



Vocational Voice

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

Spring, 2012

by Luis Gonzales

Ellie Brienza took first place in Residential Wiring and Miguel Garcia took first place in Residential Systems Installation and Maintenance at the statewide Skills USA conference at the end of April in Syracuse, New York. Katherin Arias took second place in Industrial Motor Control, Ashley Deaza took third in Job Interview, and Kelly-Ann Kato took third in Electronics Technology.

The state conference was held, from April 25 to April 27.

Ellie and Miguel will represent New York State at the 48th annual National Leadership and Skills Conference, Saturday, June 23 through Wednesday, June 27, in Kansas City, Missouri. Ellie, a senior, will miss her June 25 graduation.

To get to the state conference, the Queens Voc students had to turn up the



Skills USA members gather before heading to the New York State conference.

heat at the Skills USA city conference this past Feb. 11 at Thomas A. Edison High School. In the citywide conference, Queens Voc students took home 19 medals: eight first place winners, six second place

winners, and five third place winners.

Queens Voc was represented by juniors and seniors from EI, plumbing, computer technology, electronics, cosmetology, and graphic arts.

Students represented themselves and Queens Voc well and professionally, said Mr. Cintron, co-advisor for Skills USA. "Our students worked very hard and performed really well at the city conference. All the Queens

Voc advisors were confident we would get first place winners in the state conference," he said.

Ms. D'Onofrio, a cosmetology advisor for the juniors, was impressed by how professionally her students represented Queens Voc. "I don't think I could have been the judge because one hairstyle was better than the next," she said. Ms. Quartuccio advised senior cosmetology students. She said she was proud of the quality and expertise of her students. "I was impressed with the professionalism of our girls and so proud when teachers from many cosmetology programs around the state remarked about the skill level of our students," she said.

Queens Voc students participated in Cosmetology (11th and 12th grade), Industrial Motor Control, Job Demonstration, Job Interview, Pin Design, Plumbing, Residential Wiring,

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RoboTigers Among Nation's Best

by Biaani Garcia

The robotics club members and advisors headed to St. Louis, Missouri, on Wednesday, April 25, to participate in the FIRST Robotics national competition.

They came home ranked 43 out of more than 2,200 robotics teams worldwide.

"I feel all of our students gained a new appreciation for math, science, and technology," said Mr. Ali, who founded Queens Voc's robotics club in 2005.

"I'm extremely proud. They learned that it's not just about winning," Mr. Ali said, "but being proud of what they chose to build."

The RoboTigers won the

General Motors Industrial Design Award, at the Long Island FIRST competition.

"The General Motors award celebrates function and an efficiently designed machine that effectively addresses the game challenge," said Mr. Ali.

The RoboTigers managed to get to the nationals, despite losing out in the city regionals. "We performed well in the New York City regionals but didn't win. We did end up among the top teams in the Long Island regionals," said club member Maximilian Manticof, who explained how the RoboTigers ended up in the national competition.

The robotics club participated in the Rebound Rumble held

March 16-18 at the Jacob Javits Center in Manhattan. According to Khiran Samsundar, in this three-day event, the robot created by the RoboTigers had to work together with other robots to show "coopertition."

"Coopertition" is a made up word by FIRST (for inspiration and recognition in science and technology) meaning teams compete by working together.

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RoboTigers at FIRST national competition.

only had two dance acts this year pushing us to do better. I was scared people weren't ready to go on stage but everyone came through well," said Jessica Polanco, who danced the tango in the show.

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QUEENS VOC GOT TALENT!

by Eliana Moronta

Lights, Camera, Action! Queens Voc got talent.

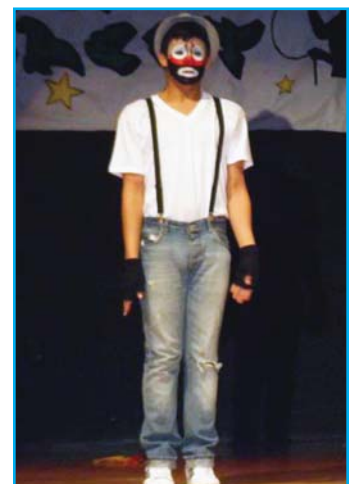
After months of planning, rehearsals, and cuts, the talent show named "LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION," took place in the auditorium on April 3, from 5pm to 6:30pm. But the show wasn't just about talent.

The talent show originally had 18 acts, but as time went on the number of acts decreased. According to Mr. Vega, students weren't showing up to rehearsals and therefore were neither ready nor committed enough to be in the show. On March 5, Mr. Vega made some cuts and

posted up a list of the final acts for the talent show.

Partly as a result of the reduced number of acts, a fashion show was added. "Some of the seniors approached me with the idea of having a fashion show," said Ms. Rejalaga. "The models selected their music and clothing categories. I just helped them organize their ideas," she said. The categories were urban, professional, spring, and girls' party wear.

"This year there weren't as many people willing to be in the show as last year but we worked with what we had. We



Elliot clowning around.

RoboTigers Among Nation's Best

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After participating in the Rebound Rumble, the RoboTigers participated in the SBPLI, School-Business Partnerships of Long Island, at Hofstra University on March 31. They placed second in the Long Island regionals, in addition to winning the General Motors award. Placing second made them eligible to participate in the FRC Championship that took place April 28-29.



Jonathan and Mohammed work on the robot.

There were 400 robotics teams registered. Teams from Australia, Brazil, Canada, Israel, Mexico, and Taiwan participated in this competition.

"To me it matters that all the members enjoyed themselves and that they learned something from it for the rest of their life," said Mr. Ali.

The robot's name is Lightning McQueen. It is green and measures 60 inches in height. Lightning McQueen was created to shoot baskets

at different ranges. To get ready for the competitions, the RoboTigers built another robot to compete against Lightning McQueen to see the robot's strengths and weaknesses. "We practiced in the front of the auditorium. We built basketball hoops and the robot would shoot from what would be the key of a basketball court," said Htet Aung.

The RoboTigers are Safreen Akbar, Jessica Alcaide, Gerardo Amigon, Jonathan Amon, Htet Aung, Mohammed Aziz, Alex Bedoya, Marilyn Bonilla, Gabrielle Butler, Andres Cadavid, Denise Carbo, Alejandro Carrion, Thalia Cia, Andres Eras, Edwyn Flores, Raymond Gong, Lesly Hamud, Jose Hernandez, Eileen Herrera, Mohammed Hossain, Abdul Khan, Maximilian Manticof, Milton Mendez, Isaac Morales, Antonio Parada, Maria Perez, Elma Rahman, Arun Rai, Adan Romero, Amrita Saini, Khiran Samsundar, Julio Urgiles, and Richard Vega.



Fashion was a welcome addition to talent show.

QUEENS VOC GOT TALENT!

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The talent show consisted of ten acts: Act 1-Biaani Garcia, Act 2-Joseph Peterson, Act 3-Nabila Parnella, Act 4-Michael Abad, Christian Delgado, Samantha Husban, and Yanelis Mejia, Act 5-Anthony Benitez and Alejandro Carrion, Act 6-Derek Atson, Act 7 -Michael Abad and Jessica Polanco, Act 8-Elliot Ortiz, Act 9-Luis Cruz, and Act 10-James Batista, Raymond Diaz, Kenal Ortega, and Jonathan Reyes.

One hundred and twenty-four tickets were given away, 50 to the first students to sign up to go and two free tickets to each performer and model for their guests. Approximately 210 people attended the talent show, not including teachers, who weren't charged.

David's Bridal, a bridal retailer, offered to donate six fitted prom dresses, and Men's Warehouse, six suits for the formal wear. But "when we

actually decided to do the fashion show, we only had two weeks before the show and it wasn't enough time for them to get fitted," said Ms. Rejalaga.

Ten girls and six guys modeled in the show: Gabriella Biondo, Marilyn Bonilla, Ashley Deaza, Ashley DeMoss, Jackie Jimenez, Edith Mesa, Victoria Noel, Maria Perez, Suzette Perez, and Rohany Tejada, were joined by Michael Abad, Sammy Meza, Juan Pablo Palacio, Jarvis Perez, Herwell Tovar, and Andrew Vallario.

"I was excited to see the talent show and fashion show because I didn't know what the acts were going to be. I liked the tango dance of Act 7. It was something no one has done for the talent show. It was really nice how people stood up in front of the stage showing the performers support," said Nesla Velovic, a junior, who attended the show this year and the previous year.

QU Goes National !

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Residential Systems and Maintenance, Computer Maintenance Technology, and Related Technical Math competitions.

Natalie Guanga, a junior who competed for the first time, enjoyed the competition.

Natalie competed in Residential Wiring for 11th grade. The competition differed from working in school, she said, because during the competition students have to be quick on the job. "It was something new; it was a great experience, a lot more pressure," Natalie said.

Elixandria Brienza, who won first place in senior Residential Wiring, said that Skills USA has a higher level of pressure and skill level. "All the hard work and preparation amounted to me doing my best to win," said Ellie, who is in her second year in Skills USA.

Citywide Competition Award Winners and State Conference Roster:

Cosmetology 12th Grade

1st place- Zuleyma Pena
2nd place- Vanina Romero
3rd place- Yaniri Infante

Cosmetology 11th Grade

1st place- Myra Andrews
2nd place- Heather Clarke
3rd place- Edith Mesa

Industrial Motor Control

1st place- Katherin Arias
2nd place- Muhammad Allie

Job Demonstration

2nd place- Sabrina Spiecker

Job Interview

1st place- Ashley Deaza

Pin Design

1st place- James Batista

Plumbing

1st place- Krzysztof Jakubowicz
2nd place- Albert Ferrari
3rd place- Eamon Mansfield

Residential Systems and Maintenance

1st place- Miguel Garcia
2nd place- Chi Lung Hsu
3rd place- Natanael Feitosa

Residential Wiring

1st place- Elixandria Brienza
3rd place- Natalie Guanga.

State Conference Roster

Myra Andrews- Contestant- Cosmetology
Katherine Arias- Contestant- Industrial Motor Control
Melanie Bastardo- Contestant Helper
Elixandria Brienza- Contestant- Residential Wiring
Luis Cruz- Contestant- Computer Maintenance
Ashley Deaza- Contestant- Job Interview
Natanael Feitosa- Contestant- Electronics Technology
Albert Ferrari- Contestant
Francisco Frias- Contestant- Advertising Design

Jathzia Farro- Contestant- Miguel Garcia- Contestant- Residential Systems
Natalie Guanga- Contestant- Job Skill Demonstration
Eamon Mansfield- Contestant Helper
Chi Lung Hsu- Contestant- Residential Systems
Krzysztof Jakubowicz- Contestant- Plumbing
Kelly Ann Kato- Contestant- Electronics Technology
Tina Pahlad- Contestant Helper
Zuleyma Pena- Contestant- Cosmetology
Stefanie Sierra- Contestant- Nail Care
Sabrina Spiecker- Contestant- Job Skill Demonstration
Francisco Trivino- Contestant- Prepared Speech

Advisors

Mr. Cintron
Ms. Ramdeo
Mr. Rivera
Ms. Zagada

No Equality? Just Shrug.



Dr. Andrew Bernstein of the Ayn Rand Institute speaks to Mr. Schimenz's Journalism class and Ms. Radovich's senior English class. Students in each class read Anthem, a novella by Ayn Rand, and the Journalism students also read Atlas Shrugged. Dr. Bernstein, who wrote the CliffsNotes for the two books he discussed, teaches at SUNY Purchase.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

compiled by Stefanie Sierra

May

- May 3:** Boys' Baseball vs. Thomas Edison HS (TBD)
May 4: Fifth Marking Period Ends
 Girls' Softball vs. Wagner @ Big Bush field#1
May 7: Sixth Marking Period Begins
 Boys' baseball @ Grover Cleveland HS field
 Girls' softball vs. Flushing HS @ Big Bush field#1
May 8: Poetry Club meeting 4-5pm in room 354
 Girls' flag football vs. Townsend Harris (TBD)
May 9: Boys' Baseball vs. Grover Cleveland HS @ FM #10
 Girls' softball vs. Queens HS Complex @ Maurice #1
 Parent Association Meeting 6:30pm-8pm
 Girls' Flag Football @ John Addams HS Field
May 11: Boys' baseball @ Beach Channel
May 14: Boys' baseball vs. Flushing @ FM #10
May 15: Poetry Club Meeting 4-5pm in room 354
 Girls' Flag Football vs. American Studies (TBD)
May 16: Boys' Baseball vs. Flushing @ Leavitt field
May 17: School Leadership Team meeting, 4-6:30pm, Library
May 18: Report Cards
May 22: Poetry Club Meeting 4-5pm, room 354
May 25: Poetry Slam. See Ms. Himmel for more info.
May 28: Memorial Day (School closed)
May 29: Poetry Club meeting 4pm- 5pm in room 354
May 31: Blood Drive 8am-2pm in the auditorium.
 See Mr. Vega for more details

June

- June 1:** Senior Prom at 8pm-1am at Terrace on the Park
June 5: Final Poetry Club meeting, room 354
June 6: School Leadership Team meeting, 4-6:30pm, Library
 Parent Association Meeting 6:30-8pm
June 7: Chancellor's Conference Day (No school)
June 13-21: Regents week
June 25: Graduation at Queens College Colden Auditorium
June 27: Last Day of school

Nutrition Program Shows Students how to Eat Well

by Lisbeth Marmolejos

Teaching students how to eat right is just one more service provided by Queens Voc. A nutrition program from Cornell University has been in all of the students' health classes.

The program started when Ms. Baez Medina, parent coordinator, received some information about the program. "I have a friend who works for Cornell University, and she gave me information about free nutrition classes," said Ms. Baez Medina. The program was first introduced to the staff and parents of Queens Voc in 2009, when some parents and staff took the classes after school at Queens Voc. "One father came and told me he went home and threw out all the white bread and got wheat bread after he was told it was healthier," Ms. Baez Medina said.

Ms. Baez Medina decided to get the youth involved with the free nutrition classes. Ms. Ramos was recommended for the job.

Ms. Ramos attends Ms. Torres's health class every Wednesday to teach the

students about a healthy diet. "The students benefit from this program and learn to make healthy choices. They are the next generation, so it is important to make changes," Ms. Ramos said. "The students can't wait for Wednesday to see Ms. Ramos. She does a lot of hands-on work," Ms. Torres said. "For example... she showed us the difference in size between a hamburger from today and before. Portions have grown," she said.

