a student who is struggling and works hard to get a 65. What annoys me is a student who is capable of a 95 choosing to do 65 work.

QV Students Showcase Talent for Senior Citizens

by Ashley Arango

Let’s get this show on the road wasn’t just a saying. After the Talent Show on April 9, some of the students traveled to perform for the elderly residents, at Queens Boulevard Extended Care Facility on May 15.

Mr. Vega accepted the request and recruited eight performers to volunteer: Pamela Abreu, Wen Li Chen, Valerie Cruz, Kenneth Marin, Elliot Ortiz, Jessica Pichardo, David Soto, and Pamela Tavarez. There were nine acts in total, including additional acts from Kenneth and David, and Valerie Cruz and Pamela Tavarez.

“I wanted to do this because I know it would bring a smile to their faces and it would entertain them,” said sophomore Pamela Tavarez, who sang and played the guitar.

According to Mr. Vega, Anthony Matese, the director

of therapeutic recreation at the nursing home, became familiar with Queens Voc when Mrs. Mitchell’s business class participated in a fashion show at the facility. She mentioned that the school had a talent show, which gave Mr. Matese the idea of bringing the acts to the nursing home. He asked Mr. Vega, the coordinator of student activities, if the performers would be willing to put a show together there.

“What I liked the most about my experience at the senior center was the reaction of the elderly. I think my performance gave them a flashback to the time when the songs I danced to were popular,” said senior, Elliot Ortiz, who danced to a variety of Michael Jackson songs.

“Right before I performed, I was looking into the audience of elderly people and thinking ‘one day that’s going to be me.’ At that moment I treasured the youth

A Spidey Movie Review



by Gabriella Martinez

Are your spidey senses tingling? The sequel to *The Amazing Spider Man* has just been released.

In *The Amazing Spider Man 2*, Peter Parker struggles between managing his personal life and the responsibilities that it come with, along with his responsibilities as Spider Man.

There is more action and humor than the original *The Amazing Spider Man*. The film changes the direction of the series by providing unseen twists and turns at the most unexpected moments. The battle to save the city seems to be a greater task than Spider Man can handle. When faced with multiple villains such as Electro, Rhino, and Green Goblin, Spider Man loses what he loves the most.

Despite the intense action scenes, the end of the movie is disappointing because the last battle scene comes to an abrupt end. The movie leaves the viewer with a preview of what the third movie has in store. I would recommend this movie to adventure, action, and Marvel comic book fans, but people who haven’t seen *The Amazing Spider Man* will be confused by watching this sequel.

I have now and realized I need to enjoy life while I’m still young,” said sophomore Valerie Cruz, who sang.



Elliot Ortiz performed as Michael Jackson.

QV Students’ Talents On Display

by Suveer Seemangal

Amber Fantaudzzi
Guitar player

Amber Fantaudzzi taught herself how to play guitar in the sixth grade. “I used to watch my grandfather play. After listening to him, I wanted to learn how to play,” she said. Amber spent many hours researching notes, chords, and strums in order to learn. She not only learned how to play acoustic guitar, but she also learned how to play the electric guitar. “I play for myself, it’s sort of a music therapy for me,” she said. Amber likes to play alternative, country, and pop music. She said she hopes to pursue a career in music.



Catrell Jewel
Rapper

Catrell Jewel started to write, and rap in elementary school after listening to “The Massacre” album by 50 Cent. “I fell in love with rap after listening to that album, so then I started to write my own raps,” said Catrell. “I like rap with lyrics that make me think after I listen to the song,” said Catrell. He tries to rap in his free time, after doing homework. Kanye West inspires Catrell. “I really like Kanye West, I think that he is lyrical, and the bars he has are fresh,” he said. For now Catrell doesn’t want to rap for a career. “If I get better, then I will definitely try. But for now it is just

a hobby,” said Catrell.

Samantha Pineda
Singer

Samantha Pineda started singing in the third grade. She was in her elementary school choir. “I never really found a love for singing until I was in the sixth grade, when I started singing for my school.” Samantha likes to listen and sing 70s and 80s music. “I think music back then was so much better than the synthesized music today,” she said. Samantha looks up to singers such as Whitney Houston and Aliyah. She hopes to make a career out of singing, and become famous one day.



