

Vocational Voice

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

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Larry happily donates blood to help others.

Blood Drive is Successful *Third time is a Charm*

by Armando Avila

Sixty-seven pints of blood were donated at Queens Voc's third blood drive, held on Dec. 13 in the school's auditorium.

Seventy-two students and staff members signed up to donate blood, but the exact number of donors was unable to be verified.

With the help of seniors Vanessa Obando, Jennifer Sanchez, Carla Siguenza, Janet Tellez, and Shanice Xochtmil, Mr. Vega organized the event as the school's coordination of student activities. "The bulk of our task was getting people to sign up for the blood drive. We also had to schedule donors' appointments and make their invitations," said Janet Tellez.

Thomas Palermo, a senior, said he donated blood. "There is somebody out there that can get my blood who really needs it," he said. "I would definitely do it again because I'm helping someone get better."

Robert Smith from the American Red Cross was a nurse for the school's blood drive. According to Smith, donors have to meet certain requirements to donate blood.

Donors must be 16 years old with a guardian's permission or 17 years of age, weigh at least 110 pounds, but donors 18 or younger have additional weight requirements and must be in good health.

Some donors were turned down due to low hemoglobin (iron) levels, weight issues, and some travel destinations within three months to a year.

Approximately one pint of blood is taken. The time it takes to donate blood depends on the donor's reaction to the loss of blood, said Mr. Smith. "People have different bodies, so reactions will always vary," said Mr. Smith. Mr. Vega assured donors were offered refreshments and snacks to avoid problems such as drowsiness.

"I want to help save at least one life," said Juanito Almonte, who donated blood. "This has become a tradition for me, so if another blood drive takes place I would donate again."

According to the American Red Cross, after the donation process the blood is sent out for processing where red cells, platelets, and plasma are

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State Reps Visit, Find Queens Voc Prepared

by Armando Avila & Karina Villalobos

Five representatives of the New York State Education Department recently visited Queens Voc to monitor its progress as a transformation school.

According to Mr. Alikakos, assistant principal for organization, the NYSED visit, which occurred on Wednesday, Jan. 5, was to ascertain that Queens Voc had begun the process of transformation.

Eleven schools were visited by NYSED representatives over a three-day period.

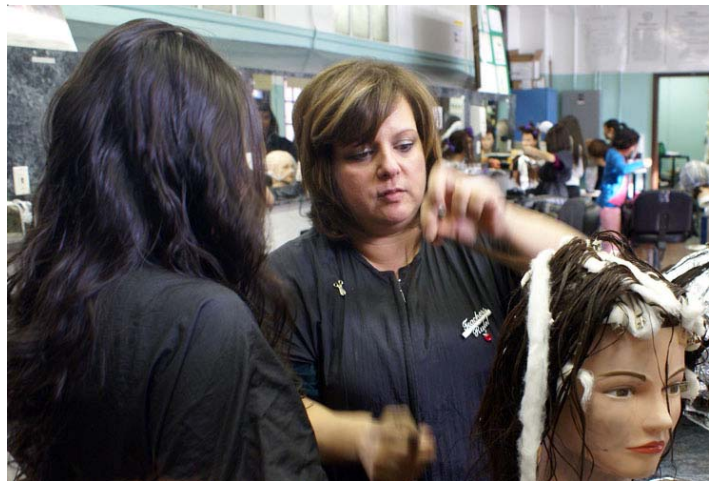
On Dec. 22, Queens Voc was notified about the expected visit. An emergency staff meeting was held before the break to notify teachers. Teachers received memos directing them to update their bulletin boards, review with their students possible questions that could be asked by the representatives, and review school goals and inquiry goals. The memo also recommended that teachers have a lesson plan available for visitors.

"My whole cosmetology class was trained to answer the questions in case we were selected to be interviewed by the state," said Janice Ramirez, a senior.

In conjunction with administration, teachers, and parent feedback, students were selected to participate in an interview conducted by NYSED representatives. The students chosen were Carolina Artiles (SES), Elixandria Brienza (SBT), Rodrigo Bringas (SED), Valeria Enea (SES), Freddy Flores (SCEET), Phillip Gooding (SED), Paola Hernandez (SCEET), Jacob Robles (Advance), and Catherine Velasquez (SES).

"I was nervous at first about being interviewed, but once I prepared for it I was more relaxed," said Catherine Velasquez, a senior. When asked about the school environment by the representatives, Catherine was quick to respond. "This school

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For this cosmo teacher, it's all about class.

Ms. D'Onofrio to Receive Outstanding CTE Teacher Award

by Janice Ramirez

Ms. D'Onofrio, a veteran cosmetology teacher at Queens Voc, will be presented with an Outstanding CTE Teacher Award, at the United Federation of Teachers awards ceremony on Thursday, Feb. 10.

The UFT, the teachers union, is holding their annual Career and Technical Education Awards Recognition Ceremony at the UFT building in Manhattan, to honor outstanding CTE teachers.

Ms. D'Onofrio was chosen by her peers for her work ethic, for being instrumental in the approval of the cosmetology

program certification, and for her commitment, said Mr. Raushan. "I think it was the most justifiable award for her, she should have gotten it much sooner," said Ms. Torres. "I'm very proud that she is a cosmetology teacher and has been recognized for her hard work and dedication," she said.

"I feel honored receiving this award; I was surprised. I am proud to say that I am a NYC CTE teacher," said Ms. D'Onofrio.

Ms. Burg said that Ms. D'Onofrio's award was well deserved. "She's a wonderful teacher," the principal said. "I think it's amazing when one of our teachers gets recognized outside the school building."

English Regents Changes

by Florencia Oviedo

The 2-day, 6-hour long English Regents is gone.

On Tuesday, Jan. 11, the new 1-day, 3-hour long test was administered.

According to Mr. Burke, a veteran English teacher, on the new Regents, students have to write one critical lens essay, a paragraph explaining controlling idea, another paragraph showing the use of literacy techniques, and answer four sections of multiple-choice questions.

The test was given two weeks early because "the State Education Department needs time to determine how the raw scores on the new exam can be converted to a traditional grade," said Ms. Radovich, assistant principal of the Humanities Department.

Teachers have mixed feelings about this new, shorter Regents. Ms. Himmel, who teaches English to sophomores and juniors, said, "the previous

Regents was an adequate tool to assess the English language literacy of our students." But Mr. Burke said that the new test "covers everything that the old test covered. The difference is that the students don't have to write as many essays."

Juniors who took the English Regents seemed confident. "The multiple choice questions were simple, the readings weren't difficult, and the quote was easy to relate to books I've read," said Daniel Corona. Randy Prashad said that "Mr. Burke did a lot of reviewing that was similar to the new Regents. I think I did well." Dayna Brito was happy with the test. "I love the fact it was a 1-day, 1-essay test. It was much easier for us than the previous Regents," she said.

The SED made this change, it said, in response to complaints that the 2-day exam was too long, especially for English language learners and students with disabilities, most of whom have extended time for exams.

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Poor construction plagues school: floor goes bad again.

Gym Floor Buckles

by Larry LeBeau

Queens Voc's five-year old gym floor has buckled, making half the gym unusable.

The cause, according to Mr. Lerro, the school's athletic director, is water. This is the second time the gym floor has been damaged by water.

Half the gym is closed off making physical education classes crowded, and forcing the school's basketball teams to struggle to find a place to play their home games.

Initially, it seemed as though the gym floor would not be fixed for quite some time. Mr. Lerro Queens Voc athletic director, said that he thought it would take until next year. But as a result of a complaint filed with Mayor Bloomberg, the School Construction Authority has changed its original plan, which was to find where the water damage came from first, before fixing the floor. Now, they are going to fix the gym floor while they try to identify the cause of the buckling floor.

"The SCA and my fear is if the problem isn't identified, then the problem could happen again," Ms. Burg said. Although the SCA has been ordered to fix the problem immediately, Ms. Burg said that "immediately for them, in reality will be a long time, but I really hope it will be done by the end of the school year."

Mrs. Jarrett-Holland, the school's head custodian, said that this is a complicated issue and will take time "because they aren't sure where the leak is coming from," she said.

The scaffolding outside the building has been put up to check the exterior for any cracks as a source for where water could enter the building.

In the meantime, physical education teachers are trying to make the most of the situation. "It's half the space with the same number of students," Mr. Boyle said. But the teachers have come up with a system. "When there is a gym class with three teachers, one stays in the gym, one goes into the hallway with unprepared students, and

the third goes into the weight room with some students. This allows the most space possible for everyone," Mr. Boyle added. Andres Ospina, a sophomore, is not happy. "Having only half the gym is disappointing. There is less space for everyone; the whole class has to run around half a gym. It's not as fun so I don't feel like getting prepared and playing anymore."