"I love the program! I find that it reinforces what I teach in health class," Ms. Torres said. "She brings in healthy snacks to class, so we can practice eating healthy snacks. I use a lot of her recipes at home." Elixandria Brienza, a senior, said, "She cares a lot about cultures due to the fact that every culture has different food."

The students learn about the food pyramid, daily portions, and exercising as part of a healthy diet. "The students also receive a certificate at the end of the program that can they put on a resume," Ms. Ramos said.

Javier Pasarin, a senior, said he definitely enjoyed the class.



Ms. Ramos and Jonathan.

"I learned a new way to stay healthy, especially since I'm an athlete." Greg Rousseau, a senior, said, "Ms. Ramos showed us how to be active, and brought in healthy snacks that tasted delicious."

This year Cornell University will have free nutrition workshops to anyone who is interested in Queens Voc. The classes will be about basic nutrition, portion size, food safety, menu planning, food shopping, and physical activity. There are eight Monday workshops which began on April 16.

SOMe Successes, SOMe Not

by Muneeza Ahmed

Eighteen students, comprising ten acts, participated in the talent show on Tuesday, April 3. Michael Abad, Derek Atson, James Bastisa, Anthony Benitez, Alejandro Carrion, Luis Cruz, Christian Delgado, Raymond Diaz, Biaani Garcia, Samantha Hasbun, Yinelis Mejia, Kenal Ortega, Elliot Ortiz, Nabila Parnella, Joseph Peterson, Jessica Polanco, Jonathan Reyes, and Rocco Vitolo, all participated in the talent show. The first 50 students saw the show for free and 124 students paid \$2.

SO members participated



The march was a success.

in the March of Dimes Walk, an annual, nationwide event. The purpose of the walk is to raise money for researching premature births. Mr. Vega and Ms. Rejalaga, and 13 students participated in the walk. The walk, held on Sunday, April 29, started at 62nd Street at Columbus Avenue and ended at 23rd Street at Madison Avenue. The check-in began at 8am and the walk began at 10am. [As we went to print, the amount raised had not yet been determined.]

The planned trip to the Lion King was canceled because only four students handed in their permission slips and money. The tickets were only \$50. "I'm disappointed because the SO members had a discounted price but because of the economy, some students could not afford to pay \$50," said Mr. Vega.

The planned Washington D.C. trip was also canceled. "I believe that the students didn't want to go on the trip because of the lack of money and interest," said Mr. Davidson. Only two students, sophomores Thalia Sia and Johanna Tan, gave in the permission slips and the deposit. The purpose of the

Washington trip was to learn about American government and economics. It was to be an overnight trip on Thursday, May 17, and Friday, May 18. The plan was to visit the Supreme Court, tour the capital, see the presidential monuments, the WWII memorial and the Martin Luther King, Jr. memorial, and visit two Smithsonian museums and the Newsuem, a newspaper museum. "I am disappointed since the trip was going to be a wonderful experience at a good price. The students had a lot to see," said Mr. Davidson.

The SO quickly sold out of its limited supply of Queens Voc hats, which had never before been offered for sale. Ashley Deaza came up with the idea of the gray and green school hats. Mr. Vega and Ashley saw the hat in a catalog and added "QV Tigers" as the logo. "The winter hats were originally supposed to be for the seniors who went on the senior trip," said Mr. Vega. During the winter, Mr. Vega sold 75 Queens Voc winter hats for \$10 each. The success had led Mr. Vega to order more for the upcoming year. The SO raised \$375 from selling the hats.



Ring Ceremony is a happy occasion for these soon-to-be graduates and their families. The ceremony took place on Wednesday, April 25, in the school library.



It's Back to the '80s for Seniors



by Jarin Rahman

Seniors in Queens Voc filled more than their stomachs at the senior luncheon, they filled their heads with memories.

"I am extremely happy that I went, I had a ball! It's a memory that I made that I shall never forget because that's what senior year is all about!" said Andrea Sacharsky, senior class treasurer.

This year's luncheon was held at Bruno's on the Boulevard, located in Astoria, Queens. Seniors had pay \$30 to attend in the luncheon. The event took place on Friday, March 23, from 12pm to 4pm.

"My favorite part of the senior luncheon was that everyone came together and had a great time!" said

Andrea Sacharsky. Mr. Vega, Andrea, and the rest of the senior officers put the activity together. They picked Bruno's and put up flyers all around the school to entice seniors to go. The theme of the luncheon was the '80s, which was chosen by the seniors themselves.

The food that Bruno's served for the occasion was "okay" according to Sandra Jarro, a senior who went. "It was the fact that everyone was together that really, truly mattered," she commented. Food such as beef and broccoli, pasta, pork, salad, bread, two types of rice, and calamari were served.

"The senior luncheon was lots of fun, and going along with the theme made it a unique event. And the dance

competitions were a success!" said Samantha Hasbun, a senior.

After eating, students gathered together for some dancing. Dance competitions were held in bachata, merengue, and salsa. In salsa, Samantha Hasbun and Michael Abad won first place and Yanil Ortiz and Herwell Tovar placed second. In merengue, Jessica Polanco and Michael Abad won first place and Ashley Deaza and Yanil Ortiz placed second. In the last dance competition, bachata, Lisbeth Marmolejos and Christian Delgado won first place and Jessica Polanco and Radison Moronta came in second.

Ashley Deaza and Ferdinando Santos won the award for best dressed in the luncheon.

9th Grade Cosmo Hosts Fashion Show

by Keivan Jimenez

The 9th grade Cosmetology fashion show took place during parent-teacher conferences, outside of room 306 on Thursday, March 29, from 6pm to 8:30pm, and Friday, March 30, from 12:45pm to 2:45pm.

The show was organized by Ms. Torres and her 9th cosmetology class. Graphic arts students designed the signage, and the members from R=AIN created jewelry for sale.

"It was a class idea," said Ms. Torres, "but it soon developed into a fashion show." The fashion show featured many hairstyles and nail designs. The students used manikins to do the hairstyles

and fabricated their own cardboard hands, put on nails, and then designed them. Liz Gutierrez, one of Ms. Torres' students, said, "My inspiration comes from watching TV and reading style magazines."

"Everybody had a small part in the fashion show," said Ms. Torres. "The students were making the hands, putting up the posters, and setting up the table for the manikins," she added. Students got to choose to do either nails or hair but some did both. "I like to be creative and make my own style," said Samantha Collado, a freshman who did both hair and nails.

"I'm very proud of my girls," said Ms. Torres. "They all did a wonderful job and they are great students."



The show goes on at parent-teacher conferences.

FUTURE BUSINESS LEADERS COMPETE IN ROCHESTER

by Kelly-Ann Kato



FBLA members with Ms. Mitchell.

The FBLA team of 14 students competed in the FBLA State competition, April 17 through April 20, in Rochester, NY.

At the competition, Sonia Sanchez was elected District Two FBLA State Vice President. Andrea Sacharsky competed in Accounting 2, and placed fourth. Andrea was the only Queens Voc student to place among the top performers in the state.

Junior Jose Recinos felt prepared for the personal finance competition, but when he competed "the questions were completely different" from those he used to study from, he said.

After the competitions, the competitors attended several parties and some workshops where they learned how to develop business skills. They were also able to network with other competitors from New York State. "It was an interesting experience and I was able to meet a lot of new people," said senior Kevin Acosta.

Kevin Acosta, Andrea Sacharsky, Brenda Jerez, Jonathan Castro, Sonia Sanchez, Jahaira Paguay, Xiomara Paredes, Kevin Sanchez, Melissa Espinosa, Christian Flores, Kanwardeep Singh, Jose Recinos, Suveer Segal, and Enxhi Benga went to the state conference and competed in various business competitions.



Andrea took fourth place in accounting.

Steffi Garcia Never Left R=AIN



Friends and family unite for tree planting ceremony.

by Jonathan Gordon

From making jewelry to planting a tree, GSA/R=AIN has been keeping busy.

Members of R=AIN broke Queens Voc's traditional food-only fundraisers by selling member-made jewelry. R=AIN held a bake and jewelry sale on April 19, and plan to hold another on May 11 as a Mother's Day bake and jewelry sale. Models who participated in the Queens Voc fashion show on March 29 wore jewelry created by members of R=AIN.

Of the money that R=AIN

makes, half of the proceeds will go towards club funding, which is used to purchase snacks for club meetings, and to pay for trips for the group. Current proceeds are going toward a plaque in Steffi Garcia's memory that will be placed on the tree that had been planted in her honor. The other half will go as a contribution to the annual AIDS Walk New York event held on May 20.

R=AIN has changed its meeting days from Fridays to Tuesdays, but still meets from 4pm to 7pm in room 325. "We changed the days because

Friday is the last day of the school week and kids just want to do their own thing, so we expect to see more faces on Tuesdays," said Ms. Dayna.

A Weeping Willow was planted on March 16th on Queens Voc's front lawn, in memory of Steffi, R=AIN's co-founder and previous president. "We picked a tree because it isn't going anywhere. Steffi was strong like a tree," said Ms. Dayna. R=AIN Presidents Priscilla Delgado and Naiya Bustamante, Vice President Justin Velez, club members, Mr. Vega, members of Leadership including Kent Vara and Tina Pahlad, students, and Steffi's family and friends also attended the tree planting. "Steffi was like my daughter, and when she passed away it was like losing a part of me. During my 13 years of working at Queens Voc no child has gotten closer to me than her," said Ms. Dayna. "She was one of a kind," said Naiya Bustamante at the planting. Those who attended the memorial had a chance to take part in the planting. Steffi's sister began the planting, followed by other members of the family, Ms. Dayna, Queens Voc graduate Angel Lopez, R=AIN's presidents, and others, immortalizing Steffi Garcia's memory on Queens Voc's grounds.

Construction Skills Selects Seven Students

by Kelly-Ann Kato

Seven out of the nine Queens Voc students who applied to Construction Skills were accepted into the Construction Skills program.

Corbin Aldridge, Derek Atson, Ellie Brienza, Salvatore Isabella, Alejandro Obando, Kenal Ortega, and Gregory Rousseau were accepted from Queens Voc. Every Monday, most of the students meet at the Consortium for Worker Education in Manhattan to attend the Introduction to the Building Trades course from 2pm - 5pm. Ellie goes to the program on Tuesdays because of a conflict with softball games on Mondays.

While attending the course, the students learn about construction trades and industry, Sal said. "I learn about different trades and the given opportunities about the variety of trades to get into," said Corbin. "It's a good program,"

said Kenal, "It teaches us what to expect on the field. And we're given the opportunity to explore different union and career fields." The students are able to apply what they learned in Queens Voc to the course and also learn new material.

One of the main reasons the students applied to the program was because of the opportunity for direct entry into a union. Students have applied for entry into Local three of the electrical union and Local one plumbers union.

One of the main disadvantages of the program is that the students have to leave during school hours. "I leave during fourth period," said Kenal. The students are expected to be at the program by 1:30pm. The program is three hours long and "dragged out sometimes, but it's worth it," said Ellie.

The 10-week spring training course began on March 5 and will continue until May 17.

Fair Turnout at College Fair



2007 QV graduate Terel Watson representing City Tech.

by Lisbeth Marmolejos

Queens Voc held a college fair on March 15, for students to meet college admissions representatives, a few of whom were Queens Voc graduates.

The college fair took place in the Queens Voc cafeteria from 6pm to 7pm. The event was organized by the parent coordinator, Ms. Baez Medina, and Ms. Stephanie Abrams, the college advisor.

About 30 students and their parents attended the event. "I

wasn't too happy with the turnout," Ms. Baez Medina said, the parent coordinator. Flyers were posted up around the school to promote the event, as well as announcements. "I don't know how else this event would have turned out better if it was advertised to the students," Ms. Baez Medina said. The college fair was for any students, teachers, and parents who wanted to know more about colleges. Admissions representatives were there to answer any questions they had

about the campus, admissions process, financial assistance, and college requirements. "We feel it gives students and their parents an opportunity to meet the admission representatives from different colleges," Ms. Abrams said.

"College fairs are for students to find a school that best fits them. They learn as much as they can from each school, but they should not only listen to what the college representative is saying, but visit the school, and hopefully they will find a school that will offer what they are looking for," said the representative from New Community College at CUNY said.

Ellie Brienza, a senior, said she attended the college fair because she thought that SUNY Delhi University was going to be there. "Although the college I was interested in did not attend, I gained knowledge of other CUNY schools," said Ellie Brienza. Jeremy Vargas, a junior, said he attended the college fair because he wanted to figure out what college he wanted

to go to. "I like LaGuardia Community College because it has electrical engineering," said Jeremy Vargas.

Admissions representatives from thirteen colleges were at the college fair: Berkeley College, Fashion Institute of Technology, Hunter College, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, LaGuardia Community College, Medgar Evers College, Mercy College, New Community College at CUNY, New York City College of Technology, Queensborough Community College, Rutgers University, St. Francis College, and St. Joseph's College. The U.S. Marines, U.S. Army, and the U.S. Navy were also

represented at the college fair.

Several of the college representatives were a few Queens Voc graduates. Jeanette Tavarez, who graduated in 2001, and Stephanie Arjona, who graduated in 2004, represented John Jay College. Terel Watson graduated in 2007, represented New York City College of Technology. "I come back frequently to help Mr. Ali with the robotics competition. It was great to see how the school has expanded and flourished. I would encourage all students, no matter what age, to think keenly about their future, and the consideration of higher education is an important component of that," Terel said.



QCC is a popular college for students and parents.

School of Entrepreneurial Studies

by Brenda Jerez

Queens Voc business students are busy chasing paper.

Tenth graders are working towards becoming Microsoft Office specialists. To become specialists, students must be certified in Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, and Excel said Ms. Mitchell, a business teacher, and Virtual Enterprise advisor. In January, 10th graders took the Microsoft Word certification test. Ms. Mitchell said 90% of her class passed their certification. Students had to score a point-age of 800 to 1000 points to pass the test. Ms. Gross, another 10th grade business teacher, also had her student's take the Microsoft Word certification test.

The 10th graders are currently developing their presentation skills by using PowerPoint, and will be soon tested for their Microsoft PowerPoint certification. The students will then work towards their Microsoft Excel certification.

The 11th graders in DCW, Diverse City Wear, Queens Voc's VE company, are

working towards expanding their business's gross income by entering the Stock Market Game. "The Stock Market Game is part of VE curriculum," Ms. Mitchell said. On Wednesday Feb 9, VE students held an in-house trade show, where they grossed \$14,000, which, according to Ms. Mitchell, is considered an average amount of money gained.

On Friday, March 9, VE students Melissa Espinosa and Enxhi Bega attended a trade show workshop, at which the students were taught how to prepare for the trade show, what supplies are needed, and which goals to accomplish. "The trade show was very helpful. It gave us the keys to a successful trade show experience," said Melissa.

