

# The Vocational Voice

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

Fall 2008

## VE Places 2nd in Ad Competition Ad promotes helping friends stay in school



**A BOOST UP for the School of Entrepreneurial Studies.**

by Beatriz Gonon

On Wednesday, Sept. 24, Virtual Enterprise students created a stir at Queens Voc when they placed second in the Advertising Futures Competition, a contest between VE schools.

The theme of the competition was to promote the “Boost-up” campaign, which targets kids who are potential drop-outs and shows how a boost from peers, parents, and a community can make a difference. To help VE students produce their advertisement, they are teamed up with professional advertising agencies.

The advertising competition kicked-off on Sept. 5. This year’s advertising team members were Amanda Andrews, Kelsey Garcia, Justin Kroon, Alexandria Lumpkins, George Serna, Clarissa Tse, and Keisha Tyler. The team was paired up with the advertising agency Draft FCB.

Team leader Kelsey Garcia said she absolutely loves the environment of the competition, the agency, and the teamwork this competition brings. Kelsey said she is very proud to have been the leader of the advertising team and proud of the whole team for achieving so much this year.

The second place advertisement shows someone giving a friend a boost. On the sneaker of the friend who is receiving the boost are the words: boost up, inspire, push, champions, encourage, empower, support, lift, cheer, and

strengthen. At the bottom of the advertisement it says, “7,000 friends drop out of school every day. No matter how you do it, your actions can change those numbers. BOOST UP your friends today and see them at school tomorrow.”

Team member George Serna said he came up with the idea to show someone giving a friend a boost. He said that when he was younger, whenever he would play baseball, basketball, dodge ball, or handball with his friends, the ball would bounce off to the fire escapes of a building. Since he was the tallest he would give his friends a boost to retrieve the ball. After he told that story to his fellow team members, they decided to use his idea.



On the day of the competition at The Times Center Expo Hall, “We were all holding hands and I swear I was praying to hear our names and then our names were called! I was so excited and at the same time freaked out that my wish came true!” Kelsey said, describing

the moment the winners were announced. George said that because of the other schools’ poor performance, the Queens Voc students “knew we were going to clinch a top spot.” Mr. Mugan, the VE coordinator, said he “was very happy because several of our team members competed last year and produced a great ad, and I felt that the students have been redeemed.” Mr. Mugan said he’s really glad the Virtual Enterprise students received the recognition they deserved.

## College Now Enrollment Up

by Fahim Islam

Ms. Newman, the College Now coordinator, said that the number of Queens Voc students enrolling in College Now courses increased 50% from last year.

Currently, 90 Queens Voc students take various college-level classes through LaGuardia Community College. Many of the students take college classes as a requirement for their CTE certification.

College Now courses include Introduction to Expository Writing, General Psychology, College Algebra and Trigonometry, Literacy and Propaganda, Critical Thinking, Principles of Accounting, and Topics in Biology. The courses offered change from semester to semester.

Business students at Queens Voc who major in web design or accounting, are required to participate in College Now. Accounting majors must take two semesters of college accounting. Web design majors need to participate in a College Connection course, which may involve a study of multimedia, video, or animation. To be accepted into a college connection course though, a student must first take and pass in College Now class.

One reason so many students volunteer to enroll in College

*continued on page 2*



**Mr. Gallagher uses library to teach research skills.**

## Library Re-Opens

by Syeda Ali

The school library re-opened at the start of the school year, after having been closed since April of last year because the school librarian, Mrs. Lewis, left on maternity leave.

Because of the school’s budget, no substitute for Mrs. Lewis was provided.

The library is open Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays, periods 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, and 9. On Thursdays and Fridays, the library is open periods 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, and 8. Under some circumstances, the library is closed during an “open” period if Mrs. Lewis has a research lesson to teach.

Students are welcome to visit the school library during their free periods, said Mrs. Lewis, but, they must remain in the library for the entire period. Students are not allowed to bring food or drinks into the library, nor are they allowed to chew gum, access E-mail, MySpace, chat rooms, or play computer games, and they must ask permission before printing.

Students can spend their time at the library using the four computers designated for school-related work, or they can read. “We have thousands of books for research,” Mrs. Lewis said, “We also have thousands of books for pleasurable reading.”

The school library has both a computer room and a research room. During Mrs. Lewis’ research lesson, the computer room that consists of 18 computers is used. Mrs. Lewis uses the reference room to obtain information for her research lessons. “The reference room has books on all subject areas,” Mrs. Lewis said.

Students can volunteer in the school library during their free periods. Business students can use their volunteer hours at the library toward their 60 hours work-based learning. “I am open to volunteers,” Mrs. Lewis said, “but they can’t come in randomly, they should be willing to work for the school year.”

Mrs. Lewis is awaiting new books and a new online database for research. An electronic book catalog is expected to be installed within two years, Mrs. Lewis said.

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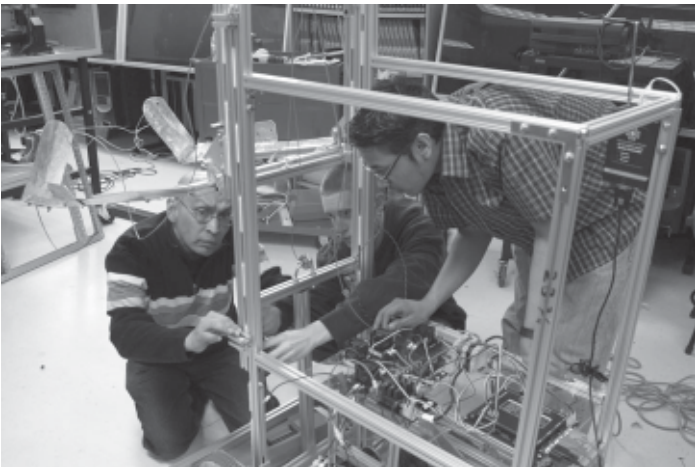
Now, is for the real college experience, said Cindy Bravo, a student majoring in electronics who is taking a course in general psychology this semester. “I like that I’m getting a feel for how college might be like when I go for real,” said Cindy. “And on top of that, I love that I’m getting free credits!” she said, referring to the dual credit system by which students earn high school credits and transferable college credits. Although the high school credits do not count toward graduation requirements, the credits can still be used as electives. The college credits can be transferred to most CUNY and SUNY schools. There have even been cases, Ms. Newman said, when she got private colleges to accept these credits as well.

After passing a College Now class, students can enroll in College Connection class, which is held in the spring. High school students in this program are taught alongside, and are generally treated just like, college students. The difference is that high school students are also helped by mentors once a week. Another program that became available to College Now students is a workshop on Saturdays to learn about how the political system works.

But College Now courses are not for everyone. Simranjeet Singh, a senior, signed up for College Algebra and Trigonometry in College Now, but later dropped the class. “The class was just not interesting enough for me,” he said. “The teacher taught too fast, took little time to explain, and couldn’t keep my attention.” Ms. Newman cautions that students should consult with her before dropping any courses. Dropping the class through any other means might result in an “F” instead of a “drop.”

To enroll in College Now, students should have scored above 75 on their math and English Regents. Students who do not meet the requirements can take gateway courses such as Ms. Erkin’s Math A class. Even if scores are not a problem, the number of seats available may be. There is a limit of 45 students per class. Registration has not begun yet but the spring semester is right around the corner.

These college classes, as Ms. Newman explained, can help a student get a foot into college while still in high school. “These classes are great because of all the extra things you can get from taking them,” said Cindy. Even Simranjeet has started another College Now course. All it takes is a trip to room 413.



*Mr. Ali and Robotics Club members fine-tune robot*

## Robotics Club Readies for Competition

by Karolina Gorna

The ball goes up, the lever comes down, and the robot goes around. The Robotics Club spends several months creating a robot for the US First Robotics Competition, which challenges teams from all over the nation to create a robot that is capable of performing an assigned task.

The competition previously challenged teams to develop a robot that would lift a ball, carry it over a post, and complete a lap around the course.

Queens Voc has participated in this competition every year since 2005. Last year Queens Voc placed 42 out of 65 teams in the competition.

The competition is held at Jacob K. Javits Convention Center and this year will take place from Friday, March 6, to Sunday, March 8.

The Robotics Club allows students to incorporate what they learn in class to produce a functional robot. Mr. Ali, the advisor, said the club gets students involved in working with new technology.

The club consists of five teams design, building, programming, spirit, and website management, that work together to prepare for the robotics competition.

The design team designs the robot and the build team constructs it. “It gives us an opportunity to experience the technical field, and how it would be in the real world,” Brian Green, a senior in computer technology said. The programming team does not get involved until the robot is built.

The programmers write commands for the robot in the program Easy C Pro so that it will function as commanded.

The spirit team helps represent Queens Voc as the club competes with schools from all over the nation. This team creates buttons, fliers, stickers, and designs t-shirts to show pride in the school’s Robotics Club. David Guilfuchi, a senior from the club said “We need

supporters for the competition to help represent the school.”

The website management team is in charge of keeping all the teams updated with rules and regulations for the competition. They are responsible for updating teammates and networking with robotics clubs from other schools.

The Robotics Club has several returning members. Peter Beninati, David Guilfuchi, Mingmar Sherpa, and Brian Green have returned, and are sharing their knowledge with the club’s rookies. Mr. Ali made Peter and David the club leaders. “We got a feel for the competition and what’s required to be a successful team,” said Peter Beninati.

Junior Michael Duran, a rookie club member, said, “It was the hands on experience, that I’d be involved with technology, and my interest in electronics and mechanics,” that made him want to join.

The club is open to students of all shops. There are no requirements to join except that members are expected to be dedicated and be willing to spend time to contribute to the club. “All we ask for is interest in the club and for students to be responsible people,” said Peter.

Peter and David decide on which team a student joining will work, depending on their strengths and weaknesses. The leaders will also get input from Mrs. Maraj, formerly known as Ms. Ramdeo.

“The skills acquired from the Robotics Club will give students an idea of how it would be to work in a technical field where there are time restrictions,” said senior Simranjeet Singh, an electronics major.

**Why *not*  
play with  
robots?**

## Enterprising Students run DCW

by Michelle Cotrina

Earlier this September, Diverse City Wear (DCW), Queens Voc’s Virtual Enterprise program, placed 2nd out of 28 other schools in the “Worldwide Trade Show.”

Placing second is a big turnaround for this simulated business. “Last year wasn’t a great year for us because we had high expectations and very little ambition. However, now, we all have built our confidence and are hungrier to compete in these competitions,” said Justin “Jay” Kroon, the former CEO of Diverse City Wear.

Justin recently gave up the job as CEO, which then went to senior George Serna. “I think that I can meet the standards” of a good leader, said George.

“For this year to be a success for the class it has to end it with

a ‘big bang’ by selling the highest numbers of clothes at the annual trade show to other schools and companies, and winning 1st place in both the citywide and national business plan competitions,” said Cynthia Rojas vice president of the accounting department. “We expect this to be a big success, we want our booth, which we set up that displays our clothes, to look original so it can stand out to the audience,” she said.

Queens Voc’s VE program is receiving help from Michael C. Finn, a real family business which will help DCW perform better in, and perhaps even win some of the upcoming competitions.

“I expect this year we will reach the citywide finals,” said Mr. Mugan, “because we have the strongest virtual enterprise class ever.”



*Mr. Mugan and his VE executives: They're all business.*

## Changes *Never* Change

by Gregg Nana

This year alone approximately 1,000 program changes were made to students’ schedules.

Each September, many Queens Voc students have programs that are missing classes they need and or have extra classes they don’t need.

“Our school has a very complicated program because it is a CTE school” with multiple shop periods, said Mr. Davidson, the program chairperson. Programs must be made around the students’ shop classes.

Programs start being developed by Queens Voc’s guidance counselors in April and are finalized at the end of August, said Mr. Davidson, who does not work during the summer. Thomas A. Edison Vocational and Technical High School, like Queens Voc, is a CTE school. Unlike Queens Voc, according to Ms. Denise Arevalo, Edison’s program chairperson, the school works on the programs during the summer. Yet, Edison still has some problems with the

programs. She said that Edison takes about a month to fix all the student programs.

There are many reasons why programs have holes and classes missing, and need to be changed. Computers in Queens Voc are able to program 1,000 students with all their classes, explained Mr. Davidson. What the computer can’t do Mr. Davidson does by hand, leaving him with 250 students with holes or missing classes. Programs for the upcoming year are based on the fifth marking period report card grades, said Mr. Davidson; numerous students fail the fifth marking period yet pass for the year, and vice versa. Program changes can also be caused when new courses are added or changes in budget affect class sizes. Further, program changes can be generated for students: who failed a class in June, but passed it in summer school; requested a program change because they weren’t happy with their program; were placed in a wrong class because of computer programming; switched majors; and students who received a grade change.

# Elite Salon Open for Business

by Jeslenny Grullon

From a wash and set to a simple manicure, the students of the Elite Salon have the skills it takes to satisfy any customer. Queens Voc cosmetology seniors improve their skills by working on actual clientele at the salon. “I feel like I know what I’m doing and I feel comfortable know that I’m satisfying a customer,” said Marisol Marcano, a senior cosmo student. Kathy Matos, another senior cosmo student, said that she prefers working on actual people because she gets more inspired to do a good job. “Students in the Elite Salon gain confidence as well as hands-on experience and professionalism,” said Mrs. Quartuccio. Working on clients also helps the cosmo seniors reach 1000 hours needed to obtain their professional license. Senior cosmo student



Senior cosmo student, Dalisa Batsita, hard at work.

