



QV’s SkillsUSA State Champs Prepare for Nationals

by Chi Lung Hsu

Seniors Miguel Garcia and Krzysztof Jakubowicz are traveling to Kansas City, Missouri, along with their chaperones, Mr. Rivera and Mr. McCarthy, from June 25 to 28. They will join approximately 5600 other SkillsUSA members from all over the country to compete in the SkillsUSA national competition.

In the New York State competition held April 24-26 in Syracuse, Miguel Garcia won first place in residential systems installation and maintenance, and Krzysztof Jakubowicz won first place in plumbing.

This is Miguel’s second trip to the nationals. Last year Miguel also won the New York State competition in residential systems installation and maintenance. He is training with Mr. Rivera and Ms. Zagada, who have simulated last year’s competition for him to practice. Mr. Rivera built a wall for Miguel to practice mounting televisions and a home theatre system. Ms. Zagada is training him to set up networks and routers. “Miguel did well last year in nationals and this year he is practicing in the construction part, which he had no experience in last year. Hopefully, he will win this year,” said Mr. Rivera. Krzysztof is being trained in plumbing. According to Krzysztof, he trains after school and during his shop class on his personal bench built just for him to practice. Krzysztof said he is excited to compete in the nationals. He said he is aware of what is expected and is prepared for it. “I am hoping for the best results in national,” Krzysztof said.



The senior prom took place on Friday, May 31, at Terrace on the Park in Flushing Meadows-Corona Park. Over two-hundred seniors and guests attended. More prom pictures are on page 2.

Students get a Taste of the Real World : Career Day

by Fatima Osman

Freshman Bruce Sorrosa learned that Brian and Danny O’Neill attended “Queens Voc for electrical installation, yet when they left they learned a new trade that they were passionate about.”

Brian and Danny were two of the more than 35 presenters at Career Day, held on Wednesday, May 29.

Career Day is a “good wakeup call to the students, and they might just learn about a career they didn’t know about,” said Mr. Schimenz.

Brian and his brother Danny were two of six Queens Voc alumni who came to speak to students. The O’Neill brothers have been making films since they were kids but “It was in 2008 when we started making money on our own.” The brothers make business, wedding, and party videos. “It was a hobby that became a career,” said Danny. They like working for themselves. “We don’t have a boss and we

enjoy making people happy,” said Mr. Brian O’Neill.

Freshman Katia Rojas said, “I liked the fact that they chose something that made them happy. I learned that even though in Queens



Marine speaks to students.

Voc you are taking a specific shop class doesn’t mean you have to stay in it in the future.”

“I love this school,” Brian said. “The teachers are warm and they genuinely care about what happens to students.” Danny advised students: “Don’t settle for anything less than what you want to do in life. Follow your dream when you find it and go for it, and chase that dream.”

In addition to Brian and Danny, Queens Voc graduates Sylvio Lamisere, Jaime Lopez, Tanvir Toy, and Terel Watson also attended Career Day. “Ms. Abrams does a lot of outreach with our graduates,” said Mr. Schimenz, who scheduled the guests. “Ms. Newman and Ms. Abrams were

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Farewell Ms. Spallone

by Lexi Ambrus

As the senior class of 2013 moves on, so will Queens Voc’s well known sophomore cosmetology teacher, Ms. Spallone.

“I am 70 years old and I am at the age where I can collect the maximum from the Department of Education and Social Security,” said Ms. Spallone of her decision to retire.

“I started at teaching for the City in 1982 because I went through a divorce and I had to take a step back to re-evaluate my life. I took into consideration that I love kids and love cosmetology. I also wanted to be home when my own kids were home,” Ms. Spallone said.

It’s been a great journey, she said. “Becoming a New York City cosmetology teacher was my greatest accomplishment,” Ms. Spallone said.

“I will miss the atmosphere of QV,” she said, “the entire staff, the students, they all help make our school a wonderful place to be.”

Naiya Bustamante, her former sophomore cosmetology student who is now a senior, said “Ms. Spallone is a very passionate and determined teacher. She really pushes her students to be the best to their abilities.” Senior Nichole Perez said, “when I was in Ms. Spallone’s class, she kept making me practice my skills until I got them perfect.”

Ms. Spallone said she chose to teach the 10th grade cosmo classes because it’s a difficult age and time for the students. “I felt I had the knowledge and compassion to

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Regents Schedule

compiled by Andres Ospina

June 11 Tuesday 9:15am	June 12 Wednesday 9:15am	June 13 Thursday 9:15am	June 14 Friday 9:15am	June 17 Monday 9:15am	June 18 Tuesday 9:15am	June 19 Wednesday 9:15am	June 20 Thursday 9:15am
Comprehensive English	U.S. History & Government	Global History & Geography	Physical Setting/ Earth Science	RCT Global Studies	Physical Setting/ Chemistry	Geometry	RCT Writing
1:15pm Living Environment	1:15pm Integrated Algebra	1:15pm Physical Setting/Physics	1:15pm Algebra 2/ Trigonometry RCT Mathematics	1:15pm RCT Reading	1:15pm RCT in U.S. History & Government	1:15pm RCT Science	Admission Deadlines Morning Exams: 10am Afternoon Exams: 2pm

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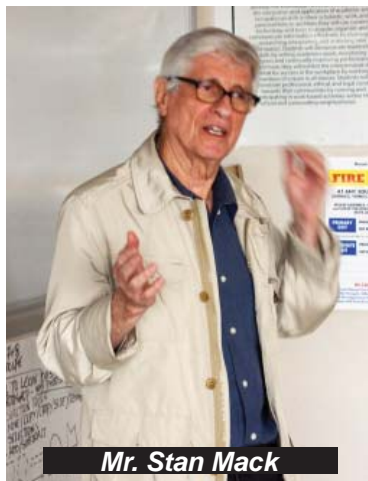
Career Day

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instrumental in us having so many guests," he said.

Mr. DiGiacomo spoke to EI students about his job at Mr. Electric. "I enjoy getting up in the morning to go to my job," he said. Mr. DiGiacomo complimented teachers and students at Queens Voc, calling the students "humble." He told the students in the class that he wants to hire people, so they should call him afterwards if they want a job. Yannis Pascal said he had "worked with Mr. DiGiacomo before so it was great seeing him." David Pena said, "Mr. DiGiacomo made it clear that it takes lots of years to become a master electrician and at first it isn't all the fun it seems to be."

Mr. David Hawkins, who has been an attorney for 10 years, is the principal law clerk for Judge Margulis. Mr. Hawkins enjoys his



Mr. Stan Mack

job because "it's very challenging. You have to think a lot." He said his job involves a lot of researching and writing. Mr. Hawkins, who has been nominated for a judgeship, advised the students that "no matter what you do, study hard and do your homework even if it is boring. Graduate from high school and keep a positive attitude."

Staff Sergeant Marques has been in the Army for the past 14 years. He is a soldier in the military police. "It is a good experience. It requires a lot of training. I got to choose the career path that I am on and it was guaranteed for me. The training that he had was "Basic training in the use of weapons, first aid, land navigation, and job training." Staff Sergeant Marques



Ms. Yolande Matthew



U.S. Armed Forces were well represented at QV.

said that he "was nervous speaking to the students" but that they were very attentive.

Sergeant DeGaetano has been in the Army for nine years. He said he "spoke to students about how important electronics are to the U.S. military and how important it will be in the future." He enjoys his job "because it gave me the opportunity to travel the world. How many can say that they went to Milan, Switzerland, Holland, and Kuwait." Sergeant DeGaetano knows six languages: Spanish, French, Italian, German, Arabic, and English. He advises students to "Say no to dope."

Ms. Lora Soto-Eyester is a "graphic designer for luxury real estate." She said she "loves" her job. "I get to be creative and make money. I also get to do photography, which is my passion," she said. Ms. Lora Soto-Eyester advised students to "go to college and explore."

Freshman Miguel Martinez said he learned that "graphic arts doesn't have to just involve photography. It can spread out to other kinds of designing."

Ms. Rebecca Moran talked about her job. "It is a family owned business and I am one of the owners. We sell nail and spa products to other businesses." Ms. Moran said she enjoys her job because "it is very challenging and it allows me to explore the different types of businesses." She advised students to "be on time and to dream big." Senior Mila Badhon said she learned "that it is often a struggle to be successful." Junior Mike Hernandez said he learned that "hard work pays off." Mike said, "Ms. Moran's talk was helpful because I would like to start my own business one day."

Ms. Rejalaga's sister, Ms. Berenice Agrelo spoke about her career as director of administration for Sunnyside Community Services, running an after school summer camp program." She enjoys her job because "I get to work with children all day and provide the best classes, educational and recreational." Ms. Agrelo advises students "to stay in school, take education seriously, pursue a college degree, follow your dreams, and research what it takes to get the career

you want." Freshmen Corina Barboto and Charles Urena found the presentation "entertaining." Charles said he learned that Ms. Agrelo is "hardworking and has a lot of responsibilities."

Other speakers were: Ricardo Abraham, Mirkeya Capellan, Leon Cohen, Louis Carpio, Melinda Ehrlich, Alex Echevarria, Nicholas Ferrara, Christopher Gerber, Herminia Gomez, Marcia



Queens Voc grads return home to discuss their careers.

Grant, Eric Greenberg, Joseph Herndon, Marie-Louise Jacques, Marvin Jeffcoat, Claude Joseph, T.J. Kinsella, Nechelle Leverette, Stan Mack, Kelly Mallinson, Yolande Matthew, Rebecca Moran, Emilio Nepomuceno, Dino Parisi, and David Seliktar.