Word Search: School Year

by Gabriella Martinez

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

ART
BUSINESS
CERTIFICATIONS
CLUBS
COLLEGE
COMPUTER
COSMETOLOGY
EI
ENGINEERING
ENGLISH
FRESHMEN
FRIENDS

FUTURE
GRADUATION
GRAPHIC
GYM
HEALTH
JUNIOR
LANGUAGE
LUNCH
MATH
PLUMBING
PROM
SCIENCE

SENIOR
SHOP
SOCIAL
SOPHOMORE
SPORTS
STUDIES
SUMMER
TEAMS
TECH
TRAVEL
VACATION

Horoscopes

by Elma Rahman

Many people think horoscopes are made up. But read these and think again. How does your horoscope fit you? Does your color match your mood?

Aries

(March 21-April 19) Red

A feeling of being constrained by circumstances could cause you to look for a way to break free of the ties that hold you down. Investing a large sum in a can’t-miss opportunity or a business deal that promises a stupendous return, however, it could leave you holding an empty bag. You cannot buy your way out of a stranglehold, but you may be able to negotiate a loosening of the pressure. Think creatively. The color red represents the compression you are experiencing.

Taurus

(April 20-May 20) Teal

It’s your time to shine! You’ve listened to the problems of your peers and family, and you have provided them with valuable advice. Now, it’s your time to enjoy yourself and relax a bit. The color teal represents the “cool” person that you are. Pat yourself on the shoulder for all the support you have shown your friends.

Gemini

(May 21-June 21) Green

With so many positive signs coming your way, you may be a bit impatient with those who try to waste your time with their tales of anguish. Even if their problems seem a little silly or neurotic, show some compassion and understanding. You never know when you might need a supportive shoulder in return. For now, the ground under your feet is solid and your steps are sure. And another thing to consider is...stop being so moody. The color green represents constant mood swings and the impatient personality that lurks within you.

Cancer

(June 22-July 22) Colorful

Words aren’t enough this year. You may have everything you want to say worked out perfectly in your head, but as soon as you open your mouth it’s as if some trickster has grabbed your words and twisted them into unrecognizable knots. Others may try to be patient, but what they are hearing from you sounds nonsensical. Take a deep breath, pause and start over. Explain the situation as swiftly and succinctly as you can, and then put off further speeches until your lips are in sync with your mind. You are a mixture of all sorts of colors which means that you are a perplexed person.

Leo

(July 23-Aug. 22)

Lavender - A lot of changes are taking place in your life. These changes are not positive but are short-lived. People will soon replace their reserved spot for you in their lives but don’t let that bring

you down. Don’t take anything to heart for you will stop yourself from moving forward. The color lavender represents a transition from a negative to a positive vibe that you will experience.

Virgo

(Aug. 23-Sept. 22) White

You are a perfectionist. You like things to be perfect, from your room being clean to your work being neat. You don’t settle and you don’t compromise. Finishing everything you start without procrastination is a must. You have a “white soul,” which means you’re pure and complete.

Libra

(Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Indigo

You are very understanding: people don’t mind talking to you about their personal issues. You tend to be the first person people run to about any and everything. You are calm and very effective when it comes to “hearing people out.” You have an “indigo intuition,” which means you are instinctive.

Scorpio

(Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Fuchsia

You are trying your hardest to convince yourself that you’ve found true love. You are forbidding destiny to do its part and creating a false reality to live in. Get out of this trance before you make the wrong decisions.

Sagittarius

(Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Silver

You care for people, places, and Mother Nature as well as yourself. Some people consider you a big brother or big sister figure in their lives. You are somebody who won’t be forgotten. You have a “silver atmosphere,” which means you are the person everyone wants around.

Capricorn

(Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Gold

You stay focused on goals and you are motivated by your achievements. You are associated with luxury, quality, extravagance and sophistication. You have a “gold eye,” which means you’re determined.

Aquarius

(Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Burgundy

You will be greatly affected by a person who you expected to stay your life. Emotions run high when you go deep into thought about that particular person, yet you put on an act and claim you’re “OK” The color burgundy represents the secrets you hold inside of yourself that you don’t want anyone else to know about.

Pisces

(Feb. 19-March 20)

Pink - Take time out for fun today! Your personal energy is quite positive, and you should be able to make a game out of almost anything if you feel like it. Things are getting better and better for you. The color pink represents the outgoing attitude you should embrace.