Tiffany Galimi says that cosmetology is something she can look forward to doing after leaving Queens Voc. Ms. Lingstuy, a cosmo teacher, said that “The Elite Salon will help students obtain a real career after high school.” The Elite Salon, located in room 334, is open from Tuesday to Friday, periods 1-3 and 6-8 to outside customers, who must be

at least 18 years old. “Outside clients are encouraged,” Mrs. Quartuccio said. Queens Voc students with a free period are welcome on Fridays. The Elite Salon offers its services for “reasonable prices,” said Ms. Lingstuy. This year they have added a special service: Fancy Do’s, which provides hairstyles for special events.

## The Elite Salon Price List

Shapes and Styles		Highlights	
Shampoo and Blow Dry	\$4	Foil (1/2 head)	\$20
Long hair	\$2 extra	Foil (whole head)	\$40
Flat Iron	\$3 extra	Cap (1/2 head)	\$15
Thermal Curls	\$3 extra	Cap (whole head)	\$20
Shampoo and Cut	\$5	<b>Fancy Fingers</b>	
Shape Up	\$3	Basic Manicure	\$2
<b>Twists and Twirls</b>		French Manicure	\$3
Braid (1/2 head)	\$5	Acrylics	\$12
Braid (whole head)	\$10	Paraffin (Friday only)	\$2
Weaves	\$10+	<b>Fresh Faces</b>	
<b>Curls and Straights</b>		Basic facial	\$3
Curly Perm	\$30	(inc. cleansing, steaming and exfoliation)	
Body Wave	\$30	Make-up Application	\$3
Relaxer	\$15	<b>Hair Be Gone</b>	
(Inc. blow dry or roller set)		Eyebrow Waxing	\$3
<b>Hair Coloring</b>		Eyebrow Tweezing	\$2
Single process	\$10	<b>Fancy Do’s</b> Specialty hairstyles for Weddings, parties, proms	
		\$10+	

## The Most Important Meal: BBQ for classes that handed in lunch forms



Mr. Vega: serves students in many ways!

by Jinet Collado

# Class of '09, Time to Shine

by Justin Kroon

“The best part of this year will be walking at graduation, because I will know that I’ve finally made it,” said Alexandra Murcia, a senior who majors in business. This is a common goal shared by members of the senior class of 2009, but there is a long journey before the caps and gowns of graduation. Popular among seniors are the senior trip, senior luncheon, and the prom. And according to Mr. Vega, the senior advisor, “This year’s seniors are very



Mr. Vega and leadership students discuss Food Festival.

motivated. We have the opportunity to make this the biggest graduating class in Queens Voc history.” One indicator of this year’s level of motivation was the election of senior officers. Last year, all four senior officer positions were unopposed, this year, only two positions were. At the start of this year, a large number of

students pooled in Mr. Vega’s office, in hopes of becoming senior officers. Luis Flores, Justin Kroon, and Ivana Nunez ran for senior class president, and Jessica DeLaRosa and Joana Garcia ran for vice-president. The treasurer and secretary positions went unopposed. “This election was very big,” said Luis Azpuru, a senior business major. “I know that my group of friends and I were very active in getting our classmates to vote.” Everyone from gym teachers to school safety agents

discussed the senior elections. Signs were even put up mocking the candidates. “Vote for Bill Cosby” signs joined the candidates’ promotional signs on the hallway walls. Of 234 seniors eligible to vote, 163 voted. That is almost 70% of the senior class that voted. When the votes were counted, Ivana Nuñez had been elected president, and Joana

Garcia was elected vice-president. Joel Peña took the treasurer’s position, and Jeslenny Grullon became secretary. According to Joel, “The other candidates weren’t bad, I just believe that Ivana and Joana had more experience with QV. They’ve been around Vega for three years, so they know the routine and how things work. That’s why I voted for them.” “It’s good that people trust me to be their VP. I’m ready to take the challenge,” said Vice-President Joanna Garcia, “because I know with a great gift comes great responsibility, and I’m prepared to do so.” Now that the senior officers have been elected, Mr. Vega’s leadership students, mainly seniors, have been working hard to plan various activities. The first step is a senior food festival, on Tuesday, Nov. 25, to raise money and lower the cost for senior trip and prom. There are more events to be arranged. Ivana Nuñez is ready to get the seniors motivated to participate in senior activities. Mrs. Vittor said, “though it is hard to say at the start of the year, I have an incredible belief that it’s going to be a great year this year, first, Queens Voc won the Ad Competition, and we will do even more before this year is over.” Seniors interested in helping out or who have questions regarding senior activities can stop by room 143 for more information.

Eighty percent of the school’s students handed in their lunch forms so far this year. It seems as though administrators and teachers at Queens Voc have been determined to get the students’ lunch forms no matter what. These forms help determine which students receive free or reduced price lunch. The lunch forms can also help the school receive more funding. During the construction of the addition at Queens Voc, the city decided that the school’s students would receive free lunch. When the construction was completed in 2005, the school was then required to use lunch forms. The lunch forms, according to Mr. Mayer, are used to determine who is eligible to get free or reduced price lunch. Many factors, including the parents’ income and the number of people in each household, help determine the students who get free or reduced price lunch. The greater the number of children who bring in lunch forms, the better the chances are that the school will receive additional funds.

Although the process of collecting and completing the lunch forms was rather long and difficult, it’s a process that benefits many. “It always gives parents peace of mind, when they know that their children are eating,” said Mr. Mayer. On Friday, Oct. 17, as a prize for the smaller learning communities, Mr. Vega, the coordinator of student activities, organized a BBQ for all the CTE classes whose students brought in their lunch forms. Two-hundred and thirty-two students attended the BBQ. The event was over four periods because of the number of students who attended. Ms. Mendez-Guzman, Mr. McCarthy, Mr. Abreu, and Mr. David, along with their classes, attended the BBQ periods five and six. Mr. Maloney, Mrs. D’Onofrio, Mr. Rivera, Mrs. Torres, and Mrs. Quartuccio, along with their classes, attended the BBQ periods seven and eight. According to junior, Luis Espinoza, “during the BBQ students and their teachers had a great time dancing, and enjoying the food.”

# New Year, Fresh Faces

## School hires nearly a dozen new teachers

by Joel Pena

The new school year has again brought in new teachers. It's not always easy starting in a new environment, not knowing how things will unfold throughout the year. As this new staff will soon see, confidence and determination are key when dealing with a huge transition.

This year, Queens Voc has a variety of new teachers. We have 11 new members joining the faculty, and one teacher, Mr. Ali, has been promoted to assistant principal. The new teachers are:

Ms. Charalambous, Ms. Kim, Ms. Lingstuyt, Mr. N'Kosi, Ms. Rejalaga, Ms. Ridge, Mr. Rivera, Ms. Ruiz, Ms. Sartori, and Ms. Torres. The new AP is Ms. Ocampo.

Mr. Ali, who has been teaching in Queens Voc for 15 years, has been promoted to assistant principal (AP) for trade and technology. "I like this position because I believe I can make some changes in the students' curriculum," said Mr. Ali. In the past four years, Mr. Ali has earned his masters degree in Information and Technology at Touro College. He has also been attending a program called School Building and Leadership at the College of Saint Rose to obtain his administration license. His new role in Queens Voc has given him a new-found respect from students and staff, he said.

After Mr. Rivera retirement, Queens Voc has a new AP for Pupil Personnel Service and her name is Ms. Ocampo. Before coming to Queens Voc, she worked at Grover Cleveland for nine years. During her years in Grover Cleveland, she taught social studies, Advance Placement Psychology, College Now classes. She was also coordinator of student activities (COSA) for two years.

As the new AP, Ms. Ocampo is in charge of helping the students and supervising guidance counselors and social workers. "So far, there has been a lot of paperwork involved, but I'm excited to be part of a wonderfully united school and I hope to meet all 1200 students," said Ms. Ocampo, who said she wants to help raise the school's graduation rate of 58%.

Queens Voc has a teacher who returned to our school this year. In 1998, Ms. Lingstuyt left Queens Voc because of seniority bumping, and took an open position at Canarsie High School. She taught math there for seven years and returned to

Queens Voc this year, teaching freshmen and senior cosmetology classes. Ms. Lingstuyt noticed a change at Queens Voc when she got back. "The students are the same, but not as motivated as before," she said. Ms. Lingstuyt believes that the academics in our school are not respected.

Ms. Kim taught tenth and eleventh grade English at Vavatenina High School in Madagascar, before starting at Queens Voc, where she now teaches English literature to ESL and freshmen students. She describes this experience to be a huge change for her so far because the culture and the students are so diverse. "The students make me a better person," said Ms. Kim. She believes that all students help her in some way because they're all special in their own way.

Ms. Charalambous taught at I.S.126 in Astoria for three years before coming to Queens Voc. She is now teaching Integrated Algebra to freshmen. She said that teaching in high school is much easier because of the maturity level of her students. "There is also a good support system from the administration," said Ms. Charalambous. She stated that the staff and students have made her feel welcome.

The business field seems difficult to comprehend for many people, but for Ms. Ruiz, it's a piece of cake. Ms. Ruiz taught business and computer graphics at Grace Dodge High School in the Bronx for two years. This year, she is teaching ninth grade Intro to Graphics, tenth grade Graphic Arts, and twelfth grade Web Design. She said there should be more communication amongst the teachers for the benefit of the students. "I like the idea of having daily SLC meetings because it allows me to share my ideas with my colleagues," said Ms. Ruiz.

Ms. Rejalaga is a teacher whose life revolves around school because she just graduated--from Queens College in May 2008. She teaches ninth and eleventh grade English in Queens Voc. "It's been tough, but I learn something new about myself and my students everyday," said Ms. Rejalaga. She said that she has learn to become more patient with her students because she understands that everyone learns at a different pace.

Ms. Ridge graduated from Roger Williams College in Rhode Island. "It's been a difficult transition because I just graduated from college," said

Ms. Ridge. Ms. Ridge teaches ninth grade English and tenth grade Global History. She said she likes the different goal-oriented majors but dislikes the fact that classes are too big.

Ms. Torres has a lot of experience with students because she has been teaching for 20 years. She taught Cosmetology at Sarah J. Hale High School (now Brooklyn High School) for ten years and at Maxwell High School for two years. The most recent school she worked in was Campus Magnet High School, but she wasn't teaching, she was actually working security for the administration. After working for five years in the administration, she came to Queens Voc, where she now teaches ninth grade cosmetology.

The SSBT has a new plumbing teacher this year and his name is Mr. Rivera. He teaches plumbing to the eleventh and twelfth grade. Mr. Rivera also taught plumbing for a year to juniors in Alfred Smith High School in the Bronx. "The students' mentality and attitude is different in Queens Voc," said Mr. Rivera. He believes that students' personalities in Queens Voc differ from the students in Alfred Smith High School.

"The students want to do the right thing," said Mr. N'Kosi, a new teacher in Queens Voc. He said that the Queens Voc has been a positive experience for him so far. He teaches Career and Financial Management to tenth graders. Mr. N'Kosi has also taught technology in I.S.192 in the Bronx, for one year. He said that I.S.192 was different from Queens Voc because of the age difference and maturity level.

Coming from a huge corporation to Queens Voc is a huge transition and that is what Ms. Sartori had to go through. Ms. Sartori teaches English to ESL tenth and eleventh graders. She also taught English at LIC this past summer. Before teaching, Ms. Sartori worked for Lehman Brothers as an event planner for two years. "It's been a rough start but everyday gets more interesting and I learn something new," she said. She said that teaching is very different from the corporate world because teaching doesn't get boring. Ms. Sartori is now attending Queens College to obtain a masters degree in Special Education.

**Voc Voice  
welcomes our new  
staff members**



**Auditorium undergoes renovation.**

## Make Way For Broadway

by Clarissa Tse

Queens Voc's auditorium is being renovated with new seating, lighting, a new, larger stage and a new sound system, according to Ms. Vittor, Queens Voc principal. When it's completed, the nearly 80-year old auditorium will be a state-of-the-art complex for student activities.

Originally planned to be completed by April 2009, the construction started two months late, Ms. Vittor said. It is likely the auditorium renovations will not be completed before June. According to Ms. Vittor, construction workers are working weekends and holidays to make up for the lost time.

Before the addition opened in 2005, the auditorium was used as both a cafeteria and auditorium.

Because of renovations, the school most likely will not be able to have a talent show this school year, and seniors may not be able to practice in Queens Voc for graduation.

Sophomore Kathleen Borba said the construction is great

news. "It's kind of cool that it's getting fixed. Everything in the auditorium was really old," Kathleen said. "Hopefully it'll look better when the construction is finished so we can have our assemblies back in the auditorium rather than the cafeteria or gym."

Sophomore Fernanda Maria Della Croce is disappointed by the hindering of Queens Voc's talent show. "I guess the fact that the auditorium is under construction is a bad thing because we're not going to have shows this year. The newbies like myself will have to wait one more year, if not more," she said.

When renovations are finished, assemblies will be held in a new and improved surrounding. Ms. Vittor hopes that students will then want to take part in school activities in the auditorium. "We're hoping for the best out of this new auditorium," said Ms. Vittor.

As for the talent show, Mr. Vega said there is a possibility of Queens Voc using the auditorium of PS 199, located on 39-20 48th street which is not far from Queens Voc.