"A lot of people played a role to make Career Day successful," said Mr. Schimenz. "Mr. Vega and his Leadership students set up and decorated the library, and the Leadership students escorted the guests." Some teachers and other staff members brought in guests. It's all worthwhile. "The students get a lot out of hearing from people in the business world," he said.

Principal Burg and the Queens Voc community thanks all the guests who took time out to speak at Career Day 2013

Farewell Ms. Spallone

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guide and help them," she said. "It is an unexplainable feeling to see my students eyes light up when they understand what I am teaching," said Ms. Spallone.

There's no clowning around when it comes to how Ms. Burg feels about the retiring cosmo teacher. "Ms. Spallone is a sweet, kind-hearted woman. She has a really good spirit and will truly be missed," said the principal.

Ms. Spallone was chosen for the 2013 Outstanding CTE Teacher award and was honored at the awards recognition ceremony in February. "I think it was lovely and well deserved," said Ms. Burg, who attended the ceremony.

"I love Queens Voc. I love the students, my administrators, the staff, and my colleagues. They are all eager to help one another," she said. "Oh! And how could I forget about the girls' in the office. They are the best!" she added.

"A special thanks to those who have always taken the time to guide and help me in countless ways without hesitation. Thank you for the time we spent together!" Ms. Spallone said.

Although she will be retiring, Ms. Spallone intends to be active in her retirement and will still work with the United Federation of Teachers (UFT).

"A Night Under the Stars": 2013 Prom Pictures



59 Units Donated During Spring Blood Drive



Anthony Velazquez shows no fear while giving blood.

by Melissa D. Espinosa

Queens Voc’s second blood drive of the year took place on May 14, from 8am to 2 pm. “Queens Voc donated 59 units of blood, one unit short of our goal, but it was more than what the New York Blood Center expected, which was very good,” said Mr. Vega, coordinator of student activities, who also coordinates the blood drives at Queens Voc. Kimani Brown, a senior in leadership, was in charge of the blood drive. She and nine juniors from leadership collaborated on the blood drive to make sure everything went smoothly. According to Kimani, 71 people registered but only 53 were able to donate; people donated either platelets, which count as two units of blood, and/or whole red blood cells. “It was a good number of participants,” said Mr. Vega. Kimani assured donors that if an emergency were to occur, trained doctors were on site to attend any emergency. Karena Tangarife, a senior, fainted two hours after donating. “I wasn’t nervous when I donated blood because I’ve donated before. I had rested enough and ate after donating, but while I was

rushing up the stairs to get to class, I started to get dizzy so I stopped on the third floor and I couldn’t breathe, then my vision started to get blurry, my mind went blank, and from there, I don’t remember anything.” Other students who donated blood were positive about their experiences. Erick Loja, a senior and blood donor said, “this is my second time donating blood. My arm felt ticklish but unlike other people I did not feel dizzy.” Erick added that he wanted to donate because he wants to help people who needed blood. Joel Pazmino, another senior and a blood donor said, “I felt a little weak and my arm went numb. This was the first time that I donated and I think it is important because many people need blood and there are many more who can donate blood for them.” According to the New York Blood Center, there are some precautions before and after donating blood. Before donating blood, a donor should drink plenty of fluids and eat a complete meal. After donating, a donor should sit 15 minutes to rest, drink plenty of fluids, leave their bandages on for four to six hours, and eat regularly.



Checking iron levels and blood pressure is a serious matter.

Queens Voc to Offer Summer School

by Amin Al-Sayed

Summer school is being held in Queens Voc for the first time in many years. So many in fact, no one seems to remember exactly how long it has been. “A number of years ago we held it, I remember because I prepared it,” said Mr. Davidson, program chairman. Summer school is usually held in Long Island City High School, but the school will be occupied

with repair crews throughout the summer, said Mr. Alikakos, assistant principal for required organization during the program. Summer school will consist of students from Queens Voc and LIC. “They have opened the doors for us over the years; it’s only right we open our doors to them,” he said. According to Mr. Alikakos, all core classes as well as Physical Education, Health, and Art will

be held in the summer. There will be 22 classes and teachers during the summer school program at Queens Voc. Summer classes will be held from July 8 to August 12. Classes will be two hours long, within the hours of 8am and 3pm. A student can take a maximum of three classes but can take an extra class online if necessary. The teachers will be chosen from Queens’s Voc and LIC based on their seniority.

Students Never Stop Attending School

by Diego Palacios

Sixty-eight students at Queens Voc have had perfect attendance since the first day of the 2012-2013 school year. Of the 68 students, 24 are freshmen, 18 are sophomores, 19 are juniors, and seven are seniors. According to Mr. Daniel, Queens Voc attendance coordinator, these students have attended school every day from September 6 through May 28.

Freshmen

Azanes, Carol
Calva Romero, Cesar
Castillo, Jefferson
Chen, Minyi
Dejesus, Jerick
Dolma, Passang

Dos Reis, Gabriela
Enriquez, Adalid
Flores, Isabel
Kwunchaithanya, Disorn
Miller, Gabriel
Muniz, Daisy
Nahuacatl, Guadalupe
Pina Velez, Josue
Rebollar, Ruben
Rodriguez, Joshua
Salgado, Heaven
Sanchez, Carlos
Shi, Anthony
Singh, Tia
Susano, Gorge
Toohey, Derek
Vazquez, Michael
Zheng, Xi

Sophomores

Aucacama, Hillary
Aung, Htet Naing
Bonilla, Pedro

Cai, Xiao Wen
Catorce, Kimberly
Chabla, Kelvin
Dutan, Marc
Garcia, Marcos
Hernandez, Jonathan
Ng, Andres
Quizhpi, Sandra
Sobilo, Jacob
Tan, Bruce
Tavarez, Denny
Vazquez, Mark
Wang, Xiaoping
Yu, Qingsi
Zumba, Erika

Juniors

Abreu, Pamela
Chen, Wen Li
Chung, Kenneth
Coro, Nicole
Cuamani, Edwin
Garcia, Ricardo
Gonzalez, Sahury
Mai, Feng Yi
Martinez, Agustin
Martinez, Clemente
Morales, Leonardo
Paucar, Lesley
Puchuela, Tania
Rai, Arun
Silva Hernandez, Omar
Vilcapoma, Jefferson
Vivar, Lesly
Vivar Bravo, Daniela
Yunga, Javier

Seniors

Modesto, Guicela
Murphy, Michael
Quizhpi, Jesse
Sanchez, Denise
Santander, Jesse
Tacuri, Jessica
Xue, Raymond

Juniors and Seniors Await NOCTI Test Results

by Kimani Brown

Senior Cosmetology and Junior Accounting students took the National Occupational Competency Testing Institute exam this May in order to receive a CTE Endorsed Diploma when they graduate. “It is an exam given to students to show that they have met the required standards to perform in the industry and display what they’ve learned,” said Ms. Newman, director of SES. “There are different difficulty levels of the exam to take but I do not recommend them, so only the high school level is given at QV,” said Ms. Newman. The exam is divided into two different parts, which are the written portion and the practical portion. Accounting students took their written NOCTI Exam on Tuesday, May 14, and the practical on Wednesday, May 15 and Thursday, May 16. The exam was given in the cafeteria during periods 1, 2 and 3. Ms. Burg, Ms. Miaoulis, Mr. Mugan, Ms. Newman, and Ms.

Simms proctored the examination. “The exam was relatively easy except for some of multiple choice questions, which were a little confusing. Overall, I think I was well prepared and did all right on the exam,” said Suveer Seemangal, a junior accounting student who took the NOCTI exam. Cosmetology students took their written NOCTI Exam on Monday, May 13 in the cafeteria during periods 1 and 2. The practical was given during periods 1 to 8, from May 14 to May 16, in the Elite Salon of the school. Ms. Basirico, Ms. D’Onofrio, Ms. Gross, Ms. Newman, and Ms. Torres proctored the test. “I think I did well since we reviewed most of the topics in class. During the practical, the hardest part for me was getting the haircut to look precise,” said Denisse Abreu, a senior cosmetologist. “I think I did very well on the exam and I’m glad I got it over with. After being in the class for three years, I better have passed,” said Safreen Akbar, another senior cosmetologist.

After the exam was taken, the tests were sent back to NOCTI to be graded and will take about 2 weeks for the results to come in for students and teachers to look at. “The scores for cosmetology should be back between June 3 and 7, and the accounting scores should be in the last day of class on June 10. The grades will be put on the students’ final transcript with either a pass or fail,” said Ms. Newman.

CTE Night Helps Freshmen Pick Their Major

by Miguel Garcia

CTE night gives freshmen a chance to learn about majors they didn't get to try in Exploratory, and allows their parents to see in action the majors Queens Voc offers.

"CTE night changed my mind about what major I was going to pick. I initially wanted to pick business, but after seeing all the shops I found plumbing the most interesting because it involves math and hands on work," said freshman Eryk Rogulski.

CTE night was held on Thursday, April 18, from 6pm to 8:30pm. "Of the 405 freshmen this year, 227 attended with their families. This was a great turnout, said Ms. Dattner, the 9th grade guidance counselor, "because we told the 136 freshmen already majoring in computer technology, cosmetology, and graphic arts that they did not need to come unless they wanted to change majors."