Melissa and Christian Flores went to the Youth Business Summit that was held on March, 28. Christian said, "Two days before the event, we were given the case of an elevator company called Schindler. The owner Napli, wanted to expand the company to India, but one of the negative aspects is that their future customers wanted them to make customized elevators,

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AP Newman at SES award ceremony.

Advance

by Alice Chee

The spring is looking dramatic for Advance students! About 40 students, a combination of Mr. Hammond's two Advance ninth grade English classes, are working with Rising City Arts, "a theatre program that teaches students drama and theatre," said Mr. Hammond.

Mr. Hammond said that he likes the program because he also teaches theatre, and that this program "helps the

students by teaching them how to resolve conflicts," he said.

The students like the program, too. "I like Rising City Arts because this program helped me overcome my fears and it solved my problems such as trust issues. My confidence also increased," said Jacob Robles, a sophomore who participated in the program last year.

Ashley Hildago, a freshman who is participating in the program this year, said, "This program has not yet helped me



Presenting SCEET goals.

School of Computers & Electronics Engineering Technologies

by Philip Borisuck Jr.

SCEET's award assembly was coordinated by Mr. Raushan, on April 5, in the auditorium during third period.

The assembly was held "to acknowledge the great work SCEET students are doing in class and to recognize and award their outstanding performance," said Mr. Raushan. "The assembly was organized with the help of SCEET staff, Mr. Alikakos, and Ms. Burg." The assembly featured a presentation about SCEET's mission, the symbol of SCEET, the certificates available to SCEET students, the RoboTigers, and the instructors.

After the presentation of the SCEET instructors,

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awards were distributed in the following categories: academic excellence, most improved, peer tutoring, professionalism, most analytical/creative, and perfect attendance.

In the category of academic excellence, the winners were: Miguel Anzures, Philip Borisuck Jr., Maciej Bozek, Chorten Dolma, Ibtihaj Farooq, Jathzia Farro, Nathaniel Feitosa, Eileen Herrera, Dillon Lalchand, Michal Piekarz, and Arun Rai.

In the category of most improved, the winners were: Girardo Amigon, Xavier Arreaga, Joseph Croce, Christian Diaz, Andres Eras, Kevin Hernandez, Rick Lim, Natalie Martinez, Randy Prashad, Oljer Quito, and Navindra Singh.

In the category of peer tutoring, the winners were: Arif Abdul, Jessica Alcaide, Syarifah Andi, Mila Badhon, Alexander Bedoya, Edwin Cuamani, Nathaniel Feitosa, Sylvester Nimako, Michal Piekarz, Tania Puchuela, and Joshua Zuniga.

In the category of professionalism, the winners were: Maria Abbasi, Gabrielle Butler, Richard Calle, Gino Guerra, Eileen Herrera, Amanda Iturralde, Kelly Ann Kato, Dillon Lalchand, Daisy Maldonado, Arun Rai, and Nazanin Somarin.

In the category of most analytical/critical, the winners were: Muneza Ahmed, Gabrielle Butler, Abdoulaye Diallo, Sebastian Garcia, Gabriella Martinez, Kent Vara, and Richard Vega.

solve any problems, but I like it because it is fun."

Ms. Kramer, a special education instructor and the coordinator of Advance, also works with the Rising City Arts program. She was approached by Ms. Ocampo last year to find out if she wanted Advance classes to participate. Ms. Kramer said that she likes how the program provides two actors to work with high school students in class. The program, which began on March 2 and will last for 15 weeks, is conducted on Fridays.

"I like this program; we also had it last year. It developed a lot of positive self confidence and conflict resolution, which was the main focus of this program," said Ms. Kramer. She believes that ninth graders benefit the most from this program because they need more outreach in conflict resolution and anger issues, she said.

Ms. Kramer said she would like to see "students write their own scenes in the future and act them out or have the actors perform them. This will allow students to be more creative."

Aside from participating Rising City Arts, there are also some trips. Some Advance students have gone on a trip and others will go soon. On Friday, March 9, Ms. Hom, a science teacher has taken her classes to the Museum of Natural History. Sometime in May, Mr. Hammond will take his classes to the Federal Reserve Bank and African Burial Ground, which are located at lower Manhattan.

"Some trips are to help improve attendance," said Ms. Kramer. "Advance students need to improve their attendance. The attendance rate is close to 60%, and some students failed ninth grade because of low attendance," she said.

School of Exploration & Discovery

by Keivan Jimenez

The SED awards ceremony took place on Tuesday Feb. 21, during 8th period in the auditorium. The awards ceremony was organized by Ms. Ferrara, Ms. Dattner, and Ms. Radovich, and it featured a PowerPoint slide show and music put together by freshmen leadership students.

Awards were given in categories: Perfect Attendance, Honor Roll, Most Improved, and Best in Class. Perfect Attendance was for students who haven't missed school since the beginning of the school year. Eighty-three students received this award. Honor Roll was given to students who had an 85 average or higher on their third marking period report card. Sixty-eight students received this award. Most Improved and Best in Class were awards given by teachers to students in English, Math, Living Environment, and U. S. History. Thirty-four students received the awards for Most Improved and 41 received the awards for Best in Class.

"I'm very proud of this year's freshmen class," said Ms. Ferrara, "and I hope they keep up the good work."

School of Skilled Building Trades

by Jashua-Cora

Electrical installation and plumbing students have a lot of work coming their way as SSBT students are beginning their transition from school to work.

Ms. Judge, SSBT guidance counselor, said that most of the students are proceeding into their careers. "A lot of our kids are starting internships, mostly consisting from construction skills and multiple plumbing companies, which provides a work based learning opportunity to perform the skills they learned from their shop classes." Most SSBT seniors who applied for college are getting acceptances, primarily from Queensborough Community College, LaGuardia Community College, SUNY New Paltz, and Stony Brook University. She also stated that the 10th graders are getting used to their shop classes.

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Skilled Building Trades

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“They kind of struggled at the beginning, but now they are starting to get used to, and enjoying their jobs.”

Sophomore electrical installation students are preparing for the NCCER exam, which certifies them in copper wiring, a major certification in electrical installation. Juniors are registering for the SATs, as well as for internships. To register for the SAT, apply on <http://sat.collegeboard.org/home>. The next test is June 2. The deadline is May 8, with late registration accepted until May 22. Students should speak with their guidance counselor if they're interested in an internship.

Katherin Arias, senior electrical installation student, was ranked as the top performing senior student in SSBT by Ms. Judge. “Ms. Judge most likely recognized me because of my dedication to electrical installation,” said Katherin, who was offered the opportunity to graduate last year for meeting graduating

requirements, but passed it up to stay in electrical installation for another year. She said, “The experience that you receive here is different from any other school because it's hands on and it shows you a career you might pursue in the future.”

Katherin said she would like to tell all freshmen interested in SSBT that, “A lot of kids see electrical installation and plumbing as hands on and stressful, but it's always something you can fall back on. It would be very handy to know this trade.”

Ms. Judge said that Mrs. Newman is working on a Workforce1 group, which consists mostly of SSBT seniors. Mrs. Newman said, “Workforce1 is focusing on connecting graduating seniors with employers in industry, manufacturing, and transportation.” Seven students have already been accepted into the program, and five are currently participating. This is a full employment paid internship which allows graduating students to get paid experience in their fields.



SCEET students show off their certificate

Computers & Electronics Engineering Technologies

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In the category of perfect attendance, the winners were: Arif Abdul, Islam Azharul, Gabrielle Butler, Raynier Cabrera, Raymond Gong, Gino Guerra, Jose Hernandez, Kevin Hernandez, Billy Ibarra, Pamela Infante, John Jerez, Ruhet Kumar, Marti Mai, Sylvester Nimako, Steven Polanco, Tania Puchuela, Khiran Samsundar, Noman Shahzada, Nazanin

Somarin, Joanna Tan, Raymond Xue, and Ken Zou.

SCEET, however, has not performed as it has in the past. The attendance rate has decreased in the past year. In addition, Mr. Holder, SCEET guidance counselor, said at the award assembly that for the first time in a while, “SCEET does not have a valedictorian or a salutatorian” in this year's graduating class.



Jersey Shore cast in QV debut.

myself. My favorite celebrity was Jose Reyes who was played by Michael Abad. I love the Mets and how much the two resemble each other,” said Lucy Ramirez, who presented an award as Taylor Swift. Samantha Hasbun said, “I love Senior Oscar Night because everyone was united, and everyone dressed as their look a likes, which was really fun to see. And it was the last in-school event for us seniors. My favorite celebrity was The Situation from the TV show, Jersey Shore, who was played by Javier Pasarin and it's because he played the part really good.”

Some of the celebrities who showed up were Beyonce and Jay Z, Adele, Nicki Minaj, Lil Kim, the “Jersey Shore” cast, Rihanna, and Jeremy McKinnon from A Day to Remember.

“It was a memorable senior event that will always be remembered,” said James Batista.

Teachers' Pest:

Emily Diaz
James Abonia

Most Athletic:

Ellie Brienza
Daniel Corona

Class Sweetheart:

Karla Garcia
Jose Monegro

Best Dressed:

Jessica Polanco
Ferdinando Santos

“I was honored to be recognized for having pearly whites when I won for Best Smile. At the same time I was very nervous to go up on stage, and I had to go on stage twice, once to present an award and the second time because I had won one,” said Lucy Ramirez.

Jessica Polanco who won two awards one for Cutest Couple and another for Best Dressed, said, “I was happy to win the award for Cutest Couple because me and Luis have been part of each others' lives for a very longtime, so it was special. And for Best Dressed, I was thankful that people noticed my unique style.”

The event was organized by by Ms. DeCarlo, the yearbook advisor, and the yearbook committee.

“I had a wonderful time. I got to express another side of

Seniors Get Red Carpet Treatment

by Marcia Leva

Senior Oscar Night was a celebration of senior bests and mosts. The Oscar Night was held on Thursday, April 15, in the school auditorium.

The winners of this year's 14 categories were:

Biggest Flirt:

Lorissa Rosario
Gregory Rousseau

Best Smile:

Lucy Ramirez
Andre Castillo

Most Outspoken:

Ashley Deaza
Derek Atson

Most Shy:

Muneeza Ahmed
Carlos Bourne

Class Clown:

Shakirra Smith
Brendan Nichols

Cutest Couple:

Jessica Polanco
Luis Pascual

Most Likely to Succeed:

Kelly Ann Kato
Philip Borisuck

Best Party Animal:

Ashley Deaza
Michael Abad

Biggest Know it All:

Remi Diaz
Bryant Cartagena

Head Turner:

Yanil Ortiz
Radison Moronta

SES

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but the Schindler company didn't custom make elevators.” Once they got to the event, the students were given two and a half hours to complete a presentation on questions such as, What factors would help the elevator company actually succeed in India? “I had fun at the event but I was nervous because I didn't know my group members and



Mr. Garcia & AP Newman

competitors because they came from different countries and states,” said Christian.

The FBLA students held a bake sale to earn money for the State Leadership Conference in Rochester, New York, which was held April 18-20. Fourteen members went to the state conference. Andrea Sacharsky, one of the members, placed fourth in Accounting 2. Sonia Sanchez, another member, became the New York State FBLA District 2 Vice President; she will be in charge of organizing activities and meetings District 2 members to attend.

DID YOU KNOW???
OUR SCHOOL HAS A NEW HEALTH PROGRAM...

OUR SERVICES INCLUDE:

- Health Education
- Reproductive Health Services including:
 - ⇒ Pregnancy Testing
 - ⇒ Emergency Contraception (EC)
 - ⇒ The Pill
 - ⇒ Referrals for All Pregnancy Options
- Referrals for Local Healthcare
- Reproductive Health Counseling



ALL SERVICES ARE FREE & CONFIDENTIAL!

CHECK OUT THE C.A.T.C.H. PROGRAM
(CONNECTING ADOLESCENTS TO COMPREHENSIVE HEALTHCARE)

COME VISIT YOUR SCHOOL NURSE IN ROOM 214

Tuskegee Airman Dabney Montgomery visits Queens Voc

by Muhammad Allie

Dabney Montgomery, one of the Tuskegee Airmen, visited Mr. Gallagher’s U.S. history class on February 27.

“The Tuskegee Airmen was the first African American flight crew in America, established in 1940, at the onset of World War II. Before this time, African Americans were seen as incapable of performing such tasks like flying an aircraft,” said Mr. Gallagher.

“The mission of the Tuskegee Airmen was to protect B-17 bomber planes,” said Mr. Gallagher. “The Tuskegee Airmen mission was very dangerous, but it was successful,” said Mr. Gallagher. “Mr. Montgomery was a part of the ground crew that maintained the aircraft,” said Mr. Gallagher.

“After Mr. Montgomery retired from the Tuskegee crew, he became very influenced by the civil rights movement. Mr. Montgomery became one of the bodyguards for Martin Luther King Jr. He was also involved in the Selma march,” said Mr. Gallagher.

“Dabney Montgomery was a real life like example of segregation to the students,” said Mr. Gallagher. “He shared his experiences of his life and segregation of his time to the students,” he added. “Mr. Montgomery brought his Medal of Honor that was awarded to him 10 years ago

by President Bush, bullets used in WWII by the aircrafts, soles of the shoes that he wore on the Selma march, a photo with him and President Obama, and with some pictures of the Tuskegee Airmen,” he added.

“It was very amazing to meet a person from history,” said James Halloran, another student in the class. “Hearing how many important things he did made me respect him even more. I learned that African American pilots were more important than they were believed to be. Meeting Mr. Montgomery made me learned more about World War II,” he added.

“Mr. Montgomery’s message to the class was staying positive and going in a positive direction. Your skin color shouldn’t determine who you are. It’s who you are in the inside that matters,” said Mr. Gallagher.



WWII vet talks about war and civil rights.

“It was very interesting to meet Mr. Montgomery, one of the first African Americans to be in the U.S. Air Force,” said Fatima Veras, one of Mr. Gallagher’s students. I learned that someone like him could die at any moment on his job. I also learned that he received many awards from the president for honor and bravery,” she added.

“Meeting Mr. Montgomery was very helpful,” said student Morjan Bakth. “I learned how many sections there are in the war and that our soldiers were proud to fight for their country,” she added.

“Justin Green, one of my ninth grade students, asked me if his great uncle could come in and speak to the class,” said Mr. Gallagher. “His great uncle is Dabney Montgomery,” added Mr. Gallagher.