The basketball teams are also losing out. They can't practice using the whole gym and they can't play their home games at home. Sebastian Bonilla, one of the varsity basketball captains, said, "It's hard enough to find practice time because we have to share with the girls and gym classes. Now, with only half the gym, only one team can practice at a time. When we do practice, we play 5 on 5, half-court games." Sebastian believes these half-court games have brought the team closer, and the loss of practice time will not affect the team for their remaining games. "The only negative part of the situation is our stamina isn't high enough when we play our games because we can't run as much, but we overcome it. We also miss playing our home games at school; it doesn't feel like a home game at the Boys and Girls Club," he said.

Mr. Daniel, the JV basketball coach, is doing the same as the varsity team; practicing half-court, and he says that his team doesn't have very good stamina now either. "When we have games, we are always under pressure, since all of our games are away we never have the support from fans," he said.

Alikakos, the assistant principal for organization.

The room will re-open on Feb. 1.

Along with the computers, Queens Voc also received a SMART board and two new Lexmark T650 printers.

Three portable computers with projectors are now stored in 411 and are available for teachers to borrow when students have class presentations.

SMART boards are easy to use, said Ms. Newman, and save the teachers time in class, because they can prepare their lessons and presentations in advance.

Along with the SMART board, remotes, "clickers" that are part of an interactive

Blood Drive is Successful Third time is a Charm

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separated. Then the test tubes are sent to one of five Red Cross testing laboratories for a dozen tests. If the test results are negative, the units are labeled and stored. Finally the blood is

distributed to hospitals.

Students and staff members can also donate blood at other local blood drives or visit www.redcrossblood.org for more blood donation opportunities.

State Reps Visit, Find Queens Voc Prepared

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offers programs that allow students to use their occupational skills, which prepares them for the real world. Queens Voc is welcoming, safe, and the teachers are willing to help the students if they don't understand the curriculum," she said.

When Paola Hernandez was asked what would be one thing she would change about the school, she said she would improve the math department. Two other students agreed.

When the students were interviewed, no teachers or administrators were allowed to be present in the room. According to Freddy Flores, the students were interviewed in a panel-like group. Paola said that the representatives looked pleased to see that students really wanted to learn more.

Besides interviewing students, NYSED representatives also interviewed staff and went into classrooms unannounced. "It's nerve wracking when they put you under a microscope, but as a school, we've made a lot of progress and a lot of officials recognize that," said social studies teacher, Mr. MacDonald.

Ms. Wilson, a social studies teacher, said that NYSED representatives visit one of her classes. "I can't be sure what they thought, but let's hope for the best," she said. "I gave the visitors copies of the handouts so they had an understanding of the material we were working on."

student response system, were purchased for students to use. The remotes are individually numbered. When asked a question, students choose the answer on the remote, and the SMART board determines the percentage of the correct answers.

The redesign of the room made it easier for teachers to see the whole class. "Students can now see the teacher, and the

Some teachers stayed late the night before preparing. But not everyone. Some took the visit in stride. "Your class is an everyday routine, you can't prepare anything special," said Ms. Mohan, a science teacher.

Some teachers refused to comment about the visit. One teacher even mentioned it was "too much of a political issue."

All the master teachers, Mr. Diamont, Mr. Gallagher, Mr. Lederer, and Mr. Papadopol, were interviewed. Master teachers are instructors who were hired to improve teachers' skills, mentor their colleagues, write curriculum, and conduct classroom demonstrations to help for teachers.

Ms. Ferrara, Ms. Green, Mr. MacDonald, Ms. Maraj, and Mr. Stefanidis were chosen to be interviewed by their directors to represent their SLC.

"The visitors complemented everything from the custodial staff to the administration," said Ms. Burg, the principal put in place as part of the school transformation. "A big thank you to everyone who participated and helped the school shine," she said.

"They are fully aware now that the transformation we are doing is not because we are on the list," said Ms. Vittor, who is serving as the transformation mentor principal. "We've been doing this for five years now. Our transformation is about continuous improvement," she added.

NYSED representatives will likely be visiting Queens Voc again in March or April, Ms. Vittor said.

teachers can supervise the students better," said Ms. Newman.

To prevent unauthorized downloading, Deep Freeze software was installed in the computers to prevent students from downloading games and to prevent viruses from spreading. Once the students signs off, the computer does not save any work and resets back to its original mode.

New Computers Installed in Room 411

by Elizabeth Pimentel

Thirty-seven new HP 19-inch widescreen monitors were recently installed in room 411.

The computers were installed Nov. 30 by Custom

Computer, with the help of the MOUSE Squad. The room was redesigned, and the electrical wiring was re-routed. This work led to delays, because the floor had to be fixed and missing floor tiles had to be replaced, said Mr.



Up-to-date technology is important for CTE schools.

SLC News

by Janice Ramirez

SSBT

SSBT, the School of Skill Building Trades, is the smaller learning community (SLC) for electrical installation and plumbing majors. Mr. Ali is the director, and Mr. Maloney is the coordinator.

SSBT had an awards ceremony on Nov. 15, for students with perfect attendance. During the event, however, it became clear that the determination of perfect attendance did not take into account students who attended school every day but who had cut classes.

Mr. Ali is planning to have a trip for SSBT students with an overall average of 85 and above. He's thinking about taking the students bowling or ice-skating at the end of April, he said.

SES

SES, the School of Entrepreneurial Studies, is the SLC for cosmetology, business, and graphic arts majors. Ms. Newman is the director, and Mr. Garcia is the coordinator.

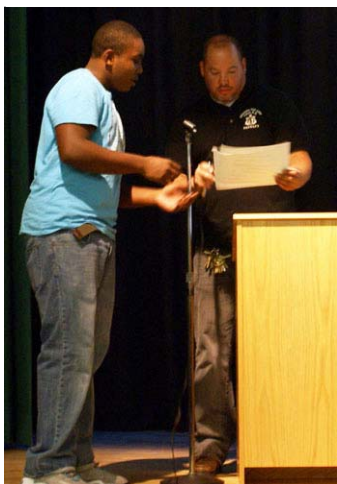
Juniors and seniors in SES can take college courses through LaGuardia Community College. Students interested in taking a college course should see Ms. Newman in room 413, by February 11.

According to Mr. Garcia, there will be an award ceremony for the third marking period to reward students who have perfect attendance and those who are cited as "best in class" by their teachers.

Junior and senior cosmetology students will be heading to the Jacob Javits Convention Center on March 8, for the annual International Beauty Show, where cosmetologists and companies from all over the world display new products and techniques. There are also classes on haircutting, hair coloring and relaxing, and salon business and salon accounting.

At the end of March, the senior cosmetology students will have a trip to MUD, Make-Up Designory in Manhattan, which is a makeup school. The Queens Voc students will learn theatrical and event make up while there.

The sophomore cosmetology students will attend the UFT spring conference at



SLCs reward students.

the New York Hilton Hotel in Manhattan, to give beauty treatments to the teacher union delegates, according to Mrs. Quartuccio, one of the school's cosmetology teachers.

SCEET

SCEET, the School of Computer and Electrical Engineering Technologies, is the SLC for computer technology and pre-engineering electronics. Mr. Gorman is the director, and Ms. Maraj is the coordinator.

Junior and seniors in SCEET can take college courses through Queensborough Community College, according to Mr. Ali.

The robotics team, which operates through SCEET, will again participate in the FIRST regional robotics competition at the Jacob Javits Convention Center in February.

According to Mr. Ali, the team will also participate in the Long Island regional FIRST competition at Hofstra University in Nassau County in March, 24-26, and in NYC in March, 11-13. The robotics team will attend a championship in St. Louis; fundraisers for the robotics team will start in February.

Advance

The director of Advance Ms. Kramer and the coordinator is Mr. Hammond. Advance students are participating in new activity called the Who's Who of QV, according to Ms. Kramer. Students will shadow a teacher for a day to see what the teacher's day is like, and learn what it takes to be a teacher, skills the students can use in the future they do and learn the preparation you'll need to become a teacher, these are skills they can use in the future. Advance is planning an ice-skating trip in mid January.

Science classes in Advance will be going on a trip to the Museum of Natural History in mid-February. In the spring, a trip to the Federal Reserve Bank is being planned for history classes, said Mrs. Kramer.



by Jessica Angel

Seventeen acts auditioned and thirteen were selected to perform at this year's talent show. Many types of acts auditioned, including a band, a rapper, dancers, singers, and poets.

Rehearsals began the week of Jan. 10, but the acts that were selected had to be approved by the principal because only students who have been doing well in school can participate. According to Mr. Vega, those who have been suspended, cut class, or have a bad record cannot participate. Only one act has been rejected. According to Mr. Vega, coordinator of student activities, no official date for the talent show has been set, but the tentative date is March 4.