At the beginning of the night, the students and their families were directed to the auditorium

where the night's activities were explained, said Ms. Dattner. Mr. Vega, who helped organize the event, said that "freshmen and their parents were allowed to attend four ten-minute sessions and were led by leadership students and baseball players."

The presentations were held in the CTE rooms. Ms. Mitchell, Ms. Newman, and Ms. Volpe held presentations for business. Ms. Zagada showed off computer components for computer technology. Ms. Quartuccio conducted a presentation for cosmetology. Mr. Abreu and Mr. Mendez demonstrated electrical installation. Ms. Ramdeo explained electronics. Mr. Garcia and Mr. Petrilli presented graphic arts. Mr. McCarthy showed off the plumbing room. CTE teachers had current students help with the presentations, which focused on what freshmen would be learning during the next three years if they decide to choose that major.

"At the end of the night, the freshmen and their parents went back to the auditorium to fill out



Student listens to C-Techie.

a form with their first and second choices for majors. The majors they could choose from are business, computer technology, cosmetology, electrical installation, electronics, graphic arts, and plumbing," said Ms. Dattner.

"Electrical installation was the most popular first choice, like every year," said Ms. Dattner. Ninety-six freshmen chose EI as their first choice, 66 freshmen chose cosmetology, 47 freshmen chose computer technology, 42 picked business, 35 chose plumbing, 28 chose electronics, and 11 chose graphic arts. "I still have no information on eighty of the freshmen," said Ms. Dattner.

"After CTE night, I decided to pick electronics as my first choice because it seems fun and I liked what the seniors and juniors were talking about, especially about the home entertainment system," said freshman Guadalupe Juarez.

Ms. Dattner said some previous CTE night efforts helped the School of Entrepreneurial Studies. "More freshmen chose business this year than ever before, which was influenced because Ms. Newman invited the 9th graders to visit business classes the week of CTE night," she said.



Packed auditorium at CTE night.

Queens Voc Once Again a Blue Star School

by Andy Collado

Queens Voc has become a Blue Star School with an 81% passing rate on the financial literacy exam. To become a Blue Star School a school must achieve a 75% passing rate.

Dachuan Dai, Jahaira Paguay, Luis Ramirez, and Mokit Uddin were named financial scholars, scoring 95 or higher on the exam.

Mr. Davidson's students' passing rate earned him the Gold Star teacher award, as 98% of his students passed the test. The award is given to teachers who achieve a 90% passing rate in at least one of their classes.

The seniors and Mr. Davidson will receive their awards at the Museum of Finance, on June 10. Ms. Newman will accompany the

four scholars and award-winning teacher at the financial literacy scholars' reception on Wall Street.

Mr. Davidson had a 98.4% passing rate, with 61 of 62 students passing the test. The average score of his students was 82.9. Mr. Gallagher had an 88.2% passing rate, with 15 of 17 passing the test. The average score of his students was 75.2. Mr. MacDonald had a 57.1% passing rate, with 16 of 28 passing the test. The average score of his students was 61.7. Mr. Stefanidis had an 80.3% passing rate, with 57 of 71 passing the test. The average score of his students was 71.3. Mr. Schimenz and Mr. MacDonald teach an Economics class together. That class had a 72% passing rate, with 18 of 25 students passing the test. The average score of their

students was 68.6. Mr. Zambrotta had an 80.3% passing, with 49 of 61 students passing the test. The average score of his students was 71.7.

The course is taught at Queens Voc in the fall to senior business classes and in the spring to senior economics classes.

Mr. Davidson first taught financial literacy to his economics class in 2010. In 2011, the program was offered to all economics classes in the school.

According to Mr. Davidson, being financially literate means students can manage their money in an intelligent way, a very important life skill. Students learn aspects of finance such as taxes, budgeting, credit, banking, and protecting themselves from identity theft he said.

R=AIN at the AIDS Walk

by Crystal Scottborgh

Ms. Dayna Kurnitz, SAPIS counselor, coordinated Queens Voc's participation in this year's AIDS walk, held on Sunday May 19.

Although she did not participate in the walk because of a family commitment, she worked along with R=AIN, Queens Voc's gay-straight alliance, Aviation High school's GSA, and Ms. Ritter, an English teacher at Aviation, to raise money.

Ms. Kurnitz hoped to raise more than \$2400, which is what R=AIN raised last year for the AIDS walk. R=AIN, Aviation's GSA, Ms. Kurnitz and Ms. Ritter have already raised over \$2500 and will continue to raise money until June 15, the final day contributions will be accepted.

Mr. Stuart participated as Queens Voc's chaperone in the AIDS walk. Ms. Kurnitz invited students, faculty, alumni, friends and family to participate with R=AIN in the AIDS walk. "I've never participated in a walk before, but this one caught my attention. I haven't really seen people stand up for AIDS as they might for cancer. I wanted to be that difference," said Valentina Betancourt, an alumnus from Queens Voc.

Hillary Rios, a freshman R=AIN member, said she went to the walk expecting to see sick people walking, but surprisingly

found celebrities, athletes and local people participating in the AIDs walk. "People go expecting a certain type of person. They expect only gay men to participate in the walk because AIDS is known as 'the gay man's disease.' That's not true at all. You see all sorts of people including babies, children, and people of all sexual orientations. After participating in the AIDS walk you come back with a different notion--more open minded about the carriers of the disease and about what this walk really represents," said Ms. Kurnitz.

"It's more of an equality walk, where people of all races, sexual orientations, and ages participate to walk to find a cure for AIDS," said Naiya Bustamante, one of the presidents of R=AIN.

The AIDS walk started at the 59th Street entrance of Central Park. It was a six and a quarter mile walk, which began at 10am.

R=AIN's two presidents Naiya Bustamante and Andi Syarifah will be graduating this year. Ms. Kurnitz said next year the club will be run by a committee. "I trust these guys; they have been committed members," said Andi, very confident about the selection of the club's next president.

R=AIN has made some plans for next year including introducing R=AIN at freshmen orientation. They also plan to attend next year's AIDS walk, and the NYC Pride Festival.

Students on Broadway!

by Andres Cadavid

Queens Voc students have gone to Broadway. Literally.

Mr. Vega took 20 leadership students to see Spiderman at Foxwoods Theatre on April 16. According to Mr. Vega, the coordinator of student activities, the trip was to reward leadership students who have helped him throughout the year. The students left from school at 4:30pm and returned at 9:40pm. "I got to see Spiderman and it was great to watch with my fellow friends" said Senior Amin Al-Sayed. The Spiderman show is about Spiderman's life story in a musical format for students who like musicals and or just fans of Spiderman.

Two weeks later, Mr. Vega led a trip of 35 students to Motown: The Musical at the Lunt-Fontanne Theatre on May 1. Mr. MacDonald, Ms. Martinez, and Mr. Rodriguez chaperoned along with Mr. Vega. According to Isaac Morales, a senior, the students who participated in the talent show said

the students who helped organize it got to go. "The trip was a good experience and I'm glad I did not miss it," said Denisse Carbo, a student who helped organize the talent show. Motown: The Musical is about exposing African American music known as Jazz to the students who attended the trip.

At the end of May, 25 students attended the Lion King at the Minskoff Theatre. Mrs. Burg, Ms. Dayna, Ms. Rejalaga, and Mr. Vega chaperoned the trip for students who participated in Respect For All Week. For a week in February, students were asked to wear colors that represented toleration of various lifestyles in the world, according to Maria Abbasi, a senior leadership student who participated in the trip. Students left at 4:30pm and returned at 10:00pm. "It was amazing to see the Lion King from a different perspective," said Maria. The Lion King show is about a lion named Simba, heir to the throne, and the jealousy his uncle has for him.

Cosmo Students Attend Beauty Show

by Khiran Samsundar

The International Beauty Show was held on May 19 and 20, at the Meadowlands Expo Center in New Jersey.

Over 45 Queens Voc freshmen, sophomores, and juniors attended the show, which is held for cosmetologists to help improve their skills and learn about new products.

Tickets at the door were \$75, but the Queens Voc students purchased tickets through an early bird special, paying only \$60. A fundraiser they held further reduced the cost per student to \$30.



Breanna's a model at show.

The fundraiser, held by cosmetology freshmen on May 14, raised \$1,100, which not only lowered the cost of the tickets but also gave the girls spending money to purchase cosmetology supplies that are not found in stores.

Ms. Lingstuyl said the students watched demonstrations, spoke to professionals about the industry, and participated in student competitions at the event. Several students won prizes for answering questions, she said.

Cheyenne Trail was glad she attended the show. "I learned about various products I can use on different types of hair and different ways to cut hair. I thought it was worth going to the beauty show because it is a good

experience, and I learned a lot of things that I didn't know," she said. Cheyanne said she "really enjoyed watching the hairstyling competition because it showed me a lot of different hairstyles I still haven't done yet. Watching the professionals competing helped me because it showed me the right way and helped improved my techniques."

Gabriela Dos Reis learned that "age doesn't matter, all that matters is the skills and dedication you have, which can take you very far." Gabriela added, "I enjoyed watching the hair styling competition because it gave me different ideas of styles I can try. I learned that everyone has different skills and works at their own pace. I think it was worth going to the beauty show because I was able to see how people work and different products."

Ms. Lingstuyl took the students to the show because "it is an excellent opportunity for the cosmetology students to enjoy and learn educational classes that feature hair coloring, weaving techniques, and curling procedures, among other topics. Many of the exhibitors featured products we use at the school now and new products that we will be able to get in the near future. The show can only benefit students as they continue on their career path," Ms. Lingstuyl said.

