

Vocational Voice

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

Summer, 2008



Players volunteer to help young children.

Help Hour Children

by Josue Sanchez

The Tigers varsity baseball team is now part of Major League Baseball! Sort of. The Tigers varsity baseball team has become an MLB Action Team.

The MLB Action Team program encourages young people throughout the United States to volunteer in their communities. The program, recently expanded to New York, is administered by Volunteers of America and the Major League Baseball Players Trust.

Queens Voc is among the three high schools in NYC that participate in this program. The other two high schools are Cathedral High School in Manhattan and High School for Arts and Business in Queens.

As part of the MLB Action Team, the varsity baseball team had to decide which type of community service they wanted to participate in. The players decided to work with children in a program called Hour Children, a multifaceted family service organization that provides housing, permanent and transitional, and a wide array of supportive services that transforms the lives of incarcerated and formerly incarcerated women.

On Thursday, April 17, the NY Mets recognized the Tigers

for their volunteer community service activities at Hour Children. Representatives from Queens Voc were introduced on the field prior to the start of the game. They also met Mets first baseman Carlos Delgado and catcher Brian Schneider and were given a tour of the Mets clubhouse. Representing Queens Voc were seniors Angel Tejada and Steven D'Elena, freshmen Armando Avila and Esteban Soler, and Tigers assistant coach and former player, Joe LiVecchi. The entire team was in attendance in the stands. "Everyone on the team works hard at Hour Children and I thought they deserved to go," said Coach Schimenz, who bought the team tickets.

"It was a very exciting moment and a great all around experience that I'll never forget," said Armando Avila, the freshman team captain.

Just a week before, on Friday, April 11, the team attended a Mets game courtesy of Hour Children, as a reward for their hard work.

When the team had free time during the week, on weekends, and during vacations, the players helped out at Hour Children. Coordinators Angel Tejada and Steven D'Elena developed schedules for the

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Business Awards

by Angel Tejada

On Wednesday, June 4, fifty-one students were awarded Financial Literacy Certifications at a ceremony hosted by Mr. Persaud and Ms. Newman in the library during period 4.

To get certified in financial literacy, students in Career and Financial Planning, had to earn a grade of 65 or better on the certification test.

"In view of the financial problems encountered by youths and adults," said Mr. Persaud, "basic financial literacy education is becoming more important than ever. And this is why the Department of the Treasury is now actively promoting financial literacy education in high schools across the United States."

The certification demonstrates that the students have the basic knowledge of finance, such as being a smart consumer, determining net worth, understanding the differences associated with renting or owning a home, and the processes of financing home purchases, as well as money managing and financial planning.

According to Mr. Persaud, the Financial Literacy Certification Program is

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Assistant Principal shows off department trophies.

Garrison Retires

by Oscar Mendez

Retirement marks the end of one experience and the beginning of another. As the writer Gene Perret once said, "Retirement means no more pressure, no more stress, no more heartache...." At the end of this school year, Queens Voc will say goodbye to Mr. Garrison, assistant principal and the director of the School of Skilled Building Trades.

"I've been working here for twenty four and a half years, and it's about time," he said.

Mr. Garrison started working at Queens Voc in February of 1984. He started as a plumbing teacher and taught the freshmen and sophomores in the shop. Afterward, while teaching at a union school, he was promoted to assistant principal.

Since coming to Queens Voc as a plumbing teacher, he has met many people. One such

person is plumbing teacher Mr. McCarthy, his former student. "He was my teacher from February of 1984 to June of 1985," said Mr. McCarthy. "I remember the day I came back to teach at Queens Voc. He greeted me as his colleague."

His plans after retirement include "sleeping after twelve every day" and "missing the students, the teachers, and the good times at Queens Voc," he said. One such good time was "when one of the plumbers came in first in the VICA competition," said Mr. Garrison

Mr. Garrison will be missed by his colleagues. "I hope he feels comfortable with retiring because he made plumbing what it is today," said Mr. McCarthy. "Without Mr. Garrison, the plumbing program would have never been as successful as it is today. I would like to thank him for helping me become a teacher and guiding me throughout the years we worked together."

Regents Schedule: June 2008

by Dayana Jaramillo

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
Integrated Algebra Regents	Comprehensive English Regents Session One Science RCT	Comprehensive English Regents Session Two	U.S. History and Government Regents		Living Environment Regents	Physical Setting/ Physics Regents U.S. History and Government RCT
1:15pm	1:15pm	1:15pm	1:15pm	1:15pm	1:15pm	
Physical Setting/ Chemistry Regents	Global History & Geography Regents	Mathematics A Regents Mathematics B Regents Reading RCT	Physical Setting/ Earth Science Regents	Mathematics RCT Writing RCT	Global Studies RCT	

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Business Awards

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promoted by the WISE (Working In Support of Education) Foundation. They’ve been working with Queens Voc for the past 3 years. In the past, only seniors took the certification test but for the first time this year, sophomores and juniors were also included.

“I feel a sense of accomplishment for having the opportunity of being prepared for my future and passing the certification test,” said Stephanie Gonzalez, senior Career and Future Planning student.

The following students were certified: Juniors: Daniyah

Ronco, Monica Tito, Rosa Toalongo, Natalie Vargas, Reynaldo Veras, Jefferson Zamora.

Melissa Arias, senior Career and Financial Planning student, was the only student who scored 100 percent. “I was shocked to know I got a perfect score,” she said. “At first, I was happy to know I passed but then I felt great when I was told my score.”

Aside from the certification test, some Queens Voc students took part in the National Financial Literacy Challenge, sponsored by the US Dept. of the Treasury. According to Ms.



Students show off their certificates.

Ahmed, Elizabeth Campoverde, Martha Carpio, Jason Castillo, Jessica De La Rosa, Alejandra Espinoza, Paola Ferreira, Freddy Gomez, Jeslenny Grullon, Nazmul Hasan, Karen Hernandez, Neil Kamath, Rebekah Montes, Jazmin Ramirez, Sasha Rodriguez, George Serna, Veronica Sierra, Clarissa Tse, and Jossie Vaca; Seniors: Melissa Arias, Melanie Bencosme, Jonathan Carsten, Suzanne Cernuda, Danny Chen, Robin Cunjie, Elvis Diaz, Brandon Drakeford, Yana Epelboym, Maciel Fernandez, Oliver Gaborno, Beatriz Gonon, Stephanie Gonzalez, Rusel Grullon, Jorge Herrera, Christopher Luna, Jonathan Maldonado, Nicholo Martinez, Carlos Mason, Pierson Matthew, Marissa Mendez, Jason Naranjo, Ruben Ortiz, Ivan Perez, Tameka Quinones, Ali Reda, Hugo

Newman, the students who participated went up against more than 46,000 students from rural areas, suburbs, and cities across America. Eleven Queens Voc students scored in the top 25th percentile of the nation’s scores.

The following students received certificates from the US Dept. of the Treasury for their accomplishment: Sarah Calle, Elizabeth Campoverde, Suzanne Cernuda, Danny Chen, Robin Cunjie, Elvis Diaz, Estephany Jimenez, Neil Kamath, Christopher Luna, Ruben Ortiz, and Hugo Ronco.

Mr. Persaud said that if Queens Voc obtains a passing rate of 75 percent or better on the certification test, the school is designated a blue star school. Queens Voc was awarded the Blue Star Banner this year and last year.

Baby Einsteins

by Jonathan Carsten

Welcome to the world, baby boys!

Mrs. Suzanne Lewis, the school librarian, and her husband, proudly announce the birth of their son, Tobias Lewis, born on Monday, April 7 at 1:28pm. Baby Tobias Lewis weighed 7lbs, 3 ounces and 19 1/2 inches long.

“Mommy and Daddy Lewis cannot stop smiling at our new baby,” said Mrs. Lewis.

Parents-to-be, Mrs. Jennifer Marrali, a science teacher, and her husband, Robert, are expecting their first child on July 25. Their newborn son is to be named Robert Anthony “Robbie” Marrali.

“I’m definitely excited to have my first baby,” said Mrs. Marrali.

It is with the sincerest congratulations to the Lewis and Marrali families on their wonderful news.

Yearbook Phenomenon

by Adrienne Diaz

“The 2008 yearbook has been the best yearbook so far!” said Mr. Stefanidis, yearbook coordinator.

“I am very confident that it has met the expectations of the greater majority and has probably exceeded them. I am very proud of the final product,” he said.

Yearbook editor Patrick Sooden said that “People who participated in senior events will be satisfied by the yearbook because they are included.”

Creating and designing the yearbook was not an easy task, according to Mr. Stefanidis. “The beginning is the most difficult because of the first deadline and not knowing how serious the people who volunteered are and how well they work at a specific part of the yearbook,” he said.

Gathering pictures of all the events and getting pictures of all the teachers was another difficulty the yearbook staff faced. According to Mr. Stefanidis, a lot of the students are busy so dedicating time after school is difficult. Mr. Stefanidis started with 10 students who volunteered to help and it quickly dropped to 4 editors at the end who did most of the work.

The editors were Wade

Cameron, Robin Cunjie, and Patrick Sooden. Dayana Jaramillo, who joined the yearbook staff at the end, became an editor, and was a big help, according to Mr. Stefanidis. “It makes a big difference when you go from three helpers to four,” he said.

There were other students who also contributed. Stephanie Gonzalez helped with pictures and flyers, spreading yearbook information to all the seniors. Derria Khan and Julian Castro helped out a lot getting pictures.

The yearbook staff often stayed after school, sometimes stayed till very late. “We had to do a lot of work, but we had the best advantage, the yearbook staff got to see the yearbook before everyone else did,” said Wade Cameron. Mr. Stefanidis sometimes rewarded the staff with pizza and soda.

The yearbook staff was able to work on the yearbook at home via the internet.

“Working on the yearbook was fun,” said Patrick Sooden, “working with all the funny pictures was great!”

“This year new and fresh ideas were included in the yearbook,” said Mr. Stefanidis. The way the pictures are presented this year is different. The pictures were able to be rotated, and the editors were able to place the pictures in

shapes such as stars, triangles, and hearts.

The yearbook staff came up with the idea of using locations such as hallways or classrooms as page backgrounds.

Included in the yearbook is “Senior Chronicles,” a section with pictures of students doing everyday things. For example, they used pictures of students waiting at the lunch line and students waiting at the train station.

Another new idea included this year is a “Urspace Yearbook” section at the back of each yearbook. The “Urspace Yearbook” section is where each student can pick their top friends, answer survey questions, and they can have their friends add comments to them and they can add comments to their friends, like autographs, similar to a MySpace page. There are also pages at the back of the yearbook where students can leave autographs to each other.

The yearbook includes most of the senior events that happened up to and including the senior luncheon. Also included in the yearbook are the senior personalities, the pictures and names of all the seniors, the pictures and names of all the teachers and staff, and all the clubs and organizations.

The yearbook is 88 pages long and there were 150 yearbooks ordered. The yearbook cost was included in the \$125 senior dues.

Help Hour Children

continued from front page

players to work at Hour Children, where they participated in various programs such as the Hour after School Club, Daycare, and Thrift Shop and Furniture Outlet.

“I really enjoy playing and

spending time with the little children. I have to say that it is worthwhile because it makes me feel like their older brother or someone they could see as a role model,” said Angel. “I definitely recommend doing this again next year, it creates team bonding,” he said.



Angel’s a natural.

Fiber Optics Re-Scheduling

by Natalie Vargas

Just before spring break, fiber optics students were surprised to hear that the course was cancelled. But soon after, the course resumed, albeit with some changes.

“There were problems with an electronics student and the problem had to be addressed before continuing with the class,” stated Mr. Ali who teaches the class.

Students who attended the class say that the dispute was over a student who felt that he should be in the class but

wasn’t. The student complained to an assistant principal about it.

To address the problem, Mr. Ali temporarily cancelled the class to give him time to demonstrate that there was nothing unfair going on.

This was the first time that the class was cancelled since it was begun four years ago.

Mr. Ali said he decided that the class would resume, but it would only be held on Fridays.

Julian Castro, an EI student, said that the class is very useful because cable television and many computer systems are

being converted to fiber optics systems and it’s a useful certification to have for a job.

After hearing that the program was reinstated, “I was excited,” Julian said, “because I felt cheated when the program was cancelled.”

“Holding the classes on Fridays only might affect the students’ chances to become certified because they might not have enough time to finish a required job. The fiber optics program will be held daily next year. To be eligible for the class, seniors must pass the copper networking class and have one of the top 10 grades their shop class,” said Mr. Ali.

Congratulations Class of 2008



Class of 2008 at their prom at Terrace on the Park.

Senior Activities

by Melanie Bencosme

It’s been an eventful year for the seniors with activities such as the senior trip, senior luncheon, senior personalities award ceremony, and the prom. And it’s not over yet. There’s still graduation.

“All of the senior events have been about having fun, and enjoying the accomplishments of being a senior,” said Mr. Vega, the senior advisor and coordinator of student activities.