Elliot Ortiz is the only freshman in the talent show. He'll be dancing to Billie Jean, by Michael Jackson. Elliot's not nervous because he's not new to the stage. He participated in his fifth grade talent show at PS 68, in Ridgewood. "I want people to see my talent, to see my skills," he said.

Seniors Paola Hernandez and Ariel Obando were selected as one of the acts. They will dance to a bachata song. "I feel like I have accomplished a goal

because this is going to be the first time that I will be performing in front of people," said Paola. Ariel agrees. "I feel very excited and words can't even explain how happy I am. I do wish I had the courage to do this before and I thank Paola for



She's not singing the blues.

encouraging me," said Ariel. "We have also been getting feedback from some of our friends to see if we can improve our performance," added Paola.

Juanito Almonte, Yaneli Martinez, Jennifer Ortiz, Stephanie Ortiz, and Manny Ramirez will also perform a dance, but wants the type of dance to remain secret so they can surprise the audience. "I'm excited to be a part of the talent show. This is my last year and I want to make an exit that will last

in my memory," said Stephanie. "People can definitely expect to see a great dance performance."

Auditions for the talent show were held at the end of November and beginning of December. Six judges decided which acts would perform at the talent show. They were Ms. Sanchez, Ms. Anderson, Ms. Rejalaga, Vanessa Obando, Kevin Diaz, and Mr. Vega.

The thirteen acts selected consist of the following students:

Act 1: Paola Hernandez and Ariel Obando

Act 2: Ana Estrada and Jorge Estrada

Act 3: Andrew Adames, Raymond Diaz, Kelly Ramirez, Jonathan Reyes

Act 4: Johnny Chino, Estefani Flores, Daniela Heredia, Stephanie Reyes, Carla Siguenza

Act 5: Margaret Castellanos, Jessica Polanco, Leidy Ramos

Act 6: Fernando Acevedo, Andrew Adames, Juanito Almonte, Rafael Tavares

Act 7: Chaimae Benali, Roberto Castillo, Marines Lago

Act 8: Michael Abad, Christian Delgado, Stanley Garcia, Samantha Hasbun, Lisbeth Marmolejos, Yaneli Martinez, Radison Moronta, Yanil Ortiz

Act 9: Juanito Almonte, Yaneli Martinez, Jennifer Ortiz, Stephanie Ortiz, Manny Ramirez

Act 10: Trae Hall

Act 11: Elliot Ortiz

Act 12: Ashley Demoss

Act 13: Dayna Brito

Seniors Net \$2,100 in First Food Festival of the Year

by Julissa Ballesteros

The senior class raised \$2,100 during the senior food festival, which took place in the auditorium lobby during all lunch periods, on Wednesday, Dec. 8.

Eighty-two seniors brought home-cooked entrees and desserts. The entrees sold for \$5, drinks cost \$1, and desserts ranged from 50¢ to \$1.

"The senior food festival was a huge success. We had a wide variety of food choices and a large quantity of food. The senior class did a great job and I am very proud of the students," said Mr. Vega.

The money raised from the food festival will be used to reduce the cost of prom tickets.

Throughout the four lunch periods, students flocked to the

auditorium lobby. "The food was good and we had a variety of food from different cultures to choose from," said Ana Estrada, a senior. Not only were there different varieties of food, but the price was very affordable," said junior Christine Hawkins.

"I would like to thank all the seniors who participated and brought in dishes for helping the senior class raise money to reduce the cost of the prom tickets and anything else we use the money for," said Lizeth Montoya, senior class treasurer.



Vast assortment of foods brings in the bread.

Mr. Davidson and his Team Prepare for Upcoming Trial



Mr. Davidson and his mock trial legal eagles.

by Rosa Marte

The court is now in session, let the trials begin! Students from Queens Voc and students from more than 100 other schools take part in the mock trials, a statewide competition organized by the New York State Bar Association.

The first round of the competition will be held February 15, 16, and 17. The second round will take place March 1, 2, and 3. The competition is held at the Queens Supreme Court on Queens Blvd, in Kew Gardens.

Forty-two students signed up for the mock trial team, but only 12 will be chosen, based on the commitment and effort the students put in, said Mr. Davidson, a veteran social studies teacher who has been coaching the Mock Trial team for 17 years.

Schools throughout the state are given the facts of a case and are tasked with developing arguments for both sides of the case. The students act as lawyers and witnesses, and they try to convince the judges that their point of view of the case is right.

The first meeting for this year's team was held on Wednesday, Dec. 15. In this meeting the students were given the facts of the case. Practices and meetings are held in school, mostly in room 103 after school. At the meetings, the students choose their roles, and the people they want to work with. According to Mr. Davidson, one of the biggest and most important essences of this team is teamwork. Once the students choose their roles and the teams are formed, it's time to get to work and the acting begins, he said. The students act twice. Once as the plaintiff with three lawyers and

three witnesses, and once again as defendants, with three lawyers and three witnesses as well.

"I enjoy being the coach because it's a lot of fun and it's great to see the students learn to think on their feet and win arguments," Mr. Davidson said, adding that the students get more out of mock trials than just having fun. According to Mr. Davidson, the students learn about law, learn how to win arguments, gain confidence, practice speaking in public, and develop good thinking skills. And finally, it looks good on college applications.

Aristeo Quiroz is a senior who has been a part of the mock trial team for two years. "I enjoy being in mock trials. It's fun to act out the cases and make believe that we are lawyers and witnesses. I feel like I can relate to some of the cases and they help me to better understand the class at times. Mr. Davidson is supportive and a good leader, and I like that as well."

After the students act out their roles before the judges, the top 48 schools are chosen and move on to the third round. Then, the top 32 schools move onto the fourth round. The fifth round consists of the top 16 schools. The sixth round has the top eight schools, and the seventh round the top four. The top two schools compete in the finals. The finals are open for everybody to watch. In May, an awards ceremony and party are held for the winners.

This year's case is about a high school student Pat Parker, who is suing the members of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Empireville. Pat Parker paid \$100 as required for a parking permit so that he could park near the school. But the mayor of Empireville, Alex Allen, is having a dispute with the town of Empire, which leads to "no

parking" signs being erected one night along the town's streets. Pat Parker and the other students who had already paid for their parking permit sue the mayor.

The roles that will be acted out by the students include Pat Parker, Chris Crangle, the superintendent of schools, and Cameron Curtis, a village trustee, as the plaintiffs. The defendants are Alex Allen, the mayor of Empireville, Ryan Ryder, commissioner of public works, and I.M. Feddup, and 81-year old village resident who does not like the way that high school students behave.

The mock trial competition started in the 1980s and has been offered at Queens Voc since 1984, when Mr. Davidson liked the ideas of the competitions and decided to start a team at Queens Voc in 1984. It has been offered at Queens Voc ever since.

VE Gets Down to Business

by Henry Rivas

Five Queens Voc students represented their Virtual Enterprise class in the Local Business Plan Competition held at the American Academy of Finance on Tuesday, Dec. 14. Queens Voc's Virtual Enterprise executives presented the business plan of their firm, Diverse City Wear, against 12 other Virtual Enterprise firms. Unable to place in the top three, Queens Voc didn't advance to the Citywide Business Plan Competition.

Participating in the competition were Edwin Herrera, the chief executive officer; Tina Marie Callanan, vice president of administration; Kevin Acosta, vice president of accounting; Jonathan Castro, vice President of human resources; and Yanil Ortiz, an employee of the department of administration; and the VE coordinator, Ms. Mitchell. They explained how the company will revamp its sales approach to gain more customers and increase their net income. Diverse City Wear is a virtual clothing fashion company that sells all types of clothing apparel, targeting ages 13 to 19 in the tri-state area.

The company's executives developed organization charts and a break-even analysis to present to the four judges at the

competition. According to Ms. Mitchell, Diverse City Wear's break-even analysis "basically tells us how many sales are needed to make a profit." DCW has to sell 200 units at an expected average cost of \$200 to break even with their revenue and expenses.

The business plan also showed where the company stands financially and the contestants' knowledge of the world's real fashion market, as well as the virtual one. According to DCW's business plan, 57.7% of the teens across the nation are buying clothing at malls, and 44.6% from apparel or discount stores. In the virtual market, DCW's main competition is Fashion Forward, a VE clothing firm from Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis High School in Manhattan.

The marketing plan in DCW's business plan helps direct the company's marketing efforts. "We will keep our customers aware of upcoming clothing trends," said Catherine Velazquez, an employee of the Human Resource Department. Queens Voc's VE class is promoting DCW's mission statement, "to offer unique and fresh fashion ranging from casual to evening apparel," by providing pamphlets, brochures, flyers, catalogs, and coupons to its customers to achieve a goal of making \$100,000 in sales.

"VE teaches us how to run an effective company," Edwin Herrera said. Virtual Enterprise is a Stimulated business where students are involved in every aspect of a running a business. Diverse City Wear enables the students to understand and experience how employees and departments work together to operate a business. "Through these experiences, students will understand how to function in a real business, which will become relevant to the students' future," said Ms. Mitchell.