According to Ms. Lingstuyl, Sharon Angamarca, Abigail Arriaga, Cindy Caranqui, Odalis Flores, Serenity Gonzalez, Ashleigh Gooden, Liz Gutierrez, Erika Jara, Tania Jerez, Almadely leal, Jennifer Penafiel, Cheyanne Traill, Daisy Urgiles, Erika Zumba, played a major role with the bake sale.

"The bake sale was quite successful and the girls received many compliments. The feedback was very positive and served to confirm how nicely done the event was. Best of all, the students were able to experience how rewarding teamwork can be," she said.



Student-poets and Ms. Himmel: poems out and ready.

Poem in your Pocket

by Laura Duarte

The culminating event for poetry month at Queens Voc was Poem in Your Pocket Day, held on Tuesday, April 30, during periods four and five. "The kids selected poems they had written or poems they liked and went to classrooms to read them," said Ms. Himmel, poetry club advisor, who started the event last year as a way to get the whole school involved with poetry.

Poetry club students who participated in Poem in Your Pocket Day were Arturo Castillo, Ashley Arango, Delon Delgado, Gabriella Martinez, Juan Prado, Kevin McClain, Marie Vargas, Maritza Murudumbay, Michael Feliz, Valentin Martinez, Xiaoping Wang, and Zinniah Munoz.

Gabriella Martinez, who also participated in the event last year, said that, "more students participated in the event this year and that made it all the better since there were new ideas to go around."

"My poem was 'Hope is the Thing with Feathers' by Emily Dickinson, I was a little bit nervous

presenting but I had a charismatic partner who helped me feel at ease," said Gabby.

Students went around the classrooms with a partner of their choosing to deliver their favorite poems, whether it was their own or from a favorite poet.

"I wanted to help Ms. Himmel out, she was also giving extra credit and I didn't want to miss out on that," said Michael Feliz, first time participant. Michael went around classrooms with his partner Gabby and read his poems "A Feeling" and "What am I?"

"I found it's easy to come up with poems, it's basically your feelings in a rhythm," said Michael.

Teachers signed up for the event to have students recite poems during their fourth and fifth period classes. Teachers who participated in the event were Mr. Alohan, Mr. Burke, Mr. Elfreich, Ms. Gross, Ms. Mitchell, Mr. Nadler, Mr. Raushaun, Mr. Raynor, Ms. Rejalaga, Ms. Simms, and Ms. Volpe.

"I feel it's important for students to be exposed to a variety of literature and appreciate it,"

DCW Shows a Profit

by Judy Moy

As the school year comes to an end, Diverse City Wear, Queens Voc's Virtual Enterprise organization, has been busy with its annual report, a Job Readiness Workshop, and the International Trade Show.

The annual report describes DCW's operations and financial positions. It includes financial statements, management discussions, a corporate message, and letter to the stockholders. Ms. Mitchell, VE/DCW coordinator, said that they haven't fully finished this report yet, but they definitely earned a profit.

The Job Readiness Workshop took place on Saturday, May 11, at an accounting firm called Deloitte & Touche. According to Ms. Mitchell, the mandatory workshop for VE students taught them how to be job-ready. They learned how

to write resumes and prepare for interviews, and the importance of workplace etiquette.

At the International Trade Show in Manhattan held in April, students operated a booth where DCW conducted business-to-business transactions and business-to-consumer transactions.

VE International also offered VE students jobs over the summer time. Seven Queens Voc students applied. Katia Ascenio, Lisbeth Mejia, Kenya Olmedo, Monica Orellana, and Jessica Perez were interviewed and offered jobs. Phillip Gooding and Suveer Seemangal will be interviewed in the near future.

The VE class is getting ready to close down for the year, but looking ahead. "We are refining and gearing up for next year, like changing positions of staff members," Ms. Mitchell said.

said Mr. Raushaun. He not only thought that the students who presented the poems were courageous for sharing but the fact that they shared poems that were "sensitive and personal" was cool, he said.

"I think they [students reciting] did a wonderful job. I'm glad Ms. Himmel is doing this. She brings culture into our school whether it is on bulletin boards or in the classrooms," said Mr. Raynor.

R=AIN's Busy Schedule

by Jessica Alcaide

R=AIN raised over \$2,500 over the course of two jewelry sales that took place on April 29 and May 9.

This money was donated to the AIDS Walk. "The two sales were a success. We earned more money compared to last year, we also had fun and I was really happy for all the effort that the kids put on this," said Ms. Dayna, the club's advisor.

The AIDS Walk took place on May 19 in Central Park. Approximately 67 students from Queens Voc participated in the walk.

On May 21, 21 R=AIN members attended the Jewish Heritage Museum, to hear a presentation about hate, bullying, plagiarism, and issues affecting teenagers and gay people.

Also at the trip, Ms. Dayna said, "we went on a tour called 'Meeting Hate with Humanity' that was focused on how Germany oppressed Jews and killed 6 million of them. The ones who were still alive continued to live with hope and planned their futures despite what was happening to them.

On June 7, R=AIN had its end of the year party. "Everyone brought food from outside to say goodbye to the seniors who won't be with us next year, and I thanked all the kids for being so dedicated to the club," she said.

This was a very good year for R=AIN, said Ms. Dayna. "I'm excited that this year we did more than in past years. After Steffi's death things changed but now we are getting back on track."

Next year, R=AIN will be run by committee instead of officers. Ms. Dayna decided to do this because "It will be very hard to pick presidents because there are many kids that are very involved in the club." The two current officers of the club are seniors Naiya Bustamante and Andi Octaviano. Since both are graduating, Ms. Dayna has to find students to help her run the club.

Another plan is "to present R=AIN at the upcoming freshmen orientation," said Ms. Dayna.



Ms. Lingstuyl with her students at the beauty show.



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by Marilynn Bonilla

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Senior Shop Profiles

by Joseph Taveras

Teachers were asked to choose a student who had the best working abilities and knowledge in their respected shop classes.

Questions-

1. Why did you pick this major?
2. Do you think you are going to continue this major in the future? Why?
3. What do you like the most about this major?
4. What do you dislike about this major?
5. Why did your teacher choose you?

Denisse Carbo - Electronic
 Engineering – Mr. Ali



1. I picked this major because it includes a lot of hands on work and it makes you think.
2. Yes, because I really like how this field has a lot of opportunities.
3. I like soldering and making circuit boards the most.
4. I do not dislike anything about this major.
5. He chose me because I am always helping others and I am always on task.

Judy Moy - Graphic Arts – Mr. Garcia

1. I picked this major because I liked art since 7th grade and it is one of the reasons I came to this school.
2. Yes, because I enjoy doing it.
3. I like working with the program Photoshop the most.
4. I don't have any dislikes about the major.
5. My teacher chose me because I am focused and I put a lot of effort in my work.



Liya Su - Business – Web Design
 – Ms. Ogunka and Ms. Volpe



1. I picked this major because it can earn a lot of money and I enjoy business.
2. Yes, because it is a chance to change my life.
3. I like the math and the accountant part the most.
4. I dislike that there is too much class work.
5. My teacher chose me because I finish all my work on time, I come on time, and I'm so quiet.

Amanda Iturralde - Computer
 Technology – Mr. David



1. I picked this major because I was in the mouse squad in the 8th grade and the mouse squad director recommended this school for me.
2. Yes, I am in college but I don't know after that yet.
3. There are a lot of hands on work and I find it very interesting.
4. The only thing I dislike about my major is my teacher.
5. My teacher chose me because I try hard to get my work done.

Valerie Lara-Lopez - Electrical
 Installation – Mr. Abreu



1. I picked this major because it is the only one I liked.
2. No, because I am going to pursue something else in college.
3. I like to work hands on the most.
4. I dislike that this major is filled with guys.
5. My teacher chose me because I do well on my tests and I come on time.

Saul Cruz - Electrical Installation – Mr. Bowen



1. I picked electrical installation as my major because I like to work with my hands and have always been interested in wiring.
2. I do think I am going to continue my major in the future because it's something I saw that I would enjoy doing as a living.
3. The things I like in my major are that it's challenging and you can stand back and be proud of it.
4. I do not dislike anything about Electrical Installation.
5. I think my teacher chose me because I showed a level of professionalism and hard work that few students show.

Diego Palacios - Electrical Installation – Mr. Maloney

1. I picked this major because I found it interesting in 9th grade exploratory program.
2. Yes, because I plan to join the union Local 3 and take it from there.
3. I like working with different tools and electrical devices.
4. I dislike that I get dirty and have to work in really cramped and close places.
5. My teacher chose me because I always do my work and I try my best every day.



Krzysztof Jakubowicz - Plumbing – Mr. Rivera

1. I picked plumbing because I did side work as a kid and noticed that I had an opportunity to make a lot of money.
2. Yes, because I got a job offer from the plumbers union Local 1 right after high school.
3. I like the mixture of mental and physical work the most.
4. I dislike that sometimes you have to get dirty during the job but afterwards it's all worth it.
5. My teacher chose me because I have a professional attitude and I'm always striving to learn more about the trade.



Cosmetology – Ms. Quartuccio – Everybody in the class.

GET TO CLASS!

