

Vocational Voice

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

Spring, 2009

RoboTigers Win Regional Championship Travel to Atlanta for National Competition



Robotics team pleased with the results of their work.

by Jonathan Matias

Twenty Queens Voc robotics club members and four teacher-chaperones went to Atlanta, Georgia, for the National First Robotics Competition. A few weeks earlier, “the Cinderella team of March Madness,” the RoboTigers, won the U.S. First Robotics regional championship, held at the Jacob Javits Convention Center. Winning first place at the New York regionals, the RoboTigers won a spot to compete in the national competition. “I expect them to do their best; to rise to the level of the competition,” Ms. Vittor, Queens Voc principal, said, before the RoboTigers headed to Atlanta.

In Atlanta, the RoboTigers came in 54 out of 87 teams in their division at the national competition. Of the approximately 300 teams, Queens Voc placed mid-way, around 150. “I have no regrets,” Mr. Ali, robotics team advisor and assistant principal, said. “It was a great learning experience.”

Ms. Vittor said that the RoboTigers didn’t let the school down; they competed well to the end. “The RoboTigers’

performance shows how good our students really are,” she said, “and their performance enhanced the reputation of our students and our school.”

The competition in Atlanta, said RoboTiger captains Peter Beninati and David Guilfuchi, has led them to decide to become mentors for the RoboTigers next year, and, they hope, to guide the team to success in the regional and national competitions.

Team member Rafael Duran, a junior, noted that “the other teams were well-organized and communicated well. I’m ready for next year’s competitions; I know what to expect.”

The students headed to Atlanta during the spring break, flying down on Wednesday, April 15, participating in the national competition from April 16 to the 18, and returning to New York on Monday, April 20. In Atlanta, the Queens Voc contingent stayed in the 5-star Westin Hotel.

To get to Atlanta, the RoboTigers raised \$25,295. NASA and Career and Technology Education each donated \$6,000; Port Authority donated \$5,000; Integrated

Control Corporation, White Capital, and Pershing Square Capital Management each donated \$2,500; Con Edison donated \$2,000; EDI-ECI Elevators donated \$500; Linear Lighting donated \$250; Century Elevator Maintenance donated \$100.

The RoboTigers also received donations from individuals: Mr. & Mrs. Calamia, Emanuel Dunkley, Terel Watson, Bernie Halpin, Brain Torlincasi, Phylis Freely Negro, Shawn McCarthy, Mr. McDonald, Ms. Dattner, Ms. Basirico, Ms. Carfagno, Mr. Raynor, Mr. Vega, Mr. Lerro, Mr. Papadapol, Ms. Wasilewski, Mr. Mugan and Ms. Meierdiercks. The team also received a donation from Ms. Christine Tighe, who came to the school one day just to donate money to help.

Another \$1500 was raised in school at bake sales and \$500 was donated through NY1. “NY1 got the community involved; they helped get the word out,” said Ms. Vittor. The RoboTigers and the school chapter of Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA)



Tuning-up champion robot. developed a marketing plan to raise money by teaming up with McDonald’s. The team raised \$445.

A number of students went to Atlanta as the “support team,” to cheer on the RoboTigers during their matches. Mr. Ali, the captains, and the build and programming teams stayed in the pit area, in the Georgia World Congress Center.

To prepare for the competition, the robotics team led by Peter and David stayed after school until 7pm, Jose Ramirez and Leticia Huero were assigned the

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Mr. Thomas Farrell assisted the team as attorney advisor.

Principal Sues Editor

Judge this case on the facts

by Fahim Islam

“The principal is suing the editor-in-chief of the school newspaper for defamation,” said Mr. Davidson. No, not Ms. Vittor, and no, not the *Vocational Voice*. It is the case that the Queens Voc mock trial team participated in.

Mr. Davidson, the advisor, said that the Queens Voc mock trial team competed against the team from John Adams High School and won in terms of facts and evidence but lost on performance. The Queens Voc team also beat the team from Francis Lewis High School, on the facts and evidence, but lost on performance, according to Mr. Davidson.

The Queens Voc mock trial team consists of Huang Chen, Neil Kamath, Richard Luu, Julio Manjarrez, Franklin Panora, and Asaduz Zaman.

Although the Queens Voc mock trial team did not win, this has not discouraged the team. “I still plan on becoming a lawyer and someday maybe become the first Hispanic Supreme Court judge,” said Julio.

“We learned to be more confident when speaking,” said Neil, “and how to think more logically.” Neil encourages all students to try the mock trial team. He believes that the experience could benefit everyone.

Mock trial teams from all over the state act out a case that is selected and distributed by the Justice Resource Center. According to Mr. Davidson, up to six student-members fill the witness roles and up to six others fill the lawyer roles. The mock trial teams then attempt to win the case, competing

against other high schools. A judge presides over the case and gives points to each team, based on several categories. The judge then presents a verdict as to the winners of that round. Should a high school win two rounds, that team will move on to the next level of the competition. Mr. Davidson said that if a team wins one and loses another, points are tallied up against other teams in the same situation and the ones with the highest scores fill the remaining slots in the next level of the competition.

The case this year involved a high school principal who decided to enter politics and was elected to the city council. The principal then decided to run for New York State Assembly but an editorial written in the school newspaper hurt his campaign. The editor-in-chief of the school newspaper wrote an editorial that accused the principal of raising a particular student’s grade because that student’s father made considerable donations to the principal’s campaign. Because of the accusation, the principal was forced to withdraw from the campaign. The principal then sued the editor-in-chief of the school newspaper for libel.



Advisor and team members.

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Graphic Arts Program has Big Mac Attack

by Clarissa Tse

Queens Vocs Graphic Arts program, taught by Mr. Garcia and Ms. Ruiz, recently received brand new MacBooks.

The money for the new equipment came from the 2008 VTEA budget, which is federal money that goes to career technology. The cost of the equipment was \$54,000.

The class received 30 MacBooks, 30 wireless mice, one server, and one 24" iMac used as the main screen.

With the new MacBooks, “the students are taught to design printed and visual media,” said Mr. Garcia. “They create flyers, posters, invitations and public announcements.”

“The new MacBooks are network user friendly. I am able to observe students as they work, through the iMac. The machines and graphics are significantly better on Macs and the network allows for more flexibility,” said Mr. Garcia. The MacBooks allow students to “create illustrations from hand-drawn and computer-generated works of art,” said Mr. Garcia.

Kathleen Borba, a sophomore in Mr. Garcia’s Graphic Arts class, said, “I really enjoy this class because I get to use my creativity and make my works of art come to life.”

Sophomore Jorge Salazar claims, “It’s the best class. Mr. Garcia helps a lot, we learn to fix pictures. We perfect the unperfected.”

Chaimae Benali, another sophomore in the graphic arts program agrees. She says it is her “favorite class,” something to “look forward to each day.” Chaimae added that “the graphics on the MacBooks are so much better than the old Dell PCs.”

Graphic Arts is a four year program. If designing for visual and printed media such as flyers, posters, and invitations “sparks your interest, being in Queens Voc’s Graphic Arts program may be the right choice for you,” suggests Mr. Garcia. Any aspiring designers may want to look into this exciting program. Mr. Garcia and Ms. Ruiz ask students “substantially interested” to speak to them personally, as space is limited.



Participants look sharp at the state-wide competition.

QV Students Show Skills USA

by John Florido

Ten students representing Queens Voc went to Syracuse, New York, to compete in the Skills USA competition from Wednesday, April 1 to Friday, April 3. Schools from all over New York met to compete.

Although no Queens Voc students finished among the top three in the categories in which they competed, George Manolas, a senior majoring in computer technology, said he found the trip to be an enjoyable experience. Only students

finishing in the top three in each competition win prizes.

The students left Queens Voc at 8am and arrived in Syracuse around 4pm. Once there, they attended an opening ceremony. The student-representatives then had to take a 20-question Skills USA basic knowledge exam.

The Skills USA competitions started on Thursday. The categories that the Queens Voc representatives competed in were residential wiring, related technology math, plumbing, computer maintenance,

industrial motor controls, job demonstration, and electronics technology.

George Manolas competed in computer maintenance. He had to answer 191 questions related to his category and had to complete six labs that required hands on work.

Jose Ramirez competed in electronics technology. He had to answer 100 questions and also had hands on work. “The hardest part for me was troubleshooting using an oscilloscope,” said Jose.

Mr. Cintron, a Skills USA advisor, said “The representatives were chosen by their shop teachers from the top students in the class.”

The participants who represented Queens Voc were: Elizabeth Arintonang, Benary Castro, Rodney Estevez, Neil Kamath, Dariusz Karwowski, George Manolas, Thomas Mazzarella, Tulio Mesa, Ivana Nunez, and Jose Ramirez.

The student-representatives from Queens Voc were chaperoned by Mr. Rivera, a plumbing teacher, and Ms. Maraj, an electronics teacher.

Queens Voc covered the \$185 hotel fee and the \$75 registration fee, but the students had to pay the \$15 Skills USA sign up fee.

ROBO Tigers

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has been giving the robotics team trouble for years: programming. Jose and Leticia programmed the robot to recognize certain colors. A green and pink highlighted trailer flag is what the robot, running in autonomous mode, had to follow around automatically.

During the regional competition, Duane Johnson, a junior, helped the RoboTigers



RoboTigers: Our Champs!

score extra points during the competition by shooting the “moon rocks” (game balls) into the opponents’ trailer. “Duane was one of the best shooters at the competition,” said David. Duane averaged 15 to 20 points each match, successfully making in all the moon rocks.

A’dell Lambie, a junior, also contributed to the victory by

driving the robot in 3 of the 5 qualification matches, said David. A’dell was able to maneuver the robot around the track successfully, making it difficult for their opponents to shoot moon rocks into the RoboTigers trailer.

Students who attended the National Robotics competition: Jhefferson Aldaz, Robert Andrade, Peter Beninati, Michelle Cotrina, Rafael Duran, Brian Green, David Guilfuchi, Jose Guzman, Leticia Huero, Duane Johnson, Neil Kamath, Mingmar Lama, A’dell Lambie, Jonathan Matias, Thomas Palermo, Jose Ramirez, Gabrielle Rodriguez, Michael Rodriguez, Michael Ruiz, Michelle Vega.

According to the U.S. First Robotics website, many colleges and universities, professional associations, and corporations offer college scholarships to high school students on FIRST teams. This is official recognition of the knowledge and technical and life skills these students have gained from participating in a FIRST competition. FIRST scholarships enable students to pursue majors and careers in engineering, computer science, science, math, design, aeronautics, among other fields. In 2009, the FIRST Scholarship Program is providing over \$9.8 million in college scholarships and over 630 individual scholarship opportunities to students.

VE CEO Goes to Austria

Finds No Kangaroos

by Beatriz Gonon

Virtual Enterprise CEO George Serna went to Austria represent Diverse City Wear in the Austrian Trade Show, held in Vienna, Austria, on March 11 and 12.

VE coordinator Mr. Mugan, Ms. Newman, and Ms. Vittor interviewed VE students who wanted to go to Austria and selected George, a senior, to go. Mr. Mugan said George would make a “terrific representative for our company.”

George went to market DCW’s products abroad and to make the company known worldwide. The Austrian Trade Show was very successful, making \$25 million in sales.

George left to Austria on March 7 and returned on March 14. He stayed in the home of Austrian VE student Domink Krenn, who goes to a high school called International Business College, and like George, is a senior.

During his time in Austria, George said he met many people, learned about Austria’s culture and lifestyle, and went sightseeing. Going to Austria, George said, was a “phenomenal experience” and “felt like a dream come true.”

While George was in Austria, DCS was preparing for the New York City Trade Show. George

said this is one of the biggest trade shows they participate in. The New York City Trade Show was held at the 69th Regiment Armory, on Thursday, March 26. At trade shows, students showcase and market the products and services their company offers. DCW placed fourth in the Best Booth Competition, beating out 140 other VE companies from around the world. George said the judges loved their booth because it was very unique. Mr. Mugan gives special thanks to Keisha Tylor, who led the design committee. The rest of the team was: Amanda Andrews, Phabian Dorcelly, Justin Kroon, Alaxandra Lumpkins, Maria Moreno, Cynthia Rojas, and George Serna.

“I am very proud of the class this year, not only because they won a prize for best booth, but more so because for the first time almost everyone in the class participated,” Mr. Mugan said.

VE is also working on their company website. Ashley Addonisio, Master Alamin, Luis Azpuru, Jorge Cantano, Luis Flores, Freddy Gomez, Justin Kroon, and Clarissa Tse, have all contributed to the website.

Queens Voc’s VE has done well so far this year. They placed second in the Advertising Futures Competition on September 24, 2008 and placed fourth in the Local Business Plan Competition on December 15, 2008. Also this is the first Queens Voc VE class to go to the City-Wide Business Competition, which they were invited to attend after their success in the Local Business Plan Competition.



VE students have had a highly successful year.

Trip for Students On-A-Roll

by Syeda Ali

Students with an average of 85 or higher on last year’s final report card will be able to attend the Honor Roll trip to Ripley’s Believe it or Not! in Times Square. There are 114 eligible students who can attend the trip on Friday, May 15. The departure time for the trip will be at approximately 9am. After the trip, the students will have lunch at AppleBee’s.

Students who attend the trip can have both a fun and learning experience. The Ripley’s museum has hundreds of remarkable feats of science, history, artistry, and humanity in over twenty-themed-galleries on two floors. Artifacts in the Ripley’s museum include locks of hair that belonged to Elvis Presley, George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, and John Fitzgerald Kennedy. There are also animal oddities including a two-headed calf, a six-legged cow, and an albino giraffe. One of the latest features at the Ripley’s museum is a portrait of President Barack Obama, made entirely of 12,784 gumballs. And still the museum has more, whether it’s a shrunken head or a piece of the Berlin Wall.

The trip was coordinated by Mr. Vega and approved by Ms. Vittor. Leadership and SO members chose the destination of the trip. Factors considered when choosing the trip were safety, budget, and if the trip was educational enough. Other places considered were past Honor Roll trip destinations such as Madame Tussaud’s Wax Museum, ice-skating at Bryant Park, Medieval Times, laser tagging, and a cruise around Manhattan. But, Mr. Vega said, this year he wanted to try something new.

Neil Kamath, a junior and an honors student for three years,

said the trip to Ripley’s is “a good choice and a great reward for my hard work.” Still, George Serna, a senior honors student, was not fully satisfied. “If they’re just going to give us one trip a year instead of the usual two trips,” he said, “the trip should be something bigger.”

Mr. Vega said the purpose of Honor Roll trips is to celebrate the academic achievements of students in the school and the Honor Roll trips encourage students to do better. He said that Queens Voc students should feel privileged, considering that many other high schools do not have Honor Roll trips. The Honor Roll trip, he said, is of no cost to the Honor Roll students.