The business plan competition prepared them for

the upcoming annual trade show being held at the 69th Regiment Armory in the heart of Manhattan, Ms. Mitchell said, which will be held April 6 and 7. The trade fair provides students with the opportunity to present and market the products/services of their virtual business in a competitive marketplace against other VE firms. Queens Voc's VE firm is preparing for the trade show by completing monthly tasks given by the U.S. Networks of Virtual Enterprises International official website. Such tasks are to organize trade fair activities, preparing a check-list of items needed for the trade fair, including designing a booth, creating business cards, preparing marketing and sales campaigns.

DCW is divided into six departments: human resources, web design, accounting, administration, sales and marketing, and purchasing. There are four members in each department and the students get to choose what department they want to be in. Each department has a vice president who directs his or her subordinates. Edwin Herrera, the CEO, oversees all these departments and makes sure all operations run smoothly. "My experience in past competitions and knowledge of the company's objectives helped me become CEO this year," he said. Andrea Sacharsky, chief financial officer, is in charge of the accounting, purchasing, and sales and marketing departments.

VE isn't open for all students. According to Ms. Mitchell, VE is offered to juniors and seniors majoring in business. Students applying for VE must submit a resume, a cover letter, and teacher recommendation letters. After being acknowledged, they must be interviewed by Ms. Mitchell and the chief executive officer.



VE team meets for Friday morning breakfast.

Elite Salon Preps Students for Success

by Kevin Sasuman

“The salon is amazing. Every time I go it’s always fun and the service is very good,” said Lucie Baez, a frequent outside costumer of the Elite Salon. The fully equipped Elite Salon is open on school days from 8am-10am and 12:30pm-2:30pm.

In the Elite Salon, senior cosmetology students practice their cosmetology skills.

There are two senior cosmetology classes that work in the Elite Salon. Ms. Quartuccio teaches the morning class and Ms. Guzman teaches the afternoon class.

The salon is open to all students, teachers, and outside clients. Outside clients coming into the salon need proper identification to enter the building. Students can walk in as long as they have a free period on their schedule.

“Working with real people gives the seniors a great experience with handling customers,” said Ms. Guzman, one of the senior cosmetology teachers.

The senior cosmetology students also take frequent trips the Jacob Riis Settlement



Nia Clarke has fun while learning real-life techniques.

House in Queensbridge, and to the Sunnyside Community Center to serve senior citizens and earn their hours required for their certification.

“We try to simulate the salon environment as much as we can, and each student is required to complete a set number of daily jobs,” said Ms. Guzman. The senior cosmetology students are required to pass the NOCTI exam in May to attain their cosmetology license. The cosmetology students are required to complete a different number of jobs each marking period. “Completing the jobs helps us prepare for our test in May,” said Ariel Soler, a student

in the afternoon cosmo class. The salon serves eight to ten student-customers and two or three outside clients a week. “The service is so good! I want to come back every day,” said Yubelyn Cruel, a freshman.

According to Ms. Quartuccio, in the salon, the cosmo students gain experience needed in the workplace, such as how to handle customers. “We train our students to be flexible and to always uphold professionalism wherever life takes them,” said Ms. Quartuccio. The Elite Salon provides all the services a customer would expect from a salon:

The Elite Salon Price List

Shapes and Styles

- Shampoo and Blow Dry \$4
- Long Hair \$2 extra
- Flat Iron \$3 extra
- Thermal Curls \$3 extra
- Shampoo and Cut \$5
- Shape Up \$3

Twists and Twirls

- Braid 1/2 hair \$5
- Braid Whole Head \$10

- Weaves \$10+

Curls and Straights

- (Includes blow dry or roller set)
- Curly Perm \$30
- Body wave \$30
- Relaxer \$15

Fancy Fingers

- Basic Manicure \$2

- French Manicure \$3
- Acrylics \$12
- Paraffin (Friday only) \$2

Hair Coloring

- Single Process \$10
- Highlights
- Foil- 1/2 head \$20
- Foil- Whole head \$40
- Cap-1/2 head \$15
- Cap-Whole head \$20

Fresh Face

- Basic Facial \$3 (includes cleaning, steaming, and exfoliation)
- Make-up Application \$3

Hair Be Gone

- Eyebrow waxing \$3
- Eyebrow tweezing \$2

Fancy Do’s Specialty styles for weddings, parties,proms \$10+

Skills USA Members Train for Competition

by Lizeth Montoya

Seventeen Queens Voc students are preparing for the upcoming Skills USA competition.

The students meet every Wednesday after school to get ready for the in-school competition that was held on Saturday, Jan. 29. [The newspaper had gone to press by that date.] The winners will compete in the state competition that will take place, April 13-15, in Syracuse, New York.

Mr. Cintron, Skills USA advisor, believes that students in Queens Voc have a lot of capability to win if they are trained the right way.

“We first meet with the students who are interested, we give them a description of the competition, let them know what this is all about. Then we have a competition within the school to see who is going to represent the school at the state competition. After we determine the representatives, we talk to their shop teachers in order for them to help prepare the students as well,” he said.

Of the 17 students who are club members, about 10 students will participate in the state competition. The members are: Elixandria Brienza, Angelo Bonadonna, Francesca Duarte, Ana Maria

Estrada, Dario Javier, Denisse Flores, Kelly Ann Katu, Nathalie Kavral, Vanessa Mejia, Maximo Muniz, Dennis Ortega, Kevin Peterson, Aristeo Quiroz, Henry Rivas, Andres Rodriguez, Maria Toro, and Joshua Zuniga.

Mr. Cintron said it’s hard to get students from all shop classes to participate in the competition, especially business students. “We usually get at least one student from each shop to participate, but most come from EI, robotics, and plumbing,” he said.

Denisse Flores, an EI major, decided to join Skills USA because she “heard of the competition and the benefits of being in the skills. One of them is that being a part of it can help me qualify for various scholarships and most importantly that I would work in something I love doing,” she said.

Winners of the statewide competitions represent the state in the national competition. Winners of the national competition then represent the United States in an international competition.

Last year, James Clark took 3rd place in Industrial Motor Control and Thomas Mazzarella took 3rd place in Plumbing. Two students made it to the nation conference. “We are really hoping we do well this year I have a lot of hope in these kids,” said Mr. Cintron.

Rain or Shine, They’re Here

by Florencia Oviedo

Since the first day of school, 92 Queens Voc students have attended school every day and on time. The 92 students include, 30 freshman, 26 sophomores, 20 are juniors, and 16 seniors.

Freshmen

Abreu, Pamela
Alonso, Giovanni
Arango, Ashley
Butler, Gabrielle
Chen, Qiao Ling
Chen, Wen Li
Chen, Yidi
Fulton, Ramier
Hernandez, Mike
Hughes, Charles
Kotsakis, Nicholas
Mai, Feng Yi
Makiling, John Ericson
Marroquin, Cristian
Martinez, Clemente
Murudumbay, Maritza
Ortiz, Elliot
Osorio, Anthony
Paucar, Lesley
Piekarz, Michal
Puspasari, Monica
Quilli, Carlos
Rai, Arun
Ramos, Carlos
Romero, Adan
Sanay, Kimberly

Silva Hernandez, Omar
Somarin, Nazanin
Vega, Diego
Vivar, Lesly

Sophomores

Abdul, Arif
Aucaquizhpi, Jenny
Braga, Mateus
Cabrera, Jose
Cheng, Qingqing
Ching, Leonel
Cruz, Saul
Duran, Stephanie
Flores, Christian
Gibaja, Maria
Hu, Zheng
Isaacs, Natasha
Jimenez, Kenneth
Kumar, Ruhet
Laynes, Kelly
Moy, Judy
Palacios, Diego
Pena, Hommy
Perez, German
Qu, Mengxue
Quizhpi, Jesse
Riera, Arnol
Saini, Amrita
Vega Visente, Richard
Xue, Raymond
Zou, Ken

Juniors

Aguillar Jenifer
Asmat, Aisha

Castillo, Steven
Castro, Jonathan
Cruz, Luis
Gualpa, Denise
Hsu, Yuan Wei
Infante, Yaniri
Jerez, Brenda
Li, Jun
Lin, May
Monegro, Jose
Morocho, Wilson
Nan, Wanjing
Nichols, Brendan
Pahlad, Tina
Point Du Jour, Samuel
Serrano, David
Vazquez, Nohely
Vidal, Daniela

Seniors

Alvarez, Jose
Artiles, Carolina
Beltran, Karolina
Desouza, Floyd
Enea Vargas, Valeria
Marca, Andrea
Mejia, Vanessa
Merchan, Alan
Obando, Leidy Vanessa
Palermo, Thomas
Pimentel, Elizabeth
Ramirez, Janice
Rosales, Jose
Saquipulla, Jaime
Vazquez, Meliton
Wu, Jingjie

Casting a Wide “Net” for Credits

by Julissa Ballesteros

Over 70 Queens Voc students are taking online courses through Apex Learning program. The Apex courses being taken by Queens Voc students are algebra, economics, English II, geometry, global 2, government, health, living environment, mathematics of personal finance, physical science, and US History 2. Math of personal finance and physical science are substitute classes for math and science credits.