A Poem by Mr. Gallagher

Hey, let’s go, get to class!
Don’t even try and tell me you
have a pass!
Come on, clear the halls; You
two -- stop kissing!
Think of all the instructional time
you’re missing.
And put away those headphones;
take off your hat!
You know we have rules about
that!
It’s been 10 minutes now since
class has begun
And you won’t even walk, let
alone run.
Regents Exams will be here in
the blink of an eye
We want you to do more than just
get by
So before you go say that I’m
being a pest
Remember that I only want
what’s best
You know, it really isn’t all that
rare
To find teachers at Queens Voc
who really do care
I sincerely hope for you to
succeed and to pass
So hey, let’s go, get to class.

On May 30, the Seventh Annual Poetry Slam was held in the library...



Some of the many participants at the Poetry Slam.

Congratulations 2013 Poetry Slam Winners!



The Poetry Slam Winners.

First Place
Zinnia Munoz

Second Place
Juan Prado

Third Place
Delon Delgado

Changes to Trig Classes Might Result in Better Regents Scores

by Raymond Xue

Over the last several years Ms. Nguyen, Mr. Raynor and Ms. Watkins discussed extending the trigonometry curriculum. The plan, Mr. Raynor said, was “to take all the topics of trigonometry which used to be a one year course, and spread it into a year and a half so that we could go more in-depth with each topic,” such as quadratics, series, and probabilities. The program began this year. The hope is that lengthening the course will lead to increased Regents scores.

“Last year we gained support from the High Schools That Work network and got approval from Ms. Burg.” Mr. Raynor said.

Ms. Nguyen, Mr. Raynor, Ms. Watkins teach the trigonometry classes, which run over the course of a year and a half. The class, which students begin in September of their junior year, is not optional. In the first year, the juniors take Algebra 2, and the next fall, when they are seniors, they will take Trigonometry.

“We implemented this concept because of low Regents grades,” Ms Watkins said. Further “some students haven’t passed the

Geometry and Algebra 1 Regents, which are the fundamentals for trigonometry. The students who score lower than 80 on their Algebra Regents and did not pass Geometry Regents have to take the extended trigonometry class.”

“There are too many topics to cover and some topics take more time to teach compared to other topics. It is too much pressure for the students,” said Mr. Raynor. “This will benefit the students because the courses can now be covered thoroughly. A student once complained that we were learning a new topic every day and wanted to slow down.”

According to Mr. Raynor, “We will know if this is working when we get the Regents results in January 2014 to see if it had a measurable impact or not.”

“The grade the school gets is based in part on Regents scores. The DOE only looks at numbers. I believe those in the extended trig course would have a better chance of passing the Trigonometry Regents compared to those that take trig for 1 year because students can reinforce their previous math concepts that they learned throughout the previous years,” Mr. Raynor said.

Seniors’ Best Memories

compiled by Raymond Gomez

Raul Rosario

One of my favorites was the football game during senior trip. We all had a lot of fun in the snow. We split into two teams; Garofano was the quarterback for one team and Devaux was the other quarterback. We also went snow tubing. Most of us went to the club that they had. There were two clubs: one played English music and the other played Spanish music. The food there was good also. We had a great time at the hallway parties that we had. We had snacks, Capri-suns, and dancing. We had fun at paintball. There was a paintball place not too far from the resort. We had a blast shooting each other. They also had an indoor gym with basketball, volleyball, soccer, a pool table, air hockey, and ping pong.

Michael Callao

I remember when in 2010, Sauvik Banik and I had gym together and we used to always do dumb things. We would kick the volleyballs across the room and just throw them at each other. It was a very fun year. That was the first year when I met Sauvik, and he is a pretty awesome dude and I couldn’t have fun at Queens Voc without him.

Jonathan Henry

My best memories were the trips to Hofstra University in 2011 and Six Flags last year. Going to Hofstra University everyone took the coach bus, but we took the cheese bus. We were free-styling and rapping; it was fun. We saw the robotics team. It was remarkable and amazing what they were able to do. I got to experience the thrill of the team representing Queens Voc. I got to be with my friends and hang out. We took the coach bus to Six Flags and I went more than once. We went on a weekend I believe with Mr. Garcia at the end of the year. We went early in the morning and got to get on all the rides, even more than once. It was during fright fest. It was a scary experience for a lot of people. Everybody was running from people in costumes. People got to bond and get closer. Queens Voc should have trips more often.

Johnathan Concepcion

My best memory was being able to go to the senior citizen center with my cosmetology girls, not only getting to do hair, nails, and facials for the seniors, but also becoming friends with them and really understanding the older generation, how they survived World War I and II, and how they have seen so much more than us.

Senior Shop Profiles

Christian Flores - Business – Taxation – Ms. Mitchell

Safreen Akbar - Cosmetology – Ms. Gonzalez

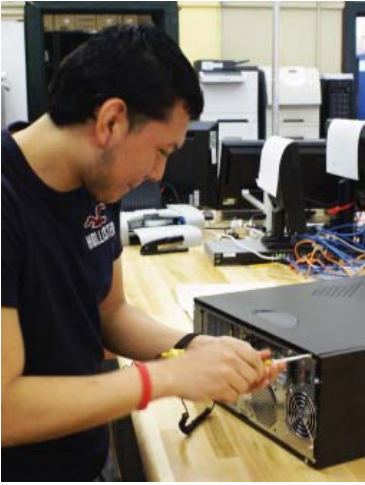
Richard Vega - Computer Technology – Mr. Rodriguez



1. I picked this major because it was one out of the two options so I decided to go with business.
2. Yes, because I got to experience accounting which I am interested in it and I’m good at it.
3. I like that you can use your knowledge to help yourself out, such as being able to fill out forms
4. I don’t dislike anything about my major.
5. My teacher chose me because I always do my work and I pass my tests.



1. I picked this major because since I was younger I was passionate about styling hair and nails.
2. Yes, because it would be a great way to gain experience and use my cosmetology license to get a part-time job.
3. I like styling my clients hair and seeing how happy they are to receive my services.
4. I do not dislike anything about this major.
5. Mrs. Gonzales chose me because I am very responsible and I’m always helping out.



1. I picked this major because I was into computers since I was five. I also noticed that technology is evolving.
2. Yes, because I plan to pursue this major in college.
3. I like the hands on that is done and I like working inside the computer which is the best part.
4. I dislike the when people ask what is wrong with the computer; they do not specify their problem.
5. My teacher told me because I passed the certification test earlier on my first try. I also managed to maintain one of the highest test grade scores in the class.

Junior Shop Profiles

by Ashley DeMoss

1. Why did you choose this major?
2. If you had the option of choosing another major, what would it be and why?
3. What would you do differently from the senior class of 2013 when you become a senior as far as senior activities?
4. Do you expect more work next year?
5. Are you preparing for the SATs for college or are you looking to go right into the job market?

Radfan Ali
Electrical Installation
Mr. Maloney



1. I choose it because I like it.
2. No. I wouldn't change my major.
3. By doing more work to better the school.
4. No, because we've done a lot of work this year.
5. I'm not sure yet.

Anna Cedeno
Marketing
Ms. Newman



1. I didn't want this major but there wasn't enough room in cosmo.
2. I would stick with business because it would help you a lot in the future.
3. I don't know.
4. I think it's going to be as much work as any other year.
5. I'm preparing to go to John Jay after I graduate.

Pamela Abreu
Graphic Arts
Mr. Petrilli



1. I like to create new things on computers.
2. No, because I love graphic arts.
3. No.
4. Yes, because senior year is the hardest year.
5. I plan on going to college.

Jorge Estrada
Plumbing
Mr. Rivera



1. I found it very interesting and I love hands-on work.
2. I wouldn't change my major because I enjoy the people I work with and learning new things.
3. I have no idea.
4. Yes, because its one year closer to graduating and going out into the field.
5. I plan on working and going to college.

Dillon Lalchand
C-Tech
Ms. Zagada



1. I've always had an interest in computers.
2. No, because I find the things we do in computers very interesting and I already have pre-developed skills.
3. Not really, no.
4. Yes, I do because we are going to be working toward our A-plus certification and I heard it was very hard.
5. I plan on going to college but I'm not sure which one.

Nemesis Noel
Cosmetology
Ms. D'Onofrio



1. I don't know. I thought it would be a good shop to join and it was interesting.
2. I think it would be business because it would help me in the future as far as getting a job.
3. Avoid less drama.
4. I do. I think it's going to be a little more challenging than this year.
5. I want to go to college but I think I will work while I'm in college.

Gabrielle Butler - Electronics - Ms. Ramedo



1. I chose my shop class because I wanted to do more advanced math and I wanted to learn more about engineering.
2. If I could change my shop, it would be C-Tech because of the new programs they added.
3. In my senior year, I would study more and strengthen my diplomatic relations.
- 4.No.
5. I plan on going to Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Katia Ascenio
Business
Mr. Mugan



1. Because I didn't like any other major and because business revolves around your life.
2. I think ill choose graphic arts because it's interesting how they make designs on the computers.
3. Create more senior spirit weeks.
4. Not really because I'm basically done with requirements to graduate.
5. I'm preparing to go to Baruch.

Natasha Armas
Cosmetology
Ms. D'Onofrio



1. Because I like working with hair.
2. I would choose graphic arts because you could be creative.
3. I would have more activities and trips for the seniors.
4. Yes.
5. I'm preparing to go to college and a career in psychology or being a social worker.

Senior Ring Festival: Another Step Toward Graduation

by Raymond Gomez

the senior advisor.

The Senior Ring Ceremony was held on May 15, during periods two, three, and four in the auditorium.

"Approximately 22 students purchased rings," said Mr. Vega,

The ceremony was hosted by Principal Burg, AP Alikakos, and Jose Marine, owner of Herff Jones Co.