Honor Roll Students:

Daniyah Ahmed
Amreen Akbar
Stephanie Alcaide
Syeda Ali
Zuka Alibasic
Jose Alvarez
Jessica Angel
Carolina Artilles
Armando Avila
Azmain Azad
Julissa Ballesteros
David Beltran
Lauren Beltre
Chaimae Benali
Peter Beninati
Anthony Biondo
Jennifer Blanco
Luis Camproverde
Martha Carpio
Jeffrey Carrion
Jonathan Carvalho
Margaret Castellanos
Huang Chen
Jason Chen
Jose Chiriboga
James Clark
Shennel Cole
Ashley Colwell
Michael Corona
Bryan Correa
Christopher De la Cruz
Tanman Dey
Lukasha Duggal

Kimberly Espinal
Luis Espinoza
Darlene Fernandez
Luis Fernandez
Paola Ferreira
Diana Flores
Freddy Flores
Luis Flores
Jonathan German
Freddy Gomez
Beatriz Gonon
Karolina Gorna
Rodney Harris
Roger Haynes
Jerry Hernandez
Juan Hernandez
Paola Hernandez
Leticia Huero
Arien Hylton
Fahim Islam
Yvonne Johnson
Neil Kamath
Jonathan Kammerer
Gurpreet Kaur
Yasin Khan
Jefferson Lawrence
Lawrence Lebeau
Qizhuo Li
Cesar Liang
Kunga Likchung
Joseph Lorenzi
Albert Ludwig Loy
Richard Luu
Luseny Maldonado
George Manolas
Rosa Marte
Thomas Mazzarella
Kareif McKoy
Vanessa Mejia
Alan Merchan
Christian Miranda
Milton Morocho
Naveen Nicholas
Ivana Nunez
Vanessa Leidy Obando
Yesenia Orellana
Floencia Oviedo
Franklyn Panora
Gregory Paul
Joel Pena
Kevin Peterson
Jakub Piekarz
Elizabeth Pimentel
Samantha Puig
Erik Quintuna
Pervej Rahman

Jazmin Ramirez
Shiva Rampaul
Raquel Reyes
Jessica Riera
Henry Rivas
Michael Rodriguez
Ricardo Rodriguez
Jose Rosales
Nicholas Ruffino
Edward Salas
Argenis Santos
Kevin John Sasuman
George Serna

Veronica Sierra
Dilpreet Singh
Monica Tito
Maria Toro
Ashley Torres
Yorladiz Valencia
Gabriela Vazquez
Rocio Vicencio
Tony Vu
Jingjie Wu
Asaduz Zaman
Jefferson Zamora

Queens Voc Winners get their Dream Job



Dream Job winners and their supporters.

by Armando Avila

Jonathan Calderon and Travis Partap, two Queens Voc freshmen, were among the Dream Job essay winners to receive certificates for their winning essays. The award ceremony was held on Thursday, April 23, at Samsung Experience store in the Time Warner Building.

The award ceremony included guest speakers who talked about their work experience and gave the winners advice. The winners were called up one by one with their teachers to receive their awards. After the ceremony refreshments and snacks were served. At the end, the winners went up on stage for a group photo.

All freshmen this year had to write a Dream Job essay. Students had to explain what their dream job was and why they wanted it. The students who wrote the best essays won an award from Samsung and USA Today for their well written essays and will also experience their desired job with a mentor for a day at the end of May.

Jonathan Calderon said he was both happy and shocked that he was one of the winners. He said he was excited writing this essay. “I put my all into this essay because I was very interested,” he said. His dream job is to be a professional

soccer player. Jonathan did not hesitate once he was assigned this essay from Mrs. Florio. “It wasn’t much of a task, it took me about a week to write and each day I kept writing more and more,” said Jonathan. In his essay, he wrote that he needed to build more endurance, learn how to play as a team member, and have control of the ball, for him to keep pursuing his dream job. Jonathan has been playing soccer since he was 3 years old. His idol is Juan Pablo Angel from the Major League Soccer.

Travis Partap’s dream job is to be a police officer in the NYPD. His English teacher, Mr. Samuelson assigned him this task. “I thought it was a regular paper and didn’t know anything about a competition,” said Travis. Like Jonathan, Travis didn’t hesitate and knew what he was going to be writing about. He became interested in the NYPD when the NYPD Youth Program was introduced to his class in junior high school. Travis knows that he needs a high school diploma and at least two years of college to join the NYPD. “I was surprised because I didn’t know anything about a competition,” said Travis, who was excited to have won a contest writing about a job he’d love to do. Ms. Newman, Ms. Radovich, Ms. Rejalaga, and Mr. Samuelson attended to support the Queens Voc essay writers.

Calendar of Events

compiled by Jean Carvajal

May 1- Career Day, End of fifth marking period,
Handball team @ Queens Voc,
Girls’ softball @ Big Bush Field
May 2- Boys’ varsity baseball @ Far Rockaway HS
May 4- Girls’ softball @ Queensbridge Field
May 5- Boys’ varsity baseball @ Flushing Meadows Park,
Boys’ JV baseball @ Benjamin Cardozo HS Field
May 6- Handball team @ Bryant
May 7- Boys’ varsity baseball @ Kissena Park

Boys’ JV baseball @ Francis Lewis HS
May 8- Girls’ softball @ Big Bush Field
May 12- Boys’ varsity baseball
Girls’ softball @ Big Bush Field
May 14- Boys’ varsity baseball @ Flushing Meadows Park
Boys’ JV baseball @ Flushing Meadows Park
Girls’ softball @ Maurice park
May 15- Honor Roll Trip
Girls’ softball @ L.I.C
Fifth marking period report cards
May 19- Boys’ JV baseball @

Flushing Meadow Park
May 20- School leadership Team meeting 4pm-6pm
May 25- Memorial Day, school closed
May 26- Boys’ JV baseball @ Newtown HS
May 28- Boys’ JV baseball @ Flushing Meadows Park
June 4- Boys’ JV baseball @ Levitt Field
June 5- Prom
June 15- last day of classes
June 16 to 24- Regents Week
June 25- Graduation
June 26- Last day of school



Students gather inside, after a busy day of activities.

Senior Trip a Big Success

by Jessica Delarosa

Seventy-eight seniors went to Honor's Haven Resort and Spa located in Ellenville, NY, from January 16 to 18 for their senior trip. The cost of the trip was \$269, which included 6 meals, indoor pool, laser tag, snow-tubing, karaoke party, game room, and parties on Friday and Saturday night.

Before the trip, the students reported to room 156 for a luggage check, to make sure they didn't bring anything inappropriate. The students boarded the buses, anticipating the arrival of their weekend getaway with their friends and teachers.

The chaperones for the trip were Ms. DeCarlo, Mr. Devaux, Mr. Garofano, Ms. Green, Ms. Guzman, Mr. Mendez, Ms. Sartori, and the coordinator of the trip, Mr. Vega.

As soon as the bus arrived, the students rushed to their rooms. The boys geared up and went to play football, while the girls layered up and went ice-skating with Ms. DeCarlo and Ms. Green.

That night the seniors attended a party, at which the DJ played music such as merengue, hip-hop, salsa, techno, bachata, and reggae. "The parties were fun, especially when you can enjoy them with your senior class," said Alexandria Lumpkins.

On Saturday morning, students had breakfast, buffet style. The food available was eggs, French toast, sausages, cereal, bagels, and yogurt. "The food was good and I enjoyed it,

but I've tasted better food," said James Guzman.

After breakfast, some seniors went to play paintball, available for an additional \$30. "It was like being in a war, you didn't know where the next paintball was coming from," said Starlin Sanchez.

That night the seniors sang happy birthday to Cindy Carrasco, who was celebrating her 18th birthday. After the dinner, the students started to get ready for Saturday's night party.



Wendy's all smiles on trip.

On Sunday morning, the students ate breakfast and then headed upstairs to pack their bags. At 2pm the seniors boarded the bus to go home.

"The senior trip introduced me to a new perspective and broke the fear to be away from home," said Dalisa Batista. "The seniors who attended the trip went to have fun...and it made me proud to be part of their senior year," said Mr. Vega.

Mr. Devaux said of the students' behavior, "This was one of the biggest classes, yet there was no problem."



Seniors snow-tube their way to a fun weekend.

High School Students take College Classes

by Joel Pena

College can be a difficult transition from high school, but some Queens Voc students have already gotten accustomed to it. LaGuardia Community College offers a variety of college classes for high school students. There are 28 seniors and 15 juniors taking these courses at LaGuardia.

Jason Castillo, Jessica Lliguichuzhca, and Jefferson Zamora are three of these students. While they take different classes, they're determined to become better students.

Like most senior business students, Jason Castillo needs a year of college classes to acquire his endorsed diploma in web design. He attends a Psychology class at LaGuardia every Monday and Wednesday, from 3:45pm to 5:15pm. "I feel more confident because I have more preparation and experience for college," he said. Jason believes these college classes have helped him to become better prepared for next year.

Jefferson Zamora is a senior business student who has to take a full year of accounting to obtain his endorsed diploma in accounting. He attends Accounting II every Monday and Thursday, from 3:45pm to 5:30pm. "I take college classes more seriously because they can permanently affect my college GPA," he said. Jefferson likes this class because it teaches him the basics of accounting, but, he said, these classes do not raise his confidence because he already knows what is expected from him.

Many students believe that junior year of high school is the most difficult, but Jessica

Lliguchuzhca has put more on her plate. She attends a Trigonometry class at LaGuardia every Tuesday and Thursday, from 3:30pm to 5:30pm. Jessica said she applied for this class because she likes math and thought the class would challenge her. She believes that this course is more informative and advanced than her high school classes. "The teachers are very helpful and I recommend students to take this college course," said Jessica.

Ms. Newman the AP of Business and Cosmetology also holds the position as College Now coordinator for LaGuardia. Ms. Newman said that she wants business students to take these courses, so that New York State could provide funding for Queens Voc's business programs. Business students

"The teachers are very helpful and I recommend students to take this college course,"

need to attend a year of college classes to earn their endorsed diploma in either accounting, web design, or both, but any student who qualifies could take the class. The classes available this semester were Literacy & Propaganda, Psychology, Accounting II, Biology, Algebra, and Trigonometry.

According to Ms. Newman, these classes also provide tuition-free credits, which means that the students save \$150-\$200 per credit. Ms. Newman said these credits are even transferable to many CUNY, SUNY, and private colleges.

These college classes are available to the students in Queens Voc, no matter what shop they are in. "Take advantage of these opportunities while they're available," Ms. Newman said.

Celebrate Black History

by Luis Flores

Each February, Queens Voc hosts a Black History Month celebration, led by Ms. Himmel.

Throughout the month, Ms. Himmel organizes weekly contests involving historical figures and moments in black history. A display is also set up on the first floor.

Ms. Himmel and other staff members present the contest materials during Friday morning announcements. After playing a song or speech, a school administrator asks a question based on the material.

Students are encouraged to stop by the library during the Black History Month celebration, where they can

drop-off their answers to the black history question.

"During Black History month, I put up posters of black historical figures throughout the whole library. Each poster is followed by a caption briefly describing some of the figure's accomplishments," said Mrs. Lewis, the librarian. Mrs. Lewis said this celebration is extremely important to inform people of the strides African Americans are constantly achieving.

"I would like to encourage both students and staff members to get more involved because Ms. Himmel gives out great prizes and you get to learn about many interesting people displayed in the library," said Mrs. Lewis.

Virus Got You Down?

by Tony Vu

Mouse Squad is a team of students who work after school to maintain the school's computers.

The team has been working in a couple of rooms, said Mr. Cintron, Mouse Squad coordinator, performing basic maintenance such as scanning for viruses, and checking for unwanted programs and files on the computers in room 454. "We do this because kids put unwanted programs in the school's computers, which usually lead to viruses and poor performance in them," said foreman, George Manolas.

To protect the computers, the team installs Symantec Anti-Virus version 10 on each computer, to scan the computers and manually search through each computer for inappropriate content, such as video game emulators, limewire, and AOL instant messenger.

The Mouse Squad is also fixing the problems with the computers in the business rooms on the fourth floor and with the laptop carts on the third floor; one problem is the system crashes that appears on those computers. "Every time I work the rooms on the fourth floor, AIM and video game emulators appear, and sometimes even pornography," said George Manolas.

The Mouse Squad plans to work on the computer rooms 411 and 407. To stop the students from logging into the administrative accounts and installing their own programs, the Mouse Squad will lock most of the computers that they are working on with the program Deepfreeze, said member Sandro Balzora Jr. Deepfreeze will prevent the students from causing more damage on the computers because it prevents users from saving programs and data on them.

The squad consists of students from all grades in Queens Voc. From freshmen to seniors, any student is able to apply for Mouse Squad in the beginning of each school year. The members of this year's team are Mujammil Ali, Maxwell Ayisah, Sandro Balzora Jr., Jonathan Carvalho, John Florido, Karolina Gorna, Juan Hernandez, Neil Kamath, Vinny Lam, Cesar Liang, Kunga Likchung, George Manolas, Tulio Mesa, Eddy Mingki, David Rivera, Ricardo Rodriguez, Camilo Salazar, Dopdyel Tseten, and Jonathan Urena. "The Team usually works after school from 4pm to 6pm at least three times a week," said member Ricardo Rodriguez.



Spring dance was well-attended and lots of fun.

SO, Where do we go Next?

Dances & trips add excitement to school

by Monica Tito

One hundred and thirty-two students attended the Spring Fling, held on Wednesday, April 8, in the student cafeteria from 6- 9:30pm. The dance was held on the last day of school before spring break. Ticket prices for SO members were \$2 and \$4 for non-SO members. “It was a lot of fun,” said senior Jeslenny Grullon, “they played good music and most of the people who attended danced.”

In addition to the school dance, the Student Organization (SO) has sponsored three trips in the past three months. Students went to a basketball game, a Broadway musical, and Medieval Times.

Thirty-six students attended the first trip, on Wednesday, Feb. 4, after school, to a New York Knicks game in Madison Square Garden.

Thirty-five students went to see *Wicked*, a Broadway musical, after school on Tuesday, Feb. 10. It was originally a trip for leadership students, but it became available to SO members too. “The show *Wicked* was a new experience for me,” said senior Erwin Gonzalez, “I always wanted to see at least one Broadway show.” Ashley

Addonisio, a junior, also enjoyed *Wicked*. “I always go to Broadway plays and *Wicked* was the best,” she said. “The experience of being with my friends and enjoying the show was so much fun. I have to say the effects for the show were amazing and the actors’ voices were great. They were so talented,” Ashley said.

On Friday, March 13, 18 Queens Voc SO members joined with Aviation High School students to go to Medieval Times in Lyndhurst, New Jersey. It was an after school trip and the cost was \$25. Mr. Vega hadn’t originally planned this trip because, as he said, the last time Queens Voc went students paid \$30, but if SO didn’t pay for the bus, students would have paid \$60.

SO members can expect more trips and activities in the upcoming months.

Mr. Vega said Mr. Devaux, gym teacher, will be organizing a trip to either a Mets or Yankees game.

An event taking place while the newspaper was being published was the March of Dimes Walk, on Sunday, April 26, at Lincoln Center. Usually, Queens Voc students participate. See next edition for further information.

FBLA: Expanding Students’ Horizons

by Luis Flores

Four Queens Voc FBLA members attended a state competition in Rochester, New York, from April 21 to April 24. The Members met FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America) members from other schools and entrepreneurs.

The students, Luis Fernandez, Neil Kamath, Byron Loja, and Asaduz Zaman participated in the competition by taking a test, later used to pick winners.

Neil Kamath, a junior electronics major, competed in three topics, business calculations, computer applications, and computer problem solving. Neil earned fifth place in computer applications and second in computer problem solving, for which he will be competing at the national level. Byron took third place in the spreadsheet competition.

Asaduz participated in the accounting category and Luis participated in the economics category, but neither scored well enough to finish in the top rankings.

“The competition was a great experience and I would definitely compete again to try and make it to the national competition,” said Byron.

Neil will participate in the FBLA national competition, which will be held in Anaheim, California, from June 25 to June 28. The Queens Voc FBLA chapter received a \$100 grant toward the travel and hotel expenses, and will be fundraising to meet additional expenses. “The competition will be intense, but I feel like I am at an advantage. FBLA is made up mostly of business students and therefore as an electronics student who specializes in computers, I have some prior knowledge on the topic. I will continue to prepare for the

competition through online tests,” said Neil, a former FBLA president.

Neil and Luis won second and third place in the fall competition’s financial literacy category. Luis also won first place in the introduction to business section.