The Apex Learning online classes began in October and will end in June.

“The Apex Learning program is a funded grant that was given to Queens Vocational for one year as a free trial. Apex is being used

primarily as a credit recovery program, for students who failed a class they need to pass,” said Ms. Ocampo, assistant principal of pupil personnel services.

Mr. MacDonald coordinates Apex at Queens Voc. He enrolls students, grades assignments, submits grades, e-mails students, and plans and conducts meetings.

The highest enrollments in the Apex Learning Program are health with 23 students, government with 15 students, and economics with 8 students.

While many of the students were signed up to earn credits, others signed up just for Regents review. “Some students dropped the online courses because they found the courses to be difficult,” said Ms. Ocampo.

After some of the students did not do well in the second

marking period, Ms. Burg, Ms. Judge, Mr. MacDonald, and Ms. Ocampo met with the students enrolled in Apex and presented tips for managing time, studying for the online classes, and understand procedures and course requirements.

“The Apex Learning Program is different from traditional classes. The program is based on the common core national standards. In some ways, the online courses are easier because students can do homework on phone and computer, but the courses are also more challenging because students have to be more mature, responsible, and stay on track,” said Mr. MacDonald.

Jason Perez is a junior enrolled in the Apex economics course. Economics is a senior class. Jason said he was registered for the course without being informed. He found out, he said, when he saw his last report card. “I received a 45 and I never went because I wasn’t aware I was in the class.” After his last report card alerted him that he was in the course, he said he is now working to learn economics and to pass the course. “The program seems to be very helpful, and it’s helping me catch up with the credits I need in order to graduate on time.”

and green, with bells on them, some even had penguins. Freshman Amanda Hurtado said that “it was really nice that they gave out the necklaces.” Glow sticks were also given later in the dance.

Mr. Vega said that the dance was such a success that he and his leadership students are considering having either a Valentine’s Day dance or a spring dance. The dance does not create any profit for the SO or the school, Mr. Vega said, but it is something for the students to do.



Fist pumping and jumping.

Yu’s Students Deliver Big: C-Tech Class Wins Battle of the Shops

by Valeria Enea

Queens Voc participated in the annual City Harvest food drive. Mr. Vega, the coordinator of student activities, said, “the purpose of the food drive is to stock the city’s food pantries.” The food drive was a huge success, as the school collected more than 1,000 food items.

City Harvest exists to end hunger throughout New York City. The organization has been feeding hungry New Yorkers for 25 years. City Harvest accepts many canned food items, but prefers canned fruits and vegetables.

“The Battle of the Shop Classes is a fun way for shop teachers and their students to get involved and help those less fortunate,” said Mr. Vega.

The Battle of the Shop Classes began Nov. 29 and ended Dec. 17. During this time participating shop teachers encouraged their students to bring in as many acceptable donations as possible. “The students really get involved and are willing to give back,” Mr. Vega said.

Mr. Yu’s tenth grade C-Tech class won. Mr. Yu encouraged students to bring in 100 food items each by awarding them 20

points on the next quiz. Six students followed through, contributing 100 items each. Mr. Yu also donated many food items himself. The class collected 679 food items. “It felt good doing something that helps others,” said Daisy Maldonado, a student in Mr. Yu’s class. The winners are getting a free trip to the City Ice Pavilion in Long Island City and are going to be given specialty pizza pies for lunch. “I’m not that excited to ice-skate, but I’m going to have fun watching people fall,” said Julio Urgiles, a student in Mr. Yu’s class.

Mr. Vega’s EI class came in second place with 408 food items. “Regardless of the outcome I am proud of my class for contributing to those less fortunate,” said Mr. Vega. Other shop classes also collected food items, but there was no clear third place winner.

Last year, Mr. David’s ninth grade C-Tech class won. The class took a trip to the City Ice Pavilion in Long Island City, where the class ice skated. The winning class was also given pizza for lunch.

“I’m glad the food drive continues to be a success in Queens Voc,” Mr. Vega said.

Re-certification Pending for EI and C-Tech

by Karina Villalobos

Representatives from the Tweed courthouse, home of the New York City Department of Education, came to Queens Voc on Dec. 16, to evaluate the school’s electrical installation and computer technology programs for recertification.

CTE programs are required to be recertified every five years, said Ms. Burg, the principal.

Ms. Burg said that after the review, the city representatives report to their findings to the State Department of Education, which is the certifying authority.

Mr. Rodriguez, a C-tech teacher, said that the school was told to expect to hear back within a month from the SED, but the school has not yet received a response.

The representatives were looking to see if Queens Voc had improved the curriculum for the two programs.

The visits from the state to recertify the C-tech and electrical installation programs are not connected to the visits from the representatives sent to monitor the overall school, according to Ms. Burg.

If the programs are not recertified, the state won’t fund the program any longer, said Mr. David, another of the school’s C-tech teachers.

The school would still be able to have the programs, but they would no longer be allowed to use state funds to purchase equipment for C-tech or electrical installation classes.

Although the recertification is still pending, Mr. Ali, assistant principal for trades and technology remained optimistic. “Everything seemed as though it went smooth, if there were any major problems, they would have notified us already,” he said.

Holiday Dance Sparks QV Spirit



Holiday revelers partying at Winter Wonderdance.

by Karina Villalobos

Queens Voc held its annual holiday dance on Friday, Dec. 17. The cafeteria, where the dance was held, was decorated in blue and white for the theme, “Winter Wonderdance.”

The dance began at 5:30pm, and ended at 9pm. DJ Robert, hired by the leadership students, played various genres of music. The genres of music included hip hop, meringue, bachata, and R&B. There was also a break-dancing competition.

“It was organized very well,” said junior Christopher Perez, “I would definitely go to

another dance, it was pretty fun.”

The dance was organized by Mr. Vega and his leadership students.

Tickets were sold in Mr. Vega’s office, room 143. Admission was \$2 for SO members; non SO members paid \$4. The leadership students were unable to provide the number of tickets sold, but estimated that “about 150 students attended the dance,” making it one of the largest that Queens Voc has had, according to Mr. Vega. Necklaces that were holiday inspired were given to the first 100 students at the dance. The necklaces were red



Honor Society Inducts 141



by Jennifer Sanchez

One-hundred and forty-one Queens Voc students were recently inducted into the President's Honor Society.

Parents and Honor Society inductees attended the ceremony, held the morning of Wednesday Dec. 15, from 8am to 9am in the school's auditorium. Following the ceremony, a breakfast for the inductees and their parents was held in the student cafeteria.

According to Ms. Dattner, of the 141 students qualified for the Honor Society, 30 were seniors, 49 were juniors, and 62 were sophomores. To qualify for the Honor Society, students must have a cumulative average of 85 or above on their transcript.

This year's mistress of ceremonies was Ashley Demoss, a sophomore who volunteered to host the event. Ashley introduced Ms. Burg to the stage who congratulated the inductees and their families, followed by Ms. Ocampo who spoke next and read President Obama's congratulatory letter to the Honor Society candidates. According to junior Priscilla Delgado "I thought it was inspiring and makes me want to continue to do better. It was exciting to know the president acknowledges the Honor Society students in QV." Ms. Dattner then led the students in reciting the ephebic oath.

The students were then called up one by one and presented with their certificates and medals. Seniors were the first to receive their certificates, followed by juniors, and then sophomores. The certificates are divided into two levels of



Honor Society inductees welcomed by school staff.

honor, either a gold or silver presidential seal. A gold seal means a student has achieved an average of 90 or higher and a silver seal means a student achieved an 85-89 average. "I've been in the Honor Society for the past three years. I feel happy to be member of the Honor Society because we are awarded for our academic success," said senior Jessica Angel.

A candle lighting ceremony took place after the students received their awards. According to Ms. Basirico, "The candle lighting ceremony symbolizes knowledge, goodness and purity." The students receive candles to symbolize responsibility for passing their knowledge on to others.

Usually, students recite the honor society pledge before they light the candles, but this year with all the excitement Ms. Basirico forgot to lead the students through the pledge. "Oh no," said Ms. Basirico when a student reminded her "The ceremony was so beautiful I got caught up in all the excitement of it."

Students who were eligible but did not attend the induction ceremony are not considered members of the President's Honor Society and will not

receive their awards said Ms. Basirico. "The 15 students who did not show up cannot be considered members of the Honor Society because they did not take the ephebic oath or the Honor Society pledge, it just wouldn't be morally right."