The rings ranged in price from \$89 to \$500 or more. Orders were taken in Jan., Feb., and March.



Parents and students listen as Mr. Marine presents rings.

THE VOCATIONAL VOICE STAFF
WISHES OUR READERS A RELAXING AND
PRODUCTIVE VACATION

Whose History is it, Anyway? A personal journey that began as a call for more attention to Women’s History Month...

by Crystal Scotttborgh

At Queens Voc, we celebrate Black History Month, which is in February. Ms. Himmel volunteered to organize and lead the month-long events. Excerpts, poems, and trivia questions are frequently broadcast over the PA system in February. Ms. Himmel encourages the Queens Voc community to participate in Black History Month activities at the school.

During March we don’t celebrate anything, but we should. Maybe. March is Women’s History Month. Women’s History Month started out as Women’s History Week, which began in March 1981. After a few years, it was extended, and March was declared Women’s History Month.

Many women are honored during March, but not at Queens Voc. Other than in the regular curriculum, women such as Rosa Parks, Susan B. Anthony, Sojourner Truth, and Eleanor Roosevelt are practically ignored.

Many women fought to be equal and now are. So, do they need their own month to be recognized in any special manner? For their accomplishments? Is that what being equal means? Do men have their own month, or are they recognized in a general manner?

I started out thinking it was wrong that Queens Voc doesn’t recognize women during March. Now however, I’m not so sure. Perhaps women shouldn’t have their own month to be recognized. Fighting for equality means to be equal on all aspects, not to be singled out because of a person’s gender.

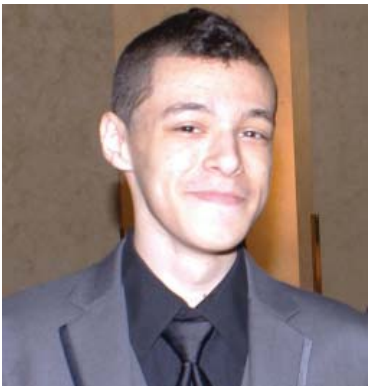
What do you think?

A letter from the Senior Class President

I am truly disheartened that as a senior I will be leaving Queens Voc. However, I can say that the past four years here have been some of the most amazing and interesting years I have experienced. I want to personally thank my classmates for supporting me throughout this short, yet eventful, year. I wish I could have done more to show my appreciation.

Despite being the senior class president, I want to acknowledge the sophomores, juniors, and freshmen, some of whom are friends of mine. You all have a short time here at Queens Voc even if it may seem as if you will all be here for what seems like forever. Enjoy the time that you have and spend it with the ones you care about. Do not forget to be wise as well; stay out of trouble because what you do wrong now will weigh on your shoulders forever. Your time in high school should be used to excel academically so that you may achieve your goals. Don’t sell yourselves short.

I especially want to urge the freshmen, who have the most time to catch themselves, to aim high, aim for the unexpected. I never intended to run for class president, and yet here I am. I never aimed to be valedictorian, yet it was never beyond my scope. If you have something on your mind, set out to accomplish what it is. You won’t know unless you actually



make the effort. I believe failure is less bitter if you know you at least had the chance; but victory is that much sweeter when you know you put more effort into it than you thought you could.

I wish my fellow classmates the best in their future endeavors. We struggled through the arduous road known as high school and have finally reached the end. What awaits us is but a longer road, longer and far more daunting than the one we have braved. Where this road may lead is a mystery. Our roads may be different, but each of our roads are connected through the experiences we have shared. Our roads have made us what we are today. Someday, we may change who we are because of new experiences. But we can never change what we have already gone through. I would not alter my road if I were given the choice. It is a road I have enjoyed travelling on, and I’m glad you were all there to accompany me.

It seems so surreal, graduation being just around the corner. I’m as excited as I am hesitant. It’s so difficult to leave behind my friends and, yes, my family. I feel that the bond I have built with my

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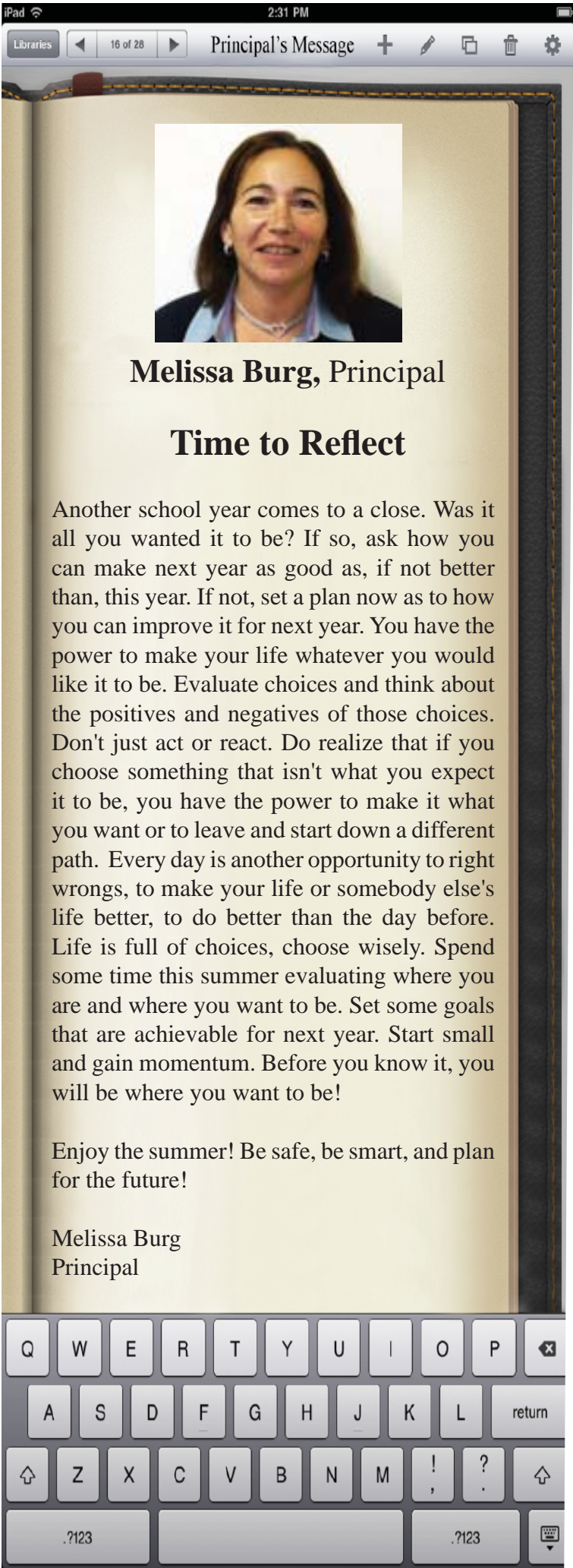
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Joseph Taveras
Antonio Torres
Raymond Xue

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

classmates is beyond a friendly one. You are practically my family and I hope I am a part of yours. I look forward to graduation day, when I will present my valedictory speech. I’m looking forward to graduating. I hope you are looking forward to that as much as I am.

Good luck Queens Voc and don’t give up. Be prepared to do more than your best in the coming years.

Raymond Gomez



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.




Mr. Schimenz
Main Office

Readers can also write us at Editor@VocVoice.org

SENIOR SPORTS PROFILES

Joseph Taveras



Boys' Varsity Baseball
Years On Team: 4

"He is very funny and has smooth hands."
-Steven Polanco

"Joseph was a solid player. He helped us a lot on the field this year."
-Coach Schimenz

Cristian Trujillo



Boys' Varsity Baseball
Years On Team: 3

"Terrific outfielder, very friendly, and respectful to the team."
-Hamza Naseer

"A good player who fielded well. We could have used more of his bat to help the team."
-Coach Schimenz

by Jose Recinos

Daniel Henao



Boys' Varsity Baseball
Years On Team: 3

"He is an excellent pitcher that has a great attitude towards his teammates."
-William De Los Angeles

"He played well and helped us a lot."
-Coach Schimenz

Brenda Taveras



Girls' Varsity Flag Football
Years on Team: 2

"A good player puts a lot of effort. Shows a lot of love for the game."
-Charlene Meza

"Another leader on the team and second year player. One of the best offensive player. Expecting big things on her this season."
-Mr. Garofano

Nicole Osorio



Girls' Varsity Softball
Years On Team: 3

"Brings her all in every game we have. Very dedicated player tries her best in practice and in the games."
-Estefania Villegas

"A good team leader and will be the catcher of the team."
-Mr. Boyle

Nichole Perez



Girls' Varsity Softball
Years On Team: 3

"Really good at stealing bases and a great batter."
-Gissell Fernandez

"One of my starters and improved a lot. My team leaders expect a lot from her."
-Mr. Boyle

Sabrina Spiecker



Girls' Varsity Softball
Years On Team: 4

"Fun to work with and a really good batter."
-Thiaralyn Objio

"I wish I had nine Sabrina's. Team captain, team leader, and always gives a 100 percent."
-Mr. Boyle

Karina Taveras



Girls' Varsity Softball
Years On Team: 1

"Really good hitter and plays 3rd base really good. One of the leaders in the team."
-Katelynn Santiago

"New to the team and looks like she going to break out. She has a lot of potential."
-Mr. Boyle

Leander Barrios




Boys' Varsity Handball
Years on Team: 1

"He was a great contributor to the team. When we needed a win he always came through."
- Andres Ospina