The senior personalities award ceremony took place in the auditorium on Thursday, May 8, during period 4. Plaques were given to the winners by Mr. Stefanidis and Mr. Vega. There were twenty-one awards given out. “It was a nice ceremony, but it was too short. I was expecting a party but the awards given out seemed pretty fair, plus I was very happy to win best personality award because in life your physical appearance

changes your personality is forever,” said Suzanne Cernuda.

The senior prom was held at Terrace on the Park from 8pm – 1am on Friday, June 6. The first one hundred forty tickets were sold at sixty-eight dollars, then the ticket price rose to one hundred dollars on Monday, June 2. Professional pictures are taken and available for purchase prom night. During the prom a King, Queen, Duke, Duchess, was randomly selected. According to the chaperones, the seniors and their guests ate, danced, and had a lot of fun, all while behaving very well.

Graduation will be held Thursday, June 26, at 7:30pm at LaGuardia Community College. Rehearsal will take place at La Guardia during Regents week. There will be 3 rehearsals before the graduation ceremony: Tuesday, June 17, Monday, June 23, and the last will be on Wednesday, June 25.

Queens Voc Helps Babies “Walk” Through Struggle

by Steve Pinell

On Sunday, April 27, 10 Queens Voc students accompanied by Mr. Vega, coordinator of student activities, participated in the annual March of Dimes Walk held at Flushing Meadows Park, along with other participants from Queens. The Queens Voc participants raised \$655 for the March of Dimes, to support the awareness and education effort that helps families have healthier babies.

Although it rained, dedication prevailed. “At first it was a little upsetting to see the rain, but once I saw that the students still showed up, I knew the walk would be a success,” said Mr. Vega.

To participate, Mr. Vega required each student to raise at least \$50. March of Dimes, founded by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, has been aiding premature babies for 70 years and helped in developing the Salk vaccine, which defeated polio in 1955. March of Dimes also provides therapy, which

helps premature babies survive, and provides mobile units to bring prenatal care to pregnant women who wouldn’t ordinarily have such access.

“It’s amazing what March of Dimes does to bring aid to these babies. I’m honored and happy to say that I also contributed,” said senior Estephany Jimenez, one of the Queens Voc students who participated.

The 10 students who participated in the walk were: Julian Castro, Lia Cespedes, Adrienne Diaz, Solangie Gomez, Dayana Jaramillo, Estephany Jimenez, Eva Jimenez, Kearon Muzamali, Joel Pena, and David Santiago.

“I really enjoyed participating in the walk, it was a very good experience and I will hopefully participate again next year,” said Joel Pena.

The main March of Dimes Walk was held in Manhattan, where participants from Brooklyn, the Bronx, Manhattan, and Staten Island met at Lincoln Center for the walk.

International Hair Show: Exploring the Beauty Industry

by Ada Perez

Five dozen Queens Voc cosmetology students attended the International Beauty Show on Tuesday, April 29, at the Jacob Javits Convention Center in Manhattan. The International Beauty Show is the top trade show for members of the professional beauty industry. The show’s main objective is to educate, opening new doors for beauty professionals.

Junior and senior cosmetology students were invited to attend the show. “Sophomores and freshmen don’t attend the show because the show is mostly geared towards hair coloring and hair dying, which students learn their junior and senior year,” said Ms. D’Onofrio, a cosmetology teacher.

Students attend the beauty show to gain real exposure to industry artists. They learn the latest trends in every area of cosmetology. Students also attend the hair show to receive a 10-hour credit toward their 1,000 hours. During the beauty show, major companies demonstrate and sell their latest products, often at a discount. Students are able to buy the products sold at the beauty show. Some of the products sold were makeup, hair dye, hair treatment, nail polish, blow dryers, flat irons, curling irons, and extensions

VATEA funds covered most of the cost of the tickets, reducing the price for students to just \$5. Tickets were sold \$35 ahead of time and \$45 at the door.

Students found the beauty show informational and

interesting. “I learned different hair types, different ways to put on extensions, and what products are good for each type of hair,” said junior Julissa Perez. But it wasn’t just about learning. “I like that I got free tans, they really worked, they lasted two weeks,” said junior Yazmin Sosa.

The International Beauty Show helps the students understand how to use products correctly and how to style hair differently. “I found the beauty show helpful, the presentations were interesting, and I learned a few cool techniques on cutting and coloring,” said senior Christi Hernandez. “I had more fun this year than last year because I had more knowledge of the products, and I knew what to look for. I also learned about new products and some treatments that I’d like to try out,” said senior Adrienne Diaz.

“I encourage all cosmetology students to attend the International Beauty Show; it’s an entertaining experience for the cosmetology students. They can see the industry from a different perspective,” said junior Eva Jimenez.

Ms. Newman, Mr. Grochala, Ms. Quartuccio, Ms. Basirico, and Ms. D’Onofrio attended the show as chaperones.

Honor Roll Changes

by Daisy Vivar

Being an honor student isn’t what it used to be.

Unlike past years, there was no Honor Society Induction and no spring Honor Roll trip.

According to Ms. Dattner, the Honor Society ceremony was affected by annualized classes. Seniors, she said, will be awarded a certificate at graduation. “The rest of the students who earned an average of 85 and higher will attend a ceremony that will probably be held in November,” she added.

According to Mr. Vega, the coordinator of student activities, “Classes are now annualized so there is no real average that grades could be based on until the end of the year, which is why there was only one Honor Roll trip this year.” He added that because grades are based on yearly achievement, he could make the trip bigger and better next year.

The annualization of grades was instituted by the school’s administration. These changes are the result of annualization, Mr. Davidson said. This is something that Ms. Vittor wanted. I was able to implement her decision by making only one term for the entire year,” he said.

Senior Personality Awards

by Tashio Douglas

Senior personality selections are very popular amongst seniors. The nominees were selected by a committee of 5 students put together by Mr. Stefanidis, the yearbook advisor. Voting took place in room 143, the Student Activities Offices, although all seniors were eligible to vote, many didn’t. On Thursday, May 8, during period 4, the winners were awarded plaques in a senior class ceremony in the auditorium.

Awards	Male	Female
Best Smile	Wade Cameron	Natalie Vargas
Most Unique	Brandon Drakeford	Melinda Deleon
Biggest Flirt	Steven D’Elena	Ada Perez
Best Hair	Joshua Bland	Samantha Musco
Friendliest	Ronald Carrasco	Raven Walker
Best Eyes	Johnathan Carsten	Adrienne Diaz
Loud Mouth	Ali Reda	Stephanie Gonzalez
Most Hyper	Julian Castro	Melanie Bencosme
Most Shy	Oscar Mendez	Nefeteria Hennix
Mr/Mrs. Know-it-All	Jason Demilt	Eva Jimenez
Best Dancer	Angel Tejada	Yanel Leroux
Biggest Change	Esmi Pichardo	Melinda Deleon
Class Clown	Ali Reda	Luisa Rodriguez
Best Dressed	Brandon Drakeford	Tashio Douglas
Most Athletic	Andrew Ferguson	Estephany Jimenez
Most Known	Wade Cameron	Jade Duncan
Best Personality	Ronald Carrasco	Suzy Cernuda
Most likely to Succeed	Oscar Mendez	Yara Diaz
Head Turners	Andrew Ferguson	Eva Jimenez
Best Friends	Carlos Mason & Ivan Perez	Yara Diaz & Dayana Jaramillo
Best Couple	Carlos Mason & Tanasia Williams	



Seniors happy to show off personality awards.

Poetry Slams Again

by Ronald Carrasco

On Tuesday, April 29, the 2008 Poetry Slam was held in the



Stephanie and Rolovel show off their awards.

student cafeteria during periods 2 and 3. Eight student-poets participated.

Senior Stephanie Mena won first place, Rolovel Livingston took second place, and Geraldine Leibot came in third. Also participating were Michael Cedano, Ozan Centinkaya, Damont Combs, Jonathan Maldonado, and Andy Vasquez.

Stephanie said that “Poetry lets me express what I feel and it’s easy to let others know about it in a proper way.”

This year’s slam was very different from last year’s, according to Mrs. Himmel, the Poetry Slam coordinator. “There were some improvements over last year. This year it was in the cafeteria which allowed more people to attend,” she said. In previous years, the Poetry Slam took place in the Library.

Mrs. Himmel, who has coordinated the Poetry Slam for

2 years, has made it a much-anticipated event. Mrs. Himmel said she coordinates the annual poetry slam because “I feel

James Walker, “kept the crowd from losing interest during intermissions, with his jokes and witty remarks,” said senior Julio Cespedes.

The Slam had 2 rounds, students’ original poems and a poem written by others. Mr. Rivers, Ms. Demetrius, and student Jonathan Kammerer were the judges. They rated the poets on a score from 1 to 10. While the judges were making their decision, students and staff were allowed to get up and recite any poem they liked. Mr. Rivers recited one of his favorite poems by Langston Hughes, “From Mother to Son.”

This year’s Poetry Slam was “inspirational and very entertaining,” said senior Michael Calderon. “Most students were able to relate to



Geraldine Leibot receives award from Mrs. Himmel.

talented students in this school and I believe that poetry is a great venue for some of our talented students.”

The Poetry Slam isn’t just poets reciting poetry. This year’s Master of Ceremonies,

the poems because the poets are in our age range,” he said.

While not all poems relate to everyone, some poems “just make you think about life” concluded Stephanie Mena.

Graphic Arts Turnout

by Yanel Leroux

Rumor has it that the Graphic Arts program at Queens Voc is going to be cut due to lack of funding. But according to Ms. Newman, director of the School of Entrepreneurial Studies, the program will be offered next year and for more years to come. “I’m definitely glad graphic arts is going to be offered next year, I can’t see myself in any other shop class,” says Elizabeth Arintonang. There is enough funding for the program and students are showing interest, she said.

“The Graphic Arts program has provided the students with an outlet to express their artistic abilities and to communicate ideas using visual language,” says Mr. Garcia. More and more students sign up for graphic arts each year. According to

Ms. Dattner the graphics arts program is not shown in the high school pamphlet, during orientation is when students can choose to sign up for graphic arts. Students can chose the exploratory program, sign up for graphic arts in the tenth grade, and still be able to graduate on time. Mr. Garcia makes and effort, during high school fairs, to inform potential students about the program in which students learn to use visual images for advertising.

The Graphics arts class takes place in a computer lab because of insufficient funding for a graphic arts lab, said Mr. Garcia. The students, he said, do not have the proper lab or computers for the program. Macs are the computers commonly used for graphic arts; the students at Queens Voc are using Dell laptops.

Library Chaos

by Tecomblah Siedio

The library located on the forth floor has been close since Ms. Lewis, the schools librarian, took a leave of absence beginning Friday April 4. On Monday April 7, she gave birth to a baby boy.

Her absence and the subsequent closing of the library have affected a lot of the students in the school. Many of the students who don’t have access to a computer and/or a printer in their homes relied on the school library.

“Now that the library is closed I can’t go on the computer,” said senior Raven Harris. Neferteria Hennix said she understands what her

fellow students are going through. “Even though the closed library hasn’t affected me, the school should’ve taken notice and handled the situation better.

Students who were affected by the closed library didn’t take it lightly. “If the librarian is out for the year where does that leave the students?” asked Carlos Mason. “We have no computer access; shouldn’t there be a substitute librarian?” he asked.

Mr. Mayer, assistant principal for organization, said that “Ms. Lewis took a leave of absence and there was no replacement to be found.” He explained that the school tried to find a replacement but “it’s a timely process and the school couldn’t find a certified librarian to replace Ms. Lewis.

Have A Great Summer!!

Students’ Perfect Attendance

by Jonathan Carsten

Since the beginning of the 2007-2008 school year, 55 students have maintained perfect attendance. *Vocational Voice* congratulates them on their hard work and dedication.

Edwin Adames	411
Jose Alvarez	103
Melissa Alzate	202
Azmain Azad	312
Paul Cabral	301
Wade Cameron	361
Martha Carpio	223
Jason Castillo	323
Shennel Cole	101
Ashley Colwell	104
Steven Crespin	311
Kane Davis	116
Floyd Desouza	102

Tanman Dey	103
Darlene Fernandez	221
Diana Flores	112
Catherine Gomez	411
Freddy Gomez	222
Jeslenny Grullon	323
Elihu Hernandez	322
Jerry Hernandez	302
Yaneet Hernandez	102
Edwin Herrera	103
Fahim Islam	311
Cesar Liang	212
Alexandria Lumpkins	322
Richard Luu	212
George Manolas	312
Luis Martinez	115
Sergio Martinez	101
Alan Merchan	103
Eleazar Morales	211
Guadalupe Morales	114
Richard Ortiz	411

Steven Pabon	202
Elizabeth Pimentel	101
Wenwan Qu	113
Pervej Rahman	311
Jazmin Ramirez	221
Francis Reyes	202
Cristofer Rodriguez	111
Michael Rodriguez	211
Ricardo Rodriguez	311
Jose Rosales	112
Kevin Rosario	113
Argenis Santos	301
Kevin John Sasuman	113
Carla Siguenza	104
Ranjot Singh	302
Crisheber Soriano	221
Torres, Ashley	222
Meliton Vazquez	112
Oscar Vilchez	411
Jingjie Wu	113
Jonathan Yankovich	411

No Summer School at Queens Voc

Carlos Mason, Jr.