Senior Emilee Rosa was one of the 15 students who did not attend the ceremony. "This is the first year I qualified for the Honor Society and it's a bummer that I will not be receiving my award. Honestly, I don't know why I didn't attend and it's unfortunate that I can't put this on my college resume."

During the ceremony, junior Kelly Ann Kato spoke about what it meant to her to be inducted into the Honor Society, and what she's done to be successful. Tannia Gordon, vice president of the Parents Association also spoke about the importance of education. Ashley Demoss said that "Kelly's speech was very touching and Ms. Gordon's speech inspires me to continue doing as good I as am."

The following students were inducted into the President's Honor Society:

Sophomores

Maria Abassi
Denisse Abreu
Safreen Akbar
Amin Alsayed
Henry Alvarez
Alexandra Ambrus
Syarifah Andi
Jenny Aucaquizphi
Mila Badhon
Dorothy Bailey
Sauvik Banik
Kimani Brown
Denisse Carbo
Ariana Cheong
Heather Clarke
Andy Collado
Saul Cruz
Ashley Demoss
Stephanie Duran

Melissa Espinosa
Ibtihaj Farooq
Raymond Gomez
Natalie Guanga
Jessika Guerrero
Leiry Jaquez
John Jerez
Marcin Kochanek
Valerie Lopez
Kelly Laynes
Stephanie Maldonado
Edith Mesa
Leslie Miramon
Isaac Morales
Judy Moy
Noel Victoria
Michelle Orozco
Fatima Osman
Nicole Osorio
Diego Palacios
Hommy Pena
German Perez
Maria Perez
Carolyn Perlaza
Alison Perry
Mengxue Qu
Jose Recinos
Mauricio Rivera
Michael Roman
Jessica Rosales
Khiran Samsundar
Sonia Sanchez
Jesse Santander
Priya Seejor
Liyi Su
Vanessa Tapia
Joseph Taveras
Cristian Trujillo
Jason Vallejo
Monica Vega
Richard Vega
Raymond Xue
Ken Zou

Juniors

Muneeza Ahmed
Muhammed Allie
Juan Alzate
Katherin Arias
Betzabeth Astudillo
Philip Borisuck
Dayna Brito
Jorge Calderon
Tina Marie Callanan
Alice Chee
Daniel Corona
Alexis Crespín
Ashley Deaza
Priscilla Delgado
Chorten Dolma
Runqing Fang
Francisco Frias
Biaani Garcia
Denise Gualpa
Gurkirat Hans
Samantha Hasbun
Manli Hu
Sandra Jarro
Brenda Jerez
Kelly Ann Kato
May Lin
Lisbeth Marmalejos
Wanjing Nan

Sylvester Nimako
Tanisha Northington
Yanil Ortiz
Tina Pahlad
Frank Pena
Zuleyma Pena
Christopher Perez
Pawel Pietraszko
Samuel Point Du Jour
Joel Polonia
Qianjie Qu
Evelin Ramirez
Lucy Ramirez
Sindi Rodriguez
Vanina Romero
Stefanie Sierra
Yaw Teh
Thomas Tinsley
Estefania Trigas
Nohely Vazquez
Daniela Vidal

Seniors

Jose Alvarez
Jessica Angel
Armando Avila
Lauren Beltre
Margaret Castellanos
Jason Chen
Jose Chiriboga
Shennel Cole
Tanman Dey
Valeria Enea
Kimberly Espinal
Denisse Flores
Freddy Flores
Jonatan German
Roger Haynes
Lawrence Lebeau
Luseny Maldonado
Rosa Marte
Vanessa Mejia
Vanessa Obando
Florencia Oviedo
Kevin Peterson
Elizabeth Pimentel
Shiva Rampaul
Raquel Reyes
Henry Rivas
Dilpreet Singh
Maria Toro
Rocio Vicencio
Jingjie Wu



Inductees receiving their medals and certificates.



Candle-lighting ceremony.

Seniors Watch *Grown Ups* During Movie Night

by Stephanie Gonzalez

Popcorn and CapriSun were provided at no cost to the sixty-one seniors who attended the first Senior Movie Night of the school year. The seniors watched *Grown Ups*, hosted by Mr. Vega and the senior officers.

The event took place after school on Friday Dec. 3.

Originally *The Other Guys* was supposed to be shown, but was unable to play due to some connection issues according to Kevin Sasuman, the senior class president.

“It [Senior Movie Night] was real fun; I laid on the floor with a lot of popcorn and had a blast,” said Chaimae Benali, senior class vice president, “it was a great time to spend with the seniors.”

“The movie was hilarious,” said Hugo Collado, “I preferred it over *The Other Guys*.”

Overall, Thomas Palermo said, “the event was a good experience. I’m glad I attended.”

Seniors Vanessa Obando and Janet Tellez of the Leadership class helped the senior officers promote movie

night and helped out at the event.

“Movie night turned out good but I was expecting more seniors to attend,” said Lizeth Montoya, the senior class treasurer.

The turnout was somewhat disappointing, but for a good reason. “Some people couldn’t show up because the following day was SATs for some seniors; next time we will pick a date that will be more convenient,” said Kevin.

Kevin and Lizeth plan to organize more movie nights and other events for seniors for the upcoming months.



Thomas and Sherice.

93.9% of Lunch Forms Returned Results in an additional \$800,000 for school programs

by Henry Rivas

One thousand-three hundred and eleven students attending Queens Voc and only 80 have not returned their lunch forms. That is, 93.9% of Queens Voc students submitted the lunch forms provided to the students in their shop class.

According to Mr. Alikakos, assistant principal for organization and security, Queens Voc was eligible to receive an additional \$49,280 if these students had submitted their applications. The applications are no longer being accepted.

A completed application enables the NYC Department of Education to determine if students are eligible to eat lunch for free or for 25¢. Students who are not free or reduced-eligible or who did not return their application pay \$1.50 for lunch, according to the NYC Department of

Education website.

The lunch forms not only determine if the student gets free or reduced-priced meals, but also, determine the funding the school receives. This year, Queens Voc received a total of \$802,551. The more lunch forms returned that are considered low income by the City’s standards, the more Title I funds the school receives. “Title I is an allocation based on the students’ poverty level,” said Mr. Alikakos.

“We use the Title I money for school resources and to enhance educational experiences,” said Mr. Alikakos. These funds pay for teachers’ salaries and the services that Queens Voc offers its students, such as the new smart boards in classrooms and new computers. Textbooks and after school programs supplements the students educational experience at Queens Voc provided by the Title I funds.



Juanito’s feet aren’t always planted firmly on the ground.

Break Dance Club Attracts Members from Near & Far

by Thomas Arbelaez

Imagine break dancers gathering together, learning new routines, and practicing their dances in school? In Queens Voc this is reality. It’s called the break dance club.

Mr. Hammond, who supervises the club, said that there are a lot of different routines being practiced, a lot of instructions given, older kids teaching younger kids, and a lot of stretching.

Some students attend from junior high schools, and some dancers even bring their little brothers, according to Mr. Hammond. There are people who never went to Queens Voc who attend the club, and people who already graduated from Queens Voc who still attend the club, such as Peter Franco, who graduated from Queens Voc last year and is now in college.

“A lot of kids don’t like team sports, and some prefer activities that allow them to work

on their own in open spaces,” said Mr. Hammond.

Dancers encourage each other to keep trying if they don’t get a move the first time, and they keep their spirits high by complimenting one another. Additionally, some dancers attend to practice for the talent show.

Professional break dance crews, such as Supreme Beings, Teen Titans, and Five Crew Dynasty, have attended to demonstrate and to teach the students. These crews come at random times, said Mr. Hammond, if they’re looking for a place to practice. Mr. Hammond said that he lets them practice in the room, but only if the crew teaches the students in the club some moves.

The club meets Wednesdays, from 4pm to 7pm, in rooms 356 and 358. The two rooms are divided by a folding wall which opens to make one very large room.

According to Mr. Hammond, the purpose of the club is to encourage students to attend school more often. Mr. Hammond said the break dance club is open to any people who wish to attend, as long as they are willing to dance. The club isn’t advertised much, Mr. Hammond said, to prevent students from showing up just to watch, which makes the room very crowded.

The club was formed three years ago by Juanito Almonte and Ullysses Valerio, both freshmen at the time, for people who couldn’t find a place to practice their routines.

Mr. Hammond said that the kids are responsible for keeping the room in good shape. Further, they “police” each other so no one uses profanity or racial slurs, which applies to the music they play as well. He said that the club would like to have a jam, in which break dancers compete against other dancers from throughout the city for cash prizes. He wants to host a jam in Queens Voc, but said it requires too much, such as security, a DJ, an emcee, and judges, but the school has too much going on for something that big. They could place ads on breakernyc.com, which, he said, is a website specifically for break dancers in NYC.