"For a third singles player he was very reliable and solid. He helped us get our wins."
-Mr. Maloney

Kimani Brown



Girls' Varsity Softball
Years On Team: 3

"Shows good sportsmanship. She is really dedicated to the team and shows how much she really wants to play."
-Gabriella Biondo

"She is a very improved player and a one of senior leaders. I expect good things from her this season."
-Mr. Boyle

Dayana Zamora



Girls' Varsity Flag Football
Years on Team: 2

"A good catcher, takes the sport seriously, and hates losing."
-Natalie Martinez T

"One of the team best players. She is also a team leader and one of our leading receivers."
-Mr. Garofano

Sebastian Bonilla



Boys' Varsity Handball
Years on Team: 1

"A great player but needs to work harder at the game."
-Antonio Torres

"Learning to play the game as a doubles."
-Mr. Maloney

Ricky Rojas




Boys' Varsity Handball
Years on Team: 1

"Takes leadership roles in doubles."
-Sebastian Bonilla

"Second doubles player ability to move up his ranking but needs to continue working hard to get there."
-Mr. Maloney

Nabila Parnella



Girls' Varsity Flag Football
Years on Team: 2

"My partner when we always do the cobra play and she is a good player. Trust her to catch long passes and getting interceptions."
-Na Zheng

"Nabila was one of our most productive last year and nothing has changed this year. She is one of our most productive players and I am expecting major contributions from her this year."
-Mr. Garofano

SENIOR SPORTS PROFILES

by Isaiah George

Kiara Delarosa



Girls' Varsity Softball Team
Years On Team: 3

"She's a good edition to the team. She's more experienced, and a good team player."
- Kimani Brown

"Kiara turned into a real good outfield player, and made contributions on the bat, and on the bases." - Coach Boyle

Denisse Carbo



Girls' Flag Football Team
Years On Team: 2

"She's very athletic, very fast, helpful, and cooperative."
- Marilyn Bonilla

"The entire offense is based around her. She contributes a great throwing arm and the potential to run."
- Coach Garofano

Dorothy Bailey




Girls' Varsity Softball
Years On Team: 4

"She's really tall so catching high-flying softballs was easy for her, and that contributed a lot."
- Nichole Perez

"Dorothy turned out to be a really good find. She played well on first base, in the outfield, and was always there for the team." - Coach Boyle

Nathaniel Rodriguez

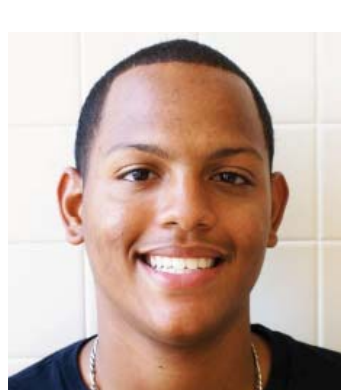


Boys' Varsity Baseball
Years On Team: 3

"He was a great player. He was very helpful and respectful."
- Hamza Naseer

"He's a good kid with a positive attitude. He helped the team in many ways, but unfortunately spent a lot of time injured."
- Coach Schimenz

David Pena



Boys' Varsity Baseball
Years On Team: 3

"He's a good contributor to the team."
- Henry Alvarez

"Dave stepped up as a captain, doing a lot of work. He improved himself and the team."
- Coach Schimenz

Monica Vega



Girls' Flag Football Team
Years On Team: 1

"She was very competitive, and she tried her best no matter what."
- Denisse Carbo

"She brought a great sense of senior leadership to the team."
- Coach Garofano

Kevin Sanchez




Boys' Handball Team
Years On Team: 1

"He had the disadvantage of joining late, but if he joined in the beginning he would have been a major contributor."
- Andres Ospina

"Kevin was one of our reserve players that was ready to play when needed."
- Coach Maloney

Andy Collado




Boys' Varsity Baseball
Years On Team: 3

"Andy was a great team player; he was solid on the field and helped the team out."
- Joseph Taveras

"Andy stepped up as a player and a motivator. Andy had a great year." - Coach Schimenz

Henry Alvarez



Boys' Varsity Baseball
Years On team: 4

"A fantastic player."
-Joan Mulato

"Henry's good on the field. He pitched and played third base well, keeping us in the games this year. He has the potential to do so much more."
- Coach Schimenz

Adrian Vega



Boys' Varsity Baseball
Years On Team: 1

"When he plays, he plays well."
- Andy Collado

"Adrian has a big heart. He was always positive, and never complained. A real pleasure to have on the team."
- Coach Schimenz

It Just got Tougher to Play Sports: New PSAL Academic Requirements

by Andres Cadavid

Starting in September, new Public Schools Athletic League requirements will be in effect for all interscholastic teams in New York City schools.

The goal of these new requirements is to increase graduation rates of students participating on PSAL teams, according to Eric Goldstein, chief executive of School Support Services.

Replacing the 4+1 Rule that required a student to pass four classes and phys. Ed. is the new 5+1 Rule. Students will have to pass five credit bearing subjects and phys. ed. Three of the five classes must be major subjects. According to the memo released to principals in February, CTE classes that students take will not count as major subjects. A senior programmed for four or five

classes who fails one class will be eligible for PSAL so long as the failed class is not required for graduation.

The old 8 Credit Rule is being replaced by the 10 Credit Rule. That is, a student must now accumulate ten credits not counting phys. ed. for the two semesters prior to the eligibility period. This rule goes into effect on February 1, 2014

There is also a new GPA rule that requires students to have a passing GPA at a time of eligibility evaluation. This rule can be waived in extenuating circumstances.

Students used to be required to have a minimum of an 80 percent attendance rate. That goes up to a 90 percent attendance rate at the end of each marking period.

Heather Gonyon



Girls' Varsity Softball Team
Years On Team: 3

"She's a good player and helps out the team."
- Sabrina Spiecker

"Heather is an experienced player who knows what to do."
- Coach Boyle

Girls' Flag Football Comes in 2nd Place

continued from page 16

really excited that we won that last game against BCAM High School. We had to win our last three games to make it to playoffs. We played our best and with a total of 144 points, we won all three in a row."

Brenda advises future team members "to keep playing hard and remember that it's 'team first, team last, team always.'" Dayana advises her teammates "to never ever give up on their dreams, and always remember G's words, 'never get too low and never get too high.'"

Dayana said that Queens Voc girls should, "definitely join and take advantage that there is a flag football team in this school. It is one of the best sports ever. You would honestly love it. Everyone on the team treats each other like family. Every practice is so much fun. Coach Garofano is the one of the best and funniest coaches in the history of coaches."

But it is not all fun and games, Brenda said. "For those looking to tryout, I would tell them if they aren't ready or willing to commit all their time to the team, then don't bother. And if they don't play their hardest, to their fullest potential, don't bother because our team is on a mission and you can't be aboard if you aren't focused."

Reminiscing about her times on the team, Dayana said, "that the team's most memorable moment

has to be the game against John Adams. It was during the robotics competition and we were missing three of our best players, including our quarterback. Even though we lost 32-31, it was the funniest game ever. We had two referees who didn't know what they were doing and everyone on the sideline was getting mad and arguing with the referees. One of our best players, Nabila Parnella got hurt and she crawled off the field in the middle of the game. Until this day, we still believe that we should have won. The most important thing about this memory was that it showed that when it comes to a loss, we as a team can work together and have each other's back when we are down."

The team is going to celebrate for making it this far. "We are having a get together to celebrate our accomplishments and to be together as a team one last time. Everyone is going to contribute a plate of their choice," said Brenda.

There were 15 members on the team this year: sophomores Abigail Arriaga, Melissa Carbo, and Na Zheng; juniors Natalie Martinez, Charlene Meza, Ana Morina, Nemesis Noel, and Yadira Perez; and seniors Marilyn Bonilla, Denisse Carbo, Nabila Parnella, Crystal Scottborgh, Brenda Taveras, Monica Vega, and Dayana Zamora.



Players dressed up for home opener, which they won, 7-6.

Varsity Baseball Players Need to Learn There's No "I" in Team

by Antonio Torres

The Tigers varsity baseball team ended its season 4-12, last place in their new Queens A West division. The team defeated Franklin K. Lane, Richmond Hill, Queens H.S. of Teaching, and H.S. for Construction.

"In games that we won this season the team had great pitching, defense, and communication," said Adrian Vega, a rookie senior.

"The team's goal this season was to try to make an impression in A division and try to finish with a winning record," said David Pena, one of the team's captains. Andy Collado said that "winning a couple of games was a good way to establish Queens Voc's presence in the A division." This is the first team in Queens Voc Tigers history to play in an A division.

But based on the team's past performance, this was not a good season for the Tigers. The change from B division to A division was huge and not having a field to practice on also hurt the team. "Practicing is key to success no matter how much talent you have. Hard work and practice always beats talent," said David. The Tigers were 10-run ruled in eight of their 16 league games.

"We did badly with our behavior as a team; some of us were very irresponsible. We did not help the team on the field and

off the field," said William De Los Angeles, a rookie.

Next year, "a lot of people need to step up and contribute to the team. Players willing to work for the team will be on the team," the coach said. "Players need to understand their role on the team. The team needs leadership and spirit," he added.

The coach said the team is facing another setback. "Jordan [Balcacer] told me he's moving to Texas. That's a huge loss for the team, as he was one of our dedicated, positive team members," he said.

There are some glimmers of hope, the coach said. "I've been able to watch JV play and found that some of the guys have good skills, and more importantly, are willing to work to help rebuild our team spirit," Coach Schimenz said.