To prepare for this competition, the FBLA chapter met on Monday afternoons and Tuesdays during fifth period. Daniella Jean Philippe, a senior business major, says each meeting lasted about 15 minutes, during which time they went over study guides and textbook work. “Competitions are a great learning experience, we interact with other FBLA members as well as teachers,” said Daniella.

Daniella said that a year in FBLA convinced her to study business in college. “I plan to come back next year to help out and share my experiences as a college freshman,” she said.

Luis, the current Queens Voc FBLA president, said that the organization’s goals for the rest of the year are “to do more networking and to take early steps in becoming more community involved.” FBLA will participate in a tree planting event taking place at Queens Voc on Friday, May 22.

“Next year we plan on expanding our horizons by collaborating with other student organizations like the leadership team, for fundraising,” Ms. Mitchell said.

Ms. Newman, director of the School of Entrepreneurial Studies, says that “FBLA is bigger and better than ever, thanks to Ms. Mitchell who has been dedicated to getting our club involved in as many events as possible and even hosted the district meetings at our school.”

Through FBLA, students network with business professionals and could possibly be offered internships.

Scenes from Career Day

Queens Voc’s annual Career Day was held on Friday, May 1, just as this edition of the school newspaper went to press. We

show some highlights from Career Day here, and will follow-up with an article in our final edition.



A Green Wave Comes to Queens

One school, one tree, one gift to nature

by Laura Gonzalez

A single tree can release enough oxygen back into the atmosphere to support two human beings, according to the Green Wave website.

“One school, one tree, one gift to nature” is Green Wave’s motto. Green wave teaches students about different plants that are coherent with each other.

Green Wave has created a campaign called 50 schools, 50 states, 50 trees. This campaign has selected one school in every state in the United States at which a tree will be planted to improve to the environment.

Queens Voc was the school selected by the Green Wave organization for New York State.

FBLA advisor Mrs. Mitchell, who is coordinating the tree planting event, said, “We received the information about the Green Wave campaign and reviewed the information with the FBLA members and got their approval before accepting the campaign.”

Green Wave has partnered up with stores like Macy’s to create “Green Wave Jewelry.” When a purchase of any type of jewelry is made the customer will receive a Green Wave card, saying that a tree will be planted

because of their purchase. For each piece of jewelry purchased, one tree is planted at different schools worldwide.

Queens Voc will be hosting the tree planting on Friday, May 8, in the front of the school. FBLA members will plant the tree, and some of Mrs. Mitchell’s business classes as well as faculty will also attend.

On Friday, May 22 students will water the planted tree all around the world creating a “green wave” at 10am.

To get more information or learn more about The Green Wave visit their website at www.greenwave.cbd.int.

How to Earn your Endorsed Diploma

by Fahim Islam

Queens Voc has one thing that most other high schools do not offer: Career and Technical Education (CTE) endorsed diplomas.

Business students can earn an accounting or new media CTE endorsed diploma said Mr. Holder, the guidance counselor for the school of Entrepreneurial Studies.

Cosmetology students can obtain a New York State Cosmetology license and a CTE endorsed diploma for cosmetology as explained by Ms. Quartuccio, a cosmetology teacher.

Students majoring in computer technology can graduate with an A+ Certification on their CTE endorsed diploma, according to Mr. Cintron.

Electrical installation students can receive a National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) CTE endorsed diploma, said Mr. Mendez, an

electrical installation teacher. He also said that EI students can obtain a Copper Cabling Certification and Fiber Optics Certification. Those two certifications are also attainable for students majoring in electronics, according to Mr. Ali, AP of Trade and Technology. An International Society of Certified Electronics Technicians certification, according to Ms. Maraj, an electronics shop teacher, will be given out upon graduation to passing seniors majoring in electronics, starting next year.

Students who major in plumbing can receive a Plumbing/Heating Certification on their CTE endorsed diploma.

To obtain any of these diplomas, students need to pass their shop class each school year. There are also a certain number of hours on the job that must be completed. This varies between shop classes.

Mrs. Maraj said that the CTE endorsed diplomas are basically stamps and words added onto the regular high school diploma. By having these extra words, an individual can achieve a higher position, bonus hours, and more opportunities while working in the field according to Mr. Cintron. Mr. Cintron also said that the diplomas can help fill some college credits and help complete requirements, such as a required number of hours on the job.

Work-based Learning: More of what you need for your Endorsed Diploma

by Elizabeth Aritonang

Most high schools only award a diploma upon the completion of a student’s high school education. Queens Voc is one of the few schools that awards a diploma and a Career and Technical Education-endorsed diploma. Sixty hours of work-based learning is required to achieve this diploma.

Many students can’t help but wonder, “How can I accomplish this task? Whom do I ask for information? When are these hours due? Can I graduate without them? When can I get started?”

Mr. Frank and Ms. Spallone are two people who can help with the task. Mr. Frank coordinates the 60 hours work-based learning for plumbing, electrical, and robotics shop classes. Ms. Spallone coordinates cosmetology, computer technology, and business.

The majority of computer tech students complete their 60 hours of work-based learning by working for the Mouse Squad, which is coordinated by Mr. Cintron and sponsored by the Department of Education. Students involved in the Mouse Squad stay after school to resolve computer-related issues.

Graphic arts is not CTE-certified yet. “But we’ll definitely be certified by next year,” said Mr. Garcia. There is one senior in the program who will be graduating. That student will not receive a CTE-certified diploma because graphic arts is not certified therefore she did not do her 60 hours of work based learning. But graphic arts students are encouraged to complete their 60 hours in their upcoming senior year.

A paid job, volunteering, job shadowing, and an internship are examples of how the 60 hours can be fulfilled. Basically, students have to have minimum

January 2008 and 2009 Regents and RCT Results

compiled by Carlos Belliard

Exam	Year	Register	#took	#passed	% passed
English	2009	290	253	157	62.10%
	2008	344	266	197	74.10%
Global History	2009	197	150	15	10.00%
	2008	251	147	25	17.00%
U.S. History	2009	188	146	16	11.00%
	2008	110	54	10	18.50%
Math A	2009	161	117	52	44.40%
	2008	207	105	60	57.10%
Math B	2009	87	69	2	2.90%
	2008	50	32	4	12.50%
Algebra	2009	98	76	8	10.50%
	2008	Not Given			
Living Environment	2009	127	96	19	19.80%
	2008	143	74	9	12.20%
Earth Science	2009	22	16	0	0.00%
	2008	31	15	1	6.70%
Chemistry	2009	1	1	0	0.00%
	2008	8	5	1	20.00%
RCT Read	2009	68	48	25	52.10%
	2008	74	48	26	54.20%
RCT Write	2009	51	33	29	87.90%
	2008	46	30	26	86.70%
RCT Global	2009	47	29	4	13.80%
	2008	69	40	12	30.00%
RCT U.S. History	2009	52	29	3	10.30%
	2008	25	13	3	23.10%
RCT Math	2009	80	47	11	23.50%
	2008	51	32	4	12.50%
RCT Science	2009	30	14	1	7.10%
	2008	37	28	4	14.30%

“I don’t like the food anyway”

by David Beltran

Lunch is a part of almost every student’s schedule at Queens Voc. But for some students, lunch is a thing of the past.

According to Mr. Davidson, the program chairperson, approximately 94% of the 1,200 students in Queens Voc have lunch in their schedule.

However, there are students such as seniors George Manolas and Cecil Whiley who do not have lunch in their schedules. Instead, both have a Health class.

“I don’t like that I don’t have lunch because during the day you get hungry,” said George, “but you need Health so I guess it’s all right.” Cecil, though, said that he is aggravated that he doesn’t have lunch and that lunch is supposed to be a time when you hang out with your friends.

Mr. Davidson says the main reason some students don’t have lunch is because of specialized classes that only meet during lunch periods. Health class is scheduled

during the lunch periods because if a student fails the class, then the student can take the class again and only miss lunch. He added that he tries to schedule lunch in all students’ schedules.

Students who don’t have lunch in their schedule must go to their guidance counselor and then to the assistant principal of guidance, Ms. Ocampo, said Ms. Vittor. “If a student cannot settle the issue with their guidance counselor or Ms. Ocampo, then it comes to me,” she said. But she also added that that there are more students who want to remove lunch from their schedule than students who want lunch in their schedule. Mr. Davidson, who ultimately ends up changing the schedules, said that he doesn’t take requests, students should see their guidance counselors to request changes to their programs.

Although there are some students who don’t have lunch in their schedules, Ms. Vittor says that she doesn’t think it’s a big problem. She added, “Every year there are students who don’t have lunch but we want every student to have lunch.”



The cafeteria became a place to celebrate success.

Honoring Achievement

Honor Society Inducts New Members

by Gregg Nana

“This year 117 students qualified for the Honor Society, but only 67 attended,” said Ms Dattner, who organized the induction. This year’s Honor Society was based on averages from the previous year.

To qualify for the Honor Society, Ms. Dattner said, “Students have to have a cumulative average of 85 throughout their high school years, have no suspensions, and have good attendance.” According to Ms. Dattner, if students who didn’t attend the ceremony are not considered a member of the Honor Society, unless you have a legitimate excuse that you didn’t go.

Unlike past ceremonies, this year’s Honor Society ceremony was held in the lunchroom because of construction in the auditorium. Further, only cookies and cake were served, the six-foot heroes of prior years were noticeably absent.

“The students who didn’t come to the induction probably didn’t come because it was in the lunchroom,” said Ms. Dattner. Jefferson Zamora, a senior in business, said he would have gone if the ceremony had been in the auditorium.

Lauren Beltre, a sophomore in cosmetology, said she went because she was being acknowledged for having good

grades. “I had a great time there with my friends, but I would’ve liked to be in the auditorium.”

Azmain Azad, a senior in computer technology, has been in the Honor Society for 3 years and was happy to go. “It’s important to honor the students because it gives an opportunity to show what we have achieved,” he said.

Chaimae Benali, a sophomore in graphic arts attended the ceremony because she wants colleges to know of her achievements. “It’s good that the school recognizes students who study and do their work, we deserve to be honored,” she said.

Asaduz Zaman, a junior in business, decided to go out of respect to his fellow students, and because he was Master of Ceremonies. As MC he introduced Ms. Vittor, Ms. Dattner and some other faculty members present. He believes by honoring students the school shows that they care about the students who made it to the Honor Society.

While she believes the celebration was nice, Ms. Dattner said the celebration would have been better if it were planned earlier and if there had been more student input.

You’re our Guitar Hero

by Esteban Soler

Queens Voc might not have a music program, but it sure has some skilled guitar heroes.

On Friday, April 3, the Advance program ran a Guitar Hero competition as a fundraiser.

The fundraiser was a success and the event drew an overflow crowd in the large room of 356 and 358.

According to Mr. Hammond, one of the event coordinators, 16 teams of four students each participated, and overall, more than 120 people attended the after school event.

Students had to pay \$12 per team to participate, but if a teacher sponsored a team, the

cost was \$10. Mr. Raynor, a math teacher, sponsored three teams.

“We’d like to thank the staff members who participated by sponsoring a team or helping out on the day of the event,” Ms. Burg said.

Of the 16 teams, 12 were eliminated after the first round. There were two remaining rounds to determine the champion team.

When it was all over, Team Awesome, comprised of Andrew Adames, Steven Hernandez, Alan Merchan, and Joseph Tecarr, had won the tournament.

Before the competition, Steven said he wasn’t even sure he wanted to play. But Joseph encouraged him, he said.

In the end, the Queens Voc Guitar Hero champs were glad. “It was a lot of fun,” Joseph said. After the first round, Steven said, “we were confident. It was clear that we had a good



Guitar heroes & champs.

chance of winning based on the scoring.”

Each member of the winning team was given a \$20 gift card for Best Buy.

“It was a lot of fun for the students and the adults, said Ms. Burg, the director of the Advance program.

The overwhelming success of the competition has led the Advance team planners to decide to have another competition, which will be held on Friday, May 29.

This next competition will be expanded to include guitar, bass, drums, and a singer. “We hope that our next Wii competition is even more successful,” Ms. Burg said.

Students interested in participating should see Mr. Hammond.



Could Guitar Hero be the beginning of a music program?

Vocational Voice

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Sophomores

Amreen Akbar
Jose Alvarez
Jessica Angel
Carolina Artilles
Armando Avila
Julissa Ballesteros
Lauren Beltre
Chaimae Benali
Anthony Biondo
Jose Chiriboga
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Alan Merchan
Leidy Vanessa Obando
Florencia Oviedo
Kevin Peterson
Elizabeth Pimentel
Samantha Puig
Shiva Rampaul
Raquel Reyes
Dilpreet Singh
Maria Toro
Rocio Vicencio
Juniors
Antonio Aguilar
Daniyah Ahmed
Jennifer Blanco

Jonathan Carvalho

Huang Chen
James Clark
Michael Corona
Freddy Gomez
Rodney Harris
Juan Hernandez
Valeah Hoyte
Arien Hylton
Neil Kamath

Jonathan Kammerer

Gurpreet Kaur
Richard Luu
Kareif Mckoy
Marissa Mendez
Milton Morocho
Naveen Nicholas
Miguel Perez
Jessica Riera
Michael Rodriguez
Edward Salas
Veronica Sierra
Christy Urena
Gabriela Vazquez
Asaduz Zaman

Seniors

Azmain Azad
Peter Beninati
Luis Campoverde
Cindy Carrasco
Karolina Gorna
Leticia Huero
Fahim Islam
Gregg Nana
Ivana Nunez
Gregory Paul
Joel Pena
Pervej Rahman
George Serna

Students Lead the Way

by Michelle Cotrina

Leadership students organize school related events such as school dances, food festivals, spirit week, SO trips, and senior activities. There are 24 students in the group led by Mr. Vega, coordinator of student activities.

Students on Mr. Vega’s official attendance list are Ashley Abreu, Ashley Addonisio, Chanel Alston, Amanda Andrews, Beshion Bailey, Shennel Cole, Jessica Delarosa, Bridgette Diaz, Fabienne Dorcely, Darlene Fernandez, Joana Garcia, Laura Gonzalez, Karolina Gorna, Jeslenny Grullon, Justin Kroon, Alexandra Mohamed, Ivana Nunez, Joel Pena, Monica Suazo, and Jossie Vaca.

Mr. Vega chooses the students assigned to the Leadership class, which is added to their programs. Students can be in Leadership during their lunch and “free” periods. Other students help out when they are available, even though they are not assigned to a class. Hamdeybi “David” Francisco, a senior, is one such student. “I got selected to join Leadership during the lunch form barbeque because I was giving Mr. Vega a hand,” he said.

“I enjoy helping others when they need it,” said Ashely



Mr. Vega’s kids at work.

Addonisio, “helping in school fundraisers and when there are open houses makes me feel as if I did a good deed for the day.”

Students in leadership contributed to the homeless during the Secret Santa Operation. Bridgette Diaz, a junior, who has been in leadership for the past two years, learned she is “ungrateful. Children were asking for socks as Christmas gifts,” she said, “yet my own list consisted of many unnecessary gifts.”

Darlene Fernandez , a junior, is also a member of leadership. “By being part of leadership, I have learned how to efficiently work in a team,” she said, “we aren’t just students when we are in there, we are a family.”

To be in the Leadership class, students are supposed to have a cumulative average of 75. Students receive a grade and credit for participating.

New AP Promises to “Put Best Foot Forward”

by Gregg Nana

“Who’s the new guy standing at the entrance of school?” asked Esteven. “I have no idea bro, he looks like an FBI agent,” said Nelkin. The “FBI agent” is actually Mr. Alikakos, the new assistant principal of security and organization. Mr. Alikakos has been an AP for 15 years, before that he was a teacher.