Mr. Hammond said that is thankful for Ms. Burg, for always supporting the club, Mr. Alikakos for allowing it, Mr. Diamont and Mr. Esguerra for helping out when he is unable to be there, and the school safety agents for staying late and being supportive.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

compiled by Rosa Marte

January

Jan 31: Conference day. No school for HS students -Boys basketball @ Frank Sinatra

February

Feb 1: spring term begins for high school students -Girls basketball game vs. Info Tech.

Feb 2: Boys’ basketball @ American Studies

Feb 4: JV Boys basketball @ Newtown

Feb 7: Boys basketball vs. HS of Applied Com.

Feb 9: Boys basketball @ R. F. Wagner

Feb 10: Girls basketball @ R. F. Wagner

Feb 14 : Valentine’s Day Fundraiser. - JV basketball vs.

Forest Hills

- First round of the mock trials

Feb 15: JV Boys basketball vs. Franklin K. Lane

- Mock trials begin

Feb 17: Parent Association Meeting 6:30-8pm

- CTE night will be held from 4-8pm

- School Leadership Team meeting, 4-6:30pm

Feb 21-25: Midwinter recess School Closed

Feb 28: College Now classes begin

March

March 1: Second round of the mock trials begins

March 2: JV boys’ basketball vs. Aviation

March 7: College Connection classes begin

March 11-13: Robotics

Competition @ Jacob Javits Center

March 17: Parent Teacher Conference, evening -School Leadership Team meeting, 4-6pm

March 18: Parent teacher conference, afternoon

March 24-26: Robotics Competition @ Hofstra University

March 25: Boys baseball vs. Arts & Business

March 28: Boys baseball vs. InfoTech

March 30: Boys baseball @ InfoTech

April

April 13: School Leadership Team meeting 4-6pm

April 18-26: Spring Break

May

May 13: Career Day

Yearbook Prepares to “Break Barriers”



2011 yearbook staff: take a picture, it last longer.

by Kevin Peterson

With the end of the school year getting closer, the yearbook for the graduating class of 2011 is nearly complete.

According to Lizeth Montoya, a yearbook committee member, the yearbook committee is currently working on “Way Back When,” the section of the yearbook that includes the seniors’ baby pictures.

Several sections of the yearbook are already complete. According to Chaimae Benali, a yearbook committee member, the completed sections of the yearbook are: administration, teachers/staff, shop classes, senior glow out, breast cancer walk and spirit week.

Ms. Green and Ms. DeCarlo are the yearbook advisors. According to Ms. DeCarlo, the yearbook committee meets every Tuesday at 4pm in the

Library’s computer room to work on the yearbook. Ms. DeCarlo said about 20 students were on the yearbook committee at the beginning of the year, but only 12 students remain. Students who were not dedicated were “weeded out,” she said.

Yearbook pictures were taken between Dec. 20 and Dec. 22 for all seniors who want their picture in the yearbook. The pictures taken can be purchased online as a package. According to Ms. DeCarlo, the cost of the yearbook, which is included in the senior dues, is \$75.

The yearbook is being designed on an online program, *Jostens*, where all pictures are added and the backgrounds for each page are created.

The final deadline for the yearbook is March 7, Ms. DeCarlo said. The yearbook will be distributed sometime in June.

The yearbook editors are: Mert Avcu, Chaimae Benali, Fernanda Dellacroce, Kevin Diaz, Ahmed Ebrahim, Stephanie Gonzalez, Ashley Matos, Lizeth Montoya, Aristeo Quiroz, Janice Ramirez, Aichel Rivera, and Alexis Smith.

MOUSE Squad

Coming To A PC Near You!



School’s student-technicians keep on debugging.

by Esteban Soler

“MOUSE Squad services the computers in Queens Voc and intends to keep the school’s computer equipment running smoothly,” said Mr. David, first year coordinator of the MOUSE Squad and C-tech shop teacher.

MOUSE Squad, Making Opportunities for Upgrading Schools and Education, is a program in which groups of students participate to help repair, troubleshoot, upgrade, and install computers at their school.

MOUSE Squad team members are expected to know how to provide technical support, and to take apart a broken computer, fix it, and put it back together, according to mousesquad.org. “Students must be in SCEET or in the tech field to be chosen for MOUSE Squad,” said Mr. David. “If you are serious about joining MOUSE Squad and want to give it a shot, then I’ll let you give it a shot.”

MOUSE Squad members work after school on Tuesdays and Thursdays, three to four hours each day, to perform basic work: replacing or upgrading hardware and software. The MOUSE Squad members earn \$7.25 an hour. “In room 307, we configured a server to work with the laptops,” said Michael Dowlatram, first year Mouse Squad member. “To do that, we had to make some Ethernet cables.” The MOUSE Squad also set up the new computers in room 411. “We installed software on the new the PCs, installed Deep Freeze, setup a smart board, and right now we are working on configuring individual logins,” said Mr. David.

Some students volunteer for Mouse Squad. “Students join because they need their 60 hours and it’s part of their field,”

said Mr. David. “They also get real life experience in the field of computer technology.” According to Yasin Khan, second year MOUSE Squad member, “we get to see how the real world industry feels compared to the jobs assigned to us in class; in MOUSE Squad we get the experience of being under pressure.” Mr. David said, “how much they learn depends on their personality and how much information the kids read-up on.”

The MOUSE Squad program runs year round. “Recently we fixed the printers in the teachers lounge, and installed software on a few new computers in 301,” said senior Freddy Flores.

To get the MOUSE Squad’s help, the faculty in the school must fill out a repair request form. “We input the form into our MOUSE Squad system where it is tracked to send out kids to do it,” said Mr. David.

The following students are members of MOUSE Squad: Pablo Alvarado, Philip Borisuck, Steven Castillo, Shane Chandan, Bryan Charlie, Jason Chen, Jashua Cora, Christopher Dasilva, Floyd Desouza, Michael Dowlatram, Runqing Fang, Freddy Flores, Fredrick Jah, Yasin Khan, Chi Lung Hsu, Brandon Navarette, Nimako Sylvester, Louis Pacheco, Thomas Palermo, Pawel Pietraszko, Noemi Ramos, Shiva Rampaul, Leo Rojas, Andi Syarifah, Luis Torres, Billy Vargas, Meliton Vazquez, and Natalie Vegas.

To find out more about MOUSE Squad, visit their website: mousesquad.org.



ABCs for Seniors: Active year, Busy Class

by Dario Javier

Trip

The senior trip to the Honor’s Haven & Spa in the Catskills took place Jan. 14-16. Seventy-five seniors attended. The cost of the trip was \$275.

The food and many of the activities, such as tennis, snow-tubing, and swimming, were included in the cost. There were additional activities for the students, at an additional cost, such as skiing (\$60), paintball (\$30), and snow-boarding (\$70).

Only seniors who passed all of their classes in the second marking period were allowed to attend, unless the teacher wrote Mr. Vega a letter explaining why the student should go.

Pictures

Yearbook photos were taken on Dec. 20, 21, and 22 in the school auditorium.

Once seniors received their official senior portraits at continental studios.com, they had to select their yearbook photo and had the option to order photographs. Photo packages ranged from \$94.95 to \$339.95.

Movie Night

The senior movie night was on Dec. 3 at 5pm in the school

auditorium. The movie which was selected by students was *Grown Ups* starring Adam Sandler, Kevin James, Chris Rock, Rob Schneider, and David Spade. Seniors that participated were given free popcorn and drinks.

“About sixty five students attended the movie night,” said senior treasurer Lizeth Montoya. The event cost \$2 and students needed a signed permission slip. “It was a fun Friday night to get away and chill with friends,” said senior Maximo Muniz.

Food Festival

The \$2,100 raised in the food festival will be used to reduce the cost of the prom and luncheon.

Many seniors brought in homemade food, which was then sold during the four lunch periods, on Wednesday, Dec. 8. A plate of food cost \$5 and a soda \$1. Dessert was also sold. “The festival was a huge success. It was also successful because this year we had the most freshmen ever participating by buying food and drinks,” said Mr. Vega.

Glow Out

The first official senior activity of this year was the

Senior Glow Out, the annual all black glow-in-the-dark party. The event was held on Friday, Nov. 12.

The event cost \$2 and a permission slip was required. “The event was really fun, it was a great time for seniors to get together and party,” said senior vice president, Chaimae Benali. Seniors danced, waving their glow sticks in the air as their clothes glowed from the glow paint that was splattered on them. Seniors were also provided pizza and soda. The event was held to create a human “2011” in the handball court, so a picture could be taken from the roof.



Tomas rocks senior trip.

by Luseny Maldonado

Some of us take advantage of what Queens Voc offers, but some students push it too far. They charge their phones in school.