“It was Black History Month and I felt that instead of just reading about someone, it would be better to meet them,” said freshmen Justin Green, great nephew of Dabney Montgomery. “It feels great to have someone who was involved in history in my family,” he added. “My uncle has influenced me to stay in school and stand up for what I believe in,” Justin stated.

What’s the C.A.T.C.H.?

by Tina Pahlad

C.A.T.C.H. is a health education program that provides condoms, pregnancy testing, and birth control pills to high school students.

C.A.T.C.H. (Connecting Adolescents To Comprehensive Healthcare) began at Queens Voc in February 2012, to help educate students about healthcare and to provide free, confidential services. This program is based in the nurse’s office, room 214.

According to Ms. Burg, statistics show that the majority of girls who get pregnant during their teenage years don’t finish high school. “I think it’s important for students who are sexually active to protect themselves from both diseases and pregnancy,” said Ms. Burg.

C.A.T.C.H. is a full-range program. Pregnancy testing, condoms for males and females, and birth control pills are available through the program. There are also Morning After pills held at the nurse’s office. Five days after having unprotected sex, girls take this pill to prevent the egg from fertilizing. The condoms available are a variety of Lifestyle, Trojan Magnum, and Durex. The only pregnancy testing available is First Response. Birth control is prescribed by the C.A.T.C.H. doctor, Dr. Avigder.

Leslie Guadalupe, a Queens Voc graduate who majored in cosmetology, works for the Department of Health. She earned a bachelor’s degree in

community health education at CUNY’s York College, in Jamaica, Queens. Her role at the Department of Health is to provide condoms to those who ask for them, but her role at Queens Voc is to assist the nurse. She said the C.A.T.C.H. program has expanded to a variety of schools and the Department of Health plans to expand the program to all public high schools in New York City. Leslie said she is only allowed to talk to students about health because the condoms, pregnancy testing, and birth control pills are the nurse’s and doctor’s jobs.

When the program was

**Check out the
C.A.T.C.H. Program
in the Nurse’s Office!**

**Pregnancy Test
Health Education
Birth Control Pills**

**All services are
FREE
&
CONFIDENTIAL**

offered to Queens Voc by the Department of Health, Ms. Burg, the school’s principal, said “absolutely.” Ms. Burg said she believes it is important for students to educate and protect themselves. The Department of Health initially examined the nurse’s office to see if a doctor would have enough room, in privacy, with a student. They also needed to make sure there was enough room to fit medicine cabinets. Once the site was approved, the Department of Health scheduled a doctor to come in Queens Voc twice a month. They also hired a special nurse, Ms. Deshazo, to assist the C.A.T.C.H. Program. The doctor is the only one who can write out prescriptions, such as birth control pills. Flyers and posters were put up around the school by Ms. Deshazo to influence students to join.

Participation in the program is anonymous.

An Opt-Out letter is given to students during homeroom, but another copy is mailed home. This letter is given out for parents if they want to exclude their child from the program. Leslie said Ms. Deshazo does not keep a record of the names of student who visit, but has a list to verify the students are permitted by their parents to participate in C.A.T.C.H.

Ms. Deshazo refused to be interviewed or provide further information about the program for this article.

Library Book Club Readers Hunger for Adventure

by Chorten Dolma

Ms. Lewis, the book club coordinator, Ms. Vaskas, a school aide, and members of Reader’s Realm, the school’s book club, went on their first trip to watch the premiere of Hunger Games on March 23. It was the first book they read.

“First, we ate lunch at a restaurant near the movie theater in Forest Hills on 71st Ave., called Cheeburger Cheeburger, and then we went to watch the movie,” said Ms. Lewis. “The trip was excellent; everyone had fun and it was an enjoyable time overall,” said Junior Jathzia Farro, one of the book club members. “The

movie was great, and certainly lived up to some people’s expectations,” she said. Senior Kent Vara, a book club member, said he “enjoyed the movie a lot. They really captured the book well.” Kent added that he thought the book was better than the movie.

During their meeting on Thursday, April 5, the members discussed the movie, looked at the pictures from their trip, started on a design for a book club sweatshirt, and discussed the third book, *10th Grade*, by Joseph Weisberg. “A few members liked the book, but most didn’t understand the author’s sense of humor,” said Ms. Lewis.

During the meeting, the members received their fourth book, *The Chronicles of Vladimir Tod, Eighth Grade Bites* by Heather Brewer.

Ms. Lewis said that she liked the students’ enthusiasm while reviewing the books. When creating the book club, it was her goal to “encourage students to love reading.” Ms. Lewis said that the book club is a great environment for students to read, discuss, come together, share, and have fun.

There are 30 members in the book club. More students wanted to join the book club, Ms. Lewis said, but they couldn’t because she only ordered 30 books.

“We are planning to keep on reading, create a display outside of the library, take more trips, and have more group

activities,” she said.

Reader’s Realm meets every Friday. During the meetings, they discuss the books, work on assignments, and eat snacks, which are also provided to the club members.

“The book club has been great,” said Kent Vara, who said he enjoys every seventh period on Fridays because he has book club meetings that day. “I am not sure what to expect of Readers Realm, but each time I go, I experience something new,” he said. Junior Ashley Arango, another book club member, said that the book club has been “excellent” and she enjoys the different activities and discussion. “I expect to read entertaining books, expand my vocabulary, and learn new things through works of literature,” said Ashley.

Senior Yearbook is Complete

by Biaani Garcia

The yearbook is finished!

"The most challenging thing about getting the pages done was having a deadline," said Dariana Fana.

The last few pages that were added to the yearbook were senior luncheon, boys' baseball team, boys' basketball, Valentine's Day dance, talent show, and shop superstars.

There will be no prom pictures in the yearbook because prom is in June.

"At first, I thought working on the yearbook would be fun and easy. As we got to working on the pages I was quick to learn it wasn't as easy and sometimes tiring, but all worth it. I just hope that everyone can see the effort we put into it," said Yaniri Infante.

Winners for senior class personalities were announced during Oscar Night, which took place April 5, from 5:30pm to 8:30pm. Oscar Night tickets were \$2 and the event was open to students of all grades and



Committee members smile; the book is done.

outside guests. Students were encouraged to dress as their favorite/ look alike celebrity for Oscar Night. Celebrities walked down a red carpet while their pictures were taken as they entered the auditorium. The celebrities presented the senior class personality awards. Students who dressed as celebrities such as Rihanna, Adele, and Beyonce performed their hit songs by making up a choreography and lip syncing.

There was a wide variety of celebrities whom students

dressed up as. The Kardashian sisters, Bruno Mars and other singers, the crew of "Jersey Shore," and athletes like Jose Reyes and Victor Cruz. One of the fascinations of the night was the Jersey Shore crew; the students looked a lot like the actual members. "We looked for people who looked like and fit the part of the "Jersey Shore" members. When we asked them if they wanted to be a part of it they all said 'yes'," said Kimberly Nunez, who was Snooki for the night.

Mock Trial Team Beats Jamaica Are There Future Lawyers In Our Midst?



The mock trial team brings home a win.

by Abdoulaye Diallo

With more effort and dedication, said Mr. Davidson, the mock trial team improved on last year's 0-2 record by finishing their season 1-1. Mr. Davidson, the team's advisor, said that this year's team put in more effort than last year's team, but added that "students need even more commitment and dedication" to propel them into further rounds. "If the students are serious they're going to go far," said Mr. Davidson. Despite the improvement, the team didn't advance to the third round. Mr. Davidson said he wasn't disappointed; he just "wanted the team to do the best they could do."

Mock trial is "very similar to a real trial, but unlike a

real trial it's fictitious and has simplified rules and evidence," said Mr. Davidson. Every mock trial team in New York State participates in two matches, or rounds, one as the prosecution the other as the defense.

The Queens Voc team acted as the prosecution in its first round match against Forest Hills on Feb. 28. Queens Voc lost the round. One of the main challenges to the team was that all but two students are new to the team this year; for many of the students the match against Forest Hills was their first match. In the second round, this time as the defense, the team faced Jamaica High School on March 6, and won. "They benefited from their participation in the first round," Mr. Davidson said. Despite the

win, Mr. Davidson still thought that the team could have made more objections.

There were 48 schools that advanced into the third round. Schools that win their first two matches advance into the third round. Teams with 1-1 records that earned the most points fill out the other slots in the third round. "If we tried harder and put more time and effort into our roles, we could have advanced into the third round," said Jarin Rahman.

Despite not advancing to further rounds, Shady said he learned a lot from his participation in the mock trial. "I learned how trials operate. It would be very helpful for someone pursuing a career in law." Christopher Perez said that he "always found being a lawyer an intriguing profession," and that participating in the mock trial convinced him to pursue a career as a lawyer. Jarin and Evelin Ramirez were also interested in pursuing careers as lawyers before joining mock trial. "Being in mock trial inspired me even more to pursue a career as a lawyer," said Jarin. Evelin agreed, adding, "It was a really good experience, and I learned a lot."

If interested in joining the mock trial team next year should speak to Mr. Davidson at the program office.

Queens Voc Neighborhood: Take a Look Around

by Sanjeev Thapa

Absent minded slurping morning coffee, we walk to Queens Voc without noticing the world around it.

Queens Voc, situated between Sunnyside and Long Island City, is just 15 minutes away from midtown by the 7 train. It is close to Manhattan and the Empire State Building, in a neighborhood with a wealth of restaurants.

There are many restaurants near Queens Voc, but it's hard to choose which one to go to. When selecting a restaurant, you want to take into consideration the food's quality, quantity, and cost.

In Sunnyside, right by the 40th street train station, there is a delightful little pizzeria called Sunnyside Pizza. The pizza there is delicious with its scrumptious sauce and sesame seed on the crust that adds a creative touch on a regular pizza slice.

My favorite slice is "The Nona." It is a Sicilian pie with a homemade flavor. In one bite you can taste the slow cooked tomato sauce, fresh mozzarella, and the crunchy crust garnished with sesame seeds. The regular slices are awesome, and if you want pepperoni on your slice you get it in every bite. They offer variety of slices and toppings to go with it. The price of the regular slice is \$2.50 and \$3 for the pepperoni. A whole pie ranges from \$14 to \$25, depending on the size and the

toppings you want. A topping for a whole pie is \$3, and for half a pie is \$2. Their most popular slice is the Buffalo chicken slice.

In addition to many pizzerias and cafés, there are also many businesses around Queens Voc that go unnoticed. Speedimpex USA Inc, located just three blocks away from Queens Voc on 35-02 48th Avenue, is a press distributor.

Speedimpex USA Inc is a national distributor of magazines and the only national distributor of foreign newspapers in the United States. In addition to serving local newsstands throughout the country, it has access to national chains such as Barnes & Noble, Borders, Bookstar, Virgin Mega stores, HDS Retail, Tower, Bookland, Books A Million and many others. According to their website, Speedimpex USA Inc was founded in 1962. It was the first company to import foreign newspapers to the United States by air. Their first transaction was with the Italian press and shortly afterwards magazines and periodicals were added from Spain, France, Switzerland, and the Arabic nations. Their main headquarters is in New York and they have regional offices in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Chicago, Florida, and Washington D.C. Speedimpex USA Inc also has international facilities in Australia, Canada, Italy, Brazil, and China.



AIDS WALK, NEW YORK

Sunday, May 20

See Ms. Dayna to register in 151, guidance room C.

by Runqing Fang

“Recycling is doing better,” said Ms. Moreau, an ESL teacher who coordinates recycling at Queens Voc.

“Students go around to see which rooms have contaminated bins, papers, and bottles,” Ms. Moreau said, and then record the data into a log book. According to the data, Ms. Moreau said, recycling is doing better than before because there are more recyclables separated from trash.

Ms. Moreau said that two methods are necessary to further increase recycling at our school. “First, increase awareness about the importance of recycling. Second, have items that make recycling easier for students, teachers, and the custodial staff. The products that I would love to have to make recycling easier are solid plastic color-coded bin covers, so people can easily see exactly where trash should go, or the three in one pick up containers to help the custodial staff,” she said. But because of a limited budget, Ms. Moreau and her

Have You *BIN* Recycling?



It's not recycling if we're throwing garbage in the wrong pails.

students make the color-coded bins covers.

Sandra Jarro, a senior, said she recycles because, “I want to save natural resources.” She said that Queens Voc should

announce through the speaker everyday why it is important to recycle and to encourage students to recycle. Recently, Ms. Moreau began to write recycling announcements for

the end of third period.”

There are also others who don't recycle. Jaime Quizhpi, a senior, does not recycle because he thinks it is too much work to separate the trash. “I just throw

the trash in whichever bin I see first,” he said.

“Each room should have three containers,” Ms. Moreau said. The green one is for paper, the blue one is for bottles and cans, and the black one is for trash, she said.

Ms. Moreau said that Ms. Ogunka, a web design teacher, and her students made some ad campaign posters that are posted around the school to encourage students to recycle. Ms. Moreau and her students are also working on additional posters to be posted around the school. They are still working to get permission to post some in the first floor hallway.

With about 1,300 people recycling at the school, we can make a difference, Ms. Moreau said. “But it's hard to tell who isn't recycling,” whether it is the teacher or student, she said.

The recycling system was established three years ago by Ms. Moreau when she noticed “the trash all over the floor.” Ms. Moreau encourages everyone to recycle and said it should not be viewed as a hassle, but as a good deed.

180 Students Have 100% Attendance

by Nohely Vazquez

One hundred and eighty students at Queens Voc have attended school every day, from the start of school on September 8, through April 24.

This includes 57 freshmen (14%), 59 sophomores (15%), 57 juniors (16%), and 7 seniors (3%). The information in this article was provided by Mr. Daniel, attendance coordinator.