**VocVoice wishes Ms. Dattner
a long and happy retirement!**

A crossword puzzle grid with 27 numbered starting points for words. The grid is composed of white squares for letters and black squares for empty space. Numbers 1 through 27 are placed in the top-left corner of the starting squares for each word.

Mapela!

Hey Schimenz? Can you tell me a joke?

Hmmm... a short one?

Yeah

Waiting

Oh... hehe that's cute

Still waiting?

Why is he taking forever! I could easily make up any joke! How un-original of him!? He's just searching up jokes!

Maybe I should've asked Mr. Vega.. UG+!

Oh! There's he goes again from grading the essays the class wrote. Ugh.

Oh! MY GOD! I lost Lela! 51 on Candy Crush!

Yeah cause phones are definitely allowed to use in school. Right.

Uhhhhhhh...

Oh right the joke

Oh! Wait... here I have more for you. uhh hear this one... There are 2 things I can't understand in math... Trigo hometry, Geometry, and Algebra. Hehehehe You get it? Hehehehe

Umm... one was enough

Oh! Here's one: What's something really small that was hepp on the beach? Microwaves

The End

Artist: Pamela Abreu

Senior Sports Profiles

by Thalia Cia

Ashley Arango

Girls' Varsity Basketball
Years on team: 1

"She's a great team player. She improved tremendously throughout the year. My only wish was she would have joined before her senior year." –Coach Devaux

"She's happy and joyful even when we're losing. She has good spirit and she cheers up the team when the game isn't going as planned." –Victoria Guerrero, freshman

Yadira Perez

Girls' Varsity Basketball
Years on team: 4

"She's a three-year veteran. She's steadily improved to become a starter this year. She had a force in the middle and I wish I was able to have her for a few more years." –Coach Devaux

"She is a leader, she has good sportsmanship and keeps the team motivated. She is very optimistic even when we're losing." –Amber Rivera, freshman

**Lucila Cortes
Captain**

Girls' Varsity Basketball
Years on team: 3

"She's a three-year veteran. She's been a leader on the team for the last couple years and she was one of the captains this year. She's also my leader on the court and a steady influence out here. She was probably my belt-on defender. She will be sorely missed next year." –Coach Devaux

"Even though she got injured, she would still get back up and push us to do better on and off the court. She's dedicated, inspiring, and I will miss her." –Xi Zheng, sophomore

**Sebastian Lupercio
Captain**

Co-ed Varsity Wrestling
Years on team: 4

"Sebastian had skill and talent to wrestle at the top level of the city, but due to personal reasons he was obligated to work and was unable to wrestle enough matches to qualify for city championships." –Coach Zambrotta

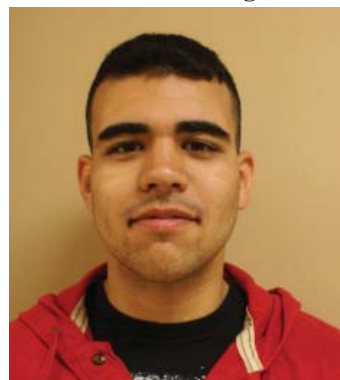
"He has a good sense of leadership skills both on and off the mat." –Eddie Quiles, junior

**Jesse Clark
Captain**

Co-Ed Varsity Wrestling
Years on team: 4

"Jesse was a good leader but at times he was not always able to lead since he moved to Long Island." –Coach Zambrotta

"He knows how to motivate his teammates with his strong words." –Jhostyn Gallardo, sophomore

Alexander Borges

Co-Ed Varsity Wrestling
Years on team: 4

"Alex definitely could have been a leader on the team, but he chose to take a backseat due to his academic commitments." –Coach Zambrotta

"He's dedicated and very helpful when it comes to working out." –Juan Diaz, junior

Brian Carvajal

Co-Ed Varsity Wrestling
Years on team: 2

"Brian was in a tough position balancing his schedule. I will never be upset with a wrestler who chooses academics over sports." –Coach Zambrotta

"Brian motivates his teammates. He's a very committed wrestler." –Saho Batista, sophomore

Ahtesham Hoque

Co-Ed Varsity Wrestling
Years on team: 3

"Ahtesham began to have a good season until he got hurt, which prevented him from participating in much of the season, he ended on a strong note once he returned." –Coach Zambrotta

"I always sparred with him, he was very funny during practices. He was a good sport and on your side even when we lost a match." –Richard Martinez, freshman