## Showin' Skills USA

by John Florido

On the first of April, 8 to 12 Queens Voc students will go to Syracuse, NY, to represent the school in the Skills USA competition.

"Skills USA is a national organization, mainly for high school students, to promote skills for the workforce and gives students the opportunity to meet workers from their field," said Mr. Cintron, the Skills USA advisor. Students who place in the top three in their state are awarded prizes. Among these prizes are scholarships, shop-related tools, and saving bonds. Winners also represent their state in the national competition.

Participants will be chosen beginning this month. Selected students are to be skilled in their shop class, be passing all their classes, have good attendance, and have a recommendation from their shop teacher.

Students who compete must also be members of Skills USA.

The students who attended last year along with Mr. Cintron and Mr. Rivera, a plumbing teacher, took a six-hour bus ride to the three day/two night competition. The night they arrived, they attended an opening ceremony, then were tested on their knowledge in their respective field. The competitions began at 8 the next morning and ended about 3pm. On the final day was an awards ceremony. Students who placed in the top three received their prizes and trophies. David Bermudez, an electrical installation student, placed third in the motor control competition. He was the only student in Queens Voc to place in the top three.

Students who would like to find out more about Skills USA can speak with Mr. Cintron or visit the Skills USA website at [www.skillsusa.org](http://www.skillsusa.org).

# Get Involved !

## School Clubs & Activites

by Jeslenny Grullon

Queens Voc offers a variety of clubs and activities. While there has been a decrease in the number of clubs and activities offered in the past five years, some new activities and clubs have been added. Below is a list of the school’s clubs and activities along with their advisers.

### Clubs

Black History Month  
Chess Club  
College Now  
Constitution Contest  
Cosmo Clinic

Debate Team  
FBLA  
Mock Trial Team  
Mouse Squad  
Poetry Slam  
Robotics Club  
School Newspaper  
Senior Class  
Senior Yearbook  
Skills USA  
SPARK  
Student Organization  
VICA  
Work Based Learning /  
LEARN

### Sports

Boys’ Basketball  
Boys’ Baseball  
Boys’ Bowling  
Boys’ Soccer  
Boys’ JV Basketball  
Boys’ JV Baseball  
Co-Ed Handball  
Co-Ed Wrestling  
Girls’ Basketball  
Girls’ Bowling  
Girls’ Softball  
Girls’ Volleyball

### Advisors

Mrs. Himmel  
Mr. Papadopol  
Mrs. Newman  
Mr. Davidson  
Mrs. Quartuccio /  
Ms. Lingstuyl  
Mr. Davidson  
Ms. Mitchell  
Mr. Davidson  
Mr. Cintron  
Mrs. Himmel  
Mr. Ali  
Mr. Schimenz  
Mr. Vega  
Mr. Stefanidis / Ms. DeCarlo  
Mr. Cintron  
Ms. Kurnitz  
Mr. Vega  
Mr. Cintron  
Ms. Spallone

### Coach

Mr. Maloney  
Mr. Schimenz  
Mr. Devaux  
Mr. Ali  
Mr. Garofano  
Mr. Cintron  
Mr. Maloney  
Mr. Zambrotta  
Mr. Devaux  
Mr. Garofano  
Mr. Boyle  
Mr. Boyle



## Why We’re Locked Out of the Bathrooms

by Josue Manzanares

Of all the bathrooms in this school of nearly 1200 students, there are only two bathrooms open: one for boys and one open for girls.

There are twelve new bathrooms in the school, six for boys and six for girls. These new bathrooms are in addition to the bathrooms in the old building. I

Students are only allowed to use the two bathrooms on the first floor near the main desk.

As soon as the new section of the building was opened in September 2005, the bathrooms were vandalized. “The school had no other recourse but to shut down all the bathrooms to cut down on the vandalism,” said Mr. Abreu, who was a dean at the time. “Students smashed windows, clogged toilets with toilet paper, damaged the vents on the doors, scratched the glass mirrors, broke the faucets and a fire was lit in the second

floor bathroom garbage bin,” Mr. Abreu said.

“The school is made up of two kinds of students, students who respect and students who don’t respect” said Mr. Mendez, a current dean. The school simply doesn’t have enough School Safety Agents (SSAs) or deans to watch every single bathroom on every single floor, he said, “too much to keep an eye on, when you have too many kids disrespecting the facility. Students aren’t taking care of the bathrooms the way they are supposed to.” Having one bathroom to use is working so they are going to keep it that way,” said Mr. Mendez.

It’s “easier to monitor,” said Mr. Garofano, another dean. “If you have too many bathrooms open with kids cutting class and doing whatever they want, then there won’t be any control. When the bathrooms were opened, certain kids thought it would be a smart idea to hide in

the bathrooms and this is another reason why they shouldn’t be opened back up,” added Mr. Garofano.

“Mirrors were broken and faucets were damaged frequently and all of the custodial budget money was being spent to replace parts because kids kept breaking them,” said Mr. Rodriguez. “What’s going to happen when you open up the other ones?” he asked.

Instead of waiting around for something to change, Mr. Rodriguez believes that the whole student body should get together to stop the vandalism and get some of the bathrooms opened up again.

“If students can keep the bathrooms clean and safe, and with no vandalism and with no problems for a minimum of three months, then students will get the privilege of having the bathrooms opened up once



again,” Mr. Rodriguez suggested as one possible proposal.

Mr. Rodriguez believes that first students have to “give to get” and “show some effort” if they really want this done. “If students can get the kids who cause all the trouble to stop, this would be a positive first step to showing the school that the students deserve the rest of the bathrooms opened,” concluded Mr. Rodriguez.

## Calendar of Events

by Josue Manzanares

**Nov. 26-** Second marking period ends

**Nov. 27 and 28-** Thanksgiving recess, schools closed

**Dec.** [date not given] - Three Saturdays will be used for girls skills development to prepare for softball season in the spring at Queens College (See Mr. Boyle)  
**Dec.** [date not given] - Students check bulletin board in front of room 143 to check which Regents they are taking

**Dec. 1-** Boys’ wrestling team @ HS of Applied Communication  
**Dec. 2-** Girls’ basketball @ HS for Construction

**Dec. 3-** Boys’ varsity basketball @ Aviation HS

**Dec. 5-** Boys’ varsity basketball @ Pathways College Prep

**Dec. 6-** SAT reasoning and subject test (Fee waivers available upon request for any upcoming SAT or ACT. See Ms. Talley for more information in room 152)

**Dec. 8-** Boys’ varsity basketball @ Academy of American Studies

**Dec. 9-** Girls’ basketball vs Baccalaureate School for Global Ed

**Dec. 10-** Boys’ varsity basketball vs Info Tech  
Boys’ JV basketball @ Lane

**Dec. 12-** Boys’ varsity basketball vs Queens HS of Teaching

Boys’ JV basketball vs Flushing  
**Dec. 13-** ACT

Boys’ wrestling @ Leon M. Goldstein HS For Science

**Dec. 15-** Boys’ varsity basketball vs Wagner HS

Boys’ JV basketball @ Bryant

**Dec. 16-** Girls’ basketball vs Frank Sinatra

**Dec. 17-** Boys’ varsity basketball vs Baccalaureate School for Global Ed

**Dec. 18-** Girls’ basketball vs Grover Cleveland

**Dec. 19-** Holiday dance  
Boys’ varsity basketball @ Townsend Harris

**Dec. 22-** Girls’ basketball @ Academy of American Studies  
Boys’ wrestling team vs Info Tech

**Dec. 23-** Last day of classes

**Dec. 24-** Winter recess begins

**Dec. 26-** Last day to register for January 24 SAT (\*Seniors: last chance to take SAT so that it can be submitted to colleges if you are planning to start college next fall)

**Dec. 31-** Last day to submit Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) online

**January 5-** School resumes. Regents review sessions begin at Queens Voc.

Boys’ varsity basketball @ HS For Construction

Boys’ JV basketball vs Forest Hills

**January 6-** Last day to register for February 7 ACT

Chemistry, Physics and Earth Science make up lab #1 in room 203 and Living Environment make up lab #1 in room 211 (See Mr. Gorman)

Girls’ basketball @ Info Tech

**January 7-** Chemistry, Physics and Earth Science make up lab #1 in room 203 and Living Environment make up lab #1 in room 211 (See Mr. Gorman)

Boys’ varsity basketball vs Newcomers

Boys’ JV basketball @ Newtown

**January 8-** Honor Society  
Girls’ basketball @ Newcomers

**January 9-** Boys’ varsity basketball vs HS For Law Enforcement & Public Safety

Boys’ JV basketball @ Grover Cleveland

**January 10-** Boys’ wrestling vs Brooklyn International

**January 12-** Boys’ varsity basketball vs Aviation HS

Boys’ basketball @ Aviation

Boys’ wrestling vs Wagner

**January 13-** Chemistry, Physics and Earth Science make up lab #2 will be given in room 203 and Living Environment make up lab #2 will be given in room 211 (See Mr. Gorman)

Girls’ basketball vs HS for Construction

**January 14-** Chemistry, Physics and Earth Science make up lab #2 will be given in room 203 and Living Environment make up lab #2 will be given in room 211 (See Mr. Gorman),

Boys’ varsity basketball vs Academy of American Studies

Boys’ JV basketball @ Flushing

**January 15-** Girls’ basketball @ Wagner

**January 17-** Boys’ wrestling vs Bathgate Educational Complex

**January 19-** Martin Luther King Jr. Day – Schools closed

Esteban Soler’s birthday

**January 20 and 21-** Chemistry, Physics and Earth Science make up lab #3 will be given in room 203 and Living Environment make up lab #3 will be given in room 211 (See Mr. Gorman)

**January 24-** SAT reasoning and subject test

**January 27-** Regents Exams Begin

# Ms. Basirico & the Building Trades

by Shirley Rodriguez

Some students know Ms. Basirico as a cosmetology teacher and college advisor. Not anymore.

At the start of the new year, Ms. Gurka’s departure to an alternative school left open the position of guidance counselor for the School of Skills and Building Trades (SSBT). Ms. Basirico took the job.

The transition wasn’t difficult for her, she said. As she started her first year as a guidance counselor she found “The support was overwhelming.” Ms. Basirico said she “knew the students, teachers, and the school environment, which has allowed a smooth transition

from teaching to guidance counseling.”

Ms. Basirico has no regrets leaving teaching behind. Although cosmetology has long been a part of her life, she said she misses it, “but I would not return to teaching and give up the ability to focus on one student at a time.”

Ms. Basirico hopes to help students understand the importance and relationship between their academic and CTE classes.

Ms. Basirico is working hard and staying positive, she said. “So far it’s wonderful and I’m enthusiastic; a little overwhelmed but I’m confident that I’ll definitely enjoy it as time passes.”

# College Advisor a Full-Time Job

by Luis Flores

Graduation is just seven months away and many seniors are thinking about which colleges they would like to attend.

In September, Ms. Basirico became the guidance counselor for SSBT. But no sooner was Ms. Basirico out as college advisor, when Ms. Talley showed up to take the job and make it a full-time role.

Ms. Talley said she is enthusiastic to be working with the students at Queens Voc and has high expectations for the senior class. She was previously a guidance counselor at Beach

Channel High School. “This position isn’t really new to me because as a guidance counselor I always advised students and helped answer any questions concerning their school life,” Ms. Talley said.

Ms. Talley’s main objective is to encourage more students to apply for college and plans to keep in close contact with all seniors and to give out as much information as possible. “Telling students about applications, process deadlines, college fairs, fee waivers, and scholarship opportunities is how I’ll stay in touch with the students and keep them on the right track to college,” she said.



Ms. Talley & Ms. Basirico

“I chose to work for New York City because I love working with children, especially teenagers. Teenagers in high school slowly begin to move into the stage of adulthood and it is great being able to guide them in making life choices,” said Ms.Talley.

Mitchelle Vega, a senior majoring in cosmetology, has already visited Ms. Talley’s office in room 151C, several times. “Every time I have gone to see Ms. Talley she has different material for the students,” Mitchell said. “When I first spoke to Ms. Talley, I explained that I’m interested in pursuing a career in education. The very next day I went back to her office and she informed me of upcoming open houses at schools known for their education programs,” Mitchell said. The cosmo student said she plans to visit Ms. Talley once a week so that she doesn’t miss out on any scholarship opportunities or information on upcoming open houses.

“Attending college is very important because a degree helps open many doors to accomplishing your goals and dreams. Obtaining a college degree is the key to earning financial success,” Ms. Talley said.

# Student Organization Plans Active Year

by Monica Tito

Being part of the Student Organization (SO), not only allows students to use lockers, but it provides other benefits, such as: reduced costs for SO trips throughout the year, such as to NY Knicks games and Medieval Times, and entry to the school gym for home games and to other school events.

There are about 250 SO members, but this number is likely to increase throughout the year.

The cost of becoming an SO member is now \$3, unlike last year, when the price was \$7. The price was reduced because school t-shirts are no longer given out to SO members. “Students didn’t care about getting the t-shirts,” Mr. Vega, the SO coordinator, said, “because all they wanted was to get a locker.”

Some SO members participated in the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk, on Sunday, October 19. The 6-mile walk started on Queens Blvd., in Kew Gardens and ended in Rego Park, near Sears. Before the walk, students sought sponsors to help raise money for the walk. Queens Voc students raised \$1,281. Fifteen Queens Voc students participated: Lorena Bonilla, Dalenis Carabello, Jinet Collado, Jessica Delarosa, Luis Flores, Joana Garcia, Laura Gonzalez, Jeslenny Grullon, Yvonne Johnson, Sandy Martin, Ivana Nuñez, Joel Peña, Julissa Perez, Carla Puc, and Jossie Vaca. They were accompanied by Mr. McDonald and Mr. Vega.