This summer, Queens Voc students who attend summer school will go to LIC. Summer school classes start Tuesday, July 1, and end on Thursday, August 14. All standard subjects, except for shop classes, are being offered.

Regents and RCTs will be offered for all students on Wednesday, August 13 and Thursday, August 14.

According to Mr. Mayer, assistant principal for organization, LIC is handicap-

accessible, air conditioned, and has two gyms and an outside field for physical education classes.

There will be a mixture of students and teachers from Academy of American Studies, LIC, and Queens Voc. Guidance counselors and school aides will be on staff to assist the students.

“I feel this will be very successful; we have a great group of students from Queens Voc who are very resourceful and positive, and they will be able to adapt to the surroundings at LIC,” Mr. Mayer said.

Principal’s Absence is a Result of Injury

by Joshua Bland

Tuesday, November 20 began as a typically busy day for Ms. Vittor. The Queens Voc principal was attending a principals’ meeting at Newcomer’s High School in Long Island City.

But as she left the school to return to Queens Voc, Ms. Vittor slipped in the parking lot. Suddenly, everything changed for the veteran principal. As she fell, she broke the fifth metatarsal on her right foot, and was taken to an orthopedic doctor where she was casted. She suffered a spiral fracture. The break didn’t heal properly and she later needed surgery to repair the fracture.

Starting as a teacher and coordinator of the ISS department in September of 1995, Ms. Vittor has taught various subjects, such as Health, English 5-6, Sequential Math 1 and 2, English Skills Streaming, and Advisory during her 13 years at Queens Voc.

Even in the condition that she’s in, Ms. Vittor is still able to run the school from home through phone calls, emails, and reports to faculty, administrators, network leaders, and superintendents throughout the day.

A few people from school and the DOE network leader have taken the trip to see Mrs. Vittor. “I welcome the company,” she said.

“I have to change my whole way of life, and have to accept lots of help since I could not even put my right foot down on the ground. I have had to

rely on people much more then before, both at work and at home. My whole family has been very supportive and helpful. Even the small things become difficult when you can’t walk on two feet, drive anywhere, or carry anything because you need crutches. At first it was hard to accept that there are many things I just could not do - drive, work, walk up or down the stairs, go to the store, etc. I am very lucky that everyone around me has taken on extra responsibilities because they care about me. It has been hard on my family too. There are many things that we have not been able to do because of my injury. No vacation, no mall, and no out of town visits to relatives, the principal said.

“As of now, I’m walking on one crutch, so I can at least stand on two feet and do simple things, but I still cannot drive or walk more then 20 steps without stopping. I have learned to appreciate being healthy, being with family and friends, and the help of those around me more then ever before. I have tremendous respect for both that healing power of the human body and healing power of human interaction, I am trying to get back on my feet, *literally*,” she said.

Ms. Vittor said that she misses everyone at school, especially the students, and she does plan to come back this school year, but has to wait for doctor approval before returning to work to prevent further injury.

Crazy Hats & Other Fun Ideas for Spirit Week

by Yinaury Sanchez

The spring spirit week was held Monday, May 19, thru Friday, May 23. The categories were Crazy Hat Day, Singles/Taken Day, SLC Day, Twin Day, and Heritage Day.

Participation by the students was lacking in this year’s second spirit week. “The categories just didn’t tickle my pickle,” said senior Luisa Rodriguez.

On Monday, participants wore strange hats for Crazy Hat Day. On Tuesday, participants who were single wore blue and those who were taken wore green for Singles/Taken Day. On Wednesday, students and teachers in SSBT wore grey, SED wore red, SCEET wore

blue, and SES wore green for SLC Day. On Thursday, participants dressed alike for Twin Day. On Friday, participants wore colors that represented their nationalities for Heritage Day.

Mr. Vega’s leadership class developed a list of 10 categories, which Assistant Principal Mayer approved. Ballots were given out during lunch and students voted. The other categories that didn’t get enough votes were ‘70s Day, Inside/Out Day, Crazy Hair Day, Hollywood Day, and Jersey Day.

The leadership class posted flyers to inform students and staff about Spirit Week. There was also a huge banner hung near the main entrance.



Vandals & Slobs

by Josue Sanchez

On the afternoon of Tuesday, May 20, the fire alarm tripped due to a “system malfunction,” but what really happened was that in room 249, the teachers cafeteria, a fire dry chemical extinguisher was purposely discharged causing the entire room to fill with sodium-bicarbonate causing the alarm to trip. Ultimately, the student was identified and given a superintendent’s suspension.

According to Ms. Jarret, the head custodian, fire extinguishers are constantly being replaced because students continue to misuse them.

Broken doors and water fountains, cracked bathroom mirrors, missing bathroom faucets, and graffiti on walls are other acts of vandalism that have been taking place throughout the school. The only boys’ bathroom that’s open has continued to be vandalized, even though is a few feet away from the security desk. The students manage to get away with their destruction on the first floor where there are more adults than anywhere else in the building.

“Vandalism continues but it definitely has been worse in the past years, our presence -deans and school safety agents—in the hallways has made a big difference,” said Mr. Garofano, one of the school’s deans.

The money being spent to repair and replace destroyed parts could be use for big projects, like replacement of old flooring, new doors, etc. “Vandalism is taking thousands of dollars of my budget, making it hard to upkeep the building in areas that really need it,” said Ms. Jarret “We need more patrolling. The whole school—teachers, school safety, school aides and students—need to help; everybody has to work together if we want to reduce vandalism in our school. There are good students here but it seems like the bad ones get more attention, which might be one of the reasons they continue to act up,” she said.

Knock, Knock Who’s There? FitnessGram!

by Dayana Jaramillo

During April, all NYC students in grades 4 through 12 were required by the Department of Education (DOE) to complete the fitnessgram, a series of exercises to show how physically fit they are.

The fitnessgram is based on height and weight, and contains a flexibility component, a strength component, a cardiovascular component, and a running component.

The scores of each student were then sent electronically to the DOE.

“Representatives of the DOE came in to show the physical education teachers how to use the program on the computer,” said Mr. Devaux, a physical education teacher.

“I have mixed feelings,” said Mr. Lerro, another physical ed. teacher. “Teachers never received answers from the DOE as to the purpose of the fitnessgram,” he said. And, Mr. Lerro complained, “the fitnessgram was thrust upon us as an order by the DOE.”

According to the DOE website, the fitnessgram was piloted in 2005-06. The program was developed by the DOE after receiving input from New York City teachers, parents, medical providers, students, physical

education professionals, and others.

The fitnessgram test report, according to the website, summarizes each student’s performance on fitness assessments and suggests ways to help them to reach a “Healthy Fitness Zone” (optimal performance for better health based on their age and gender). Students who participate in the fitnessgram program are measured on individual performance and personal improvement, and are not judged against each other.

“I think the fitnessgram was a good idea,” said Mr. Devaux, “Students will be able to see their own improvement after they complete the fitnessgram the following year.”

Students took the fitnessgram during their gym period. Each exercise was done by the whole class at the same time.

According to Mr. Boyle, another phys ed. teacher, the fitnessgram was well-received by the students. “Most students were cooperative with the exceptional few that refused to participate.”

Freshmen, Erick Cabello thought the fitnessgram was interesting. “It pointed out the fit and unfit students and also helped us see what exercises we were lacking in. I think I did fairly ok but I could always do better.”

“Students can gain confidence by doing better each year and seeing their improvements,” said Mr. Boyle.

izzit @ Queens Voc

Swedish author discusses entrepreneurship

by Shamel Lobban

“The importance of the entrepreneur in the development of humankind,” said Mr. Schimenz, sums up the talk by guest speaker Johan Norberg, an author from Sweden, who spoke at Queens Voc on Wednesday May 14.

Johan Norberg has one of Sweden’s most widely read blogs. He has published eleven books on subjects such as human rights, entrepreneurship, and the history of liberalism.

Bob Chitester, president and CEO of Free to Choose Media and izzit.org accompanied Mr. Norberg. Izzit.org produces DVDs to help teachers facilitate conversations among their students on economic and political topics. Every social studies teacher at Queens Voc has received a box of DVDs relevant to the classes they teach.

Mr. Norberg, who is in the United States for about 6 weeks,



spoke to students in SCEET and SES.

Mr. Norberg said that “students should take advantage of the technology they have today.” He made it clear that if it were not for entrepreneurs inventing and producing new products, technology, and services, life would not be as easy as it is today.

“I think it was a great idea for Norberg to speak, because his speech was inspirational to students to let them know that they can use the resources available to them to better themselves,” said Mr. Raushan.

First Annual Pinning Ceremony Let’s Seek Guidance

by Angel Tejada

On Wednesday, February 27, the Cosmetology Department held its first annual pinning ceremony at 10am in the auditorium. One hundred and eighty-eight students and their teachers attended the event.

“It was nice that they recognized our achievements,” said Eva Jimenez, a senior Cosmo student. The pinning ceremony was conceptualized by Ms. Quartuccio and Mr. Grochala, who began planning last year.

The pins, which were specially made for this event, were awarded to students in different categories: Attendance – a student with 3 or less absences during the year received a certificate, Overall Performance – 2 students were chosen from each class by their teachers and received certificates based on their overall performance, including attendance, punctuality, number of jobs completed, tests, and their professionalism; and the last category was Hours – 3 different type of pins were awarded, based on the number of hours completed. Gold pins were awarded to students who should have 1000 hours completed by the end of the fourth marking period, Silver pins were awarded to students who had 750 or more hours, and green pins were awarded to students with 500 or more hours. The awards for hours were cumulative: students who received gold pins also received silver and green pins, and students who received silver pins also received green pins.

The event was run by Mrs. Basirico, Ms. D’Onofrio, Mr. Grochala, Mr. Holder, Ms. Newman, Mr. Rivera, Ms. Spallone, and Ms. Quartuccio. Cosmo students also helped organize the event, and Julian Castro, a senior EI student, helped with the music during the ceremony.

“The pinning ceremony was very successful,” said Mr. Grochala. “We are proud of our students’ accomplishments. The parents, staff, and students were very enthusiastic, and there was a good sense of student achievement.”

The following students received awards – [editor’s note: students are listed for the highest pin awarded.]

Green Pins

Seniors:

Gianella Borja
Miriam Castelan
Gail Diaz
Heather Dossantos



Pamela Ramirez recieves her green pin.

Solongie Gomez
Esli Gonzalez
Amanda Juca
Derria Khan
Tabitha Lamberson
Lizbeth Modesto
Nicole O’Toole
Angelica Rodriguez
Luisa Rodriguez
Yinaury Sanchez
Sam Shimunov
Oluyemisi Stroman

Juniors:

Ashley Abreu
Jesenia Almonte
Melissa Arias
Tracy Ambrossi
Dalisa Batista
Sherise Boxhill
Julissa Chaeuz
Goldene Davis
Tashia Douglas
Tiffany Galini
Yvonne Johnson
Crystal Muniz
Carla Puc
Pamela Ramirez
Shirley Rodriguez
Tecomblah Siedio
Denise Soto

Silver Pins

Seniors:

Lia Cespedes
Yomarys Concepcion
Adrienne Diaz
Yara Diaz
Jade Duncan
Diana Giraldo
Nefeteria-Ann Hennix
Evelyn Hernandez
Christy Hernandez
Raven Jamison
Eva Jimenez
Yanel Leroux
Shamel Lobban
Cinthia Molina
Samantha Musco
Daisy Vivar

Gold Pins

Seniors:

Christy Hernandez,
Eva Jimenez
Shamel Lobban
Cinthia Molina

Attendance Award

Seniors:

Jade Duncan
Raven Harris
Nefeteria Hennix
Shatipha Hudgins
Raven Jamison
Eva Jimenez
Tabitha Lamberson

Shamel Lobban
Angelica Rodriguez

Juniors:

Ashley Abreu
Jesenia Almonte
Lorena Bonilla
Jinet Collado
Yvonne Johnson
Shannessy Morales
Crystal Muniz
Carla Puc
Pamela Ramirez
Shirley Rodriguez
Denise Soto

Sophomores:

Teresa Agudo
Daniyah Ahmed
Christina Boston
Edward Burke
Martha Carpio
Lisbeth Collado
Melissa Collado
Stephanie Duran
Alejandra Espinoza
Paola Ferreira
Arien Hylton
Katherine Iguales
Rahlovel Livingston
Marsha Longmore
Samantha Lupo
Marissa Mendez
Vilma Porras
Amaris Quiroz
Jazmin Ramirez
Jessica Riera
Ariela Rodriguez
Carmen Roman
Natalie Santurio
Veronica Sierra
Ingrid Solarte
Jasmin Sosa
Wendy Tiapanco
Gabriela Vazquez
Arelí Vega

Freshmen:

Maria Amay
Kathleen Borba
Ashley Colwell
Valeria Enea
Kimberly Espinal
Yaneet Hernandez
Carin Hogans
Marilyn Jimenez
Katherine Lee
Rosa Marte
Yaneli Martinez
Vanessa Obando
Elizabeth Pimental
Raquel Reyes
Perla Solano
Nayomi Spencer
Karina Villalobos
Rocio Vincencio

by Dayana Jaramillo

Guidance counselors are very important to high school students. Students need someone who can help them review their grades and academic progress, make suggestions about improving in class to get better grades, and schedule them so that they can get the most out of their education.