The team was at its best when they fought hard and cheered hard. This season there were very few games where there was any cheering or fighting going on. The coach said that Mr. Cintron came to the Forest Hills game and noticed that there was no team spirit. Mr. Schimenz told the team at the end of the game that years earlier Newsday ran an article about how the Tigers cheering had been so loud, even as they lost their last game of a winless season.

"We need to put together a highly dedicated team of spirited players who are willing to work hard and play hard," said the coach, about next year. "The competition is tougher in our new division. There are better players who have solid baseball skills," he said. "We need to be more of a team," he said.

The team has nine graduating players: Henry Alvarez, Erik Castro, Andy Collado, Daniel Henao, David Pena, Nathaniel Rodriguez, Joseph Taveras, Cristian Trujillo, and Adrian Vega. The coach nominated Joseph and Henry for the 2013 Exceptional Senior Game. "They have solid baseball skills," he said.

Baseball Players Win Action Team Scholarships

by Luz Nunez

Twenty \$2,000 Action Team scholarships were given out this year in the United States. Two of those scholarships were awarded to Queens Voc students.

Kevin Hernandez, a junior and captain of the varsity baseball team, and Nathaniel Rodriguez, a three-year varsity veteran, were recently informed that they were selected for the Action Team scholarships, which are available to Action Team captains throughout the U.S. and Puerto Rico. Queens Voc was one of the first schools in New York City to have an Action Team.

Nathaniel said that the Action Team was a great opportunity. "It was interesting because what I want to do for the community can be spread all around," he said.

Kevin said his favorite experience was working with Major League Baseball players at Central Park and teaching children how to play baseball. "I always loved the idea of helping others and the community. I liked working with the kids and having them view me as a role model. Joining the Action Team gave me the chance to assist in many ways," he said.

Freshman leadership, some seniors, and baseball team members participated in the Action Team events this year. The team worked with the parks department in Flushing Meadows Park, cleaning, painting, and raking. The students also worked with ARROW Community Center in Astoria at a Halloween event for little children. The Queens Voc students wore costumes, painted faces, and ran an arts and crafts table.

Action Team is a national youth volunteer program created by Volunteers of America and Major League Baseball Players Association. The Action Team develops and fosters local teams that conduct community service projects.

Nathaniel said he was influenced by his coach, Mr. Schimenz, who coordinates the Action Team at Queens Voc, "but, when I saw the photos of all the winners on the bulletin board by 301, I thought it'd be really cool to compete," he said.

Students applying need to have a 3.0 GPA, and had to have served as Action Team captains in the current year.



Girls' flag football team smiling after a game.

Tryouts Bring Out New Potential for Soccer Team

by Jose Recinos

The first soccer tryout for the upcoming fall season was held at Flushing Meadows-Corona Park on May 2. Coach Ali and Assistant Coach Raushan are running the tryouts, but three fields at Flushing Meadows Park have been closed for renovations. The second tryout was held in the school gym. According to Mr. Ali, 32 students, mostly sophomores, have tried out for the team. "Hopefully we have a total of six tryouts before the

school year ends," said Mr. Ali.

Nobody is on the team until tryouts are completed, said the coach, who is expecting 18 players on the soccer team for the fall season.

Coach Ali said he looks for players who know positioning and have skills with the ball. "Stamina is a main part of the game and I'm looking for players to be in condition for a full 80-minute game," he said. The coaches say they have seen four new potential players for the team next year.

"The soccer tryouts are competitive because a lot of people are trying out for the same position," said junior Nahuel Sanabria, who is trying out for the team for the first time.

The PSAL, Mr. Ali said, has made it more difficult to put teams together because the new requirements to be on a team are to pass five classes rather than four, and players "must have a 90% attendance rate each marking period, and an overall average of at least a 65," he said.



JV Baseball Struggles, but Coach Cintron is Impressed with New Talent

by Saul Cruz

The JV baseball team started the season with a victory over Beach Channel, 7-3. Since then the team has not done so well.

According to PSAL.org, the team is in seventh place in the Queens West division, with a 1-6 record and three games left in the season as of June 2.

“This season has been a very challenging but fun one. The team consists mainly of sophomores but a lot of newcomers to baseball in general,” said Coach Cintron. “First-year sophomores Christopher Ruiz and Jeffrey Guevara have been pleasant additions,” added Coach Cintron

“Returning players, center fielder Kevin Vilchez, shortstop and pitcher Miguel Ortiz, and second baseman Justin Green, have been standouts this season,” said Coach Cintron. “It was a very fun season and I wish the best of luck to future JV baseball players,” said second baseman Justin Green.

Pitcher Anthony Angel said ,“the season was fun. This was my first year playing for Queens Voc and I learned a lot from talented

players such as Christopher Ruiz.”

Veteran Dexter Moy, a sophomore, said he had a lot of fun. “I am hoping to play on varsity next year,” he said. Like Anthony, Dexter said he has learned a lot from pitcher Christopher Ruiz.

According to PSAL.org, the top three batters on the JV baseball team are Justin Green with a .333 batting average, Thomas Demakakos with a .286 , and Michael Badia with a .250.

The top pitchers on the JV baseball team, according to PSAL.org, are Christopher Ruiz with a 2.87 ERA and Miguel Ortiz with a 4.67 ERA.

According to PSAL.org there are 19 players on the team roster, 13 sophomores and six freshmen. The freshmen team members are Harnoor Bhumak, Lyman Iyeke, Cnstantine Kaltsas, Christopher Morocho, John Ulloa and Andy Velez. The sophomores are: Anthony Angel, Michael Badia , Shourov Deb, Thomas Demakakos, Mark Dutan, Justin Green, Jeffrey Guevara, Dexter Moy, Miguel Ortiz, Eddie Quiles, Santiago Ramirez, Christopher Ruiz, and Kevin Vilchez.



The season was a learning experience for the team.

Handball Team Ends 4th of 6 with .500 Record

by Dorothy Bailey

The Queens Voc handball team finished in fourth place, with five wins and five losses.

“This season was a learning experience for most of the players,” said Coach Maloney.

The team qualified for a play-in match, but lost to the High School of Environmental Studies 5-2.

A play-in match is organized when there are too many teams that qualify for the playoffs. The lower-ranked teams are matched to play against each other. The loser gets eliminated, and the winner advances to the play-offs.

Coach Maloney said, “We needed a better effort from the doubles teams. Usually if we win a doubles game, we have a better chance of winning the match. We were 2-1 for the singles matches, and 0-2 for the doubles matches at that game,” he said.

The 12 players on the handball roster were: Amin Al-Sayed, Leander Barrios, Sebastian Bonilla, Esteve Escorza, Robert Gonzales, Andres Ng, Andres Ospina, Alexander Pena, Andres Puli, Ricky Rojas, Kevin Sanchez, and Antonio Torres. Robert, Leander, and Andres O. were the singles players. Antonio, Alexander, Sebastian, and Ricky were the doubles players, according to Coach Maloney.

The team held their practices and home games at Bush Park.

This season there was no captain. “We had such a late start to the season. Since handball is an individual sport, we don’t necessarily need a captain every year. All of the players showed

some form of leadership, so I felt comfortable not having a captain this year,” the coach said.

“All players were expected to be leaders and be committed to the team. The players who regularly played were committed. The starters were the most committed,” said Coach Maloney.

Coach Maloney had mixed feelings about his team. “The doubles player’s chemistry needed more work. They needed more time to adapt to playing with the small ball, and to learn each other’s playing styles. They could get more time by playing on the team for more than one year. Most players play with the bigger ball. I was very impressed with the singles players throughout the year. They were solid, and led by example. When they played well, we usually won our matches,” he said.

Some handball players weighed in on this season. “This season was pretty good. All of us gained experience. Despite having tough competition, we gave it our all,” said Andres N.

“Training the weaker players paid off. We kept our heads up during losses, and stood together throughout the season,” said Robert.

“This season went well. We did better than everyone thought we would. During some games we were overconfident, and during other games we were nervous,” said Leander.

Tryouts were held in early March. During tryouts, players played against each other to determine which position they would play on the team.

Girls’ Flag Football Comes in 2nd Place

by Fatima Osman

Queens Voc’s flag football team’s forward progress was stopped by number two seed Tottenville in the second round of the playoffs.

The girls won their first playoff game, on May 21, against South Bronx, 37-6. The next day, the girls were eliminated from the playoffs, losing 58-35.

“Losing in the second round of the playoffs was a bittersweet feeling because this is my last year, but we made it that far. I was very proud of the team because we played the number two seed and were able to put up a good fight,” said senior Brenda Taveras.

“I feel we lost in the playoffs because we were just out run. They were faster and quicker with the plays, and maybe some of our offensive plays were off, but that still didn’t slow us down. We played great defense overall.”

The team finished 5-5, second in their division.

“Every single game was a challenge. Every team wanted to win,” said Coach Garofano. The girls’ flag football team won their last three league games, guaranteeing them a playoff spot. “I knew that we were going to make it to the playoffs,” said Brenda, “but knowing we were actually in the playoffs was a great feeling.”

In their eighth game of the season they defeated American Studies, 52-14. They won their ninth game against Teachers Preparatory HS/FDA VII, 52-18. They won their final league game, against Brooklyn Community Arts and Media High School, 40-32.

Senior Dayana Zamora, a member of the team said, “I was

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Michael Badia swings with power, says Coach Cintron.

Tigers Sports continued inside.



Dayana Zamora all smiles.