Jossie Vaca said the walk as fun. “Even though it was cold that day, students managed to walk the six miles for a good cause, with laughter and joy,” she said.

The annual Honor Roll trip is still being planned. Students who attained an average of 85 and higher in June will be able to attend. Mr. Vega is also planning an ice-skating trip, and thinking about whether to make it an SO or Honor Roll trip, since it has become a “tradition” for students at Queens Voc to go ice-skating every year.

Students can expect more trips and activities later on this year. “So far, students want to plan a dance,” Mr. Vega said. This will most likely be during the holiday season, he said. To make that possible, students’ ideas and involvement are needed. Mr. Vega and the senior officers are in charge of planning any SO activities. But still, Mr. Vega said, he is open to any suggestions from other students. Students interested in joining the SO can see Mr. Vega in room 143 during their lunch period.

See Mr. Vega in room 143 to get involved in SO



# Guidance Counselors’ Schedule

by Beatriz Gonon

Counselor	Ms. Dattner	Mrs. Basirico	Mr. Holder	Mrs. Judge	Ms. Talley
Periods	SED	SSBT	SES	SCEET	College Advisor
1	Starts 8.30	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
2	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
3	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
4	Yes	Yes*	Yes	Yes	Yes
5	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
6	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
7	No	Yes	Yes	Yes**	No
8	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
9	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Ends 3.30
*Except Thursday      **Except Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday					

# Crackdown!

## Electronics and Hats Targeted

by David Beltran

In the past, Queens Voc students often got away with using electronic devices such as i-pods and cell phones and wearing hats in school.

Since the first day of this school year, a zero tolerance policy has been enforced regarding electronic devices in Queens Voc. While this zero tolerance policy is new to Queens Voc, it has been part of the Chancellor's regulations for years. This zero tolerance policy was not enforced because, according to Ms. Vittor, it was not a big problem, but Ms. Vittor said that students took advantage of the old, lenient policy. Over the summer, Ms. Vittor, Mr. Mayer, and other Queens Voc staff members met to discuss the policy. According to Ms. Vittor, most of the staff agreed that they should enforce a zero tolerance policy on electronics and hats.

The crackdown has been working, according to Ms. Vittor and Mr. Mayer. Senior Jose Ramirez, who brings a cell phone



**Now, fewer students wearing hats and using electronics.**

to school, says the transition was easy for him. "It wasn't hard since I just put my phone in my pocket and I haven't had any problems this year," he said. Fellow senior Brandon Carcano says he often forgot to take his headphones out when he entered the school, and although he now remembers more often, "It's still annoying to do it every day," he said.

Some parents also argue that children nowadays need cell phones to communicate in the case of an emergency. Not true, says, Ms. Vittor, "In the event of an emergency, a parent should call the school, and the school can easily find the student and give them the information they need."

The zero tolerance policy also pertains to hats. But Mr.

Mayer says that he understands that students wear hats especially now that the weather is cold. He also points out that students wearing hats is not a major problem in Queens Voc. "I couldn't agree more," said Mr. Garofano, dean and physical education teacher, adding, "Hats have always been a little problem." Regardless, Mr. Mayer says that a zero tolerance is still in place.

"This ban will hopefully last forever," said Ms. Vittor, citing the success the policy has been. "If the school is going to offer education, jobs, and training, then students have to take school seriously."

Students caught using electronic devices or wearing hats will be asked to hand them over, said Mr. Garofano. Once they are taken away, the electronic device or hat is handed over to Mr. Mayer, who will only return items that were taken away can only be returned from Mr. Mayer to a parent or guardian from, 10am to 1pm on Fridays.

# Principal's Message



QUEENS VOCATIONAL & TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

**Denise Vittor, Principal**

It is a great time to be part of the Queens Vocational & Technical HS community. Our CTE programs are stronger than ever, as we continue to get N.Y. State approval each year. We are moving in the right direction in our academics and our athletics, too. Each year, we reinvent ourselves and are better for it. As a matter of fact, check our latest progress report grade online – we have received a grade of "B". This means our students are performing well in class and on Regents exams, and our teachers are conducting rigorous classes.

Now we need to keep our focus on this year's achievement – we need to pass more classes, pass more tests, graduate more students. There is no time like the present to start working toward those goals. When we work toward the goals diligently, improvements happen and students achieve. So let's make a concerted effort to do our best and reach our potential!

Congratulations on our 2007-08 achievements – let's do even better in 2008-09.

Sincerely,  
Denise Vittor

## We Pledge to Make Daily Announcements

Commentary by Luis Flores

Morning announcements followed by our nation's Pledge of Allegiance is a daily routine in many schools throughout New York City. In Queens Voc, morning announcements are only heard Wednesdays through Fridays. As coordinator of student activities, Mr. Vega is in charge of making these announcements to the students and staff. "The reason we don't have announcements everyday is that I teach during third period on Mondays and Tuesdays, and therefore, I'm not available," Mr. Vega said. Mr. Vega said that he wouldn't mind sharing the responsibility with another staff member or even handing the job over completely.

Morning announcements should be conducted daily. One problem that comes from not having announcements every morning is that students and staff forget about certain events and deadlines. For high school students, there is a lot going on at once and it is often difficult to keep track of everything going on in school. Participation in activities such as Spirit Week,

and attendance at sports games would be better if we had a reminder each morning.

Another problem in not making announcements on a daily basis is that classes get interrupted throughout the school day. As a result, students and teachers are distracted more often from their work.

There are several ways this problem can be solved. In my junior high the principal was the person in charge of making the announcements every morning.

Within Queens Voc, a group of students is dedicated to making sure the school's many computers are running efficiently, and if they do malfunction, the Mouse Squad is there to get them up and running once again.

Mr. Cintron, who teaches computer technology to freshmen and juniors, coordinates the Mouse Squad. "The primary goal of the Mouse

Announcements are made from the main office and therefore would be easier for the principal or assistant principal to make them. Another solution could be having students or staff members make the announcements on Mondays and Tuesdays. Morning announcements made by a student might encourage their peers to pay closer attention.

Regardless, of the solution chosen, announcements are very informative and should be made each school day.

## Mouses or Mice:

### They're Good to have Around

by Christopher Gomez

Squad is to provide students with additional experience to what they are learning in class," said Mr. Cintron. Not only does the Mouse Squad aid students in gaining actual technician experience, it helps them acquire their CTE-endorsed diploma. The CTE-endorsed diploma requires 60 hours of work experience and students earn those hours working on Mouse Squad.

According to Mr. Cintron, Mouse Squad benefits not only

the participating students, but the school as a whole. "The Mouse Squad provides technical support for the school, for computers and computer equipment," he said. Without the Mouse Squad, the school would have a much harder time dealing with the technical problems, whether it is a printer that refuses to print, a computer that doesn't start, or a program that freezes up.

The Mouse Squad is active after school. Depending on the problem, they work individually or in teams to solve computer problems.

According to Mr. Cintron, to join Mouse Squad, a student must be enthusiastic, responsible, able to work well with others, willing to seek answers on his own, and have good academics.

Mouse Squad can only pay a small amount of students for their work, but if there are students that require hours for their CTE-endorsed diploma or are just purely interested in working with computers, they

can volunteer and work with the Mouse Squad.

The Mouse Squad is there to help the school run smoothly, but it is also there to help both the students and staff of Queens Voc with their computer problems. The students who have problems with their computer systems can request some diagnostics, which will figure out the problem with your computer system from Mouse Squad, and if possible, Mouse Squad will repair them.

The students who have been selected for this year's Mouse Squad are: Mujammil Ali, Sandro Balzora Jr., Jonathan Carvalho, John Florido, Karolina Gorna, Vinny Lam, Cesar Liang, Kunga Likchung, George Manolas, Eddy Mingki, David Rivera, Ricardo Rodriguez, Camilo Salazar, Jonathan Urena Volunteers: Juan Hernandez, Tulio Mesa



# POLICY ON CELL PHONES

Commentary by  
Gregg Nana

“Oh crap!” I hear a student yell as Mr. Garofano rounds the corner. The student realizes it’s too late to save his cell phone from Mr. Garofano’s hands. Once the dean has his hands out, the student reluctantly hands over the phone.

This has happened countless times in Queens Voc, and this year, the policy on cell phones has been more strictly enforced than ever.

The cell phone policy serves as a good rule in public schools across the city, but telling students not to bring cell phones to school is going overboard. Although cell phones are being misused in school by students, we need them. Accidents can happen; a student may trip and fall down the stairs. Other students see this but can’t dial 911 for help because they don’t have their cell phone. The students who see this

have to go and call for help, delaying aid to the student who tripped.

Students should be allowed to bring their cell phones to school but keep them in their book bags for emergencies.

In previous years, some teachers who caught students using cell phones in class would merrily take the phone until the end of class. Ms. Sharpe, a science teacher, would take the cell phones of various students (including me) and give them back when the bell rang. This year, however, teachers were told to confiscate cell phones or call a dean if students took them out in class.

Now, when a cell phone is confiscated, it is held until a parent or guardian comes to the school on a Friday to pick it up. This is absurd; our parents have to take a day off work and come to school to pick up the phone.

Students should be allowed to have their phones in school but only use them for emergencies.

## QV WEBSITE



Commentary by  
Dharvin Govindeisami

A website can be an informative resource, but Queens Voc’s website, however, isn’t very resourceful and doesn’t have much information. Most of the pages remain under construction.

This even hurts our recruitment efforts because prospective students can’t research the school to see if they’re interested in attending Queens Voc.

The website for Townsend Harris includes their school’s accomplishments, subjects, student services, and even college information. Aviation includes graduation requirements, courses, and the school’s admission process. Hillcrest includes information for parents, staff, and students. According to their website tracker, their site has been visited 11,360 times.

Queens Voc is an exceptional school, but the website needs

to be completed to promote that.

Currently, Mr. Garcia is in charge of the website, but as a busy teacher he can’t be blamed for neglecting the website. Mr. Garcia asks anyone who would like to help to see him in room 325.

“The school website has the potential to be a great tool for teachers and students,” Mr. Garcia said, “but it needs more resources, and I believe the staff and students of Queens Voc should be assigned to work with it, as it is a tremendous amount of work for one person.”

Mr. Garcia is unhappy that the website isn’t finished, and isn’t sure when it will be, because it’s time consuming to maintain, he said.

Please bring your school spirit your ideas, and your willingness to work, and visit Mr. Garcia. Queens Voc deserves an admirable to promote all the fine programs it has to offer.

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



*Why don't you talk to me anymore?*

## Good & Bad of Texting

Commentary by  
Tony Vu

Angela: im outside the school where r u?

Belina: on the 7. be there soon.

Angela: ok lmk wen ur close.

Belina: i had nothing to wear today! i jus wore w/e

Angela: me 2! Lol

Belina: its cold ima go into the school meet u on the 3rd fl by r lockers.

Angela: k cya soon.

The above text conversation between two students is an example of how many people communicate with each other nowadays.

We have incorporated technology into our daily lives; it’s something we’re used to. Surfing the internet, listening to MP3 players, calling and texting with cell phones, and watching movies in the car with portable DVD players are examples. Texting is a way to communicate, but it is also a problem for today’s generation.

Texting isn’t terrible; there are many ways texting benefits us. It saves time and, since we’re so busy in school and at jobs, we don’t have to interrupt people when we can discretely send them a text. Texting allows us to communicate with multiple people at once, and find out if friends are busy working, studying, or spending time with family. Even the principal of Queens Voc, Ms. Vittor, favors texting. “I think texting is a phenomenal tool, another way to stay in touch with one

another on a frequent basis,” she said.

Yes, texting has become a valuable and useful tool for our generation, but is it being over utilized? Mr. Mayer, assistant principal of organization and security, believes that “texting has become something impersonal.” What he means by “impersonal” is that people seem to avoid more personal contact such as face-to-face conversations with other people. People walk with others but rather than conversing, they walk together silently, texting others. In school, on the streets, or in the parks (if anyone even goes anymore), you’ll see people’s eyes fixated on a small cellular screen.

People have become detached from one another and don’t even seem to notice the degradation of interpersonal communication. Mr. Mayer wonders when was the last time anyone has taken the time to go straight to a friend’s house and knock on the door, even if it’s just to talk.

Texting is starting to jeopardize our vocabulary, and our reading, and writing skills. The codes of texting using one letter or the first letter in each word such as u, ily, ttyl, 1, lol, brb, <3, and many other abbreviations for texting are turning up in school and at work, and in letters and formal documents.

“Soon, employers will not search for skills within their field but will look for communication, literacy, and social skills in general,” said Ms. Vittor.

**Vocational Voice thanks the following  
2008 Queens Voc graduates:  
Juan De La Cruz  
Catherine Gomez  
Manny Portorreal  
Angel Tejada  
Daisy Vivar  
for sharing their expertise and for  
helping lay-out this edition.**

# Students' Most Embarrassing Moments

by Jeslenny Grullon

**Johnathan Alvarado**  
**Freshman**

“My most embarrassing moment was when my cousins stripped me naked and threw me out on the streets.”

**Steven Olmedo**  
**Freshman**

“My most embarrassing moment was when I peed on myself in kindergarten.”