According to Mr. Holder, all guidance counselors are certified in Instructional Support Services, which means they are qualified to help each student in whatever it is they may need, such as one-on-one counseling where students can feel free to talk about anything that may be bothering them.

There are five guidance counselors in Queens Voc. Ms. Adams, is assigned to the School of Computer Engineering and Electronic Technology (SCEET), Ms. Dattner, the School of Exploration and Discovery (SED), Ms. Gurka, the School of Skilled Building Trades (SSBT), Mr. Holder, the School of Entrepreneurial Studies (SES), and Ms. Basirico is the college advisor for seniors.

The guidance counselors review students’ transcripts with the student and look at the students’ progress making sure they are on track.

“We go over academics and try to prepare for what will be needed the following year,” said Ms. Adams. “We go over transcripts when students come in on their free time or I call them in to evaluate their progress,” she said. This is Ms. Adams second year as guidance counselor at Queens Voc. She is available in her office Monday to Friday, periods 1-7. Period 8 is her lunch period.

“On February 26, we held a 9th grade award ceremony,” said Ms. Dattner, “we awarded the 9th grade students who were passing all their classes the 3rd marking period and also those who have perfect attendance since September.” The students who passed all their classes were awarded a certificate and a compass signifying they are

headed in the right direction. Students with perfect were given certificates. Ms. Dattner also issues referrals for students for outside organizations such as Social Services, Western Queens Consultation Center, And Big Brother/Big Sister, where volunteers serve as role models for children who need them. Ms. Dattner is in her office Monday to Friday, periods 1-4 and 6-9.

Ms. Gurka, has been a counselor in Queens Voc for 9 years. Throughout these years she has developed different ways of approaching her students. “I give out certificates of improvement every marking period to encourage the students to keep working hard,” Ms. Gurka said. “I also listen to them, advise them when I can, and feed them if they’re hungry.” She says that this provides a “personal touch.” Students can go see Ms. Gurka any period they like, especially if they are in a crisis. She refers to this as an “open door policy.”

Mr. Holder, the only male guidance counselor, is also in his 9th year in Queens Voc. He said he tries to help students who are having academic and personal issues by setting up conferences with students, parents, and teachers. Sometimes male students not in his SLC are referred to Mr. Holder to discuss issues they might be having. He also refers his female students to other female counselors to discuss genders issues. This is done so the student can feel more comfortable discussing certain issues with someone of their own sex. Mr. Holder is available in his office Monday to Friday, periods 1-5 and 7-9.

Ms. Basirico is the college advisor. She helps seniors on their college hunt. She assists with college applications, referrals, and recommendation letters, and sends all necessary paper work such as transcripts and SAT scores to college. Ms. Basirico is available in her office Monday to Friday, periods 4-5 and 7-9.

The schedules of the counselors vary depending on meetings or conferences with parents and students. But generally, no appointments are needed.



Ms. Gurka advises Juan, one of her 350 students.

Skills USA Competition Recap

by Annaldo Jimenez

This year’s Skills USA competition was held in Syracuse, NY, from Wednesday, April 9, to Friday, April 11. Schools from all over New York City-Queens Voc, Automotive,

discuss ways to improve the conference and competition. Mr. Cintron, Skills USA advisor, and Mr. Rivera, the plumbing teacher, chaperoned the students.

The Queens Voc representatives traveled by bus and arrived in Syracuse late

students our age competing in various trades,” said Julian Castro. “Competing with the best in the state from your trade can seem intimidating, but it’s good to know you have the same effect on others,” said Steve Pinell. Some participants finished earlier than others and got a chance to view other competitions and cheer on their fellow students.

The students and advisors stayed in a Ramada Inn. At the hotel was an indoor pool. According to Dayana Jaramillo, the students went for a dip and then went to eat dinner. “It was like senior trip all over again, but with fewer people,” said Adrienne Diaz.

“It was fun. After dinner we all to the room and hooked up a PlayStation. We also watched movies and played pranks on each other,” said David Bermudez.

On Friday, students attended an award ceremony where the winners of the competitions were announced. David Bermudez placed third, Riyan Hidayat finished in fourth, and Steve Pinell finished in sixth.

“Our students did pretty well; a little more training would have gone a long way.” More students should compete so they can bring home more trophies,” said Mr. Rivera.

On Thursday, students went to work. They competed from 8am to 4pm with only a lunch break.

“It was a good experience. It’s good to see so many



Skills USA Competitors

Grady, and Alfred E. Smith-competed against each other in various trades

Seven Queens Voc students attended. David Bermudez, Julian Castro, and Dayana Jaramillo participated in motor control residential wiring and job demonstration. Steve Pinell put his computer skills to the test in computer technology maintenance, and Riyan Hidayat competed in electronics. Adrienne Diaz and Thomas Mozzeralla attended as delegates, students who

From the editors: Unfortunately, due to the quality of the Voice Grams we received, we are unable to publish Voice Grams this year. Please see Mr. Schimenz for refunds.

Preparing for Shop Certifications

by Christian Guiracocha

Students at Queens Voc can become A+ certified, copper cabling certified, and NOCTI certified in basic accounting, cosmetology, or web design.

To receive the A+ certification, computer tech students must be prepared in order to take the A+ exam. Students go through intense training in computer networking and maintenance repair in their C-tech classes to prepare for the exam. Mr. David teaches the freshmen and sophomore, Mr. Cintron the juniors, and Mr. Rodriguez the seniors.

“The A+ exam is a recognized industry exam that tests the competency of entry level computer technician,” said Mr. Rodriguez. The exam was held on Monday, June 9 and Tuesday, June 10. To take the A+ exam students must be in C-tech. The examination to receive the A+ certification consists of 2 parts. Each part costs \$150 but with the CES partnership that Queens Voc has, students take the test for free. All senior students in A+

computer tech class are encouraged to take it said Mr. Rodriguez.

Becoming A+ certified provides students with benefits such as receiving college credits, which vary on the college, for acquiring the A+ certification and gaining recognition from computer industries that recognize the technicians’ skill which can open doors for a better job. “Preparing for the A+ exam and taking the course really benefited me a lot,” said senior Edwin Adames.

Copper cabling, another certification opportunity at Queens Voc, is taught by Mr. Ali and Mr. Cintron. “The copper cabling certification is an industry recognized certification through which students can obtain a job in the telecommunication and networking field,” said Mr. Ali.

The copper cabling course is taken by all seniors in electrical installation, computer tech, and electronics. This year the juniors in electronics took copper cabling too.

The only requirement for taking the copper certification

course is being in electrical installation, computer tech, or electronics. Taking the copper cabling course to become certified costs approximately \$600, but, Mr. Ali said that the school pays for the entire course.

The copper cabling course usually held during the 2nd



CTE schools prepare students for life.

marking of the school year. To become certified students must pass a 3 part exam: multiple choice, troubleshooting, and cable construction. To prepare for the exam students learn to identify color codes, how to

troubleshoot, they learn all about networking systems and topology used in industry, safety in the worksite and how to build different cable configurations. “Copper cabling might be pretty old but it’s still useful in the field of telecommunications,” said senior Leonardo Mora, a copper

cabling certified student.

The NOCTI (National Occupational Competency Testing Institute) certification is given to cosmetology, accounting, and web design students who pass the NOCTI

FBLA Revives

by Yara Diaz

The Queens Voc Future Business Leaders of America chapter is being revitalized by Mrs. Mitchell, a business teacher who just began to work at the school this year.

“In FBLA, we all have different objectives, but at the same time we have to work together so that we succeed in our fundraisers and competitions, and to meet project deadlines,” said Joel Pena.

Mrs. Mitchell said she is trying to make this program become more beneficial and successful than it has been in the past years. “Next year we will definitely meet all of our deadlines, we will submit articles to the FBLA magazine, and we also plan to work with a local homeless shelter,” she said.

FBLA had a bake sale in March, before the statewide FBLA competition. The members and Mrs. Mitchell decided to give 10% of their fundraising to the March of Dimes. The remainder of the funds helped pay for four Queens Voc students to attend the state competition, which took place in the Catskills, New York from Monday, April 7, to Wednesday, April 9.

Neil Kamath, Daniel Maysonet, Joel Pena, and Gilbert Williams attended the competition.

“The competition was amazing, but we needed more preparation to be in the other competitor’s level,” Gilbert said. Each student had a different role. Gilbert was an ambassador; his job was to help the rest of the members in his group go to the rooms they were scheduled to. Joel took the accounting exam and served as a delegate, and Daniel and Neil took the Math exam.

The rest of the members in FBLA are Johana Arango, Freddy Gomez, Karen Hernandez, Hugo Ronco, Cynthia Rojas and Guadalupe Victoria.

“Next year the requirements to be in this program will be stricter, such as good attendance for all of their classes, a minimum of an 80 average, and an entrée fee,” said Mrs. Mitchell. The entrée fee this year was \$20 for the basic preparation materials.

Mrs. Mitchell believes that FBLA is a great opportunity for those students who take their business program seriously not just because of the experience they gain but also the chances to win scholarships.

FBLA offered Mrs. Mitchell an opportunity to sit on the board of trustees or even write a test for the program. “I think this would give me the chance to be more informed about inside information such as grading tests and what material to study. I am very honored because is my first year and I am off to a good start,” said Mrs. Mitchell.

The exam was held on Tuesday, May 20 and Wednesday, May 21 for cosmetology students, Thursday, June 12 and Friday, June 13 for web design students, and Friday, May 29 and Saturday, May 30 for accounting students. The exam consists of a written part and a performance part. Each part of the exam costs \$30 and is and is free for all students scheduled to take it. “Obtaining the certification shows that you have the ability to think and that you have achieved understanding and skill that is required for the particular area of specialization,” said Mr. Alohan, an accounting buisness teacher.

The benefit for passing the NOCTI exam and acquiring the certification is that students receive an endorsed diploma. Before taking the NOCTI exam, students are required to pass all courses and complete 60 hours of worked based training related to their major. Accounting students must acquire 2 certifications, one of each in either Excel, PowerPoint, Microsoft Word, or Financial Literacy, and web design students must acquire a certification in web design or visual communication.

Principal’s Message



Dear Students, Faculty and Staff,

As the year draws to a close, it is time to concentrate on giving your best efforts toward accomplishing your goals in the short time left in this school year. If that means getting the project done, then get it done. If that means writing the report you have been putting off, then write that report. If it means passing the Regents exams you have been preparing for, then take the Regents exams and do well on them. Now more than ever, it is time to “get the job done.” After all, if you don’t do what is needed now, you will still have to complete it at a later time. Why wait? Waiting only makes the task seem more daunting than necessary. By procrastinating less, you accomplish more—a lesson that serves everyone well throughout life.

Just as you should focus on “getting the job done,” we as a school need to assess what we have left to accomplish this year. At Queens Vocational and Technical HS, we need to improve our performance on Regents exams, so that all students achieve a grade of 65 or better. We need to improve the number of students being promoted to the next level. This means teachers should offer help to students who are committed to improving their performance, and students need to be committed and complete the work needed to pass classes and exams.

The end of the year is also the best time to look back and reflect on how far you have come, what you have accomplished thus far. Too often, we overlook what we have done well. What have you accomplished this year? Did you learn a new skill, try something new and productive? Did you improve or perfect your skills and performance in a given area? Have you connected with the people in your lives? Have you made decisions that will benefit you with positive outcomes? What will you remember about this year that will bring a feeling of satisfaction, a sense of accomplishment? For some of you it will be graduation, promotion to the next level, or certification in your CTE major. For others it will be good grades on exams, and on the report card. Everyone has an accomplishment that can serve as a source of pride and motivation for the next steps.

Our school has had its accomplishments, as well. As you end this school year, know that you have been part of the ongoing improvements and achievements at Queens Vocational and Technical HS. Our school continues to increase the number of graduates with Regents and CTE diplomas. We continue to improve our attendance and our academic performance. We continue to increase our partnerships and internship opportunities. We are accomplishing these endeavors together, and each of you has contributed to these goals by achieving for yourselves.

As we close this school year, assess where we are and what we have done; it is then time to focus on replenishing ourselves this summer. Some will take the opportunity to complete what they did not do in summer school. Others will plan ahead for next year. All of us should spend some time enjoying the summer ahead.

Have a pleasant, relaxing summer,

Denise Vittor

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

How to End Hallway Congestion

A commentary by Annaldo Jimenez

“You have five seconds!!!” Minutes after the late bell has rung this is what students in the hallways at Queens Voc hear on a regular basis. Not because a bomb is about to go off, but because that seems to be the only way to get students to vacate the halls for their classes.