Kevin Hernandez

Boys' Varsity Basketball
Years on team: 1

"Good addition to the team this year. He provided solid minutes in a back-up role." –Coach Maloney

"Kevin is a great teammate. He always had the right attitude." –Jacob Sobilo, junior

**Phillip Gooding
Captain**

Boys' Varsity Basketball
Years on team: 2

"Phillip came back from last season in great shape. He had some great games this year." –Coach Maloney

"He's a strong motivator, even when we're losing. He always told us 'don't keep your head down, just train harder and come to practice.'" –Christopher Lexis, junior

**Adam Todorovic
Captain**

Boys' Varsity Basketball
Years on team: 2

"Adam's offensive skills are obvious when he is on the court. He played hard all year." –Coach Maloney

"He's a great player, good leader, and we went far this year because of him." –Mahbub Ali, junior

Harsimar Jassar

Boys' Varsity Basketball
Years on team: 2

"Harsimar was the big man on the team. He had great potential to dominate the middle." –Coach Maloney

"Harsimar is resilient, he works hard on the court, and does whatever it takes to contribute." –Catrell Jewel, junior

Soccer Team gets an A

by Andres Diaz

The Queens Voc boys' soccer team is moving to the A Division.

Mr. Ali, the coach, said the team is moving because of its performance over the past two years.

The team's first game in the Queens A West division will be on Sept. 6.

The soccer team finished second in their division this season with 10 wins, 1 loss, and 2 ties. Last season, the team finished fourth with 8 wins, 5 losses, and 1 tie. The year before, the team finished in first with 11 wins, 2 losses, and 1 tie.

Mr. Ali said he worries because he would not like to be

humiliated in the A division.

Despite this, Mr. Ali is staying positive and believes they'll win some games. For the past 12 years the Queens Voc boys' soccer team has been in the B division.

Coach Ali said, "Moving from the B division to the A division makes me feel excited, challenged, and curious to see what the players can do."

Tryouts for the team started the first week of May and ended the first week of June. To try-out for the soccer team students had to pass a physical and have a parental consent form signed by their parents.

Mr. Ali said, "I'm looking for players who have knowledge of the game, know their position

and play in a team outside of the school's team." Prior knowledge is key because after official practice starts on Aug. 18 at field 5, at Flushing Meadows Park, the team has only three weeks before the first game.

Queens Voc boys' soccer team will face new challenges in the Queens A West division, which has six teams: William C. Bryant, Aviation, Newtown, Newcomers, Long Island City, and John Adams.

Senior Sports Profiles

by Thalia Cia

Rick Lim


Boys' Varsity Basketball
Years on team: 2
"Rick played solid basketball when he put his mind to it."
-Coach Maloney
"He's very cooperative, hardworking, and thinks outside the box." -Alexis Nieves, junior

Lucila Cortes


Girls' Varsity Flag Football
Years on team: 1
"In the few games played, she began to pick up offense very well." -Coach Garofano
"She may be new, but she has good potential to play."
-Na Zheng, junior

Ashley Arango


Girls' Varsity Flag Football
Years on team: 1
"Ashley was late to joining the team, but she has had an immediate impact especially on defense." -Coach Garofano
"She is a new player on the team, but she's a very good athlete." -Jocelyn Navarro, sophomore

Stacy Garcia


Girls' Varsity Flag Football
Years on team: 1
"Stacy is one of our better offensive players. She is starting to be a force defensively as well." -Coach Garofano
"She's always ready to go and well prepared to play." -Jasmine Torres, junior

Natalie Martinez


Girls' Varsity Flag Football
Years on team: 3
"Natalie is one of the team leaders. She has progressively become better over her years on the team. She is also an excellent defensive player." -Coach Garofano
"She's a very consistent player in terms of knowing plays. She knows when to attack. I love Nat." -Lesley Pimentel, junior

Nemesis Noel


Girls' Varsity Flag Football
Years on team: 3
"Nemesis plays both sides of the ball, and she is one of the team leaders." -Coach Garofano
"She works hard to keep the team working together." -Jasmine Torres, junior

**Estefania Villegas
Captain**



Girls' Varsity Softball
Years on team: 4
"Estefania is a team leader, she is one of the most caring, supportive, and dedicated players on the team. She's a four-year veteran with outstanding softball skills, she will be missed next year." -Coach Poltawsky
"She motivates us to do more in order to improve our strategies. She held us together since she was the only pitcher on the team." -Stephanie Young, freshman