**Angeliz Ramirez**  
**Freshman**

“My most embarrassing moment was when I fell down a flight of stairs in the train station in front of a lot of people.”

**Karla Garcia**  
**Freshman**

“I jumped out of the window for a stupid reason and ended up wearing a brace to school which I found so embarrassing.”

**Eric Rojas**  
**Sophomore**

“My most embarrassing moment was when my girlfriend slapped me across the face in the cafeteria.”

**Erick Cabello**  
**Sophomore**

“Every time my coach speaks to my teachers.”

**Vivian Deoliveira**  
**Sophomore**

“I like this guy for a very long time and my friend dared me to kiss him and I agreed. When I went to kiss him, he pulled away. I was so embarrassed I pulled him in and kissed him.”

**Thailee Hogan**  
**Sophomore**

“I walked into the wrong class one morning, singing.”

**Jeffrey Hernandez**  
**Junior**

“I saw someone in the train I thought I knew so I slapped him in the back and when he turned it was a different person.”

**Freddy Gomez**  
**Junior**

“When me and my friends were walking to the train station, my friend took my other friends hat and we all started to run away from him. But the owner of the hat grabbed me by my book bag and made me roll down the street in front of all my friends.”

**Geraldine Leibot**  
**Junior**

“I was walking by the McDonald’s parking lot and I

turned around to say hi to someone and by the time I turned around I walked into a pole.”

**Ashley Addonisio**  
**Junior**

“My most embarrassing moment was when I fell down the stairs in front of a guy I liked.”

**Hector Roche**  
**Senior**

“One day a teacher called my house so then the next day when I went into class my mom was in school.”

**Bryan Pena**  
**Senior**

“My most embarrassing moment was when I got caught mooning Mrs. Himmel.”

**Alexandria Lumpkins**  
**Senior**

“When I was in the third grade, I did a cartwheel into a split and my pants ripped.”

**Stephanie Pena**  
**Senior**

“It was raining in the morning one day and I was coming down the stairs in the train station and the steps were slippery. My friend was calling me and I couldn’t find my phone in my bag so I slipped down the stairs in search for my phone in front of a lot of people.”

## Tongue Twisters

compiled by David Beltran

Try saying these tongue twisters:

I wish to wish the wish you wish to wish, but if you wish the wish the witch wishes, I won’t wish the wish you wish to wish.

Toy boat. Toy boat. Toy boat.

Shy Shelly says she shall sew sheets.

Sam’s shop stocks short spotted socks.

Lesser leather never weathered wetter weather better.

Tim, the thin twin tinsmith.

My dame hath a lame tame crane.

# Places To Visit In New York

by Shirley Rodriguez

With the upcoming holiday season, there are many activities to participate in and places to visit right in our own city.

Thanksgiving in New York includes the annual Thanksgiving Day Parade, which started in 1924. The 82nd Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade is on Thursday, Nov. 27. The parade includes large balloons, dancers, school bands, and much more. The parade takes place in Manhattan, starting on 77th Street and proceeding down Broadway to 34th Street to Herald Square. Spectators can arrive as early as 6:30am.

Another holiday attraction is Rockefeller Center. There are tours of the NBC studios and Radio City. The “top of the rock,” is an observation deck on the 70th floor where for \$18 visitors can view the city skyline. Sunrises and sunsets are magnificent. There is also the ice-skating rink, which is now open. Each two-hour session is \$19.50 per adult and an additional \$9 for skate rental. During December, the plaza is the home of the largest Christmas tree in the city.

Radio City Music Hall is located on 6th Avenue between 50th and 51st Streets and is easy

to get to via the B, D, or F subway lines to Rockefeller Center. Radio City hosts the Christmas Spectacular, which runs through Dec. 10. Tickets start at \$75 and can be purchased at the door.

Another location not just for tourists is The Empire State Building, a national historic landmark. Since the 9/11 attacks, it is again the tallest building in NYC, and has an observation deck on the 86th floor. The observation deck is open 365 days a year, day and night, rain or shine. The cost of tickets is \$18.94 per adult.

Chelsea Piers, located on 23rd St & the Hudson River, offers sports activities such as bowling, hockey, and golf. For people on sport teams, there is a new training program named Blue Streak, made up of weekly programs for high school athletes. The programs host sport-specific training to improve skills for those in soccer, and more. High school teams can participate too.

Times Square has many places for families to visit. Madame Tussauds, a wax museum located on 42nd Street, between 7th and 8th Avenues, opens at 10am, year round. Tickets are \$35 for adults.

Bodies the Exhibition, located on Fulton Street in Manhattan,

features actual human specimens and allows access usually reserved to medical professionals for viewers to better understand how the body works. Adults are charged \$26.50 for admission.

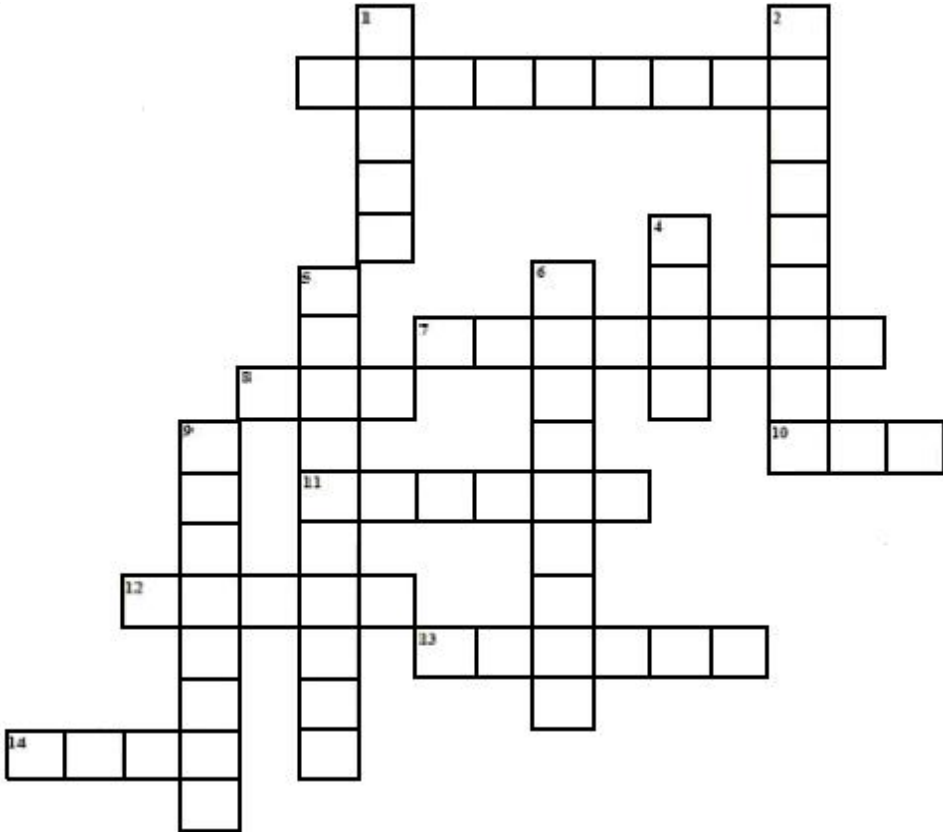
Soho, a neighborhood in Manhattan formerly known as the cast-iron district, is located south of Houston, thus the term “Soho.” The neighborhood runs from Mulberry Street to Canal Street, and has shops and boutiques and art shops and galleries. Just a few blocks away is Chinatown, where you can do some bargain shopping.

An attraction for live performances, lectures, and student programs is South Street Seaport. The Pier is located on Fulton Street. There is a shopping mall located on the pier with food stands and restaurants. Mall hours are 10am to 9pm Monday through Saturday, but restaurants have extended hours.

For a calm afternoon trip, The Metropolitan Museum of Art has a wealth of artwork and exhibitions. The museum has a suggested donation of \$12. The museum has research resources, a library, and study centers. It is closed on Mondays and holidays, and will be closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year’s Day.

# CROSSWORD PUZZLE

by Karolina Gorna



### Down

1. Creator of Day 2
2. Male Gossip Girl character ( 2 words)
4. Former supermodel, current talk show host
5. Isolation to spread of a disease ( Movie)
6. Wall Crawling superhero
9. World Series Champs

### Across

3. Fresh Prince of Bel- Air
7. Man of Steel
8. Homer Simpson’s middle name
10. Horror movie with four sequels
11. Group member thrown out of Danity Kane
12. Socrates’ understudy
13. Superbowl Champs
14. \_\_\_\_\_ Models ( Movie)



by Maria C. Moreno

**What would you do if you found out you were adopted?**



**Julio Manjarrez - Senior**

“I wouldn’t mind. I would still consider the people who adopted me my biological parents. I would, however, still want to meet my real parents some day.”



**Eric Rojas - Sophomore**

“If I found out I was adopted, I would feel bad because my parents didn’t tell me the truth about me being adopted. At the same time, I would feel happy and thankful because they supported me and gave me everything I needed. I wouldn’t care about my biological parents. I would prefer not to meet them because they left me all alone when I was just a baby.”



**Jasmin Sosa - Junior**

“If I found out I was adopted, I would be shocked and hurt because after all these years I find out I was living a lie with people who are not my blood parents. I would also be hurt because my real parents didn’t want me. I would want to confront my real parents and ask them what happened and the reasons why they didn’t keep me.”



**Simranjeet Singh - Senior**

“I wouldn’t be too concerned about who my biological parents were. All that matters is that I was raised in a caring family which is financially well off. Although I might go through an identity crisis for a bit, I wouldn’t be too affected by the fact that I was adopted.”



**Rita Rodriguez - Senior**

“If I were to find out I was adopted, it would definitely be something very difficult to overcome. I would be thankful to be given to a loving and caring family. Within time I would search for my biological parents and question them to why they abandoned me. Would I forgive them? Probably, but it would take me some time to do so.”



**Lisbelt Lopez - Freshman**

“I would pay no mind to the problem. I’ll keep on with my life as if nothing ever happened. My real parents never wanted me so why would I care about them. I would probably have sad moments whenever I thought about the situation, but I would eventually get over it.”



**Shanley Porras - Junior**

“If I found out I was adopted, I’d feel like I have been lied to my whole life. I would feel like I didn’t belong anywhere and I would probably want to find out where I really came from. I would be mad but there would be nothing I could do to change the fact that I am adopted.”



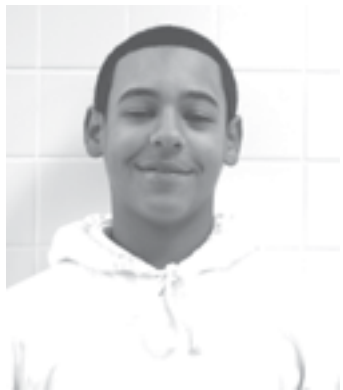
**Sandy Marin - Sophomore**

“I would scream of joy because it sounds cool to be adopted. At the same time I would cry because that would mean that my brother and my sister aren’t my real siblings. I would want to meet my real parents and ask them why they left me.”



**Rodney Estevez - Junior**

“If I found out that I was adopted, I would feel disappointed because why would they wait so long to tell me that I was adopted? I would feel betrayed because I was basically brought up on lies. In the end I would accept the fact that I’m adopted. I would just ask my adopted parents about my biological parents. I wouldn’t want to meet them because I wouldn’t want to get torn up over the fact that those are my real parents and they were never there for me.”



**Joseph Payamps - Freshman**

“I would be mad and depressed because my biological parents left me, but I would love the people who raised me even more, because they took me in and loved me like their own son for many years.”



**Laura Ferreira - Freshman**

“I think I would lose my mind because my whole life was based on a lie. I would stay with my adopted parents because I love them and they cared for me. I would want to meet my real parents.”



**Cynthia Rojas - Senior**

“I would be very shocked and I would cry because all this time I grew up with a lie. I would look for my real parents and find out why they left me.”



**Michael Pazmino - Sophomore**

“All I would do is find out who my real parents are. If they want me back then I would move in with them.”



**Shanice Xochmitl - Sophomore**

“I would be very shocked and disappointed because my parents didn’t tell me the truth and basically lied to me all this time. Even though I would be very mad with them, I would still love them and thank them for raising me and not leaving me alone like my biological parents did. I wouldn’t look for my real parents because they never wanted me so therefore I would have no reason to look for them.”



**Brandon Lopez - Freshman**

“I would be surprised and sad to find out I was adopted. I would ask my adopted parents if they can help me find my real parents. If I Ever got to meet my real parents, I would ask them why they gave me away. I would probably move back with them if they accept me.”



**Neil Kamath - Junior**

“I would definitely still accept my adopted parents because of the love and affection they gave me. I wouldn’t try to find my real parents because I already have what I want.”

**Will you be next?**

# Queens Voc Is Truly A Family!

by Jinet Collado

Families frequently tend to worry about their children’s safety and guidance. Yet at Queens Voc there is a tradition of siblings, cousins, and children of alumni attending.

If you have a family member who goes or went to Queens Voc, but were left off this list please email us at Vocvoice@aol.com and we’ll include your information next time.