Students have a tendency to stay out in the halls as long as possible, ignoring the late bell and creating traffic jams.

Students have three minutes to get to their next class, but some students take advantage of that, standing around conversing in groups and arriving late to class several minutes after the late bell has rung. This causes other students and teachers to be late to their classes as well.

“The most crowding usually occurs between third and fourth period on the 3rd floor. Aggravated deans get up there and yell to clear the halls on a day to day basis; it shouldn’t be like that,” said Mr. Mendez, a dean at Queens Voc.

It isn’t just the students’ fault; it’s the teachers’ fault as well. If teachers were stricter about lateness and class attendance, students would go to class on time because they would be held accountable.

There should be more authority figures circulating the halls. School safety agents and deans should work together. There are two deans on duty fourth period. Deans and safety agents can work together to clear the halls. At least three safety agents patrolling the halls students will keep students moving. The kids can save the talking for lunch or after school.

If the problem doesn’t get resolved this way, the deans should take it to the next step and suspend those students who constantly roam the halls.

“There should be more security patrolling, especially in the third floor. There should be authorities in the old and new wing alike,” said Mr. Browne, a school safety agent at Queens Voc.

As you can see, most of the students who hang out on the floors usually don’t belong there, they just want to be with friends,” he said.

Journalism: Writing to Inform

by Yanel Leroux

At Queens Voc, the senior honors English class is Journalism. The seniors learn a journalistic style of writing, discuss the ethics of fair reporting, and produce the school newspaper. This is the fourth issue put out this year. The *Vocational Voice* has garnered a first place showing in the American Scholastic Press Association five years in a row.

The editors are a major part of the production process. “The editors are the students who step up, work hard, and show dedication,” said Mr. Schimenz. They make sure all the photos are taken, and they layout the newspaper on nights and weekends. The students layout the newspaper in the Writing Center in Adobe PageMaker and they edit the photos in Photoshop.

Journalism is not a fluff class. It’s a “meritocracy, just like life; you have to work hard, you have to earn it,” said Mr. Schimenz, who once failed one of his baseball players, preventing him from graduating. “I like to put in effort so things get done well or better than expected,” said Angel Tejada, one of the editors this year.

Journalism students at Queens Voc learn good work ethics. “Journalism is different because it’s not an ordinary English class, but more like a writing class,” said Catherine Gomez, an editor. They learn to meet deadlines and develop good writing skills. “You’re writing for over a thousand readers, not just one teacher,” he constantly reminds his class. Students say they gain a lot by being in the class. “You can learn things that you can use in the outside world,” says editor Daisy Vivar. Manny Portorreal said that “Journalism is fun. You learn a lot and it prepares you for college.” Oscar Mendez said he, too, likes “journalism because we have the chance to spread news to all the other students in the school.”

Mr. Schimenz is often confronted by students who think he gives low grades. “Teachers who give students high grades for little work are telling them they can’t do better,” he said. He often puts his baseball players in the class, but they’ll be the first ones to say that doesn’t help with their report card grades. “They learn as freshmen and sophomores what I expect. They’re usually well-prepared by the time they’re seniors, Mr. Schimenz said.

The papers are not without errors, but that is their goal.

Angel Tejada, another editor, who, according to Mr. Schimenz, has been a tremendous help in getting the papers published this year, said that Journalism “is great because out of all the classes I have taken in Queens Voc, it is the one that has best prepared me for college, and no, I’m not just saying this for a good grade.”

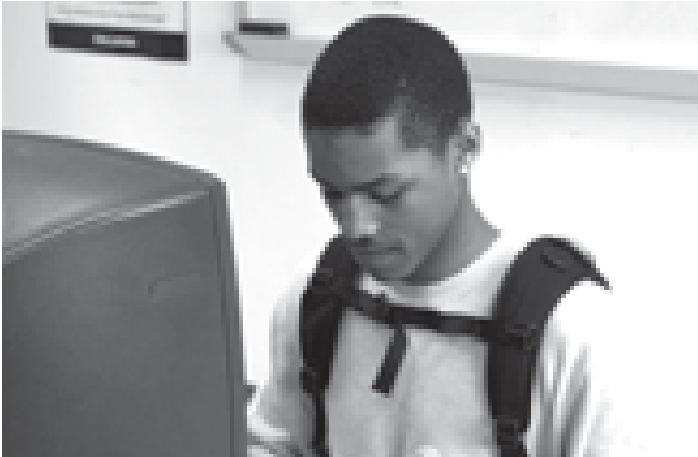
Senior Shop Profiles

by Rusel Grullon

Queens Voc students take vocational classes, which makes our school different from most other academic high schools. We asked all senior CTE teachers to recommend a student from their class whom we should recognize.

Questions:

- 1. What have you learned senior year that you didn't learn your previous years in shop?
- 2. Do you feel like you will be able to use what you've learned this year in the future? If so, how?
- 3. Are you satisfied with what you've learned this year? Why or why not?
- 4. Was this year what you expected? Why or why not?
- 5. Do you regret choosing this major? Why?



Carlos Mason Major: Business, Mr. Mugan

- 1. I learned how to fill out a 1040 form and I learned about what it takes to run a business.
- 2. Yes, because if my future plans don't work out I can always rely on my accounting and taxation knowledge as well as use my leadership skills that I've gained this year.
- 3. I am, because this has been an excellent year I learned plenty.
- 4. Yes, because I knew it would be difficult but fun.
- 5. No, because this major has given me skills I can apply anywhere, not just in the business world.



Christi Hernandez Major: Cosmetology, Mr. Grochala

- 1. I've learned about state board sets, senior seats and how to give proper buzz cuts.
- 2. Yes...If anything doesn't go as planned in my future I can always use what I've learned as a back up career and I can always cut my family's hair as well as my own.
- 3. Yes, because like I said before I can use what I've learned to get a back up career or career in general.
- 4. Yes, because I expected more clients senior year and I've had more clients than ever before.
- 5. No, I love Cosmo!



Anthony Carcamo Major: EI, Mr. Maloney

- 1. I learned about motor control and how to deal with high voltage electricity.
- 2. Yes, because I plan to become an electrician and join a union in the future.
- 3. Yes, I am satisfied because everything I've learned this year is similar to what real electricians are taught to do.
- 4. It was what I expected because I thought I would learn everything I've learned this year.
- 5. No, I like working with my hands.



Riyan Hidayat Major: Electronics, Mr. Ali

- 1. I learned about advanced electrical mechanics this year.
- 2. Yes, I feel like I would be able to use what I've learned this year in my future because I want to ever build a robot I know the fundamentals.
- 3. Yes, because I expected to learn the basic foundation of electronics.
- 4. Yes, because I expected to be with the same classmates as the previous three years here in Electronics.
- 5. No, because I really learned a lot and I learned how things work digitally and physically.



Gilberto Estrada Major: Plumbing, Mr. McCarthy

- 1. I learned how to put together a bathroom this year.
- 2. Yes, because everyone needs plumbing work in their home.
- 3. Yes, it's a good head start for my future career.
- 4. No, I didn't expect to do so much work this year.
- 5. No, because I found a career I want to pursue and that I will benefit from.

Work Hard, Earn Respect.

A New Team For a New Year

by Juan De La Cruz

Queens Voc currently has ten interscholastic teams, but by next year there will be at least one more team added, a wrestling team. The school will then have eight boys' teams and three girls' teams.

The new wrestling team is being funded by Beat the Streets, an organization dedicated to expanding and developing wrestling in the New York metropolitan area will pay the cost of the team for the first 3 years. According to Mr. Lerro, after the three years, the school is responsible to support the team financially. Now that there is a new team, there is an open position for coaching. Mr. Lerro is working with teachers who are interested in coaching, so that they can become certified.

Another new team that the school has applied for is girls' volleyball, a fall season team. Recently Mr. Lerro and Mr. Mayer were interviewed by LaShawna Harris of PSAL. In the interview, Mr. Lerro explained that the school had enough girls interested and that there is a huge

“The school needs at least 2 more girls’ teams to be in compliance with Title IX”

imbalance between boys and girls teams. According to Mr. Lerro, the school has over 40 girls interested in playing on a volleyball team. While Queens Voc has 8 boys' teams and 3 girls', there are about the same number of boys and girls in Queens Voc. The school needs at least 2 more girls' teams to be in compliance with Title IX, a federal law that mandates that girls must have the same access to sports team as boys.



Shooting for more sports.

New Gadgets

by Oscar Mendez

Samsung Instinct

The Samsung Instinct from Sprint will hit the shelves Friday, June 20. This new smartphone looks very similar Apple’s popular iPhone, but includes several new features not found in Apple’s model. Among those features are wireless and Bluetooth support, a removable battery, expandable memory, and a 2.0 megapixel camera that also serves as a camcorder.

In addition, the Instinct provides a touch screen interface, accessible through the use of a stylus or the user’s finger. For internet connectivity, the Instinct provides a full HTML browser, allowing you to send and receive pictures, as well as surf the web. The user can also view live TV and pinpoint his or her exact location, or get directions, using the GPS Navigation and Search.

The Samsung Instinct measures 4.57 in by 2.17 in by 0.49 in and weighs about 4.4 ounces. It includes a 2GB capacity MicroSD memory card, expandable to 8GB, and 2 standard Lithium-Ion batteries with an AC adapter and a battery charger. Also included are a USB cable, 3.5mm headphones, a MicroSD memory card adapter, and a stylus.

At a price of “under \$300” (actual price not yet released), the Instinct will be a fierce competitor with the iPhone, possibly even beating it in terms of performance. Either way, Samsung’s Instinct will be a good addition to a tech fan’s collection.



Blackberry Curve 8330

The Blackberry Curve 8330 is the newest smartphone from the Blackberry family. Several of the features on this phone are similar to the ones found in previous models, such as the 2.0 megapixel camera, the memory card slot, the 3.5mm headphone jack, and the Bluetooth support. The Blackberry Curve also features GPS navigation and a QWERTY keyboard. It also includes a MicroSD memory

card slot which supports up to 8GB of memory.

If you need an internet connection, the Blackberry Curve 8330 has a web browser built in. The trackball can be used for easy navigation through the web and you can even bookmark your favorite sites. E-mail, IM, and text messaging are also supported.

This PDA also supports different types of media, including music, pictures, and video. You can plug in your headset and listen to music while you read your messages, or you can download video clips from the internet to find out the latest news.

The Blackberry Curve 8330 measures 4.2 in by 2.4 in by 0.6 in and weighs about 4 oz. It runs on one Lithium-Ion battery that supports about 4 hours of continuous talk time.

Whether for on the go or at home, the Blackberry Curve 8330 is a good choice for the business-type or the technologically trendy. The various features available on this phone allow it to satisfy your everyday needs.

SONY S-Frame Digital Photo Frame

Digital photo frames are becoming more and more popular because, unlike regular photo frames, they can display more than one picture. This March, SONY introduced the S-Frame model of digital photo frames, including the DPF-D70, the DPF-V700, and the DPF-V900.

All three S-Frame models have an 800x480 resolution screen and display images of up to 48 mega pixels. The frames offer 10 slide show variations, clock and calendar views, and an automatic on/off setting, so you can set the time the frame will turn on or off.

Photos are loaded into the frames by the use of memory cards, such as Memory Stick PRO, Memory Stick PRO Duo, SD Memory Card, Compact Flash, and Microdrive, or through a computer using a USB cable. The photo frames are also Bluetooth compatible, allowing you to transfer photos from your PC or cell phone wirelessly.

The DPF-D70 and the DPF-V700 have 7 inch displays, while the DPF-V900 model has a 9 inch display. However, the DPF-D70 model has a 256MB capacity, storing up to 500 1.5 megapixel photos, while the DPF-V700 and DPF-V900 have 512MB capacities, storing up to 1000 1.5 mega pixel photos. The DPF-D70 sells for \$140, the DPF-V700 for \$190, and the DPF-V900 for \$250.

Book Reviews

by Michelle Thomas

Twilight

by Stephenie Meyer

Isabella Swan is a seventeen-year-old girl who relocates from Phoenix, Arizona to Forks, Washington. When Isabella gets to her new hometown, she starts to become the main attraction in her new school. Isabella makes several friends, one of whom is a young man named Edward Cullen.

Edward seems to despise Isabella at first, but as they grow closer, he starts to like her more as a girlfriend. What she doesn’t know is that Edward has a shady family history; he comes from a family of vampires. Oddly enough, the Cullen’s don’t drink human blood, instead they drink animal blood. *Twilight* is a great book for young adults, as it takes readers into a surreal world filled with romance, fantasy, and, of course, vampires.

A Thousand Splendid Suns

by Khaled Hosseini

From the author who wrote the bestseller *The Kite Runner*, Khaled Hosseini returns with *A Thousand Splendid Suns*. The book is divided into four parts. Part one focuses on Mariam, Part two and four focus on Laila; the third part of the book focus, on both characters.