Freshmen

- Aguilar, Jacqueline
- Aucacama, Hillary
- Aucapina, Joselyne
- Aung, Htet
- Bakth, Marjan
- Barreto, Karen
- Bordais, Frank
- Camacho, Wendy
- Campos, Melisa
- Carbo, Melissa
- Carrasco, Karen
- Carvajal Cabrer, Ashley
- Ceballos, Jorge
- Chabla, Kelvin
- Diaz, Emeli
- Dominguez, Brichell
- Fernandez, Gissell
- Flores, Keven
- Garcia, Marcos
- Grande, Ricardo
- Guaman, Kimberly
- Herminta, Yarisbel
- Hernandez, Kenny
- Hernandez Cruz, Jennifer
- Hossain, Mohammed
- Hoxha, Azra

Inga, Jazlyn

- Lastra, Steven
- Losak, Breanna
- Morales Tinoco, Alan
- Naseer, Hamza
- Ng, Andres
- Ordonez, Carla
- Ortiz, Daniela
- Ortiz, Eduardo
- Puthenkalam, Udayan
- Quintuna, Carmen
- Ramirez, Lizbeth
- Reyes, Brian
- Rojas, Stephanie
- Romero Chavez, Alex
- Ruiz, Christopher
- Saba, Nicholas
- Saha, Tonmoy
- Sato, Mary Lael
- Shil, Merry
- Sobilo, Jacob
- Suarez, Kevin
- Tan, Bruce
- Tenesaca, Charly
- Teran, Shantal
- Tyagi, Upasana
- Urgiles, Daisy
- Vilchis, Henri
- Villanueva, Roberto
- Wang, Xiaoping
- Zheng, Na

Sophomores

- Abreu, Pamela
- Alonso, Giovanni
- Amon, Jonathan
- Armas, Natasha
- Ascencio, Katia
- Butler, Gabrielle
- Cabrera, Abel

- Chen, Hang
- Cortes Molina, Lucila
- Cuamani, Edwin
- Diaz, Andres
- Gines, Eris
- Gong, Raymond
- Gonzalez, Alex
- Hernandez, Jose
- Hernandez, Kevin
- Hernandez, Mike
- Hughes, Charles
- Ibarra, Billy
- Infante, Pamela
- Jerez, Steven
- Lilapa, Saul
- Lopez, Robert
- Mai, Feng Yi
- Marroquin, Cristian
- Martinez, Clemente
- Martinez, Natalie
- Martinez, Orlando
- Martinez, Valentin
- Mendez, Eduardo
- Miranda, Jennifer
- Morales, Gabriella
- Morales, Leonardo
- Murudumbay, Maritza
- Orellana, Karen
- Pacheco, James
- Paguay, Mary
- Perez, Jessica
- Pisfil, Kimberly
- Polanco, Steven
- Puchuela, Tania
- Puli, Andres
- Puspasari, Monica
- Quindi, Katherine
- Rai, Arun
- Ramos, Moises
- Rodriguez, Johnathan

- Romero, Adan
- Sanay, Kimberly
- Shahzada, Noman
- Silva Hernandez, Omar
- Singh, Amritpal
- Somarin, Nazanin
- Tan, Joanna
- Vega, Diego
- Vega, Vivian
- Victorio, Jesus
- Vilcapoma, Jefferson
- Yunga, Javier

Juniors

- Abdul, Arif
- Akbar, Safreen
- Alvarez, Henry
- Azharul, Islam
- Bailey, Dorothy
- Bueno, Joel
- Cabrera, Jose
- Cabrera, Raynier
- Calzadilla, Juan
- Carbo, Denisse
- Chen, Yan
- Dai, Dachuan
- Dunkley, Evan
- Duran, Sthephane
- Foronda, Kevin
- Galarza, Ruth
- Garcia, Miguel
- Garcia, Sebastian
- Gaviria, Harlinson
- Gomez, Raymond
- Guerra, Gino
- Hsu, Chi Lung
- Jerez, John
- Jones, Dayvon
- Khan, Abdul
- Li, Jun

- Loja, Erick
- Martinez, Agustin
- Mendez, Eddie
- Montoya, Jeffrey
- Morales, Isaac
- Nunez, Emely
- Osorio, Nicole
- Ospina, Andres
- Pena, Alexander
- Pena, Hommy
- Qu, Mengxue
- Quizhpi, Jesse
- Ramirez, Luis
- Roman, Michael
- Rosales, Jessica
- Ruiz, Ismael
- Samsundar, Khiran
- Sanchez, Cindy
- Sanchez, Denise
- Santander, Jesse
- Sotto, Marju
- Su, Liyi
- Tacuri, Jessica
- Tapia, Vanessa
- Tomala, Javier
- Vega, Monica
- Vega Visente, Richard
- Xia, Dahai
- Xue, Raymond
- Zea, Michael
- Zou, Ken

Seniors

- Abreu, Jordy
- Infante, Yaniri
- Lin, May
- Monegro, Jose
- Nimako, Sylvester
- Quizhpi, Jamie
- Rodriguez, Sindi



Seniors raising the roof at the luncheon.

The Beginning of the End

by Yaw Teh

The seniors have just a few more activities before they graduate: the prom, graduation rehearsal, and, graduation.

Senior luncheon was held at Bruno's on the Boulevard. According to Mr. Vega, the student advisor, 100 seniors went to this four-hour long event and some seniors competed in competitions. These competitions consisted of meringue, salsa, and the bachata dances which had a total of four winners in each competition. Senior Lorissa Rosario, attended the luncheon and enjoyed the event. "It was fun and special!" Lorissa said. "It was really special because we all came together and enjoyed ourselves."

Prom will be held on June 1 at Terrace on the Park, starting at 8pm and lasting until 1am. Tickets are \$100 for the first 125 people who sign-up. "The money fundraised during the food festival will only be able to cover for the first 125 people who sign-up." Mr. Vega said, "Everyone else who comes after that will have to pay \$115 for a ticket." he added.

Graduation rehearsal will be held at Queens College on

Monday, June 18, at 12pm. Seniors will have one graduation rehearsal at Queens Voc that same week, but the exact date and time have yet to be announced. Finally, the students will finish off the year with graduation on June 25.

Movie night was cancelled two days before the event. "I guess seniors were busy studying for college or busy with something," Mr. Vega said. "There weren't enough people who paid for the event. I would have had to buy popcorn and other snacks, but there just weren't enough people," he said.

Mr. Vega said he tries to have a lot of senior events. "My intentions were to help seniors create their memories with classmates before they go off to college or work," he said. "Even if some of these seniors are not good friends outside of school, at least they're enjoying their time together while they're in school," Mr. Vega said. Wherever life and college take you, it's important to keep in touch with your friends, some may last forever. "Good luck in college and with life, and learn how to have fun once in a while," he added.



Nominees for best '80s outfit.

Jack, The Newest Member of the Q.V. Family

by Daniela Vidal

Ms. Green had a baby. She used to be Ms. Green. Since August 12, she has been Mrs. Carey.

Mrs. Carey gave birth to her baby boy on March 30, at 11:49am at Winthrop Hospital in Nassau County. The baby was 8.6 lbs. and 21 inches. His legal name is John Carey but as an Irish tradition, he will be called Jack.

Jack is Mrs. Carey's first child. "I feel excited and very blessed," she said. "Holding Jack is the best part of my day and I have to remind myself to put him down so he can sleep,"

she said.

Mrs. Carey said motherhood is not particularly hard but can be tiring because of the late night feedings. "I feel prepared as I can be and if there's something I'm unsure of, I'll ask my sister who just had a baby nine months ago," she said. She said she has read books and gotten advice from friends.

"His room is painted all green, and he already has his first Yankees and Jets hats," said Mrs. Carey. She also said Jack already has a children's library in his room after receiving children's books at her baby

shower.

Her colleagues wish her the best of luck in this new stage of her life. "Best wishes. Enjoy every minute at home with your baby and be careful when changing his diaper," said Mrs. Gonzales.

"Ms. Green and I have been teaching together for five years. I couldn't be more than ecstatic for her. I wish her the best of luck and she better come back soon," said Ms. DeCarlo.

Mrs. Carey will not be attending senior events, she said, but she plans to go to graduation, if everything goes well.

Mrs. Carey said she feels bad about leaving her students but she feels Ms. Nalder and Ms. Frias, who took over her classes, will continue to work well with them. She will be back in September for the new school year.

Mrs. Carey has a message for the seniors: "Dear Class of 2012, it's been a pleasure to get to know you over the years and to see you grow academically and socially. I wish you all the best in your future. Good luck. Come back and visit. Love, Ms. Green."



Ms. Green's surprise baby shower at Queens Voc.



Q.V. Music Mania New Music Club



by Priscilla Delgado

"A complicated start," Mr. Lederer said about the establishment of the music club, which was inspired by Mr. Samuelson, who spent time with students and their guitars, not as a club, but simply hanging out.

At the same time, Mr. Zambrotta had his own group of students and was also trying to start a music club. "The independent study music project disappointed me because I thought I would actually learn to play an instrument," said Kenneth Jimenez, "but I'm glad that now there is a music program in school that can teach me." Isaac Morales, a junior who practiced with Mr. Samuelson, took part in making their vocal and instrumental skills. "Music has always been

After getting the approval, both groups joined and became one, thus establishing Queens Voc's music club, with Mr. Lederer and Mr. Zambrotta as the club advisors.

The Music Club meets every Monday and Wednesday from 4pm to 6pm in Room 349, and is open to every grade. On Mondays for the first hour, Mr. Lederer teaches the basics of music theory, such as learning to read musical notes, and during the second hour, the students apply what they learned to their instruments. On Wednesdays, Mr. Zambrotta helps students practice and teaches them several techniques to improve their skills. Isaac Morales contributes to the club by working with students who want to improve their vocal and instrumental skills. "Music has always been

part of my life and I love motivating and inspiring people," Isaac said.

The club members are also able to develop skills in DJing, production, recording, effects, buying and selling gear, booking gigs, and promotions. Knowing how to play an instrument is not necessary to join, lessons are offered to learn and improve skills in guitar, bass, and drums. The school bought the music club a set of drums to work with, so any student interested can learn to play the drums.

Since the club began, the number of students participating has increased and because the classroom may be too small for these talented students, the meetings might take place in the auditorium, but that is still up for discussion.

OUR READERS SPEAK OUT

by Abdoulaye Diallo

We received 25 feedback letters for the winter edition of the *Vocational Voice*, a drop off from the 143 we received for the fall edition. Mr. Burke's classes contribute a large amount of our usual feedback but he's on sabbatical.

The articles that received the most feedback were "Graduation

year's]."

Daniel Marin liked the article "Delivery or Pick up?" by Biaani Garcia. "I think anyone would like to get outside food instead of school lunch," he wrote. He added, however, that students should be stopped from ordering food outside of the school "because it isn't fair. And if this could happen only seniors should be allowed to get outdoor food because they have earned to do so." **Ferdinando Santos** likes Biaani's article "because it's about food." Ferdinando wrote, "I also order food.... That day was good because I didn't have to eat cafeteria food...." Ferdinando believes that if students show good behavior "for a long period of time" they should be allowed to order food from outside the school. **Zarko Lazic** wrote that "it is a problem that students are ordering good and picking up," however, "we can't blame the students because school food isn't even that great." He added that he liked the article because he thought "no one was noticing students eating Chinese food in the lunchroom." **Gustav Danquah** wrote that it would be good if "one adult/teacher could surprise students maybe once a week and together order food from the outside."

In response to Chorten Dolma's article "Long Line for Private Time," **Julio Sempertegui** wrote that "kids need to be able to go to the bathroom at the same floor they are in." Julio doesn't like "that it took so long for the school to even consider reopening the other school bathrooms to the

students." He added that he thinks "that they [the school administrators] should give these students a chance because not everyone is the same and the staff should understand that." **Washington Pazmino** wrote "Sometimes I don't want to go to the bathroom because it smells or its just dirty. They should trust us with the bathrooms." He added that reopening bathrooms on other floors would "help a lot because I don't have to walk to the 1st floor from the 4th floor," to use the bathroom.

Estaban Vega enjoyed the article "Bed Bugs Discovered in Queens Voc," by Tina Pahlad. He wrote that the article "was very informative. I didn't know there was bed bugs in school." **Taha Hatab** wrote "The article about the bed bugs in school as a little too much," however, "it is good to know what is invading our school...."

Derek Atson liked the "Senior Sports Profiles" by Ashley Deaza "because of how they single out each player and actually gave each player little a section...." **Santiago Criollo** wrote that he enjoyed most of the sports articles.

Cristian Alcantara liked the article "Senior Trip Like a Family Outing," by Eliana Moronta. Cristian wrote that he attended the trip and enjoyed it. **Jonathan Nunez**, who also attended the trip, thought the article was "funny." [No, he didn't say why he thought the article was funny].

Cristian also wrote that he liked the article "Lady Tigers Go Undeclared," by Bryant

Cartagena "because there was a 16-0 that's amazing." **Jason Perez** also liked the article and wrote that the article showed that "hard work and dedication could really take you far...."

In response to the feature "If you could have a super power..." by Muhammad Allie, **Jon Guaman** wrote "the kids that were interviewed had good super powers and the answer was clear... I would like to be invisible just to mess with people." **Marva Jones** wrote that she likes it "when the editor gives the students to speak their mind when they're asking weird questions...."

In response to the article "New Progress Reports Keep Parents Informed," by Yaw Teh, **Larry Ballena** wrote "the new computerized progress report system actually does help the parents know about how their children are doing in school." Larry thought that the progress report "made mistakes on the absences and the cuts."

"Sometimes I don't want to go to the bathroom because it smells or its just dirty. They should trust us with the bathrooms."

Cristobal Cuazitl "didn't enjoy the progress reports because parents don't need the progress reports because of parent teacher conference...they make things seem bad with cuts and absent but reports from the teachers tell a different story saying that they were good."

Cristobal enjoyed the article

"Yearbook Hits the Pages," by John Tosada, writing that the article "gave me an idea on when to expect on the yearbook. And what events are also going to be added to the year book."

Ms. Abrams, the school's college advisor, wrote that she "was extremely impressed with the professionalism and the thoroughness of your [Vocational Voice] newspaper." She wrote that she especially enjoyed Jarin Rahman's article, "Seniors: Stop Grumbling and Get to the College Advisor." "I thought Jarin was very accurate in explaining how students can get the help they need. Ms. Abrams also thought "Daniela Vidal did a excellent job with 'It's Not Too late To Apply To College' and may have encouraged more students to complete the application process."

Gregory Guevara wrote that he particularly enjoyed the article "Queens Voc Cleans Up at Citywide Skills USA Competition," by Muhammad Allie.

Gregory added that he "enjoyed many of the presented articles....There were many interesting articles and topics that were covered. I was intrigued and felt involved while reading. The paper brought attention to many important topics and exposed some unknown ideas as well."

Christine Hawkins wrote "Honestly there is nothing wrong or that I don't like. Keep up the good work."

Thanks. We look forward to more feedbacks from staff, teachers, and administrators after this edition.

Diverse City Wear Competes at Global Business Challenge

by Sylvester Nimako

Virtual Enterprise, the simulated company created to teach students about business, entrepreneurship, finance, and economics, has some new activities.

The students started a stock market game in February. Out of the 19 students 17 participate in the game. "They create and manage a virtual investment portfolio of a real world stocks and mutual funds," said Ms. Mitchell, the VE coordinator. They buy different stocks and mutual funds and track their progress over time. Students are competing with students from other schools to improve their business. The stock market game affects the profit margin of VE. The VE are invested in Foot Locker, J.P. Morgan, Sony, and Costco.