Before coming to Queens Voc, Mr. Alikakos was an assistant principal at Young Adult Borough Center in Flushing. “For those three and a half years I was able to help approximately 900 students reach their potential and achieve a high school diploma,” he said. Mr. Alikakos said he wanted to be an assistant principal because he wants to help teachers and students reach their full potential. “My love for education leads me to want to create a successful environment for both teachers and students,” he explained.

Mr. Alikakos, who replaced Mr. Mayer, who is now at John Adams high school, has been in Queens Voc since January. Mr. Alikakos said that this is his first time working in a CTE school.

As AP of security, Mr. Alikakos said his job is to maintain a safe environment for students and faculty in and around the building. Mr. Alikakos also serves as AP of organization. In that role, he said, he helps organize the entire building, academics through custodians. He also said that he has to allocate the school’s budget to maximize the amount of personnel, programs, and resources that can help the students.

Mr. Alikakos said one of his goals is to make things run as smoothly as possible. He believes that a more inviting school will make the students want to be here.

“I want to create a way of informing students, teachers, staff, and parents of upcoming events, resources, and programs available,” explained Mr. Alikakos. He also wants to increase safety throughout the school by being more “vigilant,” more involved with students and staff, by meeting with them and creating an open line of communication.

“I promise to put my best foot forward, work as hard as I can to improve this school,” he said.

Not Much Impact from Recent Budget Cuts

by Karolina Gorna

Queens Voc had a budget cut of \$135,000 in November and December. The total budget was six million dollars, a budget cut of two percent.

The principal, Ms. Vittor, made sure the cut didn’t hurt anyone, she said. The budget cut created a shortage of supplies such as paper, markers, and even computers. The school could not afford to buy new books, and students have to deal with the in- class set of books given. “We made it through pretty well,

as we didn’t lose any teachers or classes,” Ms. Vittor said.

Queens Voc has received money through grants that cannot be taken away.

The school received half a million dollars in a Title I grant. This money given is based on the lunch forms handed in by students in the beginning of the year. This grant is to assist students who perform at the level I or II in ELA or Math. “That’s why lunch forms are so important,” said Ms. Vittor, who added that this grant saved five teachers from losing their jobs.

The second grant for approximately \$130,000 was for the Smaller Learning Communities. The money is for school activities and items for students. The money was used for CTE night, professional development, and other school activities such as the Guitar Hero tournament that took place recently. Ms. Vittor says she hopes the school gets this money next year.

“Another budget cut is supposed to hit around May,” Ms. Vittor said, “it may vary two to ten percent.”

Student Graduation Requirements

by Ivana Nunez

The requirements to graduate in each Smaller Learning Communities are fairly similar. Freshmen must earn 10 credits to advance to the 10th grade. Students in the 10th grade must have 20 credits to advance on to the 11th grade. Students in the 11th grade must haves six credits in English, six credits in history, six credits in math, and six credits in science going into the 12th grade. The table below are the requirements for each grade by SLCs.

Grades	Smaller All SLCs	Learning SES	Communities SCEET		SSBT
9th grade	Classes: English 9, US History, Algebra 9, Living Environment, Physical Education, and Advisory Regents: US History Regents, Algebra Regents, and Living Environment Regents.	Exploratory: ExploratoryVoc 9 Cosmetology: Cosmo 9 Graphic Arts: Graphic Com 9	Exp loratory: ExploratoryVoc 9 Comp Tech: Comp Tech 9	Exploratory: ExploratoryVoc 9	
10th grade	Classes: English 10, Global 9, Geometry, Earth Science, Physical Education, and Art/Music . Regents: Geometry Regents and Earth Science Regents.	Business: Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, and Bus. Com. / Power Point Cosmetology: Career and Fin. Mgmt. and Cosmo 10 Graphic Arts: Graphic Arts 10	Comp Tech: Career and Fin. Mgmt. and Comp Tech Electronics: Career and Fin. Mgmt. and Electronics	Plumbing: Plumbing Electrical Installation: Electrical Installation	
11th grade	Classes: English 11, Global 10, Algebra 2 and Trig, Physics or AP Chemistry, and Physical Education. Regents: English Regents, Global Regents, Algebra 2 Regents, and Physics Regents.	Business: Accounting, E-Commerce Marketing, and DP-Access/ Bus. Law. Cosmetology: Cosmo 11 Graphic Arts: Graphic Arts 11 class and Career and Fin. Mg.	Comp Tech: Comp Tech Electronics: Electronics	Plumbing: Plumbing 11 Electrical Installation: Electrical Installation 11	
12th grade	Classes: English 12 or Journalism, US Gov. Term 1, Economics 1, Intro. Cal/AP Stat, Photonics or Physics, Physical Education, and Health for one term.	Business: CFM/Financial Planning, and College Accounting and/or Web Design Cosmetology: Cosmo 12 Graphic Arts: Graphic Arts 12	Comp Tech: Comp Tech Electronics: Electronics	Plumbing: Plumbing 12 Electrical Installation: Electrical Installation 12	

Students who would like more information should visit their guidance counselor.



Dioramas encourage creativity and teamwork.

Great Assignment, Great Results

by Esteban Soler

Heading into spring break, Ms. Torres assigned students in her period 9 freshman cosmetology class to produce a diorama—miniature facsimile—of a spa or salon.

While most students don't like assignments during vacations, Ms. Torres said, "these students had a blast creating their dioramas. They worked with parents or friends, and developed team building skills; some even got their entire family involved." The students echoed their creative teacher.

Nohely Vazquez, one of Ms. Torres's students said, "I enjoyed creating my project because I was able to use my creativity and work with my mother and sister to create my dream salon."

The students had to have a visible name of their spa or salon, and a reception area with seating, facial stations, manicure stations and braiding or styling stations. "I realized how much effort you have to put into making something look good and professional," said Biaani

Garcia, another student in the period 9 freshman cosmo class.

Many of the students had positive comments about the vacation-time project. "Even though it didn't come out as good as I expected, I had a lot of



Smiling spa designers.

fun," Sindi Rodriguez said. "I pictured myself having a shop of my own," Jennifer Morales said. "This project made us use our imagination," Lizbeth Gayosso said. Many students said that they enjoyed working with their family members.

Ms. Torres said she was very surprised because she assigned this project before, but had not received "such high-quality products" until this year.

I Need a Job

by Dharvin Govindeisami

Since we are going through a recession, jobs today are hard to find. In many fast food places and stores, there are adults working instead of students. Many students used to depend on their parents for clothing, jewelry, and the expensive sneakers they wear. But that's changing said Nelkin Ramirez, "I used to ask my parents, but I took advantage of that privilege and now they've stopped buying stuff, so I was forced to get a job."

Although there are a lot of resources available, getting a job isn't easy. The internet has job search engines such as Craigslist, Snagajob, and Monster. These search engines post up ads submitted by employers daily. The classified ads in the newspapers are also helpful. Many people get jobs through networking: speaking with people who already have jobs. Queens Voc has its own network, kind of.

"I can help students find jobs in graphic arts, cosmetology, business and even McDonald's," said Ms. Spallone, who coordinates the LEARN program. Ms. Spallone does agree that jobs are hard to find.

"I can help students find paid and volunteer jobs," said Ms. Spallone. And while many students might be thinking, "I don't want to work for free," eventually you might have to because Queens Voc requires a 60-hour internship for each CTE certification.

According to Ms. Spallone, students who want jobs must be, "responsible, pass their major, have a good personality, and finally take pride in their appearance." Ms. Spallone can be found in room 411 or 321.

The Summer Youth Employment Program is also an option for students. This program allows students between the ages of 14-24 to work during the summer. Students work with government agencies, hospitals, summer camps, and even law firms. Applications are usually due in May. Applicants are randomly chosen, and only a few jobs are available.

Depending on their age, students may be required to have a working permit. The application for working permits can be picked up in the main office. The application requires the students' personal information, parent or guardian consent, and a medical examination.

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Please find below, current information about your child's attendance.

() has been absent from school on:

10/14/2008

If you have not already contacted the school, please provide us with the reason for the absence(s) in the space below along with your signature. Return this card in a stamped envelope to Queens Vocational and Technical High School at the school address on the reverse side of this card.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Reason for absence: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Postcards Home The best laid plans...

by David Beltran

Last year at Queens Voc, a decision was made by Ms. Vittor and the Attendance staff to start sending postcards to the homes of students who cut class to notify parents and keep students in class. But not everything has gone as planned.

Postcards have been sent out since the beginning of this school year but there have been problems. One problem that has come up is students receiving postcards home even though they did not cut class. The mistakes have led to students and parents wondering what's going on. "About 25 percent of postcards being sent out were wrong," said Ms. Vittor. Mr. Daniel, who is in charge of managing the postcards at Queens Voc, said that because of the problems with the postcards, the school decided to stop sending out postcards for cuts. Ms. Vittor said that until the problems are fixed, only postcards for absences will be sent. She acknowledged that both the school and the company that distributes the postcards are responsible for the mistakes.

Students at Queens Voc, such as senior Brandon Carcano, say that the postcards are a waste of money. "My mom doesn't even care that I get the postcards, I mean, half the time they're wrong. They should use the money for other things like tools for shop." But Ms. Vittor said that even if the school were to stop sending postcards, the money wouldn't be enough to buy much in other shops. Senior Mujammil Ali also agrees that the postcards are a waste. "Although they may be right

sometimes, they're also wrong, so students can just tell their parents that the school was wrong and get away with cutting."

Some teachers at Queens Voc don't think the postcards are a waste of money, but they do think the postcards aren't effective. Mr. Tan, a chemistry teacher at Queens Voc, said that the postcards notify parents of when their child cuts class, but don't keep students in class. "I don't think they work because there's no consequence. They send the postcard but then what?" said Mr. Tan. He added that there should be a punishment similar to the one given to students on the excessive absence list, failing all classes. Mr. Raynor, who teaches AP Statistics, has mixed thoughts on the postcards. "I think the postcards work with students with good grades but I'm not sure about students who are usually absent or cutting," said Mr. Raynor.

Although there were mistakes with the postcards, Ms. Vittor says that there are more students in class and that more parents are calling in to see if their child is cutting class.

"We send out postcards to let parents know that their child is not doing the right thing," she said. "We want parents to ask, 'where is my child going?' and 'where were you during class?'" Ms. Vittor said.

As far as the future for the postcards goes, Ms Vittor said that the school will keep sending out postcards for absences and that the school does plan to send out postcards for cuts again. Her main goal, she said, is to reach out to parents and keep students in class.

Breakdancing Club

See Mr. Hammond to participate in the club, which meets
Wednesdays and Thursdays in rooms 356 and 358.



Join the Guitar Hero Competition

Friday, May 29, 4pm

See your SLC Coordinator
to sign up.

Class President has Chancellor’s Ear

by Lorena Bonilla

Ivana Nunez, a senior electrical installation student and senior class president, was elected to be one of five students representing Queens high schools at the citywide Chancellor Student Advisory Council (CSAC).

“I feel honored that I am able to represent students from Queens and that I am able to bring up problems that are affecting us and try to find solutions for them,” said Ivana.

Mr. Vega, coordinator of student activities, chose Ivana and Karolina Gorna to represent Queens Voc at the Borough Student Advisory Council. At the first meeting on October 21, 2008, Ivana gave a speech stating why she would be a good choice to represent Queens at

CSAC. Ivana was elected without opposition.

Each year, CSAC focuses on an issue of importance. This year’s project is equity issues in New York schools. “This means that other schools in New York don’t have the same opportunities as others. Some high schools don’t have supplies for students, others don’t have AP classes, proper gym facilities, or college career preparation,” Ivana said. “It is important for every school to have the same opportunities. Otherwise it would be unfair,” she said. The top three areas of equity that CSAC is focusing on are college and career preparation, student/teacher respect, and academics and student engagement.

CSAC members discuss problems occurring in schools. At these meetings, students share their ideas on how to solve these problems. Ivana suggests that the number of college advisors in a school should be set based on the number of students in a school. “This would make helping the students prepare for college a lot easier,” she said.

Students Witness Historic Inauguration

by Jay Kroon

On January 20, 2009, at noon, the first African-American was sworn in as president of the United States.

This historic inauguration of Barack Obama was shown at about 1,200 public schools in NYC, using a link that was secured by the Department of Education from ABC News. Queens Voc students were unable to view this event in the



auditorium because of ongoing renovations, but projectors were set up in the cafeteria and library. “I really like the idea that they showed such a historical event for the students to view. I paid a lot of attention, because it feels good to know that I can say I watched history

being made,” said Stephanie Trochez, a senior business student. Joseph Corsale, a 10th grade graphic arts student, said, “I don’t think that the students valued the opportunity. Not many people can live to say that they witnessed the first black president’s inauguration. We should all be interested in what he is going to do now, because we’ve trusted his campaign and now he needs to pull through and get us out of the crisis we are in now.” Senior cosmetology student Shanessy Morales didn’t think they would even show the inauguration. “When I came in to the cafeteria, I saw a big screen, and everybody turning towards it, so I thought they would show some kind of school video. But when they started showing it, I paid close attention almost immediately.” While the School of Entrepreneurial Studies was able to view the inauguration, members of other smaller learning communities weren’t so fortunate. “I didn’t know what was going on, because my 5th period was class, not lunch, and they played it over the

Improving Attendance at Queens Voc

by Sasha Almanzar

Since September, attendance has dropped in three of the five SLCs and so each SLC is trying to improve attendance.

Ms. Burg, director of the Advance program, said that they have divided the students into smaller groups so they could have a better chance of focusing. By dividing the students in groups, teachers can sit one on one with the students and talk about the issues causing poor attendance. Ms. Burg and the teachers in Advance have created another way to improve attendance. Each time students get to class on time, they receive a raffle ticket. They write their names on the ticket and put it in a bucket. Each Tuesday, period 8, the Advance program meets in the library and five names are chosen from the bucket. Each of those five students gets to choose either a grab bag which contains fruit drinks, chips, cookies, and candy, or a Queens Voc t-shirt. “We are advancing to success,” said Ms. Burg.

SCEET has the highest rate of attendance. Mr. Gorman says that the teachers as well as him are making phone calls and sending letters home. “Our students are interested in maintaining good grades and we have great teachers who motivate students to come everyday,” said Mr. Gorman, director of SCEET.

SSBT teachers are discussing attendance with students who are listed on the excessive absence list. The teachers are working with Ms. Basirico, guidance counselor for SSBT, and sending absence letters home weekly. They are also making phone calls each time students are absent. “We are trying to convince students to join sports so they could have a motivation to come to school,” said Mr. Ali, director of SSBT.

SES is doing something different. They are taking students’ advice as how they think attendance rates can be improved. Some students have

suggested making first period longer. Another suggestion has been to create a café style lounge. “We are looking at the data, conferencing with students and teachers, and coming up with an action plan to make sure next marking period percentages go over 90%,” said Mr. Garcia, who has been helping Ms. Newman, director of SES, by sending letters and making phone calls home.

Teachers from SED as well as teachers from SSBT are calling homes after students are absent more than two times. Ms. Radovich, director of SED, says that attendance rates have improved over the years, she said, “improving attendance rates is a school priority, I think attendance has improved greatly over the last five years due to better parent outreach by teachers and attendance office and increased awareness on our students’ part that the work they do in the classroom is important and relevant.”