Mariam has an arranged marriage with Rasheed at age fifteen and becomes pregnant with his child. Rasheed hopes for a boy but Mariam has a miscarriage. Her husband starts to abuse her as well as ignore her. Then comes Laila, who lives down the street from them. When Laila’s parents are killed, she stays with Mariam. Rasheed starts to like her, but the two women band together to defeat Rasheed. This book is for young adults.

Blackwood Farm

by Anne Rice

Readers are taken into a shady, surreal, and secretive world with *Blackwood Farm*, a novel in which the author brings witches and vampires together. This 9th book in the Vampire Chronicles introduces Tarquin “Quinn” Blackwood, a child of the Blackwood clan, a powerful and old family located in New Orleans.

Because Quinn is part a powerful clan, a mysterious spirit named Goblin haunts him. Goblin also happens to be attached to Quinn spiritually.

Unable to fight the spirit alone, Quinn sets out on a journey to enlist the help of Lestat de Lioncourt; a vampire who after a fashion, decides to help Quinn.

Readers will discover a shocking truth about Goblin and Tarquin. The now blood-thirsty Goblin, who looks identical to Tarquin, is actually a little boy’s spirit. Who is the spirit? What does he want? Read the book. You’ll be captivated.

I Remember When...

by Juan De La Cruz

I remember when we dissected a frog in living Environment.
– Jade Duncan

I remember when I got picked off first base for tucking in my shirt in during my freshman year of JV baseball.
– Julian Castro

I remember when Ronald blew up his job in EI and there were sparks all around him.
– Andres Menendez

I remember when our baseball team scored the first run in the championship baseball game.
– David Bermudez

I remember when there was a food fight in the lunch room.
– Gilberto Estrada

I remember when I got my high school ring.
– Darnel Davis

I remember last year when I was doing a job in Mr. Abreu’s class and blew it up, it was hilarious.
– Manny Aguilar

I remember when I was ice skating on the senior trip and fell on my face.
– Chris Fox

I remember when I first came into the school, I thought it was corny, but now it’s hot.
– Angel Medina

I remember when we used to eat lunch in the auditorium.
– Steven Sacharsky

I remember when we used to have gym in a small room in back of auditorium.
– Daniel Carpio

I remember when we had 4 different history teachers in 10 grade, because our teacher was absent for basically the whole year.
– Guillermo Taveras

I remember when my two brothers, Anthony and Vincent, and I were at Keyspan Park to watch the Championship baseball game. What stood out to me were Annaldo’s 2 hits in the last inning and Juan’s spectacular play at 3rd base.
–Michael Calderon

I remember when I transferred to this school the people I talk to now hated me. They looked at me bad and would exclude me. They told me that I looked like Ms. Know-it-all. It wasn’t nice.
–Miriam Castelan

I remember when we first got to the senior trip and ice-skating with everyone there—and watching the guys kill each other.
– Eva Jimenez

If I Won the Lottery...

by Daisy Vivar

Have you ever thought about winning the lottery? We asked some teachers what they would do if they won the lottery.

“I would contribute to my charities, and buy a new car.”
– Mrs. Sharpe

“I would give to charity and try to secure my family’s future, and give them a better life as well.”
– Mr. Vega

“I would go somewhere sunny with blue water.”
– Mr. Boyle

“I’ll give money to all of my nieces and nephews, and buy a farm and raise horses.”
– Mrs. Basirico

“I would divide it between my children, husband, and I. I would also buy lollipops for my class.”
– Ms. Peteroy

“I would buy a boat for myself.”
– Mrs. Nasreen

“I would buy a new car.”
– Mr. Grochala

“I would feed the poor and hungry.”
– Mr. Abreu

“I would wait for the check to clear and then quit.”
– Mr. Cintron

“Invest money, make sure my parents are taken care of, take care of all my nieces and nephews, donate money, and buy a big bowl of mangu.”
– Mr. David

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

Sudoku

by Yara Diaz

How to solve?

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

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

Who’s the Teacher?

by Catherine Gomez

Teacher #1

He is an electrical installation teacher.

Participates in Heritage Day with his big Puerto-Rican hat.

This is his first year as a dean. Commonly confused with Mr. Abreu.

Who is this teacher?

Teacher #2

He is very competitive when it comes to basketball.

He loves driving down to Florida during vacations.

He is the girl’s varsity basketball coach.

He is also the boy’s varsity bowling coach.

Who is this teacher?

Teacher #3

She teaches cosmetology.

She reminds seniors to get jobs in order to receive their endorsed high school diploma.

Her office is located in the back of room 411.

She is the coordinator for the LEARN program.

Who is this teacher?

Teacher #4

She always wears shoes.

She’s a first year teacher.

She teaches two Electrical Installation classes.

She is the only female electronics teacher.

Who is this teacher?

Teacher #5

He’s a Queens Voc graduate.

This is who you call when you’re having computer issues. He’s the Mouse Squad coordinator.

He’s the JV baseball coach.

Who is this teacher?

Answers:

Teacher#2: Mr. Cimron

Teacher#4: Ms. Ramdeo

Teacher#3: Ms. Zballone

Teacher#5: Mr. Devaux

Teacher#1: Mr. Mendes

Student Talent

by Natalie Vargas

Nicholo Martinez

After getting in trouble in 8th grade and having his PlayStation away, Nicholo Martinez, a senior at Queens Voc, turned his attention to skateboarding, which his friends offered to teach him.

Watching skateboarding videos and watching his friends practice inspired him to continue to do better. Now, 3 years later,



Nick is one of the 18.5 million skateboarders in the world, and has filmed 3 different skateboarding videos, 1 of which will be released in December.

“The funniest thing is that when I was growing up, everyone laughed at the way I dressed and how I would skateboard all the time. Now, a lot of my friends and people I don’t know appreciate and congratulate me on my talent.”

Word Scramble

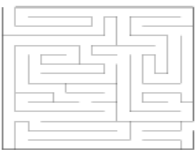
by Emmanuel Portorreal

How well do you know your teachers from Queens Voc? See how many of these names you can unscramble:

Mr. beura
Mr. ckareanam
Ms. mlobo
Mr. oleby
Ms. ubgr
Mr. rkube
Ms. tadtren
Mr. viadd
Mr. osnidvda
Mr. xauvde
Ms. orifol
Ms. lgaharegl
Mr. griaca
Mr. aorgaonf
Ms. ugkar
Ms. imelmh
Mr. acdnomadl
Mr. amoyeln
Mr. enmzde
Mr. aulnseosm
Mr. edvezu
Mr. oerlr
Mr. neowb
Mr. trninoc

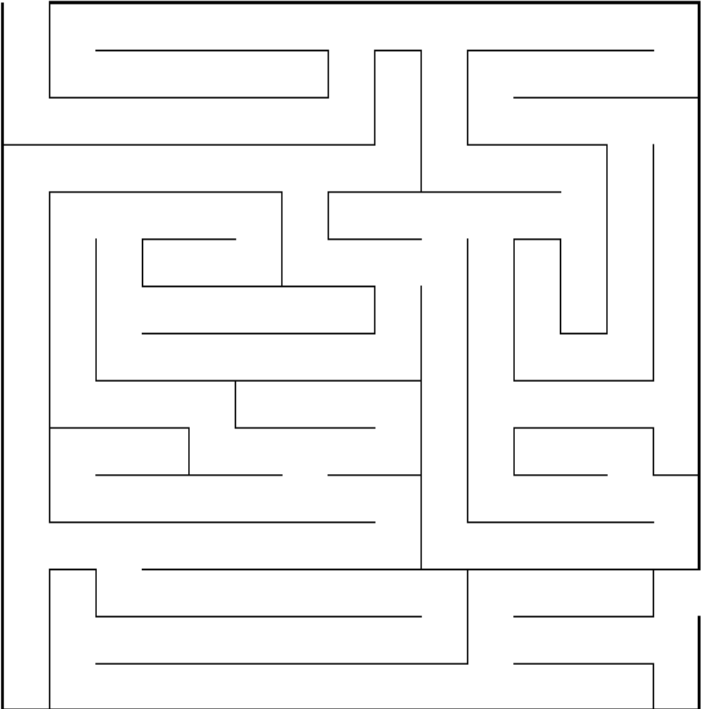
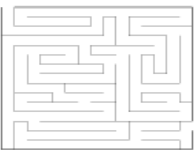
Aneita's Work of Art





Maze

by Melanie Bencosme



Adonis' Advice Column

by Joshua Bland

Dear Adonis, my friend is a boy; he always wants to show off in front of me. He makes things up just to impress me what should I do?

Anonymous Male

Dear Anonymous Male, I think that your friend looks up to you and might want to impress you, by saying and making things up he gets your attention. Your friend can also feel left out so he needs a way to get you to notice him.

Adonis

Dear Adonis, I have a problem. I have a boyfriend, I make new friends that are guys but I can't seem to admit that I'm taken. These guys like me and I like them too, but I'm in love with my boyfriend. I seem to fall in love with all these guys and do things that I'm not suppose to do. I feel bad when I cheat on my boyfriend. Can you help me?

Unfaithful

Dear Unfaithful, if you love your boyfriend you wouldn't play games with him. You seem to be a very friendly but you should set yourself boundaries because if you don't, you'll never know when you're out of bounds. Keep your friends on a friendship level and let these guys know that you have someone in your life and that you only want to be friends.

Adonis

Dear Adonis, I have a girlfriend, but for some strange reason I seem to look at my guy friends as more then friends. The other night I had a dream that I was

making out with 1 of my boys. I liked it, but I don't know if I really want to kiss actual guys. I'm confused can you help me?

Curious George

Dear Curious George, curiosity is strong around this time of your life you might be just going through a phase that can be fixed. If your feelings tend to grow more in that direction then you should take care of your business but if it doesn't then I think you shouldn't worry about it to much.

Adonis

Dear Adonis, I want to be one of cool kids in school, but I feel as though I have to act bad, or do something to get myself into major trouble for them to like me. How can I show them that I'm just as cool without doing bad things?

Uncool Kid

Dear Uncool Kid, being bad is somewhat of a trend; it eventually goes out of style once everyone does it. Be yourself; you don't have to prove to anyone that you're somebody to get them to like you. Be a leader not a follower.

Adonis

Dear Adonis, I am a girl, my best friend is a boy. I have a crush on his girlfriend, how do I go about that?

Lady Love

Dear Lady Love, My advice for you is to confront your best friend. They are just feelings you have for his girlfriend, so you shouldn't let your feelings get in the way of a friendship that worth so much more.

Adonis



by Cindy Carrasco

Horoscopes



words fall from your lips.

mouth is. There is no reason for any hesitation, so just do it.

Aries: March 21 - April 19

You have much more creativity than you think you do — especially now, when the universe is sending you a bright can-do attitude. Good thing, too, because you will be thrust into a situation that forces you to think on your feet and come up with some quick answers. Have no fear and you will have lots of fun. It's time to stop worrying about what is right or wrong and just do what feels right. Forget about breaking the rules—make your own new ones.

Taurus: April 20 - May 20

It's just like you to bend over backwards to help a friend in need, but haven't you noticed that this friend needs you! If you want to stay content with this relationship, then you need to speak up when you are starting to feel taken advantage of. You don't have to pick a fight, but you do have to stand up for yourself — he would expect nothing less of you. In fact, he might be waiting for you to push back and force him to be more independent.

Gemini: May 21 - June 21

Are you feeling a little bit more thrifty than usual? It's not surprising, given the recent headaches that you have been dealing with. But before you swing into full-on panic mode, take a deep breath. Something inside of you is pulling you toward a more cautious type of fiscal behavior, and all you have to do is follow it. Your interests are moving away from acquiring material goods — you want more substance and less flash from life.

Cancer: June 22 - July 22

Clarity is especially important right now, because you need to make sure the people you are dealing with completely understand who you are and what you are willing to do. Put extra effort in when it comes to making sure you are saying what you mean and confirming that people understand what you are trying to say. If you don't, conflicts could start to brew. Double check any emails you send, and go over your end of a conversation before you let the

Leo: July 23 - August 22

If you are only acting modest because you don't want to come off as being too cocky, then you are not being honest! Don't feel guilty about enjoying the praise you get when you do something remarkable — embrace it! After all, you're not exactly the type of person who would rent a billboard to promote each and every achievement, so you don't have to ever worry about people thinking that you have a big head. They know you better than that — give them some credit!

Virgo: August 23 - Sept. 22

Put all of your compassionate energy to good use by offering aid to those in need. You don't have to hop on a plane to a third world country — there are plenty of people right in your own little corner of the world who could use your help. You know, right now, there's someone in your life who could use a hand with a work project, a home repair, a relationship problem, or maybe even help moving into a new home! Offer to lend a hand to this person at some point in the near future.

Libra: Sept. 23 - October 22

The behavior that's been happening in your social circle might be driving you nuts, but it doesn't directly involve you — so don't insert yourself into the drama. Keep your head down and avoid picking sides. It is possible for you to remain neutral, despite what one of the main players says. So don't succumb to his/her pressure. They may see things as black and white, but you see both sides of this issue. Things should be quieting down soon.