This competition ends on Sunday, May 6.



Nabila checks her funds.

Melissa Espinosa and Christian Flores represented the Diverse City Wear, the school's virtual enterprise company, at the Global Business Challenge,

on Wednesday, March 28. At the Global Enterprise Challenge, students from around the world act as president and CEO of a business.

This year the students had to play a European elevator company moving to India that was faced with issues. The students then presented to a panel of judges a solution to the problems they were having. The students were grouped with students from other counties such as Romania and Bulgaria, or states such as California. There were six students in each group. "Students experience working in a multinational team while examining the challenges, opportunities, and risks involved in a global business," said Ms. Mitchell, the Queens Voc VE coordinator.

On Thursday, March 29, the

international trade show took place at the 69th Armory in



Business is good for Diana.

New York. The students from VE displayed their products and showcase their marketing skills. The international trade show was an event at which different

VE teams came to showcase new products and items. The students were scored on the design of their booth and the sales that they made. Diverse City Wear updated its catalog to prepare for the showcase. With the new season the products are based on clothing and fashion accessories, of spring, summer, and fall products for the international trade show, said Ms. Mitchell. During the show, each firm purchased a booth similar to a real trade fair. They then set up the booth to showcase their products. The salesmen would then sell their products to firms and visitors. Diverse City Wear got awarded for best booth and salesmen. Tina Callanan, the CEO of the Diverse City Wear, was nominated for perfect sales pitch.

New Equipment *Works Out Well*



New equipment being assembled in weight room.

by Tina Callanan

is still waiting for some of the equipment to come in. The physical education teachers have been taking their classes to the weight room to see the equipment and to learn how to use the equipment correctly. “I like the new equipment and hopefully, it will inspire the students and faculty members to use our new weight room,” said Mr. Devaux, a physical education teacher. Mr. Lerro, another physical education teacher, said that this is the best high school weight training facility he has ever seen.

The weight room had a major face-lift. The broken weight room equipment affected gym classes and sport teams. Bicycles seats were missing and the pulleys on the universal machine were broken. The weight room had not been 100% functional for four years now, says Mr. Boyle. Ms. Burg and Mr. Alikakos went down to the weight room and evaluated the problems. According to Mr. Alikakos, “We saw that repairs wouldn’t help. We needed to replace the whole weight room. There are new bicycles and a new universal machine as well as new floor mats. The school spent \$35,000 on new equipment, which includes a new jungle gym, leg press, five new bicycles, a large set of free weights, and new flooring,” he said. Most of the equipment arrived and was installed at the end of April, and the room has been re-opened for student use. The weight room has five of the old bicycles and the old weights. The room



Are you ready to lift?

Students Meet Steve Forbes at Waldorf=Astoria Luncheon



Armando Avila, 2011 Queens Voc graduate, Steve Forbes, editor-in-chief of Forbes Media, and SES students Diony Perez, Vocational Voice editor, and Joan Mulato met at a luncheon on March 16. Mr. Forbes discussed the role of media and government, and he put forth some suggestions for improving the economy.

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Perez, and Evelin Ramirez

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

Principal's Message



Melissa Burg
Principal

Good Things are Happening at QV!

As we prepared for our quality review, I walked in and out of a lot of classrooms and looked at the status of our hallways. Good things are happening around our building! Many teachers are taking advantage of the technology this school has to offer and are designing engaging and rigorous lessons. Classrooms and bulletin boards are packed with student work. The hallways, for the most part, are clean and relatively quiet. Our students are generally respectful and ready to learn.

Word has just come in that we have 5 medal winners at the NY State Skills USA Competition. Two of those students, Ellie Brienza and Miguel Garcia, will go on to represent us at the National Skills USA Competition. This started me thinking of all the wonderful things that have happened this year.

First and foremost, we will have the largest graduating class that Queens Vocational and Technical High School has ever had! We expect to have at least 250 students graduate. What an accomplishment!! We have also had an exciting year in girls' basketball! The team made it to the semi-finals and almost had its first championship ever. We even had a player, Shakirra Smith, chosen for the Mayor's Cup Team. The RoboTigers competed in the FIRST Robotics National Championship and ranked #43 out of 2,200 teams and won the industrial design award sponsored by General Motors. We also started a girls' flag football team and a band/music club this year.

Despite all the negative news surrounding NYC public schools, I have to say that we got it going on!!! I have always loved being an educator, but it is really a pleasure and an honor to be the principal of such an amazing school!!

Melissa Burg
Principal

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Junior Shop Pro

by Diony Perez

We asked the CTE teachers of junior classes to recommend their best juniors. These are the top CTE students, according to their teachers. Here we go!

1. Why did you choose this major?
2. Do you see yourself doing this in the future?
3. What have you gotten out of this major?
4. What is the best part about your major?
5. Would you ever consider switching your major? If yes to which one?
6. If a freshman asked you if they should choose your major, what would you say?

Christian Flores - Business -

Ms. Mitchell

1. I chose business because it was different from all the others and it's not hands on.
2. Yes, because I want to be an accountant.
3. I am now familiar with Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, and Excel.
4. Being in front of a computer and learning accounting.
5. Yes, I would switch to electronics because I never took the electronics course in exploratory and it looks very interesting.
6. If the students are responsible, business is the way to go, if not, business wouldn't be the best choice.



Milagros Geldres - Cosmetology - Ms. D'Onofrio

1. I have an interest in cosmetology and the beauty industry.
2. Yes, because I enjoy doing hair.
3. I have learned how to cut hair, dye hair, and also do many different hair styles.
4. The best part about my major is working hands on.
5. No, but I think C-Tech is an interesting major.
6. Cosmetology isn't for everyone, so only choose it if you're going to be fully committed.



Hommy Pena - Computer Technology - Ms. Zagada

1. I like dealing with computers and it's a good career path.
2. Possibly, because the skills I am learning now will benefit me in the future.
3. I have learned how to take apart and rebuild a computer.
4. The best part about my major is that I get to work with my hands.
5. No, but I do find electronics to be a very interesting major.
6. I think they should choose C-Tech because they will learn many skills.



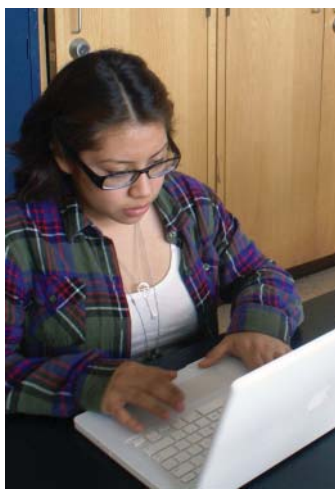
Krzysztof Jakubowicz - Plumbing - Mr. Rivera

1. I chose this major because as a kid I worked a lot in plumbing and I liked it.
2. Definitely, because I'm good at what I do and there's a lot of money to be made.
3. I have learned how to work with black pipes, PVC, copper, cast iron, and basic plumbing skills.
4. The fact I can work hands on.
5. No, because the skills I am learning now will help me become a plumber.
6. If they don't mind getting dirty and putting time into learning, then plumbing is a great choice.



Johanna Torres - Graphic Arts - Mr. Garcia

1. I chose graphic arts because it was the most interesting major out of all that I was offered.
2. I don't want to do graphic arts for a living but the skills I am learning now can benefit me in the future.
3. I am now certified in Photoshop.
4. I love that I get to work with a bunch of different programs such as Adobe, Illustrator, and Photoshop.
5. I wouldn't switch my major because I enjoy working with different colors, it's really fun.
6. This major is interesting and the programs are fun to work with. The class is also better because we have such a fun teacher.



Henry Alvarez - Electrical Installation - Mr. Abreu

1. I chose this major because it interests me and I found it really fun.
2. I can see myself doing EI because in the future I can be making a lot of money.
3. I have learned how to do electrical work and I believe most of the skills I learn in EI will benefit me in the real world.
4. The best part about my major is that I now can fix electrical work around my house, instead of calling an electrician.
5. I would never switch my major because I feel that my major outshines the rest.
6. They should pick EI because it's the best major this school has to offer.



Crystal Scottborgh

Cosmetology
Ms. D'Onofrio



1. I really enjoy doing hair.
2. Not at all, I want to major in forensics.
3. I have learned how to cut hair, facials, and hair styles.
4. Cutting hair because it relaxes me, and relieves all my stress.
5. I would, I think I would have liked plumbing because it seems fun.
6. If they are interested in doing hair, cosmetology is the way to go.

Jathzia Farro
Computer Technology
Ms. Zagada



1. I chose C-Tech because I thought it was the most interesting major.
2. I don't want to do C-Tech as my career but I am learning many skills that are very useful.
3. I have learned how to maintain a computer and use many programs.
4. The best part would have to be building a computer.
5. No, but I do find business to be an interesting major and the skills that I learn would benefit me.
6. They should definitely choose C-Tech if they would like to learn about computers.

Congratulations to the students recognized by their CTE teachers for their outstanding work!

files

Horoscopes

by Tina Pahlad

VIRGO

(Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Others will be impressed about the ideas you come up with at your job. You should surprise them with ideas that your rarely express. It will put you on a successful path.

LIBRA

(Sept. 23-Oct. 23)

You tend to overreact in your current relationship, which can cause a huge, emotional drama. You have other problems to worry about that need more of your attention. Avoid overreacting because you make yourself look absurd.

SCORPIO

(Oct. 24-Nov. 21)

In your job, an acquaintance will be more of a friend that you think. You should try to build up your friendship for it will help you in the long run. Your friendship will last for a while so be sure to use it as an advantage.

SAGITTARIUS

(Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

You are suddenly feeling drawn to a good friend of yours. Whether you are in a current a relationship or not, this can cause a problem for you and for your friend. Give it a try. You never know where it can take you.

TAURUS

(April 20-May 20)

Gossiping on the job is something you should avoid. It will lead to something terrible that you might regret.

GEMINI

(May 21-June 21)

You will be able to get rid of all your stress. All the challenges along the way will pay off. You will earn others' trust and life will soon get better for you.

CANCER

(June 22-July 22)

Romance is becoming confusing for you. You are considering making more of a commitment with a friend, yet this could become a conflict with your love relationship. Today, just enjoy each other's company.

LEO

(July 23-Aug. 22)

Your goal is to get as much information as you can from others. The more you poke, the more they resist answering you. You will be considered annoying or noisy. You may have to be more friendly and sneaky in order to get the information you are looking for.

CAPRICORN

(Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

It might be a good idea to put your issues to rest for a while. Emotions are circling in your mind and you could say something you might regret on later on. Listen to others as a support.

AQUARIUS

(Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Follow the path and luxuries will come to you. A partnership might be a good idea as an extra boost. It's time to take a challenging path and expose your mind to other ideas.

PISCES

(Feb. 19-March 20)

Wondering whether to know a person better or to not even bother might affect you more than you think. It will appear that you don't have an option and the best way to deal with the situation is to go with the flow.

ARIES

(March 21-April 19)

You are offered an option that makes you want to run the other way. Your heart tells you to go for it. But is it worth leaving everything else behind?

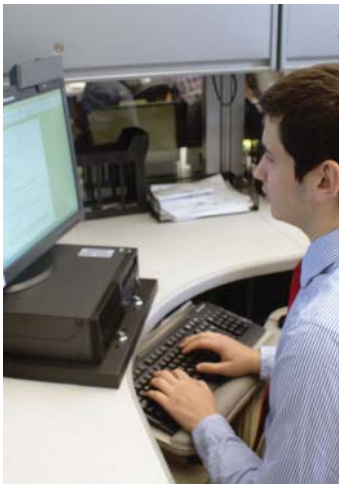


Denisse Carbo - Electronics - Ms. Ramdeo

1. I chose this major because I like math.
2. I can't see myself doing this in the future because I want to become an architect.
3. I learned how to make cables and how to solder.
4. I have learned how to make cables and also because technology is everywhere and it is a good field to be familiar with.
5. I would switch to graphic arts because I want to become an architect, and that major would have benefited me more on my path for my future profession.
6. They should pick electronics if they would like to make cables for a computer, DVD, or any kind of technological device.

Enxhi Bega - Business - Ms. Mitchell

- 1 I chose business because it interests me more than any other shop.
2. Yes, because I want to work for a bank and become an accountant.
3. I have learned accounting and now I am Microsoft certified.
4. One of the best parts would be working with other people and being a part of something.
5. Yes, I would switch to plumbing because when I took it in exploratory I had a good time.
6. If you are interested in business, join it and do well your sophomore year so you



can be chosen for Virtual Enterprise.

Marilynn Bonilla - Electrical Installation - Mr. Mendez

1. I chose this major because I like dealing with wires.
2. Yes, because my brother does it and I kind of see myself following his footsteps.
3. I have learned how to bend pipes and electrical metallic tubing.
4. I love the people in my class and Mr. Mendez is great.
5. I have. Freshman year I was in cosmetology, but I transferred into electrical installation.
6. If you want to have fun, EI is your best choice.