Current QV Student	Relative(s) who attended & relation to student	Yr of Grad
Julissa Chavez	Julio Chavez - sibling	1997
	Wilmer Chavez – sibling	2003
Lorena Bonilla	David Bonilla – sibling	2005
Michelle Cotrina	Ingrid Cotrina – sibling	2005
	Evelyn Rivera – cousin	2004
	Marleny Rivera – cousin	2000
Jerry Hernandez	Tania Hernandez – sibling	2004
Joel Pena	Yesenia Pena – sibling	2006
Laura Gonzalez	Diomedes Gonzalez – sibling	2007
Rafael De Oleo	Juana Rosmil Rosario – cousin	2005
Carolina Artiles	Tania Artiles – sibling	2006
Jeslenny Grullon	Jenneth Grullon – sibling	2006
Erwin Gonzalez	Benifer Gonzalez – sibling	2004
	Angel Tejada – cousin	2008
	Jelissa Pena - cousin	2007
	Rossenny Taveras – cousin	2006
Patsy Olivares	Yurly Olivares – sibling	2005
Joseph Lorenzi	Jeremy Lorenzi – sibling	2007
Paul Cabral	Gary Hernandez - cousin	2005
Esteven Giraldo	Jason Naranjo – cousin	2008
Diony Perez	Yessenia Perez – sibling	2007
Kadeem Mason	Carlos Mason – sibling	2008
Simranjeet Singh	Sandeep Singh – cousin	2005
Radison Moronta	Yodarylín Moronta - cousin	2006
	Yinaury Sanchez – cousin	2008
	Shamir Moronta – cousin	2008
Ivana Nunez	Adriel Nunez – sibling	2000
	Miriam Tieno -cousin	1995
	Javier Tieno – cousin	1994
Crystal Franklin	Richie Franklin – sibling	2005
Rafael Flores	Manuel Flores – sibling	2004
Rocio Vicencio	Maria Vicencio - sibling	2004
Jessica Perrier	Jonathan Perrier – sibling	2006
Alex Almanzar	Miguel Almanzar – sibling	2001
	Joseluis Almanzar – sibling	1996

**Name of Student**  
Shirley Rodriguez  
Larissa Puig  
Mitchelle Vega

Kathya Xochmitl  
Cynthia Rojas

Michael Corona  
Johnatan Mejia  
Diony Perez  
Danyiah Ahmed  
Joey Rodas  
Marilyn Reyes  
Jinet Collado  
Nohely Vazquez  
Denisse Soto  
Marvin Diaz  
Maximo Muniz  
Jheferson Aldaz

**Name of Student**  
Gabrielle Rodriguez  
Samantha Puig  
Steven Crespín  
Alexis Crespín  
Shanice Xochmitl  
Eric Rojas  
Marisol Campos  
Daniel Corona  
Daniela Mejia  
Jason Perez  
Muneeza Ahmed  
Brian Rodas  
Stephanie Reyes  
Joel Polonia  
Meliton Vazquez  
Ariel Fernandez  
Clarisse Diaz  
Jennifer Sanchez  
Brian Aldaz

**Relation**  
sibling  
sibling  
cousin  
cousin  
sibling  
sibling  
cousin  
sibling  
sibling  
cousin  
sibling  
sibling  
cousin  
cousin  
sibling  
cousin  
cousin  
sibling



Oh brother! Pairs of siblings a common sight in QV.

because hardship will befall them and you need to be there to help them cope. By neglecting them though, you are condemning them to severe pain. No one but you can prevent that forest fire.

**Virgo**  
**August 23 - September 23**  
Living a lukewarm life is okay to some, but not you! Trouble or joy is what you subconsciously desire. Anything else is just boring. So don’t sit around and wait for something to come along. Satisfaction is right outside the door. All you have to do is take that first leap.

**Libra**  
**September 24 - October 23**  
Watch out! Lady Luck is not smiling at you right now. She is too busy eating some mouth-watering Queens Voc cafeteria food. So why not make your own luck? Although it’s thought crossing the path of a black cat is bad luck, it’s been scientifically proven to be good luck! So find that feline and chase it until you cross its path.

**Scorpio**  
**October 24 - November 22**  
Isn’t it strange such a nasty creature is the zodiac counterpart of such an awesome person? You are a fun loving person even if some may not see it at first. Open up and make another friend or two because now is the best time. Maybe a cool-looking stranger, or that gorgeous someone you couldn’t muster the courage to talk to before.

**Sagittarius**  
**November 23 - December 21**  
Go with the flow for now. Your role in the great circle of life, which the baboon was talking about, is played out later. For now, just observe the actions and reactions of the other zodiacs. Right now, you are the silent watcher, but soon you will become the one who is watched.

**Capricorn**  
**December 22 - January 20**  
Although that cute and cuddly dog may be asking to be petted, don’t do it. The pup can wait a while because touching animals is taboo for you right now. Avoid animals for a while because old skeletons in your closet may arise. But embracing a new animal friend is just fine!

**Aquarius**  
**January 21 - February 19**  
Aquarius should be avoided around this time. Although two Aquarius work well together, it would be better if you didn’t interact as much now. Many arguments will come up if you do. So find that awesome Scorpio, or stop the Libra from chasing that cat and talk for a while.

**Pisces**  
**February 20 - March 20**  
Get help! Don’t try things on your own: bring a friend, family member, or your significant other. Of course, don’t depend on the other person too much either. You can be a powerful leader, but that doesn’t mean you should do things by yourself all the time. Sever some ties because you need to lose some old baggage.

## What do our Students Know?

by Joel Pena

We asked students five questions that relate to subjects taught in school:

- Who was our sixteenth president?
- How many cups are in a gallon?
- What is a noun?
- What does the letter “O” stand for in the periodic table?
- Which two primary colors make purple?

\*Wrong answers are *Italics*

**Stephanie Bonilla**  
Official Class: 421

- Abraham Lincoln
- 2 cups
- A person, place, or thing
- Oxidation
- Blue and red

**Karief McKoy**  
Official Class: 321

- Abraham Lincoln
- 4 cups
- A person, place, or thing
- Oxygen
- Blue and red

**Marissa Mendez**  
Official Class: 322

- Abraham Lincoln
- 7 cups
- A person, place, or thing
- Oxygen
- Blue and red

**Alan Merchan**  
Official Class: 221

- Teddy Roosevelt
- 4 cups
- A person, place, or thing
- Oxygen
- Blue and yellow

**Margaret Castellanos**  
Official Class: 223

- Abraham Lincoln
- 12 cups
- A person, place, or thing
- Oxygen
- Blue and black

**Kristy Acuna**  
Official Class: 111

- George Washington
- 5 cups
- A person, place, or thing
- Oxygen
- Blue and pink

**Sylvester Nimako**  
Official Class: 102

- Abraham Lincoln
- 16 cups
- A person, place, or thing
- Oxygen
- Black and red

## Horoscopes

by Fahim Islam

**Aries**  
**March 21 - April 20**  
You’re not you yet! Find your true love to find out who you are supposed to be. Ask your best friend for advice about who is perfect for you as a significant other. Finding that person and trading ideas will help you become the real you. Or you can stay ignorant about who you should be and live as you are now. Ignorance is bliss, right?

**Taurus**  
**April 21 - May 21**  
Times are rough, but that doesn’t mean you should give up now. George Clooney fought Bell’s palsy and now look at him. So put a smile on and get through the bad times. Get over that hill, take the next step, and keep moving forward. When you get past everything, you will see just how much you can accomplish!

**Gemini**  
**May 22 - June 21**  
Do you ever get a certain feeling when you look at that one person? That feeling that makes you feel all warm inside? Or ever smile for no reason when you look at that certain someone? Well that’s love, not just another crush. Love is close to you now, and you shouldn’t let this opportunity pass by.

**Cancer**  
**June 22 - July 22**  
You scored big! Live life to the fullest because this is the most auspicious time for you. Forget your worries for now because they can be looked at later. Look at the problems together once you have accumulated a bunch. The answers will come easier then, but right now, just have some fun!

**Leo**  
**July 23 - August 22**  
Who do you love the most? Who do you give your love to? Stay close to those people

# Senioritis Strikes Again

by Clarissa Tse

For some seniors, high school has been a four-year struggle of rigorous math courses, and crawling through the hard terrains of literature. Overcoming the challenge has helped many Queens Voc students achieve senior status. But some of these seniors turn out to be victims of senioritis. Most people know what senioritis is. For those who don't, senioritis is an "extreme heightened level of procrastination," according to Ms. Basirico, guidance counselor for SSBT.

Some people believe senioritis is just a myth, others argue it's real.

Those who believe, say that it's "usually towards the end of the school year when senioritis starts to play a role in a teenager's life, somewhere between February and March." Senior Luis Azpuru feels the school year has just begun and says "it's still too early to get senioritis." But Ms. Ruiz, a web design teacher, said about 60 percent of her senior class has the dreaded disease. "Some examples are: walking out of the class without permission, not doing any work, and making their own rules," she said.

Senioritis can lead to failed classes if no cure is found.

Some seniors feel that just because they are now seniors it's time for relaxation. "If you don't pass the marking period before the senior trip, you don't get to attend the senior trip," said Mr. Vega, the coordinator of student activities. According to Mr. Vega, this year's senior trip is from January 16 to 18, so seniors who want to attend the must pass their second marking period.

Keep in mind that passing every class is extremely important. "You see people cutting everyday," senior Master Alamin said, and "a lot of people fail gym not knowing that it is necessary to graduate." Just because you're a senior now doesn't mean you're finished just yet.

Kelsey Garcia is already experiencing senioritis. "I'm always socializing and procrastinating," she said. "The power of being a senior is probably the main cause of senioritis! It's like ruling the school, and as a senior I've been here the longest and already know every teacher and student, causing me to slack off and let the seniority superior-ness to get to my head. Well senioritis is trickery! It seems fun and dandy but it leaves you hanging dry and makes you lazy in the end, and it's something I have to work on," Kelsey said.

Let's say you allow senioritis to get to you this year, and you happen to pass all your classes. If your grades suffer, this can affect college acceptances. Furthermore, in college, you're responsible for yourself. The professors aren't on your case to hand in papers and get to class, like they are in Queens Voc. You might be so used to cutting class and procrastinating in high school that you fail your college classes.

Report cards can be a big smack of reality. Once the people affected by senioritis see their grades, maybe they'll realize it's time to pick up the slack. "Work hard and THEN party hard," said Mr. Garcia, an art and graphic arts teacher.

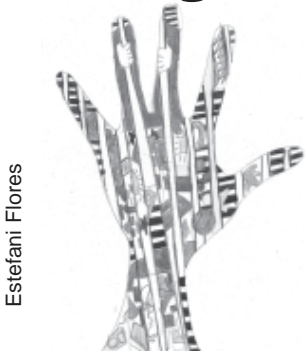
Ms. Basirico has a similar formula: "study hard and play hard, but do both at the appropriate time and place." Don't let senioritis delay your graduation or the opportunity to participate in senior activities. You still have to graduate, so until the day you get your diploma, you should try your best. Remember, senioritis is not an excuse for laziness.

## Best Work from the Graphic Arts Program

compiled by  
Christopher Gomez

Queens Voc's graphic arts program is part of the School of Entrepreneurial Studies. The program began last year and is already a huge success. The program focuses on graphic design and the visual arts.

Mr. Garcia spearheads the graphic arts program. He has submitted the accompanying work as some of the best pieces of art produced by his students.



Estefani Flores

This drawing was drawn by hand, and incidentally, it is a hand. It is packed full of small and images that make this drawing especially interesting.

## WORD PUZZLE

by Monica Tito  
Queens Voc Teachers

ACKERMAN  
ALOHAN  
BLOOM  
BURKE  
CINTRON  
DAVIDSON  
DEVAUX  
DIAMONT

GALLAGHER  
GAROFANO  
HIMMEL  
LERRO  
MALONEY  
MOHAN  
NADLER  
NGUYEN

PAPADOPOL  
PERSAUD  
RAYNOR  
RODRIGUEZ  
SAMUELSON  
SHARPE  
TAN  
WASILEWSKI

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



Janice Ramirez

This is a hand drawn picture. The repetitive nature of it was meant to evoke the effect of an optical illusion. It should be noted that each rabbit and fish pair in the picture is almost completely like the ones surrounding it, a very difficult feat to pull off.



Shanice Ocasio

This last image was a practice in two-point perspective. Two-point perspective is a technique artists use when drawing backgrounds. It is a simple way to make objects appear as if they have depth and dimension.



Cristian Gauna



Elizabeth Arionang

These two characters were created by using an imaging program called Adobe Photoshop. The assignment was to emulate the style of the infamous South Park animated series.

# Movie Reviews

by Joel Peña

### Quarantine

Rated: R for bloody violent and disturbing content, terror and language.

Genre: Horror/Suspense

A television reporter and her cameraman are assigned to spend the night shift with the fire department. Everything seems fine at first but that soon changes as the firefighters get called to an apartment building. Soon, strange and unexplainable events start to occur, such as a tenant attacking a police officer. As the night continues, the situation worsens and the truth starts to unfold and the remaining survivors find out that they’re trapped in the building.

Although this film caught my attention, it lacked many details because it left the audience wondering about the ending. The plot is similar to other movies such as *Dawn of the Dead* and *28 Weeks Later*, but it had its own sense of style. The camera view wasn’t so good because the director wanted the audience to feel a sense of being in the movie, sort of like *The Blair Witch Project*. But it didn’t seem to work well in *Quarantine* because it was often difficult to figure out what was happening.

This movie was full of blood-shedding scenes but that doesn’t make the movie good. The plot could have used some work but overall the movie was all right. If you enjoy horror movies, this is a good movie to watch.