Scorpio: Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

You need to pick up your feet and get moving more aggressively toward one of your goals. It's not going to come to you! Sure, it might seem hard to attain, and it probably will take more than one day to attain it. But it's important for you to believe that you can get what you want — you just have to start reaching for it! Show everyone that you are ready to put your money where your

Sagittarius: Nov. 22 - Dec. 21

Your growing ambition makes you mismatched with a mellow friend. If you two have social plans soon, you need to work harder to adjust to their way of thinking if you want to have a good time. You can't talk about your career or other aspirations and expect that person to be interested. His influence in your life is good, so you should welcome the chance to talk about deeper ideas and more spiritual concepts. You're lucky to have such a diverse group of friends in your life — embrace them.

Capricorn: Dec. 22 - Jan. 19

Is your mind on tomorrow? Get it back to thinking about today! You have got to deal with the people who are in your life right now — and the issues at hand. It's good to be mindful of the future and have goals you want to achieve, but if you're ignoring the present, you are missing out. So instead of planning your next vacation or thinking about what you are going to do this weekend, focus on the next few hours and contact at least one of your favorite people.

Aquarius: Jan. 20- Feb. 18

Any issues that pop up around the house now won't be terribly dramatic, but they do require your undivided attention. They represent a real change you need to make in yourself. If there is a conflict over cleanliness, perhaps you need to get rid of the clutter in the emotional parts of your life. Throwing out garbage doesn't only refer to potato peels or old newspapers! Your negative feelings and self-doubt may need to get tossed to the curb, too!

Pisces: Feb. 19 - March 20:

Make sure you do whatever it takes to get some peace and quiet these days. It's healthy to have time by yourself every once in a while, and today is as good a time as any. Your creativity has not been as sharp as you are used to it being, and you could use a recharge. Do something fun that is best done alone — read a juicy novel, rent a silly movie that you're almost embarrassed to love so much, or take a long bath. Get a short break from the action and the energy of other people.

*Farewell to Ms. Gurka,
Ms. Kubota,
and Mr. Ryan*

Inquiring Photographer

by Adrienne Diaz

We asked some of our fellow students: “Would you rather be lonely or broke?”



Luis Hernandez
Freshman

I would rather be lonely because then I could focus more on myself and on my school work then I'll be more successful in life.



Leidy Ramos
Freshman

I would rather be broke because you could find someone who is rich and support you.



Michael Calderon
Senior

Lonely because there is no way I am going to be broke. Also, with money come a lot of women.



Joel Pena
Junior

I would rather be broke because wealth can be procured.



David Bermudez
Senior

I would rather be broke because once you get used to being so rich you are going to be bored with your life. It's better to have someone to share it with.



Disha Patrekar
Junior

Broke is better because if you are lonely you have no one to share your problems with and everyone has problems.



Guadalupe Victoria
Sophomore

I would rather be lonely because I could buy books to read to entertain myself or I could buy something else to entertain myself with.



Tahilee Hogan
Freshman

Being lonely is better because I don't need anyone; I take myself to the top and hold my own.



Ashley Addonisio
Sophomore

I would rather be broke because money doesn't mean anything, money doesn't buy happiness.



Daniel Maysonet
Sophomore

I would rather be lonely because you can buy things to entertain yourself.



DJ Lopez
Sophomore

I would rather be broke because money comes and goes and things you buy can easily be broken or lost.



Eva Jimenez
Senior

I'd rather be broke; money can only fulfill you for so long before you move on and find a new desire. Being broke I'm happy and surrounded with people who are fun and not with me for interest.

MUSIC REVIEWS

by Ivan Perez

Kerli - Love is Dead

Twenty-one year old singer/song writer Kerli is an up-and-coming artist from Elva, Estonia. Kerli's album, *Love Is Dead*, is being released this month. She is an artist who isn't only interested in the fame, but in her fans being able to relate to her music.

Kerli's preview sampler from her impending album has 3 songs. The songs are mostly passionate and deep. People who are more to themselves and feel lonely should be able to relate to Kerli's music.

The songs were more interesting than I thought they would be. "Love Is Dead" had an interesting sound to it. I also enjoyed listening to "Walking on Air" with its catchy beat and melody.

PlayRadioPlay! - Texas

PlayRadioPlay! started as a one-man band by Daniel Hunter. Hunter always felt that being a solo artist was best for him. He is the songwriter, singer, producer, and sole live performer of PlayRadioPlay! Hunter's signing with Island/Stolen Transmission records led him to having a band but remains as the leading artist. After touring with Gym Class Heroes, Fall Out Boy and Young Love, Hunter put out his first full length album called *Texas*.

PlayRadioPlay!'s album consists of 12 songs. The album has a mixture of beats. "I'm a Pirate, You're a Princess" has more of a slowness to it, while "Tooth Decay" is more acoustic guitar-based. PlayRadioPlay! makes happy music.

The song I like best from the album is "I'm Afraid there's a Hole in My Brain." The song has a very engaging intro and catchy lyrics. "Corner Office Bedroom" also caught my attention with its catchy lyrics. People will enjoy listening to the songs.

Ludo -

You're Awful, I Love You

Ludo is an up-and-coming band that consists of 5 members: Andrew Volpe, Tim Ferrell, Marshall Fanciullo, Tim Convy, and Matt Palermo. Their new album, *You're Awful, I Love You*, contains mostly extreme rock, with darkness and adventurous storytelling.

"The Horror of Love" is a song that someone depressed about love can relate to with its sad tone and deep lyrics. Some people will be able to relate to their music deeply while others will just enjoy listening to them.

I enjoyed listening to many songs on the album. My favorite song on the album is "Love Me Dead." I listened to it repeatedly. I like the lyrics to the song but mostly the guitar solo.

MOVIE REVIEWS

by Ivan Perez

National Treasure: Book of Secrets

National Treasure had an unbelievable ending. Ben Gates (played by Nicholas Cage) is now out to clear his family's name and find more treasure. He tries to discover the truth about Abraham Lincoln's assassination by finding the missing pages to John Wilkes Booth's diary.

With the help of his father, Patrick Gates (played by John Voight), his mother Emily Appleton (played by Helen Mirren) and others, he travels around the world searching for clues for directions to the hidden treasure. He goes through many obstacles and dangerous missions in pursuit of treasure.

National Treasure 2: Book of Secrets had an exciting suspenseful ending. The movie was adventurous and filled with action scenes.

I am Legend

U.S. Army Virologist Lieutenant Colonel Robert Neville (played by Will Smith) and his dog Samantha are left as the last healthy human and animal in New York City as a result of the spread of a lethal virus.

Flashbacks and recorded news from 3 years earlier reveal that the developed cure for cancer led to this spreading infection within the United States. In New York, the infection killed off about 90% of the population. The remaining 10% of the humans were infected but live. Neville experiments on the infected humans to find a cure for the virus.

This movie was very interesting and appealing. It has a thrilling plot and ending. I also liked the type of character Will Smith played in the movie.

SENIOR SPORTS PROFILES

Angel Tejada



Team: Boys' Varsity Baseball
Position: 3rd Base, Pitcher
Years on Team: 3

"Angel has steadily improved in each of his three years. He became a starting pitcher and fulfilled that role well. His batting this year helped a lot too. He's been very supportive." -Mr. Schimenz

"Angel is a very competitive player and a good role model on and off the field."
-Esteban Soler

Dayana Jaramillo



Team: Girls' Varsity Softball
Years on Team: 3

"Team captain, third year player, improving year to year, a coach's dream, always does what was asked of her."
-Mr. Boyle

"Dayana was an aggressive player who encouraged the team and will be missed on the field."
-Shirley Rodriguez

by Carlos Mason, Jr

Joana Garcia



Team: Girls' Varsity Basketball
Years on Team: 1

"She joined the team late in her senior year but in the short time of her being on the team she made us better."
-Mr. Devaux

"Joana has a strong defensive game and was a good shooter."
-Melissa Alzate

Natalie Vargas



Team: Girls' Varsity Softball
Years on Team: 1

"First year senior brought some senior leadership to the team, good girl with a nice personality and fun to work with."
-Mr. Boyle

"Natalie is a very versatile player who played good at any position also a big contribute to the team."
-Brigitte Diaz

Emmanuel Portorreal



Team: Boys' Varsity Baseball
Position: 1st Base
Years on Team: 3

"Manny has been such a dedicated player. He's a self-starter who put so much into the team. He will be sorely missed."
-Mr. Schimenz

"Manny is a good player and strong first baseman, and he's also very committed to the team."
-George Serna

Juan De La Cruz



Team: Boys' Varsity Baseball
Position: Shortstop
Years on Team: 2

"Juan went from being a solid player to an even better player and helped the younger players improve."
-Mr. Schimenz

"He's a great player who has the potential to be a college player."
-Carlos Belliard

Annaldo Jimenez



Team: Boys' Varsity Baseball
Position: Outfield, Pitcher
Years on Team: 2

"Annaldo has a lot of potential. An early injury this season hurt him and affected the team as well."
-Mr. Schimenz

"He's a great pitcher and all around player, I learned a lot from him."
-Armando Avila

Steven D'Elena



Team: Boys' Varsity Baseball
Position: Catcher
Years on Team: 3

"A true leader, Steve worked to get the team together. He's been a very vocal and vital part of the team."
-Mr. Schimenz

"Steve played a strong season and showed a lot of leader qualities."
-Erick Cabello

Get Fit for Summer

by Steve Pinell

The year is over and Queens Voc students are ready for the long-awaited summer vacation.

Throughout the school year, most students attend physical education classes to meet graduation requirements. Some also participate to stay fit. Students play sports such as basketball, football, wiffle ball, and volleyball, and some workout in the weight room during their gym classes.

"With the skills obtained in physical education, students should continue their activities not only in our gym, but during the summer as well," said physical education teacher Mr. Devaux. "Maintaining a simple daily workout routine consisting of push-ups, sit-ups, and running is more than enough. It's not necessary to join a gym to lose weight, but rather following a simple routine will allow you to see a difference in time," he said.

Over the summer, implementing a 1-hour workout will help students to see a difference. Jogging and stretching before any workout is a priority though.

A 5-10-minute jog will help get you started. "Jogging helps to develop efficient breathing and an increasing heart rate, this will help to avoid students getting tired and maximize their performance," said Mr. Lerro, the athletic director.

Once you've run for 5-10 minutes, stretching will help prevent any injuries during the workout. When stretching, students should make sure their arms, legs, and back are properly stretched before any workout. Arm circles, leg lifts, squats, and leg stretches all help in stretching. Then, two sets of 10 push-ups and two sets of 20 sit-ups will start to shape the body. This can be used as a starting point and as the days go by, students can gradually increase their running time or the number of sit-ups and push-ups in their workouts.

"It's not necessary to lift weights everyday, but if you do it shouldn't be done on back-to-back days. If you pick just one exercise to do over the summer, it should be running. As long as you follow your routine everyday, you'll be surprised by how in shape you will be," said Mr. Devaux.

Students should get their rest, but definitely implement a daily workout routine to get and stay fit. Instead of being lazy the whole summer, Queens Voc students should come up with and follow a daily workout routine.

"You can't run a thousand miles on a bus, which means that a student or an athlete who has prepared themselves, will always beat almost anyone who believes they can get in shape at the last minute," said Mr. Lerro.

-- Healthy Eating Tips --

by Tashio Douglas

Eating well seems hard for teens. They are usually out on the go, so fast food places are convenient to them, leading to an excessive intake of fat, sugar, calories, and not enough vitamins and minerals.

Here are some healthy eating tips that can that promote good health:

1. Start your day off right
- Eat breakfast. Breakfast is an important meal and having a

good breakfast just help give you the right start to the day.

2. Right Nutrients
 - The body requires over 40 nutrients for good health. One food group cannot provide the body with the nutrients, so have a variety of foods to ensure that you get what your body needs.
3. Eat more fruits and veggies.
4. Eat less fatty food
 - Avoid fried foods.
5. Watch the snacks and the energy bars

- We eat snacks because they taste great and they're easy to grab on the go but some snacks are high in fat and salt.
6. Keep a healthy body weight
 - Being overweight increases your risk for heart disease, diabetes, and certain cancers.
 - Choose lower calorie items
 7. Drink plenty of fluids such as water, natural juices
 8. Stay active: turn off the TV and get out of the house: bike ride, run, walk, or exercise; just do something!

continued from back page

Armando Avila and Esteban Soler would become the team captains. “It was a do-or-die moment. They had earned it. The question was, would the



Juan De La Cruz, shortstop veterans see what I saw, or would their egos get in the way?” The question was answered as the team began to unite.

When the league-game season began, the team hit the field with “high hopes, as we do in every game,” Esteban said. Overall, the team played 42 games, 16-league and 28 non-league.

Team Captains Armando Avila and Esteban Soler were both satisfied with the outcome of their first year on the team and as captains. Once again the team was able to make it into the playoffs. “The playoffs were the high point in the season because it was unexpected,” said Esteban.