Across

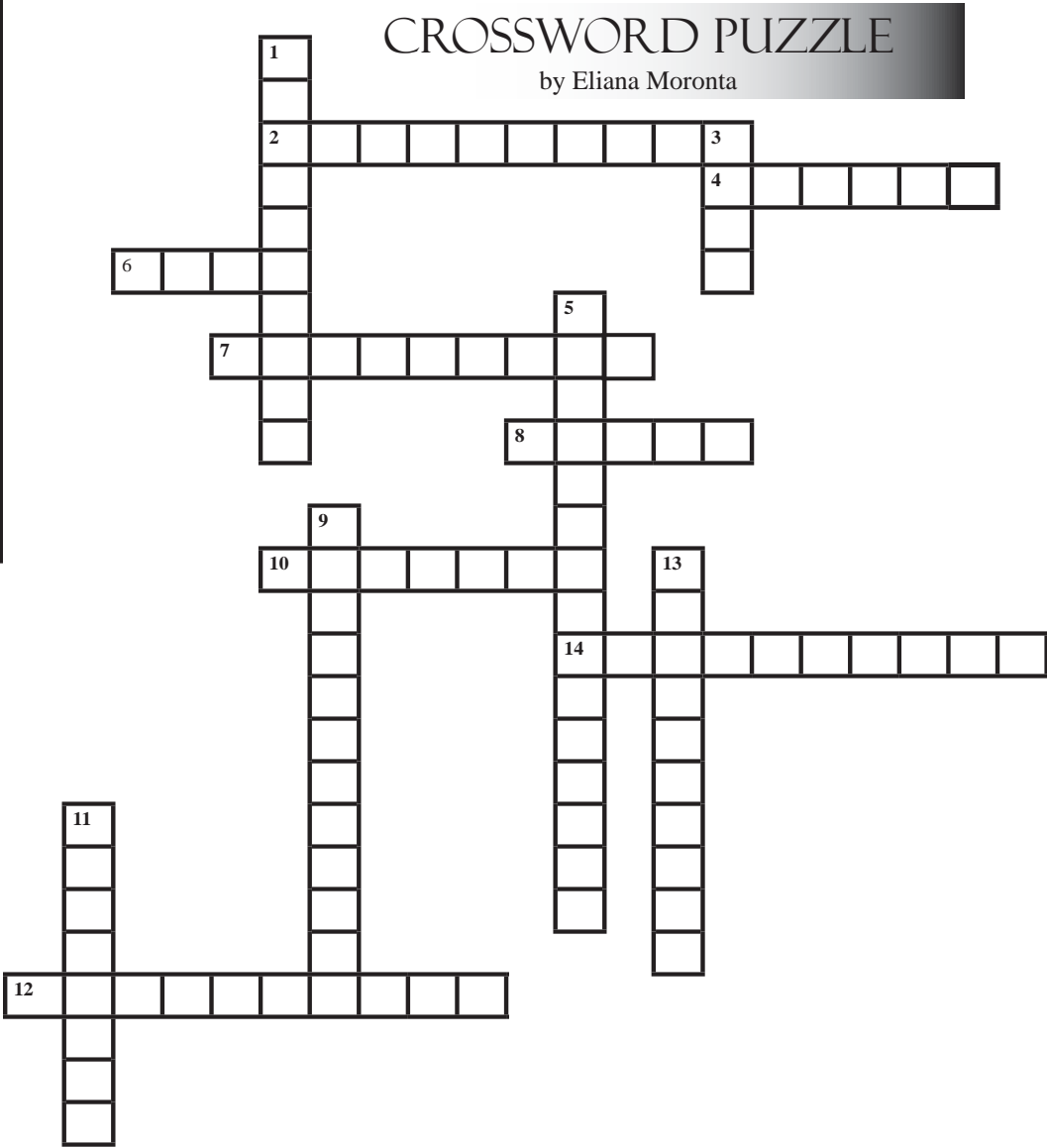
2. The action of leading a group.
4. Given or received in recompense for worthy behavior.
6. A literary term, tells the events of a story.
7. A book of synonyms.
8. The U.S. vice president's last name.
10. A graduate of a school.
12. The activity of profession of writing for the newspaper.
14. A room equipped for scientific research and experiments.

Down

1. An event where students perform acting, singing, dancing, etc...
3. Seniors' highlight event.
5. The BL in FBLA.
9. A new PSAL sport team in Queens Voc.
11. Website for the school newspaper.
13. The team that went to the national championship on April 26.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

by Eliana Moronta





Cosmetology Receives Awards

City Council member Jimmy Van Bramer (above) was on hand at Sunnyside Community Services Volunteer Recognition Day to honor Queens Voc's cosmetology seniors and their teachers for 20 years of dedication and service to the community center. Queens Voc was presented with a plaque from the community organization, and certificates from Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney, Queens Borough President Helen Marshall, and City Council Speaker Christine Quinn and Council member Van Bramer. The certificates and plaque are located in the showcases outside the main office.



Bloopers: *Student & Teacher Edition*

by Nohely Vazquez

Corbin Aldridge

Senior

"Sophomore year in gym class someone thought it would be funny to take my shorts. So I took my friend's shorts that were two sizes too small. I walked into the gym with short shorts and the whole gym class laughed at me."

Upasana Tupal

Freshman

"I was training for my competition in my karate class. I did a back air kick, missed, and banged my head on a bookshelf."

Ms. D'Onofrio

Cosmetology Teacher

"One of my students, who knew I'm afraid of rats, brought a plastic rat on April Fool's. She asked me to get something from my supply closet, and when I saw it I screamed and ran out."

Joshua Zuniga

Senior

"Early in freshman year, I was walking backwards to

the Leadership room with my friend Eduardo. I accidentally went into the girls bathroom instead. There were a couple of girls who just stared at me. I turned all red and walked out."

Mr. Burkhart

English Teacher

"I was teaching second grade students and administering a standardized test. One of the students had diarrhea, so I was asked to allow the student to take the test in the bathroom with a proctor."

Liliana Fernandez

Freshman

"When I was in sixth grade, I went home late and had forgotten my house keys. So I decided to go through the window. I got a ladder and started climbing. I had one foot through the window when my mom walked in the front door."

Stephanie Rojas

Freshman

"I was doing the pacer test during gym class, when they told us to speed up. I was doing so good when suddenly I fell in front of everyone. It was

so embarrassing people still remind me about it."

Carola Guillen

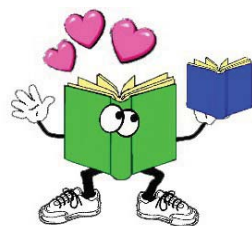
Senior

"One time in seventh grade, we had a trip to the Museum of Natural History. I remember it was snowing a lot, so the steps of the school bus were very slippery. I was the last one to get out, and when I took the first step, I slipped and fell on dirty snow. Everyone laughed, even my teacher; it was so embarrassing. I had dirty snow on my butt for the rest of the trip."

Ms. Lingstuyt

Cosmetology Teacher

"I went to Italy with a couple of my friends once. We went out to eat at a restaurant, when I had to use the restroom. I saw a red cord hanging near the toilet, so I pulled it thinking it was used to flush the toilet. But once I pulled it a waiter came running in, thinking I needed help. I suddenly realized that I had pulled the emergency cord. I was so embarrassed and everyone in the restaurant laughed at me."



Book Reviews

by Yaw Teh

Catching Fire by Suzanne Collins



Katniss is back in the Hunger Games in the second book, *Catching Fire*. In *The Hunger Games*, we learned that tributes were not supposed to be reselected for the Hunger Games after they had won. But the Capital used the popularity that Katniss had gained in the previous games to recall all the previous winners to a new match of the Hunger Games.

Katniss defied the Capital by threatening that the games would have no victor if Peeta and she were not allowed to share their victory because they would both commit suicide. For the first time in the history of the Hunger Games, the Capital submitted to a participant's demand. Thus began *Catching Fire*.

In the Capital's attempt to

crush Katniss and her soon-to-be rebellion, the Capital places Katniss and Peeta in the ring once again along with new participants. This time around, Katniss and Peeta decide to team up with other tributes to increase their chances of winning. As the games draw to a close, a large explosion caused hovercrafts to speed into the arena. To keep them

safe, Katniss and two other tributes were taken by one hovercraft, and Peeta was taken by another.

What will happen to Peeta as he is hurt and helpless in the hands of the Capital? Can Katniss save him in time to prevent his mutilation, death, or worse? Read the book to find out.

Suzanne Collins did an

excellent job with this book. The plot and suspense are well developed and will keep the reader on edge, craving for more.

Catching Fire was also written in such detail that it gives its viewers a clear mental image. This book is definitely a page turner and will most likely satisfy a reader's need for a good book.

Atlas Shrugged by Ayn Rand

"Who is John Galt?" has become an expression similar to "Who knows?" and is used in response to questions people do not know the answer to. But is there a John Galt? And if so, who is he?

In *Atlas Shrugged*, the main characters face a world of looters, and it is up to them to save the world. But will they? Is it really their

responsibility to save a world that does nothing but limit and control entrepreneurs and industrialists? A world in which the government takes production--and producers--for granted? Or will the main characters give up? Will they simply shrug? What happens when government and the producer's values collide?

James Taggart is the head

of the Taggart Transcontinental Railroad. James wants to rely on the government to help his business, Taggart Transcontinental, by interfering with the businesses of others. People like James rely on and feed off people like Henry Reardon and Dagny, the true pioneers of the world.

As the economy crumbles, the government focuses on

helping some businesses, while preventing other businesses from succeeding too much.

As the government controls more and more of the economy and uses its massive power against entrepreneurs and industrialists, these entrepreneurs and industrialists begin to disappear.

Ayn Rand did a tremendous job in keeping this massive

novel organized. This was no short story; Rand took a whopping 1,069 pages to put forth a world view that provides an expansion of the engine of the world and the values we believe in. This non-traditional view is presented with logical precision. *Atlas Shrugged* is a book of many ideas and will surely have readers look at the world differently.

SENIOR SPORTS PROFILES

Jashua Cora
Age: 18



Team: Boys' Varsity Handball
Position: Doubles
Years on team: 3

"He's into the game and is improving. He gives it his all in every play." - Andres Ng

"He has improved his skills tremendously over the last two years." - Mr. Maloney

Elixandria Brienza
Age: 18



Team: Girls' Varsity Softball
Position: Shortstop
Years on team: 4
"She is a dedicated player who gives great advice, and a tremendous leader."
- Kiara De La Rosa
"She is captain, and looks like she has good things coming for her this year."
- Mr. Boyle

Lucy Ramirez
Age: 18



Team: Girls' Varsity Softball
Position: Third base
Years on team: 4
"She is a good hitter to all sides of the field with a lot of potential."
- Sabrina Spiecker
"She is a good hitter and hopefully will bring something her senior year."
- Mr. Boyle

Tina Marie Callanan
Age: 18



Team: Girls' Varsity Softball
Position: Pitcher
Years on team: 4

"She is efficient with her pitches and throws a lot of strikes."
- Nichole Perez

"She is a captain who I hope will lead us to many victories."
- Mr. Boyle

Fitore Morina
Age: 18



Team: Girls' Varsity Softball
Position: Catcher
Years on team: 4
"Fitore is a committed player and very good catcher"
- Dorothy Bailey

"Fitore is my catcher, she has improved a lot over the years, and has become a good player."
- Mr. Boyle

Zuleyma Peña
Age: 17



Team: Girls' Varsity Softball
Position: Outfield
Years on team: 2
She is a very motivated player on the field. She gives it her all every play
- Heather Gonyon
"Hopefully she will bring senior leadership to the team"
- Mr. Boyle

Jacqueline Jimenez
Age: 18



Team: Girls' Varsity Softball
Position: Pitcher
Years on team: 4
"She is a utility player, who is good at playing all different positions."
- Nicole Osorio

"She is my second pitcher and I hope she brings us wins."
- Mr. Boyle

Ashley Deaza
Age: 17



Team: Girls' Varsity Softball
Position: Outfield
Years on team: 4
"She puts heart and passion into the game"
- Sabrina Spiecker

"She is a captain who brings charisma, heart, and soul to the game."
- Mr. Boyle

needs to fundraise about \$800 for equipment such as bats, balls, helmets, and catchers equipment," said Coach Cintron. The team sold 30 boxes of candy and the school matched half, which was about \$750. The team members pay for their own uniforms, approximately \$125 each, and keep them at the end of the season.

The boys' basketball team raised \$500 by selling 20 boxes of candy. The team used \$420 for two non-league games. The remaining \$80 is going to be passed on to the next season said coach Maloney. The school didn't match the money because the team didn't need it, said the coach. The team didn't need to replace any equipment such as basketballs because they're still in good condition.

The JV basketball team needed approximately "\$688, which they got from candy sales," said Coach Daniel. The team sold 20 boxes of candy and the school matched half of it, said Coach Daniel. Each student had to pay \$25 for the shirts they kept.

The boys' bowling team needed approximately "\$1,150 for the season: \$1,000 for the lanes and \$150 for the shirts," said Coach Devaux. The team sold 20 boxes of candy and the school matched all of it, he said.

The girls' basketball team needed "between \$400 and \$650: \$250-\$500 for non-league games and \$150-\$160 for each uniform, which the players kept," said Coach Devaux. The team raised the money through

a bake sale, which made \$406, and also through candy sales.

The girls' flag football team didn't fundraise this season because the players are paying for their jerseys, mouth guard, and shoes, which total about \$100. "The footballs were given to us by PSAL and we don't have to pay for the field," said Coach Garofano.

The girls' bowling team needs "\$800 for the season, and each player pays \$10 for their polo shirts," said Coach Garofano. The team sold 20 boxes of candy and the school matched all of it.

Coach Maloney said he requires every player of the handball team to sell two boxes of chocolate. One box the school didn't cover because the students kept their shirts, which cost \$25. The other candy box covers equipment such as red label handballs, gloves, and non-league matches.

The soccer team reuses soccer balls, and doesn't pay for the field, but the players are required to pay for their uniforms. The money, Coach Ali said, comes from candy sales, his own pocket, and the school. Coach Ali said the team sold 15 boxes of candy and the school matched the money raised.

This season the girls' volleyball team reused their uniforms and volleyballs so not much fundraising was needed, but a typical season can cost \$200, said Coach Boyle

Because of coaching issues for the wrestling team this season, we are unable to get similar information.