William Callanan


Boys' Varsity Baseball
Years on team: 2
"William, a 2-year veteran, was poised to keep us in games both at bat and behind the plate, but an injury sidelined him for half the season. Despite the injury, he attended most of the games and helped out." -Coach Schimenz
"He's a cool guy, he's always helpful on the team. He's also very outgoing." -Jeffrey Guevara, junior

Brandon Taveras



Boys' Varsity Baseball
Years on team: 4
"We're a family oriented team and as a freshman, Brandon joined an older cousin on our team. During his four years with us he developed into a solid ballplayer and a positive contributor who was eager to play any position to help the team." -Coach Schimenz
"He's a good team player, he's very dedicated to the team. He would always show up to practices." -Jonathan Vargas, sophomore

Mario Salcedo



Boys' Varsity Baseball
Years on team: 2
"Mario loves baseball-and he's good at it. This year, his initial problems with eligibility kept him out of some games, but he finished strong, throwing a no-hitter in his final pitching appearance." -Coach Schimenz
"He's a good team leader and steps up to pitch when necessary." -Dario Rodriguez

**Kevin Hernandez
Captain**



Boys' Varsity Baseball
Years on team: 4
"Kevin's a four-year veteran who has been a captain three of those years. Since freshman year, he has helped run the team. He's been a big contributor on and off the field. His parting is the end of an era." -Coach Schimenz
"I love Kevin. He's a great captain, he led the team even though we were 1-15. He's a fun guy. I'll miss him." -Mauricio Bustamante, sophomore

Jorge Estrada


Boys' Varsity Baseball
Years on team: 1
"Jorge was a rookie senior who was a big contributor to the team. He's polite and respectful, and has a positive attitude. I wish he had been on the team earlier." -Coach Schimenz
"He helps his teammates when they are struggling." -Jordi Perez, freshman

Andres Puli


Boys' Varsity Handball
Years on team: 2
"He's a great player, I wish he wasn't a senior. He helped the younger players on the team." -Coach Devaux
"He tries to teach us new techniques that help us win games." -Jesse Cazarez, freshman

Carlos Ramos


Boys' Varsity Handball
Years on team: 1
"Carlos came through for the team many times this season. He has great knowledge of the game." -Coach Devaux
"He was very motivated and he tried his best." -Andres Ng, junior

Vivian Vega


Boys' Varsity Handball
Years on team: 1
"Vivian had the most wins on the team this year. He's a great team player and he will be sorely missed." -Coach Devaux
"He was the best at third singles." -Cristian Campis, junior

Softball Girls Want New Uniforms

by Maria Perez

For years, members of the Lady Tigers softball team have complained about their team's uniform. "I think it is ugly, uncomfortable, and doesn't represent our school colors," said Gabriella Biondo, a member of the softball team.

Many of the girls on the team agree with her, as this has been one of the main complaints within the group. "Our uniform is black and white, which doesn't represent our school colors very well, and the jersey is really uncomfortable," said Thiaralyn Objio, also a member of the team.

According to Mr. Boyle, who had coached the softball team until this year, the uniform hasn't changed since he became coach 15 years ago. Back then, the uniform was black and white, as it is today, but the jersey was different, it had stripes. The jerseys were owned by the school, which meant the girls had to return them at the end

of the softball season.

According to Mr. Boyle, when he became coach he encouraged the girls to buy their own uniform, which was customized with their number and their last name. They kept the same color so those who didn't want to buy a uniform could wear the old ones.

Every season, uniforms are ordered for new members. The girls have to pay \$50 for a package that includes a duffle bag, a white jersey, a pair of black sweat pants, and a visor. Many of the girls do not use the duffle bag. "That duffle bag is huge! I don't use it on a daily basis. It is so big, I actually use it as luggage when I go away for vacation," said Gabriella.

The girls dislike their uniform's colors, claiming that black and white does not represent QV Tigers. "Our uniforms should be like the guys' baseball uniform. It's more colorful and vibrant and represents our school better than ours," said Fatima Veras, softball team member.

According to Mr. Schimenz, coach of the baseball team, the boys pay \$150 for their own uniform, which comes with two jerseys, pants, hat, belt, and socks. Mr. Schimez said that he too didn't change the uniform since he became coach, except for adding an away jersey about 10 years ago.