SLCs	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March
Advance	62%	53.42%	60.19%	58.70%	51%	49%	50%
SSBT	85%	85.02%	88.96%	87.60%	85.7%	87%	87%
SCEET	87%	92.93%	94.99%	93.18%	92.2%	93%	93%
SED	91%	89.73%	91.39%	91.07%	89.26%	89%	86%
SES	90%	87.47%	92.09%	92.09%	87.64%	87%	87%

The information above was received from the attendance office.

intercom,” said Mark Smartt, senior computer technology student. “It really ended up disrupting my class time, because the quality of the sound was bad, and I couldn’t even hear.” Gilbert Williams was also upset at the poor quality of the sound on the PA system. “I knew they couldn’t go through the school day without playing some part of the inauguration,” he said, but the junior business student felt that it was unfortunate “that I was busy during the time they played it, and couldn’t go to the library to view it. And the fact that it

“I’m just grateful for the effort that QV put forth...”

sounded like static on the intercom made it worse.” The opportunity to broadcast the inauguration was presented to the principal, Ms. Vittor, by graphic arts teacher Mr. Garcia. At first, plans were only to place a projector in the cafeteria. Later, they decided to add additional viewing locations. However, according to Mr. Garcia, “We wanted the video to be viewed in rooms 356 and 358, but the video didn’t work.” This problem was due to broken jacks in both rooms.

The video was sluggish in the cafeteria. Mr. Rodriguez explained that “over 1,000 schools in NYC were all trying to view the same video, using the same source.” That meant that as much bandwidth as possible was needed in the building, in order to accept the video feed in larger amounts, because the live feed caused a “bottle-neck” effect, with heavy internet

demand from one source. Provided that every computer was off the internet, the feed would produce a clearer picture and allow more projectors to be used. “I’m not very upset that the video couldn’t be played in more places,” stated Amanda Andrews, a senior business student. “I’m just grateful for the effort that QV put forth in order to allow everyone to witness the event. Whether or not the sound quality was good, or the quantity of locations was sufficient, I still think that the people in charge of this event deserve praise for their dedication to making this event happen.”



International Climate Change Conference: Speakers *Warm* to Queens Voc Students

by Fahim Islam

Six Queens Voc students attended the second annual International Conference on Climate Change, held in New York City on March 8-10, at the Marriott New York Marquis Times Square Hotel.



Mr. Coleman & Esteban

Armando Avila, Erick Cabello, Daniel Corona, Luis Espinoza, Radison Moronta, and Esteban Soler were sponsored, along with Mr. Schimenz, by the Idea Channel. Hundreds of scientists as well as economists, legislators, policy activists, and media representatives attended the event. Armando, Erick, and Esteban attended the first-ever conference last year, and were invited back.

While there, the Queens Voc students, virtually the only students at the entire conference of 800 people, met Vaclav Klaus, president of the Czech Republic and the European Union, and a Ph.D. in economics, Harrison “Jack” Schmitt, one of the last men to have walked on the moon, and a geologist Ph.D., John Coleman, founder of the Weather Channel, Willie Soon, Ph.D., of the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, Lord Christopher Monckton, Deroy Murdock, a syndicated columnist, among many others.

Daniel said that he was impressed by Dr. Arthur Robinson’s talk, “Nobel Prize for Death.” Dr. Robinson is the

principal author of a global warming petition signed by more than 32,000 American scientists, including more than 10,000 with doctorate degrees, rejecting the assertion that global warming has put the Earth in crisis and is caused primarily by mankind.

According to the Heartland Institute website:

- Since 2007, more than 31,072 American scientists, including 9,021 with Ph.Ds, have signed the a petition which says, in part, “There is no convincing scientific evidence that human release of carbon dioxide, methane, or other greenhouse gases is causing or will, in the foreseeable future, cause catastrophic heating of the Earth’s atmosphere and disruption of the Earth’s climate.”

- A 2003 international survey of climate scientists (with 530 responding) found only 9.4 percent “strongly agreed” and 25.3 percent “agreed” with the statement “climate change is mostly the result of anthropogenic causes.” Some 10.2 percent “strongly disagreed.”

- A 2006 survey of scientists in the U.S. found 41 percent disagreed that the planet’s recent warmth “can be, in large part, attributed to human activity,” and 71 percent disagreed that recent hurricane activity is significantly attributable to human activity.

- A recent review of 1,117 abstracts of scientific journal articles on “global climate change” found only 13 (1 percent) explicitly endorse the “consensus view” while 34 reject or cast doubt on the view that human activity has been the main driver of warming over the past 50 years.

Audio, video, and PowerPoint presentations of the event are available at www.heartland.org/events/NewYork09/index.html

Youth Position Should be to Learn

At the conference, the Queens Voc students met Marita Noon, executive director of Citizens’ Alliance for Responsible Energy. Ms. Noon, who publishes a monthly newsletter, said she was so impressed with the Queens Voc students she asked them to write about their experience.

The following appeared in the April edition of CARE’s newsletter, which can be found at responsiblenenergy.org.

“Next is a special piece. It is a review of the International Conference on Climate Change. But, it is not my usual gushings. At the conference in New York,

there was a young woman who was obviously a supporter of the “crisis” position. She was not there to listen or learn, but to antagonize. It was reported that in one of the sessions, her outburst was something like, “You all are old. You do not get it. We young people see the concerns...” I looked around. Sadly, there were few young people there. But there were some pockets of them in the crowd of 800+. I spoke to one of the groups of young men and found out that they were there from Queens Vocational and Technical High School. They

were there with their teacher Rob Schimenz. Thinking of the young woman’s comment I asked the students what they thought of the conference. They were very positive. I asked them to write a report of their experience at the conference and to specifically comment on whether it had impacted their ideas about climate change. I believe you will find this report to be refreshing and a sign of hope for the future.” - Marita Noon, Executive Director, Citizens’ Alliance for Responsible Energy.

The Real Crisis: Fear over Facts

Reprinted from *The Powerline*, April 2009

As a 12-year old, I was taught that global warming is a crisis. Being very young I was scared and was willing to do anything to stop this “global warming.” I saw the Al Gore movie, “An Inconvenient Truth,” and I believed it.

Our teacher, Mr. Schimenz, took several of us from Queens Vocational & Technical High School on a trip to the second annual International Conference on Climate Change. What really caught my attention was that there were many scientists from all over the world at this conference.

At the beginning of the conference we quickly learned that over 32,000 scientists, including over 10,000 with PhDs, signed a petition stating that they do not believe global warming is caused by humans and that it is not a crisis. There were numerous speakers at the conference, many who presented scientific data about the earth’s temperatures, ocean currents, solar activity, carbon dioxide levels, and more.

One presentation that I found interesting was about weather stations throughout the United States. Many of these stations are compromised because of their placement. As we saw at the conference, many of these stations are located near air conditioners or in parking lots, and are influenced by exhaust from the air conditioners and cars, and from heat that reflects off the blacktop pavement.

My classmate, Esteban Soler, was very excited about meeting top-world scientists. “This conference was a good experience because I gained so much knowledge and met famous scientists who believe that global warming isn’t a crisis,” he said. Some of the

people we got to meet were Willie Soon, of the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics; Dr. Harrison Schmitt, an American astronaut on the Apollo 17 mission and one of the last two Americans to walk on the moon; and Vaclav Klaus, the president of Czech Republic. “Knowing that those people were there made me realize that there are two sides to the global warming story, and there are people who try to scare us into doing what they want us to do. This conference was important because these people are doing their best to stop this false information,” Esteban said.

Daniel Corona, another student from Queens Voc, said he found Dr. Art Robinson’s talk, “Nobel Prize for Death,” to be a rude awakening. “Al Gore claims that global warming has caused an increase in malaria, even though it was the banning of DDT that has led to a resurgence of malaria and to the deaths of tens of millions of children,” Daniel said.

The global warming movement includes many celebrities, politicians, and media, all of whom have a big influence on us. Average people have been listening to these people about global warming and we have rarely heard that there is another side. Taxis going green in New York City, movies on global warming, and global warming events such as the Live Earth concerts, are just some examples of the events that make headlines.

The Heartland Institute’s climate change conference has helped make it a bit more acceptable for scientists to refute the people who hype global warming. Yet critics of the global warming movement are often attacked. Many of these scientists stand up for their

views, even though they face hostile, ad hominem attacks. So do those few in the media who challenge the people who try to scare us about global warming, such as ABC’s John Stossel, who was called a traitor by Robert Kennedy, Jr. At the conference, President Vaclav Klaus said that arguing against global warming reminded him of the frustration he felt arguing against communism.

My classmate, Erick Cabello, said that the most interesting thing he learned at the conference was how science and politics tie together. “Politics has an influence on scientists nowadays, and some scientists support the global warming argument because they get research funds from the government.”

Young people like us should learn as much as we can about climate change, and speak out on this topic to our friends and in our classrooms because this has a lot of young adults needlessly afraid. As fast as these global warming beliefs were spread, we can stop these beliefs with real facts just as fast.

Armando Avila
Honor Society Member
Captain, Varsity Baseball Team
Queens Vocational & Technical High School



Dr. Schmitt, NASA astronaut, and Queens Voc students.



Listening to the experts.

Our Readers Speak Out

by Michelle Cotrina

After printing our second edition of *Vocational Voice*, we received many responses from our readers.

In response to “Dress for Respect,” by Gregg Nana, Shanley Ramirez wrote, “Obviously we shouldn’t be showing too much skin but come on, no tank tops?” The regulations against “short shirts or skirts are understandable because school isn’t a park,” she wrote. Arien Hylton’s concern wasn’t based on the summer; she feels that students should dress to feel comfortable. “Teachers shouldn’t judge students based on how they’re dressed, they shouldn’t care,” she said, “They were young once and had their own dress style.”

Karolin Marte liked the article, “Hectic Hallways, Students Practice Social Skills” by Josue Manzanares. “I like the way he got both points of view, not only from students but teachers as well,” she wrote. “This topic is relevant to students and teachers, because some teachers come to class late as well.” Argenis Santos found this article to be good, yet he felt it lacked sources. “I would suggest next time interviewing more people, such as deans, assistant principals, and the principal,” he wrote. “Students tend to gather up, making it difficult for us to reach our destination,” Deyadira Enriquez wrote. Other students also felt that this article was well written and shows both views of the topic. Some students also wrote that being late to class isn’t their fault because it is caused by the congested hallways.

“I like reading articles which inform me about what the school does,” Gabriela Vazquez wrote.

Dharvin Govindeisami’s article, “Stop Thieves” received responses as well. Remi Diaz agreed with Dharvin when he wrote that people speak to others about their belongings. By letting other people know, you are putting your property at risk. “It’s unfortunate that people can’t just leave others’ belongings alone,” she wrote. “I wasn’t aware that there was a

theft issue in our school,” wrote Janno Ramirez, “It seems like there are no limits to anything around here.” Janno was impressed by the way Dharvin ordered his paragraphs, and with his writing itself. Both Carissa Caibal and Marsha Longmore agreed with Dharvin’s article. “We all go to school together and should respect each other,” Carissa wrote. Marsha Longomone, wrote that this was just an eye opener for students

“We all go to school together and should respect each other,” Carissa Caibal wrote.

to keep special watch on their belongings.

Shirley Rodriguez, the author of “Share your Locker, Lose Your Stuff,” received a few responses as well. Joana Garcia wrote that she is one of the people “who are in charge of giving out lockers. I can’t tell you how many people come to me with a complaint that something has been stolen due to sharing their locker.” Stephanie Trochez wrote, “As the article states, there are plenty of lockers available, and it’s only \$3” Stephanie wrote that it is “better using your personal space rather than having a whole bunch of [other people’s] stuff in your locker.”

In response to the article, “For Some, Cutting Class is a Daily Routine,” by Michelle Cotrina, Phillip Borisuck wrote that students should not cut classes because it affects their future. He thought the article was informative and an important issue. Leonardo Valencia thinks the article “is perfect to show what slackers we have in school. I would be embarrassed if I were interviewed about cutting,” he wrote, “I guess some students do see Queens Voc as a playground rather than a learning environment.” Among the many responses to this article, were suggestions that authority figures control the excessive amount of cutting.

George Serna responded to the article, “Stop Cutting the Lunch Line,” by Gregory Paul. George was “glad to hear that authority figures were going to be placed to help monitor the school’s lunch line.” But

according to the article, placing numerous authority figures at the lunch line was just a suggestion from Ms. Andrews. Carlos Viteri, who recently transferred from LIC, wrote that, “At LIC they had perfect control of the lunch lines.” The bulk of response to this article blamed students because they allow their friends to cut the line. Jesslyne Cintron thinks “that people should stop cutting the lunch line and wait in line like everyone else.”

Amanda Andrews wrote about “Senior Class Activities,” by Monica Tito. “I agree with the title and when she stated that ‘this year’s senior class is off to a great start,’” she wrote. “I really enjoy the company of my senior class,” she added, “since we have so much fun together, it makes me more anxious to see what’s in store for our senior luncheon and prom.”

“Skills USA Update” by John Florido received a response from Thomas Mazzarella. “This article is important to me,” he wrote. “Last year I went as a delegate to observe the competition and I found it to be a great opportunity.” Thomas hopes this article will “hopefully make other students join Skills USA so we can have our school represent Queens.”

Naveen Nicholas wrote about “Boy’s Basketball,” by Rafael DeOleo. “This article shows how the team went through its hardships and still managed to maintain a solid team.” Naveen wrote that “this article is the best written article in the newspaper because students need to know more about one of the most important teams in our school.”

Being late to class does matter to Kara Ann Monzon, who responded to the article, “Late to Class, Does it Matter?” by Fahim Islam. “Students who aren’t late to class are getting just as annoyed as the teachers when the door is constantly being opened and closed,” she wrote, adding, “they walk into class without a care and disturb the lesson. Lateness might not matter to some students, but I’m hoping teachers make lateness count as part of their grade.”

“Reviews, Reviews, Reviews,” by Jinet Collado, was very interesting, according to Francisco Frias. “I heard many of the songs on this album, but,” he wrote, “I didn’t really understand the concepts of them.” He thinks Jinet did a nice job writing this article.

Mitchelle Vega wrote in response to “Teachers Tell Us Their Most Embarrassing Moments,” by Rafael DeOleo. “A lot of us can relate to some of the situations that were written about,” she wrote, “Although there were some [editing] mistakes here and there, I think the article was great overall.” Kathya Xochmitl really liked this article because “it makes us feel closer and more comfortable with our teachers.” Ms. Green’s embarrassing moment had Kimberly Fernandez “rolling with laughter. It was refreshing to see that teachers actually get embarrassed,” she wrote, “I thought moments like these only happened to students.”

The article that stood out the most to Annie Aggeri was “Blocked Websites! Off Limits” by Josue Manzanares. “Many websites are blocked for a good reason, but some aren’t,” she wrote, “Websites that contain political or tutorial content are usually blocked.” She finds this very unhelpful, especially when she needs to learn something or lookup a specific topic for class. Julio Mesa suggested that the article could have been improved by interviewing higher authority figures, such as the principal. “If

“I thought moments like these only happened to students,” wrote Kimberly Fernandez.

the principal was informed of this situation maybe she can further address the issue and even solve the problem,” he wrote.

Alexandria Lumpkins thinks that guys should start pulling up their pants. “Who wants to see their underwear?” she asked. Michael Marmolejo doesn’t agree with Mr. Rodriguez’s point of view in the article “Dress for

Respect” by Gregg Nana. “The deans already control a large portion of what we wear, such as durags, hats, etc.” he wrote. He doesn’t feel the school should have any say as to how students wear their pants. “This should be left up to the person who is wearing the jeans,” he concluded. Ryan Gonzalez wrote that “just because teachers have to dress up because they are in their work environments doesn’t mean students should have to.” He agreed with Gregg Nana when Gregg wrote that “school is a learning facility not a dictatorship.”

“Think Twice about Cutting,” by Beatriz Gonon caught the attention of Sabia Khan. “Because I’ve actually received postcards home from cutting,” she wrote, “I think twice about cutting now and this motivates me to stay in school.” Gabriela Vazquez doesn’t like the fact that the school sends postcards home. “I like reading articles which inform me about what the school does,” she wrote, “but I think sending postcards home isn’t a good idea.” Because she is aware of the postcards, she’s going to be much smarter when it comes to cutting. Darlene Fernandez finds the postcards sometimes inaccurate. “I don’t like how they send those postcards home even when I’m excused or have a trip,” she wrote, “My mother always gets mad at me thinking I was cutting when I was really on a trip or at an appointment.” Her suggestion to the school is to make phone calls home or “figure out a new way to track the students who are cutting.”