Rating: ★★

### Eagle Eye

Rated: PG-13 for intense sequences of action and violence, and for language.  
Genre: Action/Adventure

Imagine coming home from work one day and finding out that one of your family members has died, that’s what happened to Jerry Shaw. After his brother’s funeral, Jerry goes home to find a bunch of packages stacked in his home. If the packages weren’t weird enough, he then starts to receive phone calls from an unknown woman demanding that he listen to her. Jerry soon finds himself as a wanted criminal. As the story continues, a woman named Rachel finds herself in the same position as Jerry, with the phone calls from a mysterious

woman. When Jerry and Rachel’s paths cross, they discover that they were picked out by this mysterious caller for different reasons. These reasons reflect upon their past and their family members.

This action packed thriller is something that you never seen before. Not only is this movie fascinating, but it demonstrated the idea of technology taking over the world. We use these electronic devices everyday but people don’t believe that they would turn against us. We live in a society where many things are possible. The action never stopped for one second. This movie is recommended to anyone who enjoys watching action flicks.

Rating: ★★★

### Max Payne

Rated: PG-13 for violence including intense shooting sequences, drug content, some sexuality and brief strong language.  
Genre: Action/ Adventure

After the devastating murder of his wife and child, Detective Max Payne still searches for their murderer. When the search for his family’s killer starts to become hopelss, Max gets assigned to a new case. At first, this case doesn’t really interest Max but as Max digs more into the case, he starts to realize that the case has a huge connection with the murder of his family. As Max continues with the case, he finds himself in more problems with the police because of the blackmail and deception being placed on him.

This movie wasn’t really interesting because many parts were confusing and many scenes in it were unrealistic. The fantasy parts took away from the movie because it almost felt like I was watching *Power Rangers*. Even though the plot wasn’t so good, there was a lot of action. The movie could have been better: the director could have made the movie a little bit more engaging. Watch this movie on cable so you don’t have to pay to see it.

Rating: ★

### Saw 5

Rated: R for sequences of grisly bloody violence and torture  
Genre: Horror/Thriller

This movie is another part to the *Saw* series. In this movie, the Jigsaw is finally dead but there seems to be another accomplice we didn’t know about who is now trying to clear his (or her?) name with the police and by doing so, needs to play a game, just as Jigsaw would say. This game soon turns out to be just as Jigsaw predicted before he died. As the movie progresses, the secrets starts to

unveil and everything soon starts to fall into place.

This movie was good but lacked a lot of characteristics that the other *Saw* movies had. It didn’t make me think, it was very direct and I felt like that took away from the movie. Although *Saw 5* has its negatives, it was very entertaining and contained many gruesome scenes. The director did a great job because of the new devices that are used in Jigsaw’s games. I recommend this movie to those who enjoy the *Saw* series.

Rating: ★★

### Rating Scale

★★★★★ Make plans to see this movie tonight

★★★★ Watch this movie when funds are covered

★★★ Think about it before buying the tickets

★ Just stay home

# TV Show Reviews

by John Florido

### Heroes

*Heroes* is a show about people who discover they have superpowers and how they choose to use those powers. Some use their powers for good while others use their powers for evil. Each episode has a different surprise to reveal; a character could develop a new power or lose control of a previous one. *Heroes* leaves questions that make watching the next episode more exciting. With the arrival of season three, unlikely alliances are made and unforeseen events occur making this show one to watch.

### House

*House* is about Dr. Gregory House, who saves patients by solving their illnesses using only their symptoms and background information. He tries not to talk to his patients because he is antisocial; instead he uses his group of health specialists to ask the questions. Each episode has an illness to be cured or a life to be saved. To take a break from the hospital talk, each character has a personal story outside of the hospital. If you are interested in rare diseases and how they are diagnosed, then you would be interested in *House*.

### Family Guy

*Family Guy* is an animated comedy about the Griffin family and their neighbors on Spooner St. Even in its seventh season the show still gives the audience

something to laugh about, such as a parody of another show or an adventure the characters experience. Each character has at least one funny aspect which makes them more enjoyable, such as Stewie, a talking baby from the Griffin family, who is bent on ruling the world. The unrealistic nature of this show creates a world that the viewer becomes a part of.

# QV Kids Quite Talented

by Lorena Bonilla

From rhythmic dancers to future rock stars, talent at Queens Voc is very diverse. Sophomores Marines Lagos, a ballroom dancer, and Chaimae Benali, a drummer, are two examples.

Marines has been dancing for three years and said she enjoys every minute of it. “I love to dance, it is very relaxing and fun,” she said.

Marines began her career as a ballroom dancer when she joined her junior high school’s dance team. By specializing in the tango, an Argentine dance famous for its feverish foot-play and excessive difficulty, she was granted a scholarship and enrolled in a professional dance studio, the American Ballroom Dance Studio run by Mr. Pierre Dulaine. “I’ve been taking dance classes at the studio for a while now. It has helped me to improve my dancing,” she said.

Once in the dance studio, she undertook various other dance styles and has even entered in competitions. “I’ve been in three competitions at the dance studio and one in Columbia University. I’ve won them all,” she said. Although most dancers begin at a young age, Marines has not been deterred by her late start. Instead, she says, it motivates her. “Most people at my studio have been dancing longer than me. It motivates me to work harder,” she said.



Chaimae has been drumming for a year and a half. Her father is also a musician and, she says, her inspiration. “My dad is a good musician, so I wanted to follow in his footsteps,” she said. She loves drumming and would

never give it up. “I’ve only been drumming for a little while but I love it. I want to be as good as Travis Barker,” she said, referring to the former member of the now dismantled Blink 182 rock band.



It was her father who gave Chaimae her first drum set, which she still uses. “I love that drum set. I learned how to play on it,” she said.

# WORD SCRAMBLE

by Michelle Cotrina

Directions: Unscramble the names of administrators and deans in Queens Voc.

1. AMNEWN

\_\_\_\_\_

2. CPOMAO

\_\_\_\_\_

3. VRAHICDO

\_\_\_\_\_

4. NGFARAOA

\_\_\_\_\_

5. DGORZRIUG

\_\_\_\_\_

6. CSMHZIEN

\_\_\_\_\_

7. LIA

\_\_\_\_\_

8. NAGROM

\_\_\_\_\_

9. RMYEA

\_\_\_\_\_

10. EDMNZE

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Rodriguez

4. Carofano

3. Kadovalich

5. Ocasio

1. Newman

10. Meneses

9. Meyer

8. Coleman

7. Ali

6. Schimenz

# Inside Tiger Sports

## Girls' Basketball Volleyball

*continued from page 15*

returning starters: Melisa Alzate, Karolina Gorna, Samantha Lupo, and Jamila Rodriguez.

Karolina, a senior and captain of the team for the past two seasons, said that she wants this year's team to work harder, be more dedicated, show more teamwork, and she wants Coach Devaux to have no pity on the girls when it comes to practicing. "Last year we barely had any practices; the guys [boys' junior varsity and varsity basketball teams] had the gym a lot," said Karolina, but she said that should change because Coach Devaux will acquire Saturday permits for the gym and will schedule more scrimmages.

The Queens Voc Lady Tigers are excited about the upcoming season. Coach Devaux will work to blend the new players with the established ones. The Lady Tigers hope to bring a high level of aggression, intelligence, and chemistry to the court that will

make them a formidable team. "I believe in our team," said Karolina, "we're going to the playoffs definitely, we're getting past the first round, but the main goal is to go all the way."

The Lady Tigers will start their season on Tuesday, Nov. 25 at Newcomers High School. Their first home game will be on Tuesday, Dec. 2 against High School of Construction at 4:30pm.

Upcoming Games	
Date	Opponent
Nov. 11/25 @ Newcomers HS (L)	
Dec. 2 HS of Construction (L)	
Dec. 9 @ Baccalureate School for Global Ed. (L)	
Dec. 16 @ Frank Sinatra (L)	
Dec. 18 @ Grover Cleveland (L)	
Dec. 22 Acad. of Am. Stud. (L)	
Jan. 6 Info Tech HS (L)	
1/8/09 Newcomers HS (L)	
Jan 13 @ HS for Constr. (L)	
Jan. 15 Wagner HS (L)	
Jan. 20 Baccalureate School For Global Ed. (L)	
Jan. 22 @ Wagner HS (L)	
*all games start at 4:30 pm	

## Soccer Team Habit

*continued from back page*



I am not that great of a player but I love the sport and it helps the students feel good about school, said Ali, "I apply my experience to run a team that communicates well."

Since being appointed assistant principal, Mr. Ali, director of The School of Skilled Building Trades, and assistant principal of Trades and Technology, he spends less time developing strategies, game plays, and helping the team. Two players who keep the team running smooth are Captain Hector Roche and Co-Captain Ozan Centinkaya. "They organize and hold practices and meetings," said Coach Ali. They helped Mr. Ali pick new kids that tryout. Choosing a strong, positive team was hard because giving 100% at tryouts, under pressure is hard," said Hector.

Freshman Jonathan Avila feels "unique and special" and enjoys the team chemistry because they get along well and fool around a lot. Even though there was a lot of fooling around, he also said he felt a lot of pressure because every game he had to go out and fight for his position. The Tigers had a great regular season, Jonathan said, but he thinks the team should have had more practices and less joking around at practice. And even if Mr. Ali does not coach next season, Jonathan said he will still tryout. As long as there's a soccer team he can play on, he'll be happy, he added.

The team consisted of seniors: Diego Marin, Gregory Paul, Diego Ramos, Hector Roche, Michael Ruiz. Players expected to return next year are: Yahirt Artunduaga, Jonathan Avila, Pablo Ayora, Ozan Centinkaya, Edwin Guaman, Piotr Karwowski, Alexandros Kiourkenidids, Byron Loja, Milton Morocho, Steward Naula, Ariel Obando, and John Velasquez.

## Begins

*continued from back page*

girls started their season against Acorn High School for Social Justice, losing their match 2 games to 1. They went on to lose their next 5 matches. According to Mr. Boyle, they did not play enough games because they were a developmental team, but despite losing their matches, they did win some games.

For all the 26 girls to participate and develop, Mr. Boyle developed a unique rotation system in which 6 different girls would play each game, rather than having "starters" and "subs."

The volleyball team consisted of: freshmen Jenifer Aguilar, Jenny Benavides, Ashley Deaze, Dariana Fana, Biaani Garcia, Lisbeth Marmolejos, Jennifer Morales, Michelle Rojas, Barbara Roman; Sophomore, Chaimae Benali, Sherice Berkeley, Valeria Enea, Daniela Heredia, Daisy Huiza, Yaneli Martinez, Nashaly Mercado, Leidy Vanessa Obando, Stephanie Ortiz, Ambar Sencion, Janet Tellez, Catherine Velasquez, Karina Villalobos; Juniors Ashley Addonisio, Teresa Agudo, Gabrielle Rodriguez and Senior Karolina Gorna.

The team looks good for next year, said Mr. Boyle. "This is a very young team. Hopefully we will become a varsity team next year, so more games can be played." Mr. Boyle expects to have a very good group of girls to be contributors next year.



## Baseball Team

### New Season, New Expectations

by Laura Gonzalez

The Queens Voc varsity baseball team is already at work preparing for the upcoming season.

Tryouts began at the end of September and ran through October 15. Tryouts were held in Flushing Meadows Park. The team also played five pre-season games, the most the Tigers have had, said Coach Schimenz. Nearly 60 boys tried-out. Tryouts are a way for the potential players to show off their talent, potential, and dedication to the team, said sophomore Esteban Soler, not only was a 9th grade rookie last year, but was also a captain of the team.

"There are a lot of new players who showed good skills at tryouts. We took some talented freshmen, and they'll help make us competitive right away," Esteban said.

Tryouts are held early in the year so that the players can start bonding early, said sophomore Armando Avila, also in his second year as captain. "We have a lot of team-building activities, and they work well. We didn't have a great start last year, but the team pulled together and we had a great year," he said.

"Tryouts were long and we had to work hard to make the team," said freshman Joseph Payamps, one of two freshmen rookies who designed the team's 2009 tee shirts.

The players were also accompanied by the former players of the team during tryouts. "It was great helping run tryouts," said Angel Tejada,

former varsity player, "I had a lot fun and it was great getting to know the new kids."

"The turnout at tryouts wasn't as big as we expected," said Coach Schimenz, "Yet, while fewer kids attended the tryouts there were more talented players, most of whom were freshmen."

Esteban said the new players are learning how the team is run: "They have to work hard in school and on the field." So far, "the rookies and the veterans work well together, the new players bring youthfulness and vitality to the team, and that makes the older players wake up," said the coach.

"The veterans have the experience, but the rookies to do the right thing and are coach-able and some of them help out everyday. Freshman Radison Moronta, the other rookie who designed the team tee shirt, said "I expect to do my best; this is my freshman year: I have to earn my spot."

But it's not all about baseball. The team helped clean up Flushing Meadows Park during "Its My Park Day" on Saturday, October 25. They also helped out at "Shocktoberfest" at the park. The team also volunteers at Hour Children, an organization that cares for children of incarcerated parents. Erick Cabello, Luis Espinoza, and Raylin Leroux coordinate the team's involvement.

For more updates about the varsity baseball team visit their website at QVTigers.org.

## Happy Thanksgiving to the students and staff



Thanksgiving is a typically American holiday...The lavish meal is a symbol of the fact that abundant consumption is the result and reward of production.

- Ayn Rand



# QV Wrestles with a New Team

by Santiago Orellana

Tigers fans have a new sports team to cheer for: wrestling.