Although there is a \$100 dollar difference between the girls' and the boys' uniform prices, the girls are willing to pay more if it means being able to represent the school. "Well, we can spend a little extra for a uniform we'll all feel proud to wear," said Thiaralyn.

According to Ms. Poltawsky, who took over as coach this season, if she remains as coach, she would like to make changes to the uniform. She envisions uniforms like the baseball team's, green and yellow. "I know the girls dislike their uniforms because of the color. If I stay as coach, we can try to change it. We can always fundraise so those who already have the uniform don't have to pay as much again," said Ms. Poltawsky.

From Dean to Coach: Mr. Mendez takes over JV Baseball



JV team has had many scheduled games postponed.

by Kevin Hernandez

The JV baseball team had a record of 1-4, with 5 games to go, as the VocVoice went to press.

The boys have a new coach, Mr. Mendez, who hoped to have a better record than last year's 2-7 record.

"We are going to have a battling season, I believe our games are going to be very close scoring games," said Mr. Mendez.

The Tigers lost their first game 13-2 to John Adams.

But after that game, the coach's prediction about close games appeared correct. In their second game, they defeated Bryant, 3-2, scoring in the sixth inning to tie the game and in the seventh to win. They lost their next game to Richmond Hill, 5-4. The Tigers then lost to LIC, 6-3. Their fourth loss was to John Adams, 12-11.

Their season dragged on because many of the games scheduled by PSAL have been postponed for various reasons.

Coach Mendez said that the

team needs to improve on both offense and defense if they want to win games, but, said he knows that they have the talent to do so.

As the new coach, Mr. Mendez wants to give his players all the advice he can give them so they can improve. Not only do they have to improve on their skills, but they have to understand their role as players on and off the field, he said.

According to team member Brandon Fernandez, the season looks good so far and the team chemistry is there. "Something we have to improve on is definitely our batting; we can do better, and need to if we want to win games."

The team members are Emanuel Burgest, Marcos Casado, Brandon Fernandez, Georgios Galanopoulos, Nikolaos Galanopoulos, Andrew Garcia, Jimmy Gutierrez, Michael Kammerer, Tony Lin, Kerlyn Lora, Saul Matias, Timothy Nolan, Jason Paige, Steven Rodriguez, Malcolm Romeo, and Franco Trelles.

Varsity Baseball Ends Season with First Win

by Maria Perez

The Tigers varsity baseball team finished its season 1-15, paired with Richmond Hill in last place in the Queens A West division. The team finished the season with its first victory, against Richmond Hill.



Kevin and Brandon.

"Winning against Richmond Hill was a good feeling. It was my last game on the team so I wanted to end with a win," said Kevin

Hernandez, a senior and 3-year captain. Mauricio Bustamante, a captain and sophomore rookie, was also happy. "I was pretty excited that we won our last game of the season," he said.

Last year was the team's first year in A. They went 4-12 and finished in last.

According to Mr. Schimenz, coach of the team, the team's repetitive losses was because for the past two seasons the team was in the A division. "We never belonged in the A division. PSAL forced us into A after we went to the championships in 2012. When the team was moved up, the PSAL commissioner did not take into account that eight of the nine starters had graduated. The team that went to A was not the same team, it was a team with new players," the coach said. "It was a bad decision and it damaged the team." The coach said that "there are always people who think they know what's best for others."

According to Coach Schimenz,

PSAL will be making changes to the divisions because of all the complaints from coaches. There will be no B division, but instead there will be triple A, double A, and single A divisions. The team should be placed in a division where they'll be able to compete, he said.

This year the team consisted of 27 players, of which ten were inactive due to failing classes. According to Coach Schimenz, at the beginning of the year, the PSAL website had different eligibility rules, which he figured were new. According to the website, students could become eligible or fall off at the end of each marking period. "I went through the preseason anticipating a number of students establishing eligibility with the first report card of the second term. But right before the season started, Mr. Maloney, the athletic director, checked with PSAL official, who said the website was wrong... and it still is," said Mr. Schimenz.

practiced as a team," said Andres Murillo.



Vivian was a rookie senior.

second single," he said.

According to Mr. Devaux the team will start practicing earlier next year to make sure it is ready when the season starts.