The staff of Vocational Voice thanks those who wrote to us, and their teachers who asked them to. We urge our readers to write to us about any of the articles in this edition or to suggest articles for the next edition.

Readers can e-mail us letters at Letters@vocvoice.org. Please be sure to check out our new website at VocVoice.org



**Mr. Schimenz
Main Office**

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

In Our Opinion

A Music Program would Encourage Talent

by Lorena Bonilla

Queens Voc has not had a full time music teacher since 1983. By not having a music teacher, no solid music program has been established official music class since and many students feel that it's time for that to change.

"Honestly, I feel that not having a music program discourages talent. Kids should be encouraged to play instruments," said Joseph Lorenzi. However, the lack of a music class isn't necessarily something that can be fixed overnight.

According to Mr. Davidson, the Programming chairman, there are many needs before a music class can become official. "In order to have a music class, you must either extend the day, or reduce shop time," said Mr. Davidson. This is one of the obstacles of adding a music program, because it is a required by the state that a student must have 55 hours of class time per credit.

Another necessity for a music class would be a music teacher. According to Mr. McCarthy, a teacher who was also a student

at Queens Voc, "we had a very fun music teacher when I came to the school as a student. She was a very friendly lady, always happy and pleasant." Ms. Laidmen was the music teacher in 1983. When she retired, Ms. Vittor's predecessor, Mr. Serber, decided to eliminate the music program.

Mr. Davidson also explained that though we once had a music program, there were fewer requirements for students to receive their high school diploma in the 1980s.

Many of the students and teachers in Queens Voc agree that adding a music program would benefit the students of Queens Voc. "All students have to complete a music project," said Mr. Holder. "But if we had a music class, students would attend and then they would almost definitely receive the credit."

Cindy Corrasco said "very interested in playing an instrument, but we don't get the opportunity here and that's a shame. I really wish that we had a music class." Mr. Mugan agrees, but said that, "without the luxury of a music program,

students learn to show their creative sides in other ways. They participate in projects like the yearbook, and our VE trade show booth decoration, because it gives them a chance to express that artistic side."

Mr. Vega, the coordinator of student activities, said that "even though some of the students really want a music club, I get the same thing every year. One or two students come into the office and say, 'Vega I want a music club' they drop of the idea, and don't stick around to make it happen. A lot of the times, they're expecting to walk in and join a club, and be able to miss classes because of the club, but that's not possible."

There is one music class at Queens Voc, but it is only available to students in the Advance program because they do not have a shop class.

If Queens Voc students were determined enough they could make a music program happen. There may be enough students to make a point that there should be an after school program, but it takes determination and cooperation from everyone for the student body to be heard.

in the back gets an 85. And in some classes, the student who is sleeping learns as much as the student that is awake.

It is wrong to pass an undeserving student; teachers who do so are only hurting the students. If students don't do the work, or don't show that they have the ability to pass the Regents, fail them; if it happens to be most of the class, so be it.

Students are also to blame. Students should try harder to pass these Regents exams; they shouldn't give up because the class is "too hard" or the teacher is "boring." There are resources and teachers who can help students who want to try; it is up to the students to ask for the help.

VocVoice.org

The past three years of school newspapers can be found in pdf format on our new website. We will soon have the past 10 years posted.

All new editions are posted with color pictures.

Thanks to Daniel Corona, Esteban Soler, and Tony Vu for their efforts digitizing older editions of our newspapers and posting them on our website.

Principal's Message



QUEENS VOCATIONAL & TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL
Denise Vittor, Principal

Well, spring is finally here! It seems like it has been a long winter, but that is all in the past now. Spring always comes with a sense of energy and rejuvenation, and this spring is no different. That's good, as there is much to do and only 8 weeks left to this school year. So how could we all make the most of these last 8 weeks? That answer depends on how hard we have been working up to date. Some of us may need to catch up on the work we are missing or have not completed. For instance, this might be the time to make sure all of your science labs are completed to meet the requirements set forth by the NY State Department of Education. For those who are leaving the ninth grade, this might be a good time to check with your guidance counselor to discuss your choice of SLC and CTE major for next year. For those of you who are graduating in June, this is the final showdown. You will need to check it all out with your guidance counselor: the credits you have earned, the independent studies you have completed, your eligibility for CTE endorsement, and what Regents exams you have left to take. For the graduation candidate, this is also the time you will be taking all of your industry certification exams. Now you can begin to focus all of that spring energy toward accomplishing your goals.

This is true for faculty and staff, as well. Spring is what we call crunch time. It is time for us to focus on what we need to accomplish, too. We have set goals for the school and for ourselves, and we only have 8 weeks left to achieve them. Just as I say that students can do it, I say the whole Queens Vocational and Technical HS community is more than capable of exceeding the goals we have set. We can all turn our rejuvenation into determination and our energy into diligence. This is what will determine our level of success in June. I believe this will be our best year of achievement yet, as evidenced by our successes thus far. This year, we boast a 2nd place win in the NYC advertising campaign for Virtual Enterprise and a 1st place win in the NYC Regional Robotics competition. As I write, we add a 2nd place winner in the FBLA NY State competition. That is due to the hard work and dedication of both faculty and students. Now it is time to kick it up a notch, and make this year a personal best for each of our students and faculty.

Eight more weeks is not a long time, but it can be done. Think about it – personal best is a work in progress. We can each achieve success if we do our personal best. Begin today.

Sincerely,
Denise Vittor

Passing Classes, Failing Regents

by Gregory Paul

The purpose of a Regents class is to prepare the students to pass the Regents exam. Teachers are supposed to familiarize their students with test material and assure the students' understanding of the curriculum. A passing final grade on a student's report card should indicate that the teacher believes that the student has the ability to pass the Regents exam. On many occasions, Queens Voc students pass the class but fail the Regents.

When students pass a class but fail the Regents, they are at a disadvantage. They are forced to retake the Regents, this time with no class, and often, little preparation. Students often forget the material and fail the Regents exam again.

Margaret Castellanos, a sophomore, failed the Living Environment Regents. She did poorly on assessments, but supposedly put enough effort to pass the class. Margaret wasn't the only one, "a lot of kids passed [the class] and got 30s [on the Regents]," she said. She failed the Living Environment

Regents two more times since then. Jerrell Hampton, a senior, said he failed the Global History Regents. "He gave us no work," Jerrell said of the teacher, "he couldn't control the class, he gave us crossword puzzles, and we chilled for the whole period. I got my 85 and I failed the Regents."

There are math, science, social studies, and English classes that students pass but fail the Regents.

Some teachers say that there should be a connection between a Regents exam score and a class grade. One teacher said, "I don't think like that, if that was the case then most of the class would fail." Instead the teacher bases students' grades on projects and class work. If those are done properly, then the student passes the class.

If a student successfully completes the work for the class, then the student deserves a passing grade, no matter what the Regents score is, but the problem is in the teachers who give out grades as if they were gifts. In some classes, the student who sleep



Readers, do you have any suggestions for articles for our next and final edition of the school year? Teachers, have you used a creative project or do you have a creative lesson you'd like to share?

Contact us at Editor@VocVoice.org

Game Reviews

by Jean Carvajal

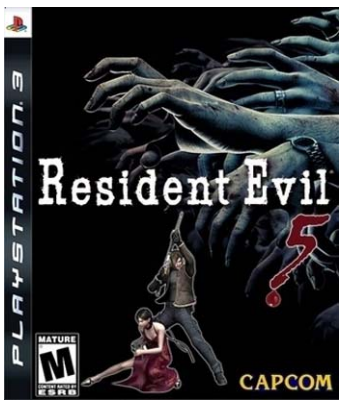
Guitar Hero: World Tour



Guitar Hero is a music rhythm game that allows you to be in a band without all the practice or hard work of a real band. World Tour is the fifth game in the Guitar Hero series, produced by Neversoft, and the first to introduce a drum and microphone set like their competition, Rock Band. To distinguish Guitar Hero from Rock Band, World Tour includes a music studio, which allows players to create songs with the guitar and drum set, but does

not allow them to sing because of copyright laws. Neversoft has also added an online band battle mode, which allows players to play four-against-four band battles with friends or players across the world. The only problem in the game is that they didn't add a no-fail mode that keeps the game going after one of the players fail in band mode, like in Rock Band 2. Other than that, World Tour has a pretty decent song list that ranges from metal songs of the '80s to more modern songs like Linkin Park's "What I've Done". The new drum set is pretty precise and feels like a real-life drum set unlike Rock Bands drum set. Guitar Hero feels like you're making real music while pushing buttons on a plastic guitar. Rating: 8.5 out of 10

Resident Evil 5



Resident Evil 5 is the newest game in the horror-themed

Resident Evil series. This game brings back the new game system of Resident Evil 4 with a few changes, both good and bad. Instead of the attache case of the old game, you're given nine slots to fit in just the necessary items. Capcom still hasn't changed the aiming system that makes you stand around shooting, which sometimes make the game a bit difficult. New to the series is a co-op system which allows second players to play as the new character Sheva. Unlike past games, Resident Evil 5 is a lot less scary, mostly cause you'll be playing with a second player or computer through the whole game. It is also less scary because the game gets a bit repetitive near the end making big surprises, not so surprising. The game gets better after it's beaten, because it then allows players to play again with new costumes, unlimited ammo, and screen tints, which makes the game look like an old school zombie movie. Back from the last game is Mercenaries, an arcade-like mode that gives points out for each kill, now with more venues and characters. Resident Evil 5 is a great game, but it is nothing like the last game, which was scary and full of action, and had a better and longer story mode. Rating: 7.5 out of 10

Elizabeth's Art



Aneita's Art



A blast from the past: Word search puzzle from the 1998-1999 school year.

Teacher Hunt

By Melissa Valdez

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

BERTOLAMI	DONOFRIO	KOSS	PACKER	SUAREZ
BLOOM	ERKINS	LAPOINTE	REICHIG	SWEET
BURKE	GOODY	LERRO	SCHIMENZ	THOMPSON
DAVIDSON	GRENZ	MALLETTE	SERBER	TURMAN
DECRISTOFORO	HUNTER	MALONEY	SIEGEL	VEGA
				WOLIN

Auditorium Progresses



Junior Shop Profiles

Maria C. Moreno

Once again we highlight those students considered by their CTE teachers to be the best in their class. This edition, we asked the CTE teachers to recommend their best juniors.

Questions:

1. What do you like the most about your shop class?
2. Why did you choose to major in this shop?
3. What makes your field better than others?
4. If there was one thing you could change about your shop class, what would it be?
5. Do you plan to major in this field after graduating? If not, what would you like to do?

Elizabeth Aritonang - Graphic Arts - Mr. Garcia



“I love the fact that I can incorporate art into my schoolwork.”
“I chose to major in this field because I love art and working with computers.”
“I get to work with

programs that other shop classes don’t use. We do a lot of interesting projects with these programs.”

4. “I would like our shop class to have more experience in the real world of advertising.”
5. “I would like to pursue a career in Journalism. Graphic Arts would be a second choice.”

Darlene Fernandez - Business - Ms. Mitchell

1. “What I like the most about my shop class is that what I learn is very versatile. Everything I learn in E-commerce, I am able to relate to



myself business-wise, and personally as well.”

2. “I chose this major because I felt it could help me the most in the future. I can apply the business skills I learn into a almost nay career I want to pursue later on.”
3. “To me, business is better than any other shop because I feel I fit better in the business environment.”
4. “I would like for the students to be more interactive. Also I would like to attend more trips and experience real world business.”
5. “I am yet undecided about what I want to major in after graduating, but business is definitely one of my options. I also would like to major in the medical field.”

Arien Hylton – Ms. Guzman - Cosmetology



professional cosmetologist in the future.”

3. “Cosmo is better than other fields because it involves enhancing people’s good features and making them feel better about themselves. I think that is very important.”
4. “I would thing I would change about my shop class is the number of broken appliances we have. We need new ones.”
5. “Yes, I plan to major in cosmetology after I graduate.”

Trent Petrus - Mr. Abreu - Electrical Installation



1. “I like the atmosphere, it is friendly. I also like my teacher.”
2. “I chose this major because I was already practicing it in Australia and I wanted to continue it when I moved here.”

3. “I don’t like plumbing. It is too dirty and messy. Electrical installation is a smarter shop.”
4. “One thing I would like to change is for us to get way more supplies.”
5. “Yes, I plan to get into construction skills.”

Thomas Mazzarella - Mr. Rivera – Plumbing

1. “I like all the new things Mr. Rivera teaches.”
2. “I chose plumbing because I like getting dirty and I thought it was a pretty cool trade.”



3. “Many people don’t like plumbing, but I love it, so that makes my field better.
4. “If I could change one thing, it would be to have a bigger room for us to have more space.”
5. “Yes, I plan to major in this field because I hear good things about plumbing and I really would like to join the union.”

Tulio Mesa – Mr. Cintron – Computer Technology



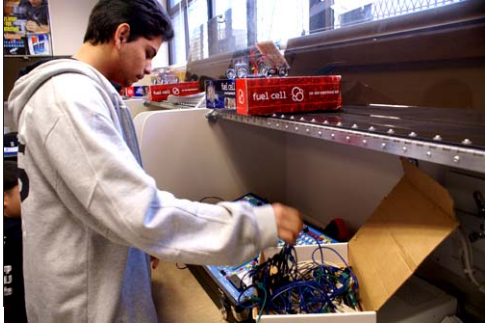
1. “I like working on computers and being able to troubleshoot errors within the systems. I also like the hands-on activities, for example, assembling computers.”
2. “I chose this

major because I have a big interest in computers and I wanted to learn more about them.”

3. “This is field is better that the others because we have a lot of hands-on work, and the students communicate well with each other.”
4. “One thing I would change from our shop class, is the classroom. We don’t have enough space in the room for everyone to work comfortably. Many times we don’t have enough space to work in.”
5. “Yes, I plan on majoring in this field after I graduate. I really like it and it keeps me busy and thinking.”

Michael Rodriguez - Ms. Maraj - Electronics

1. “I like the hands-on work.”
2. “I used to be in C-tech, but I f o u n d electronics easier and fun.”
3. “We learn things that we can apply to everyday life.



We learn how to make cables that can be used for TVs. This is something no other shop class can do.”

4. “I would change the room size. We need more space to work.”
5. “Yes, I would like to major in this field because I enjoy it and since I’m already learning it I might as well continue to.”



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Twisters

by Joel Pena

It’s the way you say them that makes you keep trying. We struggle to say them but the words never come out the way we want them to. Here’s a new batch of homemade Queens Voc tongue twisters. Remember to repeat them three times fast:

Running Ruiz roared recklessly

Vega viewed very vaguely

Students secretly sleep silently

Garcia generates great graphics

Plumbing packs plenty of pliers

Business brings booming bucks

Cosmetology can create crazy curls

Joana juggled jumbo jars

Zambrotta zoomed after Zane’s zebra

Samuelson seeks shy students

Mayer missed many mortifying meetings

Vittor’s vandalized van vanished

Gangster Green gambles grapes

Schimenz studies Stossel’s shows

Beatriz baked burnt brownies

These are some homemade tongue twisters that have been made by some of Queens Voc’s students and teachers. The same rules apply.

Student Submissions:

The Spaniard in Spain speaks Spanish - Mark Smartt
Luis likes Lacey Lucy - Luis Azpuru
Serra sells sheets by the sheet store - Christopher Serra
Jiggy juggles jiggly Jell-o - Guadalupe Victoria
Amy aims at Adam’s apple - Amy Zhao

Teacher Submissions:

Green gave Guzman gloppy goop - Ms. DeCarlo
DeCarlo danced doofy during dinner - Ms. Green

Students and staff members can submit their own tongue twisters by e-mailing them to Editor@vocvoice.org.