Mr. Zambrotta, a social studies teacher, now has new a challenge, coaching the wrestling team. Mr. Z, as he is known, was introduced to wrestling at a young age in summer camp. “When I was 12 years old I pinned a guy in 7.2 seconds in sleep-away camp,” he said. The coach, who has experience in Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu, was inspired to become Queens Voc wrestling coach based on his past experience.

There are 28 wrestlers on the team, including 2 girls. They are Michael Abad, Jeremy Alejandro, Max Ayisah, Beishon Bailey, Edison Bonitaz, James Clark, Remi Diaz, Jonathan Dempsey, David Francisco, Jersoon Garcia, Piotr Guzmeniak, Luis Hernandez, Phabian Hernandez, Carlos Jimenez, Geraldine Leibot, Jonathan Lopez, Aaron Lorenzana, Max Maldonado, Gregg Nana, Patel Nayan, Mohamed Palijevic, Joel Peña, Jaime Quizhpi, Justin Rodriguez, Dilpuet Singh, Mark Smart, Adam Soria, and Jefferson Zamora.

Of the 28 wrestlers, 11 are seniors. Mr. Zambrotta said “I love my seniors but realistically they will not have the time to develop the skills in time”.

Mr. Zambrotta still needs a couple of more wrestlers, in specific weight classes such as 96 pounds and 189 pounds. In high school wrestling there are 13 weight classes, from 96 to 285 pounds.

Coach Zambrotta has appointed two senior captains, Aaron Lorenzana and David Francisco. The captains agreed that coach Zambrotta is a great mentor because he workouts with the team and can help the athletes with any trouble they may encounter. “As the season goes on I expect for the team to train hard, keep pushing themselves, and for everyone on the team to reach their own

goals,” David said. “Mr. Zambrotta pushes every student to train hard and motivates the team to do its best,” Aaron said.

Practice takes place Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays, from 4pm until 5:45pm in the student cafeteria. Practice consists of cardio-vascular training, weight training, and basic wrestling stances. Because the wrestling team is developmental, the Tigers will be in a 20-school division but will only participate in eight competitive matches.

The coach said he expects the boys and girls on his team to be extremely dedicated to the sport, respectful to each other, and to work as a team. As with every other martial art, Mr. Zambrotta said he expects no one to use wrestling techniques outside the training facilities.

Students interested in joining the wrestling team should see Mr. Zambrotta as soon as possible.

The captains encourage Queens Voc students to attend the team’s first match on Monday, December 1 in the cafeteria.

## Wrestling Schedule

12/1-	QV vs HS of Applied Communications
12/13-	QV vs Goldstein
12/22-	QV @ Info Tech
1/10-	QV @ Bklyn Intl
1/12-	QV @ Wagner
1/17-	QV @ Bathgate Educational Complex
1/24-	QV vs South Shore
2/9-	QV vs Cleveland



The coach and his captains.

# Wait Room?

by Rafael De Oleo

With the school year well under way, students have wondered why the weight room hasn’t been accessible to them during the day.

Although the physical education teachers understand that students would like to have access to the weight room during their gym periods, the weight room has not been an option “because many classes are overcrowded, one teacher has to supervise the students in the weight room and the other gym teacher has to supervise the students in the gym,” said Mr. Devaux. If one phys. ed. teacher covered the weight room, one teacher would be left to supervise 80-85 students and, Mr. Devaux said, “80-85 students left to one teacher is too many, this will lead to possible safety hazards.”

“For the weight room to be an option for every class, the classes would have to be smaller; an ideal number of students in a gym class is about 75 students,” said Mr. Devaux, who explained that, “if there were 75 students in a gym class there would be about 50 students left for the other phys. ed. teachers, which is safer.



Empty weight room.

Some gym classes have more students than others, but none exceed the contractual limit set by the teachers union and the New York City Department of Education, which is a 50:1 student to teacher ratio, according to Mr. Davidson, program chairperson.

The phys. ed. teachers feel that the contractual limit still leaves too many students in a gym period.

There are three periods during which there are three phys. ed. teachers, yet not 150 students. “The gym is too small for three classes totaling 150 students; the students would be on top of each other,” said Mr. Davidson. The third teacher in a gym period, he said, is assigned the task of being in the weight room. But the weight room is still not open.

As of late, the weight room has only been used by health classes, PM school, and sports teams.

# Varsity Basketball Season Previews Girls Boys

by Gregory Paul

by Armando Avila

The stomping of the bleachers, the squeaking of the sneakers on the hardwood, the whistle of the refs, the cheering of the fans, the sound of that buzzer, the electricity in the gym when the ball goes through the net, swoosh! What do these things have in common? Basketball, girls’ basketball to be more precise, and at Queens Voc, it’s that time of year. This winter, the Queens Voc Lady Tigers will begin their fourth season, and they have higher expectations than ever for their team.

Last season the Lady Tigers finished with a record of 7 wins and 7 losses and made it to the playoffs for the first time. The playoff game was held in Queens Voc, but the team from the Brooklyn Studio Secondary School defeated Queens Voc 41-31, eliminating the Lady Tigers from the post-season. Despite that, Coach Devaux had a positive view of the season. “We did well and showed effort,” he said, “that was our second year playing at the varsity level [the first season was developmental], so making it to the playoffs was a good result.”

This fall, the Lady Tigers are preparing for their upcoming season. Returning players acted as scouts in their gym classes looking for “class-time prospects” and encouraged them to tryout. Talented newcomers are very important to the team because Coach Devaux wants to have a deeper rotation, that is, he said, he wants more contribution from his bench. Tryouts began on Friday, October 31. Eighteen returning and hopeful players showed their skills in a series of pick-up games, and some passing, shooting, and positioning drills. One newcomer that has a lot of promise is freshman Marva Jones. “She is really good,” said Coach Devaux, “she is a good listener and is willing to work hard.” Marva says that she wants to work hard and focus with her new team. “I love basketball and I hope the veterans and the coach can help me strengthen my weaknesses,” Marva said. The coach said players such as Marva play well mentally and make good decisions on the court, because to him, “It comes from the mind.”

The Lady Tigers have four

The varsity basketball team, said Coach Maloney, might have a tough season this year with the lost of leading scorer Captain Andrew Ferguson, who graduated last year. “This year may have some competitive play between the new and returning players to be the new leading scorer,” said the coach.

During tryouts, which were held on Oct. 22 and 23, Mr. Maloney had his eyes on last year’s JV players and selected five of them to be on the varsity team. “I didn’t see much talent except for the JV players,” he said.

The boys have started practicing for the season, which starts in December. With three basketball teams in the school it’s difficult to secure gym time for one team, Coach Maloney. The boys’ varsity basketball and the girls’ basketball share the gym by splitting the court or rotating time, according to Mr. Maloney. The boys and the girls have started practicing on Saturdays to get ready for their seasons, though the boys still practice everyday after school for 3 hours, said the coach. The problem apportioning gym time interferes with the number of non-league games the coach would like to hold before the season starts.

Skyfree Ferguson, a 4-year player, is enthusiastic about the upcoming season. “This year my teammates and I will be aiming to go to the playoffs and win the championship,” said the senior. With 14 players and a well-experienced coach in Mr. Maloney leading them to the season, the Tigers are hoping to be a competitive team this year.

“All five starters should play a big role this season,” said Coach Maloney. This year’s team consists of nine seniors whom are Jheferson Aldaz, Skyfree Ferguson, Jerrell Hampton, Edwin Hill, Anthony Hughes, Mingmar Lama, Joel Pichardo, Vinicios Santos, and Ranjot Singh. With five junior rookies whom are Christopher De La Cruz, Ramon Gil, Kareif McKoy, Christopher Suarez and Richard Vaz.

The Tigers first game is on December 3 against the Aviation Flyers at 4:30 in the school’s gym. To see the team’s full schedule go to psal.org.

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

# TIGERS

## Girls' Bowling wins Division

by Lorena Bonilla

The Queens Voc girls' bowling team has achieved their goal. With a record of 9-3, the Lady Tigers won their rightful title as Queens III division champions.

Winning the division did not come as a shock to Coach Garofano. "I had a very good feeling at the beginning of the season because I knew that the core of the team was returning this year," he said. "The entire A team were my strongest players; Melissa, Ivana, Maggy, and Jamila played a big role in making this happen," he said, "but every player played a role. There was some really strong teamwork and the girls encouraged each other."

A strong desire to win was not the only aspect of the teams' success. Hard work and determination were also necessary. "G had us going to practices Monday through Thursday. But the love that we have for the game made us work harder than ever," said Melissa Alzate. Captain Ivana Nunez shares this sentiment. "I think that what helped us was how strong our friendships were and the way we picked each other up," she said.

Although the Lady Tigers won the division, they did not go undefeated. But losing didn't deter their spirits. "The LIC Bulldogs were our biggest competition. They had a very talented team, not only a strong A team but the B team was strong as well," said Coach Garofano.

Still, the Lady Tigers defeated the Bulldogs three of four times. According to the coach, the team's six wins made the team eligible for the playoffs, which began for the Lady Tigers on Nov. 12. The girls defeated Forest Hills, propelling them into the second round. On Monday, Nov. 17, the girls' and boys' bowling teams boarded a bus and headed to Staten Island. And despite their enthusiasm and momentum, the girls weren't able to defeat Staten Island's Petrides High School in the second round playoff match. "The season was a success. I'm very proud of all the girls, they bowled extremely well, but we came up short." said Coach Garofano.



Melissa Alzate and Jamila Rodriguez were selected by Coach Garofano to bowl at the individuals. "Both girls bowled well. Unfortunately neither were placed in the top 10 which would have gotten them a medal," said the coach.

"Overall, it was a great season. Not only did the girls bowl well and capture a division title, but they had a blast doing it!" Mr. Garofano said proudly.

This year's bowling team consists of the following players: freshman Katherin Arias; sophomores Julissa Ballesteros, Lauren Beltre, and Florencia Oviedo; juniors Melissa Alzate, Brigitte Diaz, Victoria Linder, Jamila Rodriguez, and Samantha Lupo; and seniors Ivana Nunez and Magdaline Rodriguez.

## Girls' Volleyball Begins with Enthusiastic Coach & Players

by Esteban Soler

The girls' volleyball team got off to a strong start as more than two dozen girls tried-out for the new, developmental team. "It was a good turnout, a good group of girls," said Mr. Boyle, the team's coach. "We had an excellent year. The team practiced 3-4 times a week in the gym for a couple of hours after school and they also used the weight room. Sometimes they had to share the gym with the boys' soccer team," said Mr. Boyle, "but it was no problem."

The team played 6 games: 5 league matches and 1 non-league match. The

*continued on page 14*

# SPORTS

## Boys' Bowl Their way to Playoffs

by Armando Avila

For the fourth year in a row, the Queens Voc Boys' bowling team has made it to the playoffs. On Monday, Nov. 17, the Boys' played number one seed Tottenville at Rab Country Lanes on Staten Island, and, despite strong games by Thomas Hock (214) and L.A. Loy (192), Tottenville came out on top.

To get to the playoffs, the boys won a qualifying match, defeating LIC 2 matches to 1. "We won match A, lost match B, and went onto match C, where we came from behind to win by 12 pins," said Mr. Devaux, the team's coach. The team finished the season in third place in Queens Division II, with 7 wins and 5 losses, and clinched a playoff berth as the number 32 seed.

The team practiced for two hours from Monday through Thursday after school at their home alley, AMF 34th Avenue Lanes, in Woodside.

Top bowlers on the team were Thomas Hock who had a 156.93 average and L.A. Loy, who had a 156.50 average, and both went to the borough individuals competition. Among Queens Division II players, Thomas ranked fifth and L.A. ranked sixth.



This year, the team consisted of 13 players: Steven Abreu and Paul Cabral who are seniors. Michael Corona, Christopher De La Cruz, Carlos Jimenez, Dell Lambie, Ludwig "L.A." Loy, Naveen Nicholas, Francis Reyes, Jonathan Urena, and Mauricio Valencia who are juniors and Thomas Hock, sophomore, and Salvatore Isabella, freshman.

## Soccer Team Can't *Kick the Habit*: Make Playoffs Again

by Jonathan Matias

The boys' varsity soccer team won their division with a record of 11-2-1 with 34 points, and went to the second round of the playoffs, after defeating Baruch College Campus in the first round.

To win the Queens B II division, the Tigers beat out Thomas Edison, which had a record of 10-2-2 with 32 points, based on the scoring system PSAL uses, which is standard worldwide, in which wins equal three points and ties equal one point.

In the playoffs, the Tigers seeded 2 of 8 in the Division B "S" playoff bracket, defeated 7 seed Baruch College Campus 3-0. Despite being the second seed in the playoffs, the Tigers lost in the second round to number 3 seed Lafayette High School 3-1. Hector Roche, a 4-year veteran and 3-year captain, said he takes responsibility for the team's losses while declaring that the victories were a team effort. Even though the team is disappointed by the loss, they still hold their heads up because of the positive season they had, he said.

The soccer team has had successful season after successful season after being re-established by Mr. Anthony Ali, an electronics teacher. Taking his 4 years of experience playing high school soccer, 6 years playing for a local club, and playing for Leeds Poly Tech. University (now known as Leeds Metropolitan University) in England, Mr. Ali, the soccer coach, has been able to teach his players teamwork, and that being the best-skilled player is not what being a part of a team means, he said.

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