The coach said that next year, the team will seek to improve its record and start winning games. Mr. Deavux had a late start to the season this year because, he said, he was notified at the last minute that he was going to be the coach.

"One suggestion I would give Mr. Devaux is to organize practices because we barely

Handball's Rough Year

continued from back page

Ng, Andres Puli, Carlos Ramos, Tyrek Rollings, Adam Todorovic, Shih Bin Tsao, and Vivian Vega according to the PSAL website.

"The team key players were Shinh Bin Tsao and Andres Ng," Mr. Devaux said. "Shinh Bin Tsao was the team's first single player, which means he was the most reliable player. Andres Ng was the only returning player answering all the questions any of the team members had and was

Boys' Varsity Basketball Team Headed to Playoffs

by Nikolas Amirian

The boys' varsity basketball team made the playoffs for the first time since the 2011 season.

The Tigers made it to the second round but ended up losing to Institute for Collaborative Education, 71-36. "We weren't prepared to face that level of talent," Team Captain Phillip Gooding said.

The team finished the season 10-8, and in sixth place in the Queens B West division.

"Whenever you have a winning season, it's a positive," Coach Maloney said. "Even though we made the playoffs, I feel we could have done better."

Phillip said that "making the playoffs was a great experience—it was exhilarating." The Tigers defeated Townsend Harris, 64-60 in the first round. But "team

chemistry was an issue during the season and it carried into the playoffs," he said. Coach Maloney agreed. "I felt that team chemistry was a problem and it led to us losing," he said.

Captain Adam Todorovic led the team in scoring in the regular season and in the playoffs. Adam was an offensive threat and he gave the team a burst of energy every game, Phillip said.

Adam and Phillip proved to be good leaders on the court, Coach Maloney said, but said that the team needed more leadership off the court.

The members of the team this year were: Mahbub Ali, Phillip Gooding, Kevin Hernandez, Harsimar Jassar, Catrell Jewell, Christopher Lexis, Rick Lim, Alexis Nieves, Alexander Pena, Daniel Santiago, Jacob Sobilo, and Adam Todorovic.



Girls’ Softball Team Lands a New Coach

by Jesse Clark

Ms. Poltawsky believes this season, her first as coach of the girls’ softball team, went well, despite the 5-win, 9-loss record. “Being a new coach to the team and having a lot of new players, they met my expectations for the season.”

Team captain Estefania Villegas said, “the season was awesome and we did great regardless of our record, the team went above and beyond my expectations.”

Estefania reflected on the season. “When I was injured it was hard to lead and communicate with the team during games without being out there on the field with them, but the whole team stepped up this season especially when I was injured.”

Ms. Poltawsky said she saw improvements and good playing from new, young players this season. “Freshman Amber Rivera has shown me she can take on any position I put her in. I expected her to do well this season and she did. Hopefully one day she will lead this team,” she said. “Freshman Victoria Guerrero stepped up and became starting pitcher when

senior and captain Estefania Villegas was injured. I feel she can truly take on the role as pitcher for the next couple of years,” Ms. Poltawsky said.

According to Ms. Poltawsky, the team had one senior: team captain Estefania Villegas; seven juniors: Samantha Collado, Emeli Diaz, Ashley Fernandez, Gissell Fernandez, Vita Giuffrida, Stephanie Rojas, and Fatima Veras; six sophomores: Katerin Coyago, Serenity Gonzalez, Alicia Lucero, Thiralyn Objio, Katelynn Santiago, and Jaelene Valladolid; and four freshmen: Larisa Cuccurullo, Victoria Guerrero, Amber Rivera, and Stephanie Young.

“I am very proud of the team considering where we started to where we finished,” Ms. Poltawsky said. “Even though we didn’t make the playoffs, we bonded as a family, and that is ultimately a win in my book.”

“With only one girl leaving this season, I expect great things to come next season,” she said.

Estefania Villegas said, “I am so proud I was on the team with the girls and it was an amazing last season for me, and I know next season they will do amazing.”



Division champs have many reasons to smile.

Flag Football Team Reaches Third Round of Playoffs

by Thalia Cia

The girls’ varsity flag football team, led by Coach Garofano, ended their season with a 21-0 loss to Tottenville High School in the third round of the playoffs on Friday, June 6, on Staten Island.

They previously lost their game against South Shore High School in the second round of the playoffs, 50-6, but South Shore forfeited, according to Coach Garofano, because ineligible players were found to have played in the game.