Inquiring Photographer

by Rafael De Oleo

Many people have something they would love to do, not *just do*, they dream of being the best. The stardom and feeling of being the best in the world must be amazing. Some students shared their dreams of being the best at a specific field.



Miguel Perez

“I would be the best baseball player because I love the sport and I will have enough money for everything.”



Cynthia Rojas

“I would be the best gymnast because the Olympics always catch my attention, swinging around and being flexible is so cool.”



Jefferson Zamora

“The best parent because I grew up without a dad so I would want to be the best for my kids and always be there for them.”



Alexandra Murcia

“I would be the best singer because I like to sing but I sing horrible.”



Jossie Vaca

“I would be the best salsa dancer because I love to go out and dance Spanish music, there’s more sensual and sexuality with salsa.”



Yahirt Artunduaga

“I would be the best centerfielder, because i want to be like my idol Carlos Beltran.”



Marcia Leva

“I would be the best female guitarist because I love music and its my favorite instrument.”



Amber Sencion

“I would be the best pianist because I love music, basically the best at anything that has to do with music, music is inspiring, and it’s medicine for the soul.”



Luis Torres

“I would be the best basketball player because it is my favorite sport.”



Hassly Marquez

“I would be the best bellydancer in the Universe, because I want to show that every woman can be talented.”



Joseph Payamps

“I would be the best shortstop baseball has ever seen because I’ve been playing for seven or eight years and I love the sport.”



Fahim Islam

“I would be the most amazing ferroequinologist becuae the sound of the contraption rushing across the tracks and it’s magnificent roar leaves me in awe every time. That is truly

the most wonderful creation known to mankind.”



Websites of Interest

by Josue Manzanares

In this issue of *Vocational Voice*, we again include websites that may be of interest to our readers.

We asked teachers and students to recommend websites, and to tell us why.

We include the recommended websites and, while the sites may have other uses, we include the reasons we were given by the people who recommended the sites.

Sports

QVTigers.org- Queens Voc varsity baseball

nfl.com- NFL news

cbsportsline.com- fantasy football, baseball, look up college sports and sports in general

psal.org- Queens Voc sports, look up other high schools sports

mlb.com- check for updates, trades, and injuries

rivals.com- look up other high schools sports records and current information on rankings
beat-the-streets.com- NYC wrestling news for clinics, tournaments, and events

flowrestling.org- Youtube for wrestling-only videos

thedailyplate.com- search foods and activities and see how healthy you are living

Movies/Games/Shows

pspiso.com- download movies and games

animeseason.com- watch anime

gamefaqs.com- find game FAQs

redvsblue.com- watch videos, read online comics

hulu.com- watch TV online

marveluniverse.com- everything about marvel comics
gameinformer.com- video games

ign.com- video games, music, comics and movies

movie25.com- watch movies

cartoonnetwork.com- play batman games

runescape.com- massively multiplayer online role-playing game

askaninja.com- really funny website, good for a good laugh
comingsoon.net- watch movies and TV

mmanews.com- marshal arts news

vh1.com- watch shows, and pictures, and listen to music

Automotive/Bike

carlot.com- look for cars

autobody.com- check out body kits and stuff for cars

autotrader.com- look up old and new cars that are for sale

cars.com- shop for cars

extremedimensions.com- shop for performance body parts for cars

motorcycle.com- shop, review and, everything about motorcycles

Entertainment/Communication

facebook.com- talk to friends

aim.com- talk to friends, check mail, and chat

photobucket.com- edit my pictures

tinypic.com- download pictures for MySpace

meebo.com- go on aim, yahoo, msn

youtube.com- Watch new music videos, funny videos, and interesting videos. Listen to music and look for lyrics, watch movies, videos related to sports, humor or music

dopenewsongs.com- listen to new music

highfive.com- comment and message friends

aol.com- check mail

ratemyteachers.com- see what people wrote about teachers

onemanga.com- read books online

ultimateguitar.com- learn guitar online

etflow.com- learn how to do anything

proflowers.com- to buy flowers for the ones I love

School related

VocVoice.org- Previous editions of the school paper

regentsprep.org- Regents help, good to review Regents for practice and look up old tests

dictionary.com- look for definitions

queenslibrary.org- Queens Library

nypl.org- New York Public Library

search.ebscohost.com- username: Queensvotech, password: Queensvotech, research database, they provide full text journal articles for research

infotrac.galegroup.com/itweb/

nysl-me-qvoecs- password: empirelink- research database, provides full text journal articles for research

wikipedia.org- look up interesting topics

merriam-webster.com- learn words you don’t know

highschoolace.com- general student resource

collegeboard.com- SAT sign up

babelfish.yahoo.com- translate text into a variety of languages

Students and staff members who would like to recommend their own or other websites for inclusion in our next edition should email them to us at Editor@vocvoice.org

Students and Staff Reveal Their Most Embarrassing Moments

Students

by Larissa Puig

Staff

Jennifer Spillane: “Freshmen year I was hanging out with a few of my friends on Valentine’s Day and I had a crush on my friend Paul. I felt so cool for hanging out with them and them being older than me. So I was walking down the stairs from leaving Cypriana’s and I fell and busted my butt. I was so red and you could tell they were trying so hard not to laugh and be nice, but I was mortified.”

David Lopez: “I got pants’d in front of two girls I liked back in junior high school.”

Sherice Berkeley: “I was trying to look cute in front of my sister’s boyfriend’s little brother and I was walking up the stairs. My sister called me, and while walking up the stairs towards her, I fell and hit my head. I had a really big bruise for like two days.”

Karina Villalobos: “One time I was talking to this guy I really liked and I was laughing and all of a sudden my gum flew right out of my mouth.”
“One time I was walking up the stairs in front of these two cute guys and I fell.”
“I was in class and I went to reach for something on the desk next to me and I tipped a little and as soon as I grabbed it I fell and took the desk with me.”
“At volleyball practice the team along with the baseball team was there and I sprained my ankle. The funny part was that I was just serving!”
“I was looking for my friend and my heel was stuck on a stair and I fell face first down the stairs. Turns out she was in the staircase and saw the whole thing too, I had bruises for two weeks.”
“I was running for the train and I swiped my metro card, but it didn’t go through and I almost flipped over the turnstile.”

Luis Azpuru: “My most embarrassing moment has to be when I was running in gym, and my friend Kiara pants’d me in front of everyone.”

Marcos Romoleroux: “I tripped and did a split as I landed, which hurt a lot by the way, and my pants ripped. ”

Samantha Puig: “I had to do Ms. Spallone’s hair, and I was nervous. I kept on dropping things and breaking equipment, all over the place. I finally grabbed all my brushes n products and when I went to grab an item, I tripped over a chair, and flew head first onto the floor while everything I had in my hands flew in the air. I tried to play it off by saying ‘that was a dance move!’ but apparently that didn’t work too well.”

“I got pants’d in front of two girls I liked...”

Joseph Lorenzi: “When my boys and I were playing football, one of my boys tackled me and my shirt completely ripped off. There were tons of people there watching us too, so they saw the whole thing.”

Johnathan Valentine: “One time I was walking down the block of the school with a friend/crush of mine, and I was kicking a bottle around in mid air, and all of a sudden when I kicked the bottle, it flew up towards my face, hit me, and made the funniest noise. So I looked really cool doing that while my friend/crush was dying laughing at me.”

Andy Vasquez: “I was eight years old, and one day when I was at the mall, my dad bought me an ice cream cone, my sister snatched it out of my hands and threw it at me. I look like I peed my pants and was walking around the entire mall like that till we finally left.”

Mr. Vega: “I was talking to a girl back when I was young, I really liked her and the conversation was going really well. Then a bird flew by and pooped on my head. The girl was real cool though, she didn’t’ laugh at me or walk away all embarrassed, instead she was like, ‘Oh man! Let me help you with that,’ and gave me a tissue to clean myself up.”

Mr. Mendez: “One time I was hanging out in Vegas office, and I kept on tilting the chair that I was sitting on. Vega warned me and was like ‘Yo you’re going to fall.’ and I’m like ‘Mendez don’t fall!’ and when I tilted my chair back again I fell backwards.”

Mr. Devaux: “When I was about 14 years old, I was riding my bike down the street. There were these girls sitting on a stoop, so I’m looking at them, and I didn’t realize the parked car in front of me. I crashed right into the car and flew right on top of the hood of the car. I jumped off the car and back onto the bike and rode back

home with my bike with now messed up crooked handle bars.”

Ms. Mitchell: “A fight broke out in my classroom last year between two girls, I tried to break up the fight and when I realized I couldn’t I yelled at in the weirdest manner and called the deans.”

Mr. Nadler: “Just recently I was over a friend’s brand new house for dinner. At the dinner table I went to sit down and broke one of the legs on their brand new chair. Later on that night, I locked myself in the bathroom.”

Mrs. Spallone: “When I had to go to the bathroom so bad, and I couldn’t leave the room, I had to stand in the hallway to ask a teacher to watch my class.”

Ms. Rejalaga: “In junior high school I was walking to school and there was the biggest pile of poop right there at the corner of the school. I was too tired to notice and stepped in it in front of everyone. I had to go home and change.”

How to Pick-Up Girls: Advice from an Expert

by Carlos Belliard

Some guys wonder what they did wrong when they find themselves on the other side of a slap. Here are some pointers that guys can follow. Do not try any lame pick-up lines because they don’t work unless you are Chris Brown or Justin Timberlake.

When approaching a female, don’t be overly aggressive. Be smooth and calm when approaching her and talking to her. Asking her for her number in the beginning makes the guy seem desperate and for some girls that’s a turn off. Your opening line should be something that makes her laugh or smile. Some guys might open by asking for directions or the time. Once engaging in a conversation with the female, talk about something that might suit her interest. Do not approach a girl with a group of friends, all that will do is scare her; try to approach her alone. Make sure that you properly dress before making a move. Making a good first impression is

essential when meeting a girl. Avoid long periods of awkward silence. The guy’s is to make the girl feel comfortable or she will not want to continue the conversation. Try to come off confident but not arrogant.

“When approaching a female, don’t be overly aggressive.”

is pointless, such as when a girl is walking in your opposite direction. Attempting to start a conversation with her is setting you up for failure. Also try not to approach females who are in a hurry because they are least likely to stop and pay attention to you. The best places to approach females are places such as the mall, school, and parties. A lot of people don’t realize it, but normal places such as the supermarket, laundromat, gym or even the train are good places to

approach females. The reason for this is that in these places, women are relaxed and not are expecting to be approached so they don’t have their guard up. Observe the girl for some time to see whom she is with. You don’t want to get yourself into a royal rumble because you talked to someone’s girlfriend.

One thing guys forget is that they’re going to fail more than succeed.

“It’s a Recession”

by Christopher Gomez

This recession has affected all of us in different ways and everyone has taken the opportunity to benefit from it. Even teenagers have now begun to take advantage, but sometimes they take it a bit too far...

Hey, you takin' your girl to the movies?

You stupid!? It's a recession!

Yo, you goin' to the club tonight?

You stupid!? It's a recession!

Yo, you gonna do Mr. Schimenz's homework?

You stupid!? It's a recession!

Plausable

Understandable

What the #^@&!?

INSIDE TIGERS SPORTS

Girls’ Basketball

continued from back page

High School, the winner of the Queens B West division that Queens Voc is a part of. The Lady Tigers lost both of the regular season meetings between the two teams, and the third time wasn’t the charm, as they fell short by three points, losing to Grover Cleveland, 37-34.

Despite the loss, the girls stayed positive and focused on the bright side of the season. “We became better as the season progressed,” said Jamila Rodriguez, a junior who has played on the team since her sophomore year. Samantha Lupo, a junior on the team, said that they “began to play as a team, and it worked.” Mr. Devaux, the coach of the team, said that the team’s performance this year was better than he initially expected.

The end of this season marked the end of the high school basketball careers of seniors Meghan Guzman, and Karolina Gorna. They will be missed by the Lady Tiger family. Coach Devaux said that Meghan was “very hardworking, and solid off the bench.” Jamila said that Captain Karolina was “not only a good captain, she is great friend.” Karolina is the team’s



Girls make second round.

all-time leading scorer; averaging almost 14 points per game.

Hopes are high for the Lady Tigers next season. There are 13 remaining players for next year: Melissa Alzate, Julissa Ballesteros, Sherice Berkeley, Elixandria Brienza, Ashley Deaza, Chrisleidy Duverge, Ana Estrada, Marva Jones, Kelly Ann Kato, Samantha Lupo, Raquel Reyes, Jamila Rodriguez, and Barbara Roman. According to Coach Devaux, the team has potential to improve for next year. He says expects Jamila, Samantha, Marva, and projected captain, Melisa, to be stand-out players. Coach Devaux hopes to make next year’s team make less mental mistakes and play smarter.

JV Baseball Season Underway Developing Skills is a Priority

by Lorena Bonilla

The JV baseball season kicked off on Friday, April 24, against Queens High School of Teaching. “We were losing 10 to 9 when the game was suspended because it was late,” said two year coach Mr. Cintron. The game will be played completion, he said.

Coach Cintron said his main goal is to help his players improve. “We have a lot of young, inexperienced baseball players and I want to help develop their skills so that when they’re done playing they can go on to play on the varsity baseball team,” he said.

Connor McCarthy, a junior EI student who assists Mr. Cintron, shares that goal. “This year’s team has a lot of good talent and after developing their skills, they can definitely move onto varsity,” he said.

Jose Alvarez, a computer technology sophomore, used to play on JV and is now playing on varsity. “I’m glad I played on the JV baseball team. It gave me more playing time and helped me improve my skills,” he said.

The JV baseball league doesn’t hold playoffs. But this year, Coach Cintron is working with other coaches to have a tournament at the end of the season. “We’re hoping to have a tournament toward the end of the year, and have trophies for the winning team,” he said.

This year’s JV baseball team consists of the following players: freshmen Yahirt Artunduaga, Jonnathan Avila, Rodolfo Diaz, Geovanny Duy, Luis Gonzalez, Salvatore Isabella, Pawel Pietraszko, John Tosado, and Daniel Vargas; and sophomores Tomas Bueno, who is the team captain, Stewart Cole, Hugo Collado, Ahmed Ebrahim, Michael Flores, Armando Molina, and Tenzin Tashi. Remainder of schedule: 5/5 Queens Voc @ Cardozo 5/7 Queens Voc @ Francis Lewis 5/9 Queens Voc @ Francis Lewis 5/14 Queens Voc @ Flushing 5/19 Queens Voc vs John Bowne (@ FM #14) 5/26 Queens Voc @ Newtown 5/28 Queens Voc Queens HS of Teaching (@ FM #14) 5/29 Queens Voc @ Bayside 6/4 Queens Voc vs Flushing

Boys’ Basketball

continued from back page

“Next season will be a rebuilding year with plenty of new players who will hopefully contribute to what used to be a successful program,” said the disappointed coach. Because of the highly disappointing season, Coach Maloney said the team “has put my coaching career closer to retirement than ever before.” Every time the gym was used by another school team, the gym was not available for practice. Next year, Coach Maloney said, he would like more gym time to practice.

Varsity Baseball: The Future is Now!



Boys stretch after traveling to the Bronx to play Taft.

by Karolina Gorna

“Building for the future is an ongoing process and developing our younger players is crucial to our success,” stated Mr. Schimenz, the coach of the boys’ varsity baseball team.

As young a team as it is, the Queens Voc baseball Tigers record is currently 8 & 1, having won five consecutive games. They defeated Academy of American Studies, Flushing, Jamaica, and Wagner. Their first loss came against Townsend Harris, 6-5, but they came back the next day to defeat August Martin, 19-7. They are potentially two victories away from earning a playoff spot for the eighth year in a row.