Helping Teams Help Themselves

by Alexis Crespin

\$10. That's how much each Queens Voc sports team receives per player. The Public Schools Athletic League gives Queens Voc approximately \$1300 to divide among 13 sports teams, including the new girls' flag football team. This only gives each team roughly about \$100 for equipment, non-league referees, practices, and other expenses the team has. The administration, Mr. Maloney, athletic director, Mr. Vega, coordinator of student activities, developed a new funding procedure. It gives

teams \$10 per player, and then matches team fundraising dollar for dollar, for equipment, supplies, and non-league officials. The school doesn't match funds for anything the players keep. The softball team spends \$50-\$100 per aluminum bat, \$50 for a dozen softballs, and \$50 for each uniform, which players keep. The girls get the money through candy sales and Taco Tuesdays, which raised "\$600-700 this season," said Coach Boyle. The baseball team needed approximately \$4,800 this season. Nearly \$2,000 was spent for equipment such

as baseballs, composite and regular wood bats, and catchers gear. In 2008, all high school teams were forced by the city council to use wood bats, "that's why the cost of running the team went up so rapidly," said Coach Schimenz. For fundraising, the baseball team designs a new t-shirt every year, and sells candy and wristbands. The team sold 82 boxes of candy. Some of the money the school matched because it went toward supplies and equipment. The rest went toward jackets and duffle bags, mostly for rookies and team members who needed them. The JV baseball team

SENIOR SPORTS PROFILES

by Juan Alzate / Daniel Corona

Jordy Abreu
Age: 18



Team: Boys' Varsity Basketball
Position: Shooting Guard
Years on team: 1
"He is a hard working player."
- Brenden Nichols
"Gives 100% effort every time."
- Mr. Maloney

Carlos Bourne
Age: 17



Team: Boys' Varsity Basketball
Position: Forward
Years on team: 2
"Carlos is a great team player."
- Derek Atson
"He's an all-around player."
- Coach Maloney

Rodolfo Diaz
Age: 17



Team: Boys' Varsity Basketball
Position: Center
Years on team: 1
"He has good post moves and is a strong player with a lot of talent."
- Brendan Nichols
"He's a big man with good center skills."
- Mr. Maloney

Gregory Guevara
Age: 17



Team: Boys' Varsity Handball
Position: Sub
Years on team: 1
"He's determined, with great potential, tries hard and always there when needed."
- Andrew Medina
"He's a first year player who has contributed in single and double matches."
- Mr. Maloney

Andrew Medina
Age: 17



Team: Boys' Varsity Handball
Position: Doubles
Years on team: 1
"A versatile player, very determined, confident and hard headed to the point he wont take defeat as a answer. Hoorah!"
- Jashua Cora
"A first year player with flexibility can play both singles and doubles matches."
- Mr. Maloney

Eric Aucapina
Age: 17



Team: Boys' Varsity Handball
Position: Sub
Years on team: 1
"New player to the team with a good serve, he played an important role on the team."
- Constantinos Papkostas
"He is a first year player who tries hard and is adapting to the game."
- Mr. Maloney

Julio Sempertegui
Age: 17



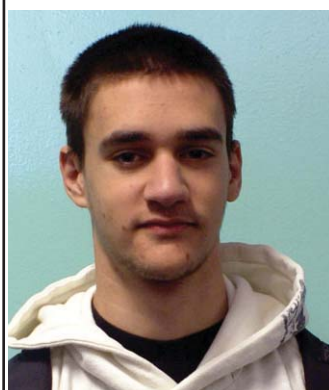
Team: Boys' Varsity Handball
Position: Singles
Years on team: 3
"Julio is a strong team captain, and he supports the team when we need it most."
- Eric Aucapina
"He's the team captain who gives his best effort during the matches."
- Mr. Maloney

Pawel Pietrasko
Age: 17



Team: Boys' Varsity Handball
Position: Doubles
Years on team: 2
"He's a good team player with good serves."
- Alejandro Obando
"Good doubles player who can easily cover the court."
- Mr. Maloney

Constantinos Papkostas
Age: 17



Team: Boys' Varsity Handball
Position: Doubles
Years on team: 2
"Good partner who puts in a lot of work and is very dedicated."
- Pawel Pietrasko
"Skills has improved over the last two years."
- Mr. Maloney

Alejandro Obando
Age: 17



Team: Boys' Varsity Handball
Position: Singles
Years on team: 4
"Overall good player gives the team good advice and motivation."
- Julio Sempertegui
"Solid dedicated player who has first singles potential."
- Mr. Maloney

JV Basketball Team Learns the Importance of Teamwork

by Fitore Morina

Although the boys' junior varsity basketball team finished the 2011-2012 season with a record of 3-11, the hard work and dedication the boys put in is not displayed simply by the numbers. "I think they under-achieved as a team, not individually. The record they had does not speak for itself," said Mr. Daniel, the team's coach.

"Individually the players are good, but as a team, they lack sportsmanship. Although the team wasn't as success-

ful this season, the players will have plenty to work on next season and improve our record," said the coach. "We had two top players, Adam Todorovic and Alexis Nieves, as far as scoring is concerned," Coach Daniel said. According to PSAL, Adam, a sophomore guard, made 65% of his shots and had 227 points for the season. Alexis, a freshman guard, made 58% and ended up with 170 points. Coach Daniel said Phillip Gooding was a leader in getting the rebounds, and Rick Lim was a lead force in shot blocking. Gooding averaged 9.25 rebounds a game.

The team players agree that they could've played better, and finished the season with a bet-

ter record. "The team is good, but we need to learn to work together and blend our talents to win games. We improved a little and won three games," said Phillip.

"I feel like I could've played better. A lot of players didn't step up and play well. We could've had a better record if we tried, and worked as a team," said Alexis.

The team members are as follows: freshmen: Onyx Hernandez, Alexis Nieves, Ed-die Quiles, Jacob Sobilo, and sophomores: Jose Duran, Phillip Gooding, Harsimar Jassar, Kevin Hernandez, Rick Lim, Licerio Nique, Devuan Parson, Mario Pope, Steven Polanco, Carlos Ramos, Yuniore Reyes,

Joel Salcedo, Adam Todorovic, Grebb Ventura.



Adam pulls up for a shot.



Rick sets for a rebound.

Lady Tigers Battle for Playoff Spot

continued from back page

Members helped during their lunch periods and promoted the event with flyers around the school and Facebook posts.

The members on the team are captains Ellie Brienza, Tina Marie Callanan, and Ashley Deaza, seniors Jacqueline Jimenez, Fitore Morina, Zuleyma Pena, and Lucy Ramirez; juniors Dorothy

Bailey, Kimani Brown, Naiya Bustamante, Cindy Collado, Kiara Delarosa, Heather Gonyon, Nicole Osorio, Nichole Perez, and Sabrina Spiecker; sophomores Gabriella Biondo, Maria Perez, and Estefania Villegas; and freshmen Samantha Collado, Emeli Diaz, Ashley Fernandez, Gisell Fernandez, and Stephanie Rojas.



Tina takes the field.

Girls' Football Kicks Off

continued from back page

record is 0-1, but, the coach said, it's early in the season.

"The first game was bittersweet. We played hardcore in the rain, played a hell of a game but we lost," said team member, Stacey Carrasco. Coach Garofano said the game "was a defensive struggle, but the girls played fantastic" against American Studies. The game took place at Murray Playground on April 26.

When they're not playing, the girls practice Monday through Thursday in the gym from 4pm to 6pm and occasionally on Saturdays. The girls have also had two scrimmages, one against Tilden Educational Campus and another against American Studies. They also participated in an inaugural tournament held on April 21 at Boys and Girls High School from 12noon to 7pm. The tournament and both scrimmages were "a good way to start the season because the girls were able to learn the rules and regulations for the sport,"

said the coach.

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

With the collaboration of the New York Jets, USA football, and PSAL, the city has introduced the new sport for all girls. The New York Jets donated \$150,000 to the Public Schools Athletic League back in October to start the girls' flag football program. USA Football donated one flag belt for each player and two footballs for each school that has a team. "Being able to provide funds to start a new varsity sport for young women in New York City public schools is perfectly aligned with our goal of reaching more students and positively impacting their lives," said Matt Higgins, Jets

executive vice president of business operations.

There are 29 new flag football teams throughout the city. Queens Voc is in the Brooklyn/Queens division, along with Academy of American Studies, HS for Construction, Queens High School Complex, and Thomas Jefferson Campus.



Pre-game huddle.

Ability may get you to the top, but it takes character to keep you there."

- by John Wooden

Varsity Baseball Overcomes Rocky Start

continued from back page

Coach Schimenz said he and the team depend on team members who work hard, show dedication, and help out the team. "People are helping, and



Daniel throws as ...

things are getting better" said the coach.

Diony Perez, a four-year veteran, was appointed captain in mid-April. "Diony works hard, communicates well, and is consistently there to help. He is the kind of guy who is more comfortable blending in, but he knew we needed leaders and he stepped up to help the team," said the coach. "I worked hard this year and I am honored to lead the team to a successful season on and off the field," said a humble Diony. "It's not easy being captain," said the coach. "Captains have to put in a lot of extra time, work closely with the coach, and have to motivate and manage their teammates," said Mr. Schimenz. "Diony

has been willing to do that," he added.

Mr. Schimenz, coach of the baseball team, prepared his players for their season by setting up daily workouts and practice games. Coach Schimenz set up 35 non league games in addition to the 16 league games for the boys to play, so he can see what position the players can handle in game situations. The boys also prepared for their season through to the conditioning club to work out, stay in shape, and build up stamina.

The baseball team also has no starting line-up. "The team is a team of equals, not that everyone is equally skilled, but everyone is given equal

chances," said Mr. Schimenz.

The biggest problem the coach faces this year is players with bad attitude, poor behavior, and poor effort, he said "The team could be good but too many people were not doing the right thing as we were getting the team ready,"



... Jason awaits the pitch.

said Coach Schimenz, who at the start of the season, said he wasn't sure how the season would go. There are numerous players who have sat out some league games, he added.

According to the PSAL website there are 28 members on the team. The members are: Henry Alvarez, Jordan Balcacer, Bryant Cartagena, Erik Castro, Andy Collado, Daniel Corona, Alexander Cruz, Saul Cruz, Rodolfo Diaz, Daniel Henao, Kevin Hernandez, Maximilian Manticof, Jose Monegro, Radison Moronta, Joan Mulato, Hamza Naseer, Javier Pasarin, Alexander Pena, David Pena, Diony Perez, Jason Perez, Adonis Rosario, Jesse Santander, Gary Santos, Brandon Taveras, Joseph Taveras, Cristian Trujillo, and Greamy Urena.

Rough Times for the Handball Team

continued from back page

Bryant, LIC, Newcomers, and Arts and Business, the Queens Voc handball team defeated Newcomers, 3-2.

The tryouts were held earlier in the season at Bush Park, and consisted of doubles games against each other. Coach Maloney said he observed the tryouts and selected some new players based on what he saw.

The team has played a few non-league games, also known as scrimmages, to gain valuable experience and practice, said the coach.

The team won a scrimmage against Townsend Harris on March 14. "It was an easy match and a good warm up for bigger competition," said handball player Andrew Medina.

"I think the handball team could have done better this season, but the reason why we did so bad would probably be because the lack of dedication some players put in," said Jashua Cora, a team member.

But most of the team members show heart and dedication, said the coach. One such player is Julio Sempertegui, the team captain. "I practiced a lot and played with better players than I was at the time and that is what made me learn my techniques and skills

as an all around great player," he said. And this is the main characteristic Coach Maloney looks for in his players. That they practice when they don't have to, are dedicated, and pass all their classes.

Another reason the team did poorly this season is because two key players, Juan Alzate and Jhovani Ramos were not playing in matches. Jhovani Ramos is inactive because he is academically ineligible to play, and Juan Alzate was on an extended trip out of the country.

Not being able to play at home has hurt the players' morale.

"I feel disappointed because of the scaffolding blocking the handball courts. Our school has the second best handball courts in our division and the fact that we can't use them and have to go to a park and play really stinks," said Julio.

The returning players for the new season are Julio Sempertegui, Jhovani Ramos, Jashua Cora, Juan Alzate, Alejandro Obando, Pawel Pietraszko, and Constantinos Papakostas. Jhovani Ramos is currently inactive. The newest members to the team are Andres Ng, Andrew Medina and Gregory Guevara.

Tryouts were in March.



The guys bring it in before game against Far Rock.

Varsity Baseball Overcomes Rocky Start

by Francisco Frias

The boys' varsity baseball team hit a few bumps as it prepared for the season, but came back strong with a 7-1 record, with five of those wins by 10-run rule. "The season has had a few ups and downs but we are moving in the right direction," said Rodolfo Diaz, a rookie senior.

On Monday, March 26, the boys opened against Info Tech. The Tigers won 13-1, and then won again the next day 10-0. "It felt really good to hit the field for the first game," said Jose Monegro, a four-year veteran. The boys lost their first game against Academy of American Studies, 9-2, on April 4. "It was a tough loss because it was a team we never lost to in my four years on the team, but we've got to keep moving and use it as a wakeup

call," said Radison Moronta, a four-year veteran. Several veterans were benched that game, said the coach, which he said, contributed to the loss.

The team came back against American Studies the next day, winning 2-0.

The boys then demolished Far Rockaway Education Campus on April 16, scoring 21 runs and leaving Far Rockaway scoreless. "We try not to do that. Bryant [Cartagena] was coaching third and was holding up our runners. We stopped aggressive running early in the game, but you can't stop kids from hitting," said the coach.

The Tigers faced Robert F. Wagner, on April 20, and won 22-3. "Perhaps this showed that we're a pretty good team," said the coach. "We certainly didn't try to run up the score," Coach Schimenz said, "we took out the game's

Lady Tigers Battle for Playoff Spot

by Bryant Cartagena

Halfway through the season, the girls' softball team is in fourth place in their division and two games away from clinching a playoff spot. The girls' record is 6-4. "They're working hard to have a successful season," said Coach Boyle.

After starting the season 0-2 from losses to Baccalaureate School for Global Education (18-8) and Frank Sinatra School of the arts (18- 2), the girls bounced back to win six straight games, until surrendering their third and fourth losses to Baccalaureate and Frank Sinatra once again.

"We're enthusiastic. The returning veterans are lead-

ing, and the batch of rookies is producing. We're a much improved team this season," said Captain Ellie Brienza.

"Ellie, Tina Marie Callanan and Ashley Deaza were appointed captains on March 12 due to their hard work, leadership, and effort," said Mr. Boyle. He also coaches the girls' volleyball team and filled in for the wrestling team. "My players need to be dedicated; they need to know what's expected and listen to direction," he said. "Our record thus far makes me feel proud of being a captain," said Ellie.

The softball team occupies the gym after school, when they're not playing games. The gym serves as practice ground throughout the season since they don't visit the field much. Coach Boyle also makes his girls work on conditioning. "I believe staying fit is an essential part of being an athlete for any team, he said.

The girls held a "Taco Tuesday" fundraiser on March 6 that raised over \$700. They sold tacos, baked goods, and drinks outside the cafeteria.



Ellie steps up to the plate.

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Rough Times for the Handball Team

by Jarin Rahman

Handball is tough to play if the court the players are playing on is surrounded by metal poles. But the scaffolding in the Queens Voc handball court hasn't stopped the team from competing. The team practices where it can, and plays its

matches at Bush Park.

The team record as of April 27 was 2-7.

The team played the first game of the season in the World's Fair Playground in Flushing Meadows Park, and faced High School of Arts and Business on March 21. The Queens Voc boys dominated

the game as they won four out of five matches.

Their second game of the season didn't go as well, as they lost to Long Island City High School, in Bush Park, 3-2. After a seven game losing streak, losing to Aviation,

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Na light on her feet.

Girls' Football Kicks Off

by Zuleyma Pena

PSAL has introduced a girls' flag football program throughout the five boroughs, and Queens Voc has introduced this new team to the school.

Queens Voc's flag football team is coached by Mr. Garofano. After numerous

tryouts, 20 out of 45 girls who tried-out were selected onto the team. Now that the team is assembled and playing, the coach is pleased with the results. "I am very happy with my team, they're very competitive," said Coach Garofano. The team's

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Mr. Maloney demonstrates why he's the coach.

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