JV Basketball Team Finishes Season Tied for Second Place

by Harsimar Jassar

The JV basketball season ended on March 8, with a 64-61 victory against Bryant High School. The team finished the season tied for second place in their division, with a 6-7 record.

Coach Daniel had expected the team to finish with a .500 or better record, but the Tigers fell one game short. Yet he was pleased with the way his team played despite losing several starters midway through the season.

“Even after losing three of our starters, the boys showed perseverance and almost took down top ranked Flushing in a tough game. That showed me that they have heart,” he said. They went on to win three of their last five games without starters

Tyheim Kennedy, Angel Diaz, and Krizon Maynard, who failed off the team.

Captain Travis Savino a sophomore, was the team’s leading scorer, averaging 17.15 points a game. Travis ranked second in the division in scoring with 223 points and number 22 among all PSAL JV basketball players. “After losing some important players, I had to step up my scoring and lead the team in the right direction,” said Travis. Travis said that he hopes to carry this scoring into next year, when he will be playing on the varsity level.

First-year player Marcos Casado was also a major contributor, according to Coach Daniel. Marcos averaged 10 points a game and also led the team in assists, with 9.33 assists per game, according to psal.org. Coach Daniel had high praise for Marcos’s court vision. “He sees passes that I didn’t even see most of the time and he has a knack for finding the right person at the right time,” said the coach. Not only did Marcos lead the team with 112 assists, he finished number one in the division and number two among all PSAL JV basketball players in assists.

Veteran player Lincoln Speer was the team’s leading rebounder, pulling down 7.25 rebounds a game according to psal.org.

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In the first round of the playoffs, the Lady Tigers defeated Bronx Science 19-6.

The girls ended their regular season with a record of 9-1. They won first place in their division after defeating Queens High School Complex, 6-0, on May 19. John Adams forfeited their last game against Queens Voc awarding them division title.

There are five other schools in Queens Voc’s division: Academy for Television and Film, Academy of American Studies, John Adams, Maspeth, and Queens High School Complex.

There were 14 girls on the team, including five seniors: Ashley Arango, Lucila Cortes, Stacy Garcia, Natalie Martinez, Nemesis Noel; five juniors: Abigail Arriaga, Ashley Carvajal, Lesley Pimentel, Jasmine Torres, Na Zheng; three sophomores: Jocelyn Navarro, Yulia Valerio, Xi Zheng; and one freshman: Kimberly Maldonado.



Free throw going in nicely.

He finished the season with 87 rebounds.

Although most of the major contributors might be moving up to varsity, Coach Daniel remains optimistic for next season and he believes that he has a good foundation with freshman Tyheim Kennedy staying on the junior varsity level as a sophomore.

The team consisted of 22 players: 15 sophomores and seven freshmen. Sophomore players were Marcos Casado, Fasil Cheema, Sandy Cordero, Angel Diaz, Alejandro Fernandez, Andrew Garcia, Michael Kammerer, Tony Lin, Krizon Maynard, Seamus Ryan, Joshua Rodriguez, Dylan Sankarsingh, Travis Savino, Lincoln Speer, and Charles Urena. The seven freshmen were Malcom Abney, Raheem Brinson, Tyler Gans, Tyheim Kennedy, Jovanny Rodriguez, Sayeed Singh, and Luis Vasquez.



Softball team ready for next year with their new coach.

Handball Team: Rough Year with New Coach

by Lesly Vivar

The Queens Voc handball team had a rough season under Coach Devaux, finishing in last place with a 0-10 record.

“This season has been a learning process for me and the team, even though I have coached other sports,” said Mr. Devaux, who took over the team this year.

Mr. Maloney stepped down as coach earlier this year to continue

to focus more on being the athletic director. “I felt that I could concentrate more on being the athletic director, if I didn’t coach the handball team this year,” said Mr. Maloney.

Andres Ng said, “Having a new coach means having a fresh start. It was different having a new coach but we were able to get along well and do our best as a team.”

The team held practices and

home games at Bush Park.

Tryouts were held early March. “I was looking for players who went to practice consistently, looked at their skills, and if their grades made them eligible,” said the coach.

The players on the handball team were: Cristian Campis, Mike Cando, Jesse Cazarez, Sebastian Lupercio, Andres Murillo, Andres