Joe LiVecchi, who played for the Tigers for two years and who graduated in 2005, has been the team’s assistant coach since 2006. “Joe’s been a tremendous help,” Coach Schimenz said, “and we work very well together. He deserves credit for a lot of our success.”

The team is young with 11 rookies, eight of whom are freshmen. There are also five sophomores, two juniors, and six seniors. “It’s not about age,” says Mr. Schimenz, “it’s about the dedication.”

The team captains are two sophomores, Armando Avila and Esteban Soler, and recently-

“There will be real good players coming back next year,” said Edwin. Skyfree said that the returning players could have good chemistry next year because they have played together since they were on junior varsity.

There will be as many five returning players for next year. Christopher said that next year the chemistry will be better because the five returning players all know each other very well. Both Francis and Christopher are confident on next season because everyone returning next year has a feel for themselves on the court.

Wrestling

continued from back page

team is still recruiting wrestlers for next year’s season. “We are asking around to see if students would like to be part of our team next year,” James Clark stated. James is very dedicated to the sport and is going to a camp upstate. “Hopefully we can make it to state next season,” James said about his expectations for next season.

The team consisted of 26 wrestlers. Steven Abreu, Beshion Bailey, Paul Cabral, Jonathan Dempsey, Hamdeybi Francisco, Jersoon Garcia, Piotr Gumieniak, Aaron Lorenzana, Gregg Nana, Jamsed Naser, Gregory Paul, Joel Peña, Diego Ramos, Cristain Rodriguez, Justin Rodriguez, Mark Smartt, and Jefferson Zamora were the seniors of the team. James Clark, Raymond Diaz, Remilekun Diaz, Carlos Jimenez, Geraldine Leibot, Byrin Loja, Jamie Quizphi, and Dipreet Singh were the other wrestlers on the team.

“I’m proud of the dedication, the team and the school. I was proud to be walking with them. They represented themselves, the team and the school in a mature manner,” said the coach.

Action Team program, a collaboration between Major League Baseball Players Association and Volunteers of America. The boys help at Hour Children, a community service organization that helps care for children of incarcerated parents. “I think it’s nice to help and it makes you appreciate what you have,” Mr. Schimenz said.

The players on the team are Jose Alvarez, Luis Arias, Armando Avila, Carlos Belliard, Erick Cabello, Daniel Corona, Rafael De Oleo, Luis Espinoza, Stanley Garcia, Larry LeBeau, Jonathan Matias, Jose Monegro, Radison Moronta, Javier Pasarin, Luis Pascual, Joseph Payamps, Diony Perez, Miguel Perez, Cristian Rodriguez, George Serna, and Esteban Soler.


Mr. Schimenz’s goal isn’t to win a [nother] championship; he really doesn’t care, he says. “It’s their decision; it’s about the responsibility to be there for your team.”

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

SENIOR SPORTS PROFILES

by Jinet Collado

Carlos Belliard



Age: 17
Team: Baseball
Position: Pitcher
Years on Team: 4

“Carlos is a good player and friend. I expect Carlos to do his thing on the field and help us make it to the playoffs.”
-Joseph Payamps

“A 4-year veteran, Carlos has helped us be successful each year, with this as his best year yet.”
- Mr. Schimenz

Amy Zhao



Age: 17
Team: Handball
Position: 2nd double
Years on Team: 2

“Amy is very friendly and for a girl, she’s nice on the court.”
- Ariel Obando

“Amy is a very dedicated player who if was playing in an all girls’ league would be one of the top players.”
- Mr. Maloney

Pervej Rahman



Age: 17
Team: Handball
Position: 1st doubles
Years on Team: 2

“Pervej is a good player who shows a lot of teamwork.”
- Alejandro Obando

“Pervej has improved his skills every year he’s been on the team and he has 100 percent desire to succeed.”
- Mr. Maloney

Michael Celiz



Age: 17
Team: Handball
Position: 3rd Singles
Years on Team: 1

“Michael motivates us to play and in every practice he helps us improve our game.”
- Kelvin Rios

“Michael plays with a lot of determination and dedication and his skills are commendable.”
- Mr. Maloney

Jeffrey Munoz



Age: 17
Team: Handball
Position: 2nd Singles
Years on Team: 2

“Jeffrey is a good captain and he contributes a lot to the team on and off the court.”
- Michael Corona

“Jeff is a team captain who’s in control of organizing and running practices. He has become a real leader and a quality handball player.”
- Mr. Maloney

Handball Team Looking Sharp, Says Coach

by Santiago Orellana

Queens Voc’s handball team is looking sharp, said their coach, Mr. Maloney. “This year the team is more competitive due to new players who seem to have more experience than players from last year,” he said.

The team captain of the handball team is two-year veteran, senior Jeffrey Munoz. “This year we want to have a .500 or better record in order to secure a spot in the playoffs,” said Jeffrey Munoz.

Muhamed Paljevic, who plays 1st singles, wants to win most of his matches individually, to help the team go to the playoffs.

The Tigers currently have a record of 2 & 4, and is in fourth place in their division. They faced Aviation at Bush Park, in their season opener, losing their opening match 4-1, with Muhamed the only one to win his match.

Queens Voc defeated Arts & Business 4-1 at home, in their second match of the season.

In the third match of the season, the Tigers faced LIC at home. This time the match was more competitive with the final score being 3-2 favoring the home team.

In their last three games, the Tigers were lost to Bryant, 4-1, and lost to both Aviation and Newcomers, 5-0, according to

psal.org. Yet Ariel Obando, a freshman, believes in the team. “We have a good team, and we will make it to the playoffs,” he said.

“Coach Maloney helps us develop our game by helping us improve our techniques,” said Alejandro first year player. Since handball is an individual sport, the team helps each other improve their game. “Jeffrey and Michael are always in practice, helping us improve our handball techniques,” said Kelvin.

There are 14 players on the handball team. Seven of them are seniors: Michael Celiz, Jonathan Dempsey, Hamdeybi “David” Francisco, Aaron Lorenzana,

Jeffrey Munoz, Pervej Rahman, and Amy Zhao; three juniors: Michael Corona, George Darmanin, and Muhamed Paljevic; two sophomores: Ariel Obando and Kelvin Rios; and two freshmen: Alejandro Obando and Yaw Teh.

The team started the season without Jonathan Dempsey who is recovering from an injury incurred during the wrestling season. “In Jonathan’s absence, Muhamed will step up to 1st singles to start the season,” said Coach Maloney.

Find out more about Queens Voc’s sports teams: PSAL.org

Girls’ Softball Team has Some Nice Surprises

by Armando Avilla

The softball season is well under way. The girls’ softball team is 2 & 5. So far, the girls have defeated RFK and Beach Channel.

Their first win came on March 25 when the team defeated Beach Channel 9-4. Second basemen Francesca Bernabe Duarte had five at-bats with three hits, two runs, two RBIs, and two stolen bases. Pitcher Brigitte Diaz pitched all seven innings and gave up only four runs. She had 10 walks but still managed to win the game and get 10 strikeouts.

The season has suffered because of “a lot of rainouts and rescheduling. When the time comes we will have to makeup all the games in just three

weeks,” said Coach Boyle. The team has been rained out four times since the beginning of April and hasn’t made up a game.

“We’ve been practicing indoors since most of our games have been rained out, it’s hard to win games when we haven’t been able to practice much on the field,” said team captain Joana. The team played four non-league games to prepare for the regular season.

The coach’s appointment of Joana Garcia was a result of her hustle and her hard work on and off the field, said Mr. Boyle. “I’m proud to be captain and want to take this team as far as I can,” said Joana.

Freshman Elixandria “Ellie” Brienza has been one of the biggest surprises this season, along with sophomore Nashaly

Mercado and Freshman Ashley Deaza, said the coach. “Ellie is a great defensive player, she has a great arm and has good range at short,” he said, adding, “both Nashaly and Ashley are great hitters.” Nashaly also has been a surprise with excellent potential as a hitter.

According to the PSAL website, Ashley has a batting average of .750 and an on base percentage of .857%. Nashaly has a batting average of .500 and an on base percentage of .714%.


“Top players Joana Garcia, Brigitte Diaz, and Melissa Alzate have all been swinging the bat well and getting on base,” said Coach Boyle. But their skills and hard work have not yet paid off.

Coach Boyle has been disappointed with the season so

far. The team has a lot of potential, said the coach, and can do a lot more to win more games. Defensively the team has not been doing that well. “To win games we have to play hard, never give up, and most importantly, have fun,” said Joana.

The team is compromised of three seniors: Tracy Ambrossi, Joana Garcia, and Shirley Rodriguez; five juniors: Melissa Alzate, Sandy Cevallos, Brigitte Diaz, Victoria Lindner, and Samantha Lupo; six sophomores Julissa Ballesteros, Francesca Duarte Bernabe, Mallelyn Gutierrez, Paola Hernandez, Nashaly Mercado, and Raquel Reyes, and seven freshmen: Katherin Arias, Elixandria Brienza, Ashley Deaza, Yaniri Infante, Jacqueline Jimenez,

Rafael De Oleo



Age: 17
Team: Baseball
Position: Catcher
Years on Team: 3

“Ralph is a good catcher and his skills have helped us do well this season.”
- Daniel Corona

“Ralphie took over as catcher and has done well and his batting has been solid. He has really kept us moving forward and, like the other seniors, is a big part of our success.”
- Coach Schimenz

Fitore Morina, and Lucy Ramirez.

The team’s remaining games are as follows:

May 5 August Martin @ Big Bush Field #1

May 8 Grover Cleveland @ Big Bush Field #1

May 12 American Studies @ Big Bush Field #1

May 14 Frank Sinatra @ Maurice Field #2

May 15 @ Long Island City

Support Girls’ Softball

TIGERS

Basketball

Girls in Playoff Win

by Gregory Paul

“We’re going to the playoffs definitely; we’re getting past the first round,” Karolina Gorna, captain of the girls’ varsity basketball team, was quoted in the fall 2008 edition of *Vocational Voice*, distributed before the start of the team’s season. Karolina stayed true to her word.

The Queens Voc Lady Tigers took on the Bread and Roses High School Jaguars in a first round playoff game on Feb. 24, at home, and easily defeated the Jaguars 52-28 before a large and energetic crowd. That victory was the team’s first-ever playoff win.

The Queens Voc Lady Tigers finished the regular season with 10 wins and 6 losses; the best in the team’s four-year history. After cruising past the first round of the playoffs, the Lady Tigers faced Grover Cleveland

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Coach Devaux and Captain Karolina Gorna motivate the team.

Boys: Two Games Shy of .500 But Still Disappointed

by Santiago Orellana

“Emotions took over players instead of having fun,” said Skyfree Ferguson, a four-year veteran who was highly disappointed at the outcome of the season.

Queens Voc’s boys’ varsity basketball team finished the season 8-12, a disappointment to the entire team. “The team underachieved, and the chemistry was not right,” said Captain Edwin Hill. The coach and the players were disappointed, knowing that they were capable of doing better as a team.

The team captain was four-year veteran Edwin Hill. There were 15 members on the basketball team, this year. Ten were seniors: Jheferson Aldaz, Skyfree Ferguson, Christopher Green, Jerrell Hampton, Edwin Hill, Anthony Hughes, Mingmar Lama, Joel Pichardo, Vinicios Santos, Ranjot Singh; and five were juniors: Christopher De La Cruz, Ramon Gil, Kareif Mckoy, Francis Reyes, and Christopher Suarez.

“The team played a ‘me’ type of game, which seem to be individuals focusing on themselves rather than the team,” said Coach Maloney. With five games remaining in the season, the Tigers were 8-7 and needed only two wins to secure a spot in the playoffs. They failed to do so. “The team was absent for several games down the stretch,” said Mr. Maloney. “At points in the game the team members were selfish, and played as individuals,” said Edwin. The Tigers played Info Tech, Wagner, H.S. for Construction, Newcomers, and Robert F. Kennedy and dropped the bomb on every game. “Emotions took over players instead of having fun,” said Sky. “We failed to work as a team, we were always arguing,” he added. “Dedication and sportsmanship went away in the last games; we could’ve gone to the playoffs,” said Francis. Christopher suggested that “the coach should’ve mixed the lineup between the seniors and juniors.” Anthony said that his teammates were not focused, and their minds were on other things instead of the game.

“As a four-year player, it was an honor to play for Maloney, he taught me a lot of things on and off the court,” said Edwin. “He has given me good tools to use on the court and as a person to succeed in the world,” he added.

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SPORTS

Wrestling Team Goes Undeclared

by Jessica Delarosa

Queens Voc’s developmental wrestling team ended their season undefeated with a record of 8-0. The team was extremely happy that all their hard work paid off. Along with the excitement, Coach Zambrotta was a bit disappointed because although they were the best developmental team, two other teams finished undefeated as well. “I would’ve wanted an opportunity for the three teams to have a tournament or a playoff,” said Coach Zambrotta.

Their last meet was against Grover Cleveland and the final score was 60-0. In addition to Grover Cleveland the other schools the team defeated were HS of Applied Communications, Leon M Goldstein HS for Science, Information Technology, Brooklyn International, Wagner, Bathgate Educational Complex, and South Shore.

The team celebrated the victory and the end of a perfect season with a pizza party. The pizza party was held February 11 in the school’s cafeteria. Throughout the party the wrestlers ate pizza, fruits, and non-carbohydrate drinks. Hamdeybi Francisco, who is a senior and a co-captain, said, “It was very fun and we were finally able to be fat and eat pizza.” The team trained everyday and had to maintain their weight level, so eating junk food wasn’t an option. Aviation’s wrestling team which frequently trained with the Queens Voc wrestlers, joined the party. The wrestlers set up the mats on which some would wrestle for the last time. The two schools wanted to see Coach Zambrotta and Aviation’s coach face each other. They wrestled, however no one scored.



QV wrestlers showed skill.

Along with meets, the wrestling team competed in four different tournaments. On Sunday, December 7 the Charles Class Memorial Tournament took place. Justin Rodriguez and Jefferson Zamora placed gold, Aaron Lorenzana placed silver, Beshion Bailey placed bronze, James Clark, Jamsed Naser and Cristain Rodriguez placed fourth. As the season progressed the team was “able to better prepare themselves for the increased competition and the lengthy waiting time in between matched that can hinder one’s mental focus,” said Coach Zambrotta. The last tournament they participated in Mayor’s Cup tournament at the end of February. First-year senior wrestlers who received gold medals were Maxwell Ayisah, Beshion Bailey, Piotr Gumieniak, Diego Ramos, Justin Rodriguez and Jefferson Zamora; silver medal winners were Hamdeybi Francisco, Aaron Lorenzana, and Gregory Paul. “Waiting for the next bout always got me nervous, and I think that it helped

me out when I was wrestling,” said Jefferson.

The season might have ended but Zambrotta’s dedication to the team hasn’t. He is currently working on wrestling camps paid by Beat the Streets, the parent organization



Looking to pin another opponent in a flawless season.

they work with. He feels that the competition is going to be immense next year since the team is going to be participating in the Queens Varsity division. “In order to best prepare ourselves for the varsity team, I’m working on obtaining a US Charter, so that I’m able to prepare and attract potential wrestlers,” said Coach Zambrotta. With a wrestling charter, wrestlers are able to practice anywhere during the offspring season. Every participating member must be registered to be insured. This insurance will cover any problems that go wrong. Coach Zambrotta is currently in the process of obtaining a US Charter and plans to pay for it through fundraising. He looks forward to be given the opportunity to learn from the mistakes this season. Along with trying to obtain the charter, the

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TIGERS SPORTS CONTINUED INSIDE