Team members had different reasons for doubting that they would make it as far as they did. Senior Steven D’Elena, a catcher, said he doubted the team’s strength as a whole, because “in the beginning we were all worried about ourselves, not the team; eventually we pulled it together because we are Tigers. The beginning was bumpy, with a lot of unfinished work, but in the end we were more of a team.”

“Win or go Home!” was what Armando said to himself as he entered the playoff games.

The first playoff game, against Prospect Heights, ended with the Tigers winning 9-2. The second round playoff game against Morris was different. As the game went on, with the Tigers losing, the arrival of dark clouds was followed by rain. The teams headed inside Taft HS to await the delay. The field flooded, leading the umpires to call the game in the bottom of the 6th inning. Coach Schimenz walked out of the building and sat in the dugout. One by one, the team members followed, sitting silently in the rain. “Don’t hang your heads,” the coach said, “there’s a lot to be proud of. Who would have thought we’d have done so well?” he asked. Several players spoke about this year and about the next.

“It was sad that we ended in the 2nd game and we weren’t able to finish it, but overall, I consider this year a success,” said Steven. Junior Rafael

DeOleo said “I think we had a strong team and we played well but we could have done better.” Senior Juan De la Cruz thinks the team did well, considering. “What surprised me the most about this year was we had a lot of people who stepped up when we needed them and that allowed us to have a winning record and make it to the second round in the playoffs.”

“We had a great year and I really enjoyed it. It started out rough, even after coming off a city championship, as we hit problems right away. But with



Manny “Brother Bear” a lot of help and cooperation, it all worked out very well,” Mr. Schimenz concluded.

Members of the team this year were: Anthony Arias, Armando Avila, Carlos Belliard, Erick Cabello, Juan De La Cruz, Steven D’Elena, Rafael De’Oleo, Raymond Diaz, Luis Espinoza, Annaldo Jimenez, Larry Lebeau, Raylin Leroux, Jonathan Matias, Christian Perez, Jhonneiry Perez, Manny Portorreal, George Serna, Esteban Soler, Guillermo Taveras, and Angel Tejada.

Indoor Soccer Successful

by Christian Guiracocha

This year the indoor soccer tournament coordinated by Mr. Anthony Ali, the varsity soccer coach, kicked off on Tuesday, April 8, and concluded on Tuesday, May 27, with team Colombia taking the title of indoor soccer champs after defeating team NYC Prospect in the final round.

“We were happy and excited since we won the tournament, said Diego Marin, captain of team Colombia, “It was a happy moment.” Michael Ruiz, a player in team Colombia, said “We were very confident the whole time and we never lost that confidence.”

Eight teams competed in this year’s indoor soccer

tournament. The 8 teams were spilt into 2 groups. Group A included Bullet, Chivas, Freshmen, and Polska; and Group B included Colombia, NYC Prospect, AC Milan, and Looney Tunes.

“This year’s tournament was pretty good and the fact that it was fun made it worth playing,” said Karol Gumieniak, a player on team Polska.

The first round consisted of 3 games: Bullet vs. Chivas, which Bullet won, Colombia vs. AC Milan, which Colombia won, and Looney Tunes vs. NYC Prospect, which NYC Prospect won.

The second round of the tournament was held on Tuesday, April 15, and consisted of 3 games: Freshmen vs. Bullet, which Bullet won, Chivas vs. Polska, which Polska won, and NYC Prospect vs. AC Milan, which NYC Prospect won.

The third round of the tournament was held on Tuesday, April 28, and consisted of 3 games. Polska defeated Freshmen, Colombia defeated NYC Prospect, and AC Milan defeated Looney Tunes.

The fourth round of the tournament was held on Tuesday, May 6 and consisted of 3 games: Polska defeated Bullet, Colombia defeated Looney Tunes, and Chivas defeated Freshmen.

The semi-finals were held on Tuesday, May 20 and consisted of 2 games: Polska vs. NYC prospect, which NYC Prospect won, and Colombia vs. Bullet, which Colombia won.

The tournament was held every Tuesday at 4pm in the school’s gym. Each round of the

Handball: Rebuilding Year

by Michelle Thomas

Despite their 1-9 record, the co-ed varsity handball team’s season wasn’t all bad. “The team was a success in rebuilding this year, as for competition there was no success,” said Mr. Maloney, the coach.

The varsity handball team began the season Wednesday, April 2, after a postponed game the previous Monday. After losing its first 7 games, Queens Voc defeated LIC by a score of 4-1. “The season went pretty good considering we lost a lot of people,” said senior David Bermudez said.

Tryouts in March netted the coach 8 new players. There were only three veterans, leading Mr. Maloney to look at this as a rebuilding season.



Tigers and Mr. Cintron all smiles after a good season.

JV Baseball Solid Season Under New Management

by Angel Tejada

After the first season under new coach Mr. Cintron, the Tigers finished with a 5-5 record. The team got their first big win in their third game, defeating Far Rockaway 18-3 on April 18

“It was a good season,” said Dennis Ortega, first baseman for the Tigers.

The JV Tigers were in the Queens East division along with Bayside, Bowne, Cardozo, Far Rockaway, Flushing, Francis Lewis, Newtown, and Queens HS of Teaching. The team played its home games at Flushing Meadows field #13 and practiced at Maurice field.

Connor McCarthy was the team’s lead pitcher, ending with 2 wins and 3 losses, a 5.54 ERA, and 51 strikeouts in 24 innings. He was also one of the team’s top hitters with a .409 batting average and a .909 slugging percentage. Jose Alvarez, Francis Reyes, and Michael Corona were also top hitters, with batting averages of .500, .444, and .368 respectively.

Before the season started, there was a question as to whom the coach would be. “It wasn’t decided until late,” said Mr. Cintron, “and that impacted the

number of practices and non-league games the team had.” The late start affected the non-league scheduling, Mr. Cintron said, because other coaches had already filled their schedules. The JV squad did get to play one non-league game against Frank Sinatra’s varsity team when they coincidentally met up at Maurice to practice.

“As a first year coach, I definitely feel that there are some mistakes I made and things I could’ve done better and I hope to improve in the upcoming seasons,” said Mr. Cintron.

The 15 member JV team consisted of 11 sophomores: Azan Asmat, James Clark, Michael Corona, George Darmanin, Christopher De La Cruz, Carlos Jimenez, Connor McCarthy, Franklyn Panora, Miguel Perez, Francis Reyes, and Mauricio Valencia; and 4 freshmen: Jose Alvarez, Tomas Bueno, Christian Gutierrez, and Dennis Ortega.

Daniel Ortiz, a former varsity baseball player, was appointed manager of the team by Mr. Cintron and helped him with the team. Mr. Cintron said he assigned Connor as captain, but considered Danny to be the real team leader.

All of the players are going to be returning for next season except for senior David Bermudez. Because of the large number of players returning next year, Coach Maloney said “They should be able to learn from their experiences to improve their skills next year.”

Junior Jonathan Dempsey was appointed team captain this year. “He is a dedicated student, athlete, and a well-respected player amongst his teammates,” said the coach.

Before the matches began, the team practiced regularly. Practices consisted of individual players serving and returning serves for the first half hour, and the rest of practice time consisted of games in which team members played each other. For every game, only 7 players get to play.

TIGERS

Girls’ Softball Sees Bright Future For Next Year

by Steven D’Elena

The Lady Tigers started their season off with a loss to Frank Sinatra and throughout their season, had a bumpy road. The team finished with 3 wins and 13 losses, in 4th place in their division.

“We battled each and every game, we cheered and put our hearts into every play and at bat,” said senior Natalie Vargas. One highpoint of the season was when they defeated Wagner 18-8, by the ten run mercy rule, on Friday, May 2.

Captain Dayana Jaramillo looks back at the season as a success. “We have a lot of young talent on this team and with every game we improved. We kept it together on and off the field and I see the Lady Tigers being a solid team in our division in the years to come.”

“I see a bright future for the team next year because we have come together as a team on the field, the communication and hustle that was shown on the field was a big improvement from last year” said two year veteran Brigitte Diaz.

This season the Lady Tigers played 16 league games and about 10 non-league games.

“We played like a team this year; all of the girls worked together to improve on the field and in the classrooms,” said Melissa Alzate. The Lady Tigers won their last two games of their season, defeating Wagner again and Far Rockaway. “Toward the end of the season we had solid pitching, strong fielding, and consistent hitting,” said Mr. Boyle.

Three seniors will be graduating this year: Christi Hernandez, Dayana Jaramillo, and Natalie Vargas. “I will miss a lot about Queens Voc but being on the team is at the top of that list, the girls are all like my sisters and I will miss them all,” said Dayana.

After the girls’ performance on the field this year, Mr. Boyle is confident about next year. “We will have a good team next year without a doubt; we have a strong nucleus of girls returning.” Mr. Boyle is expecting fourteen returning players next season.

The members of the 2008 Lady Tigers were: Ashley Addonisio, Karen Alvarez, Melissa Alzate, Tracy Ambrossi, Francesca Duarte, Lorena Bonilla, Cindy Carrasco, Sandy Cevallos, Brigitte Diaz, Joana Garcia, Laura Gonzalez, Christi Hernandez, Paola Hernandez, Dayana Jaramillo, Estephany Jimenez, Victoria Linder, Jamila Rodriguez, Shirley Rodriguez, and Natalie Vargas.

Sixth Annual Sports Banquet

by Yinaury Sanchez

Queens Voc’s 6th annual sports banquet was on Tuesday, June 10, from 6pm to 10pm at Bruno’s on the Boulevard. The tickets were sold for \$26 each.

The primary purpose of the sports banquet is to give the coaches “a chance to highlight all of the accomplishments of their student athletes,” said Mr. Lerro, the school’s athletic director.

The teams represented in the banquet were boys’ soccer, girls’ and boys’ bowling, girls’ basketball, boys’ JV basketball, boys’ varsity basketball, JV baseball, varsity baseball, softball, and handball.

With help from the coaches, Mr. Lerro organized and hosted the sports banquet. The athletic director orders the trophies and plaques, as well as the food. “I try to get input from coaches, captains, and other team players to put a menu together that everyone can enjoy,” said Mr. Lerro.

“In an age of constant media criticism of our public education system, our sports banquet is a great example of student success both academically and athletically,” said Mr. Lerro, “I am proud of our coaches and students for helping in the development of this event into a great tradition at Queens Voc.”

[Editor’s note: the banquet was about to be held as the newspaper went to press. No further information was available at that time.]

SPORTS

Boys’ Varsity Baseball “Swung” Into the 2nd Round of the Playoffs

by Cindy Carrasco & Natalie Vargas

The Tiger’s varsity baseball season ended with numerous accomplishments, after a rough start, according to many of the players.

The Tigers made it to the second round of the playoffs, after having finished with a record of 11 wins and 5 losses, and ending in third place in their division.

On June 10, the North Shore Baseball Umpires awarded the Queens Voc’s varsity baseball team their Sportsmen of the Year Award.

The team successfully participated as an MLB Action Team, by volunteering at a program called Hour Children, which cares for children or formerly incarcerated women and their families. Seniors Angel Tejada and Steven D’Elena organized the team visits to the Hour Children facilities in Long Island City. Combined, the team members volunteered more than 400 hours. “It was something we had fun doing and at the same time it was helping the team and school get recognition,” Angel said. [See article on page 1 for more information.]



The team also volunteered for the fall and spring “It’s My Park!” days. During the spring park day, the boys weeded and planted flowers at the children’s playground in Flushing Meadows Park, off 111 Street in Corona.

The actual baseball season came to an end on Tuesday, May 27, when the Tigers lost the second round playoff game against Morris High School, which went on to become city champs. Morris defeated the Tigers 3-1 in a rain-shortened game. “Even though we lost, it was a successful season because in the beginning of the year we didn’t see ourselves making it into the playoffs,” said senior and 2-year veteran Annaldo Jimenez.

The rough start was a surprise, Mr. Schimenz, the coach said, “because we had so many veterans return from last year, and because we had had a great year with great leaders.” Nevertheless, the team began to come together.

Senior Steven D’Elena took on the task of designing the team tee shirts, which began as a way of increasing school spirit and raises some funds for the team. The shirts are sold each year in December, just before the holidays. “It was something I always wanted to do,” he said. Over 140 tee shirts were sold. The black shirt with green and white coloring has an image of a baseball player up at bat. For the first time, the year was added to the team shirts.

Senior Manny Portorreal, a three-year player, said he “saw that the team needed help and the rookies needed jackets, and I realized that everyone on the team should have the same uniform.” So after the team selections were posted in February, he decided to order the jackets. “The jacket orders took a while and a lot of work, but it was worth it because the rookies were happy and felt more like they were part of the team,” he added.

But by March, the coach was frustrated that the team wasn’t working well. In a *Daily News* article, he referred to a pre-season meltdown. He also realized that there were two players who were working hard to salvage their first season on the team. On the day uniforms were distributed, the coach announced that freshmen

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TIGERS SPORTS CONTINUED INSIDE