Cell phones are, indeed, something students feel the need to carry around, but some students think it's okay to charge their phones in school. Some teachers allow them to charge their phones in class making seem like it's okay, but it shouldn't be allowed.

We ignore the rule about electronics in school by bringing our i-Pods and phones. Then, we sneak around and use them. But taking the chargers out in class, plugging them in to a receptacle in the room and charging them is really just plain wrong.

Some students would argue that charging their phones in school is not a big deal. But there are some valid reasons it shouldn't be allowed.

School is a place where we come to get an education, but we don't take it seriously if we are focused on communicating with others via our cell phones. We do spend almost 8 hours in school, but that doesn't mean school is your second home where you get really comfortable, charge your phone, put your slippers on, and channel surf. It's school, not home.

Charging phones during class can lead to distractions.



Will we next fight over electrical outlets?

Outlets are on walls and sometimes far from a student's seat. Students know they'll have to keep an eye on their phones so that the phones aren't stolen. These students won't fully concentrate on their

class work. Then, if the phone does get stolen, there's all the drama. It's happened here before; it has led to threats, and it could lead to fights.

Moreover, arguments will start among students who want to charge their phones in rooms that do not have enough outlets. And how much class time should be allowed for plugging and unplugging our chargers? What happens when one student isn't done charging his phone and

another wants to charge hers? A lack of patience can lead to disagreements and fights. We shouldn't think about using the outlets at school and instead think about homework assignments that are due.

We shouldn't have our phones in school in the first place.

Charging our phones in school can lead to huge problems, disputes, and fights. Students may wake up one day and say "Oh no! My phone has low battery and won't last through the whole day." Well, either leave it at home or turn it off while you are in your classes. Deal with it responsibly.

It's the students' responsibility to charge their phones at home.

We should take our education seriously and stop worrying about our phones and who we're texting and what's up on Facebook. That, just like charging our phones should be something we do at home, not at school.

The Good and Bad of Smaller Learning Communities

by Jennifer Sanchez

Smaller Learning Communities are supposed to help students improve in their academic classes and their major by giving teachers the opportunity to focus on small groups of students and their academic needs. But what SLCs also do is divide the student body into different cliques.

According to Ms. Burg, "The SLCs were established by Ms. Vittor a couple of years ago. She applied for a grant to try the SLC model in order to improve the school's academic performance."

"The results were positive," said Ms. Vittor. "There was an

improvement in the students' graduation rates, Regents scores, and even students attendance improved after the SLCs were established," she said.

According to SSBT student Dennis Ortega, "SLCs are a great approach because we're not all learning the same thing. Our majors are an important part of our grade and in an SLC, students are able to interact with other students who share the same major."

While SLCs might benefit the students in their academic classes and their major, they also limit students' interactions among those in other SLCs. Many students do not even

recognize some of their classmates from other SLCs. "I never really noticed how much SLCs divided the student body," said SES student Johnny Chino. "This is the first year I have a class with SSBT and I barely know the people in there."

Students in different SLCs have very few opportunities to interact with each other and actually spend time with their graduating class. The few opportunities they have are during their freshman year when they all have lunch together, during physical education, the only class not chosen by SLC, and during their senior year when students participate in senior activities. Students can

also interact with each other if they join a school team or club, but such a small percentage of students join that it's barely an option.

SSBT student Aristeo Quiroz said that "SLCs are awful because they hurt the school's spirit. I have many friends in SES and SCEET that I rarely see because I don't have classes with them. But in truth, they do benefit me in my academic classes especially shop, because we are in the same SLC we can help each other during lunch and discuss what we didn't understand or need improvement in."

"The SLCs may hurt school spirit," said Mr. McCarthy, "but

it helps teachers in an SLC discuss with each other students and their performance to help them improve in their classes."

Ms. Vittor and Ms. Burg consider the SLCs a success.

But even if we accept that SLCs are helpful in students' academic classes and their major, SLCs do limit the students' interaction with students in other SLCs.

There does not appear to be any solution. We could try more school-wide activities, but what? And when? And how?

Unless we can answer these questions, we're going to have to accept the trade off: better performance, less school spirit.

News

College Now, or Never?

by Aneita Torres

College Now classes begin Monday, Feb. 28. *College Now*, along with College Connection, gives students the opportunity to earn free college credits.

Eighty-nine College Connection courses are offered, but only four Queens Voc students signed-up before the Jan. 11 deadline. The classes begin Monday, March 7.

College Connection courses includes a wider variety of courses than *College Now*, but has more acceptance requirements.

The *College Now* and College Connection program offers students a chance to earn free college credits transferable to any CUNY, and some SUNY and private colleges, according to Ms. Newman, coordinator of *College Now* and College Connection for LaGuardia Community College. The deadline to apply to a *College Now* course is Friday, Feb. 11.

All of the College Connection and most of the *College Now* courses take place at LaGuardia Community College. A few are taught at Queens Voc.

The students who applied for a *College Now* or College Connection course will do college-level work for the course, according to Ms. Newman. The *College Now* classes end on June 10, and the College Connection classes end on June 14. Students can only take one *College Now* or one College Connection course per semester.

Students must be in 11th or 12th grade to apply to take a *College Now* or College Connection course, said Ms. Newman. The students who are accepted to take a College Connection course will receive

an e-mail inviting them to a mandatory orientation, will start at 5:30pm and end at 7:30pm on Thursday, March 3 in room 106 in the M building of LaGuardia Community College. During orientation, students will meet their mentors and will learn about their responsibilities as College Connection students and the academic resources they may use.

The *College Now* classes that are given at LaGuardia Community College are: Introduction to Business, Literacy and Propaganda, Composition 1, Critical

Thinking, College Algebra and Trigonometry, Pre-Calculus, Topics in Biological Science, and General Psychology

The *College Now* courses that will take place at Queens Voc are Math Workshop, Principles of Accounting, and Basic Writing.

Among the 89 College Connection courses are: Anthropology, Vocabulary Enhancement, Elementary Japanese, Sign Language, Guitar, Intro. to Philosophy, Internet Video and DVD Development, Calculus, Chemistry, Economics, Western Civilization, Global Politics, Psychology, and Photography.

Food Fights: The Fight for Self-Control

by Armando Avila

So far this school year at least three food fights occurred during 4th period lunch, SSBT's lunch period.

Priscilla Delgado, an SSBT representative for the School Leadership Team, said that food fights are, "a really stupid, pointless, and immature act. I feel embarrassed when the issue is brought up because classmates from my SLC were involved. They don't know how to control themselves," she said.

Ms. Vaskas, a school aide, was in the cafeteria during the most recent food fight that occurred on Friday, Dec. 17. "This was by far the worst food fight I've witnessed. People were knocked over, trays were flying, and a fight erupted in the hall after the food fight," she said.

Some students who are scheduled for 4th period lunch refuse to walk into the cafeteria. They are concerned that they have to be cautious at all times about getting thumped with a large tray of food or a full, open carton of milk.

Students involved in these food fights show no self-

control. And they show no respect for their classmates who have to walk into a filthy cafeteria. Further, they show no appreciation for the food they are given—food that many of them claim they deserve for free.

"In the four years I've been in Queens Voc, I have witnessed eight food fights," said Aichel Rivera, a senior scheduled for 4th period lunch. "I don't know what's the pleasure in throwing food. It's really disgusting and irritating," she said.

The total number of students who have been suspended for throwing food in food fights this year: one.

There have to be consequences. The lack of serious repercussions teaches them that they can get away with causing havoc and potential injury in the cafeteria.

Some students believe that enough has already been done. Students have temporarily lost the privilege of sitting in the booths and having access to the snack bar. Extra school aides, safety agents, and deans are in place. And the security cameras are on and recording every movement.

The only thing missing is for the students to grow up.

What's for Lunch? Milk, Fries, Pizza...Texting

by Ricky Macklin

I-pods, cell phones, and technology in general have become a major part of everyday life in today's society. Among us youth, I-pods and cell phones are "must haves." For some, they are almost a matter of life and death. "I'm going to die without my cell phone," said senior Nia Clarke, about her broken blackberry screen.

In Queens Voc, electronics are often confiscated from students who are caught using them in school. But if a student's lunch period is considered "free time," why are we not allowed to use electronics during this 42-minute time period? Primarily, because New York City says so, that's why.

It is obvious that electronics are prohibited in school because of the distractions they cause. But what are the odds electronics cause someone to be distracted during lunch? What if a student wants to listen to music while eating lunch?

Texting is a silent way of electronically communicating with another person. There are no major distractions to it that can cause problems in the cafeteria. But texting in the cafeteria can cause disruptions in class. A student at lunch could send text messages to students who are in class, who then text back.

There are many reasons electronics are prohibited in school, mainly, however electronics can cause disruptions. Students don't "need" cell phones in school. If parents have to contact a student in an emergency, the school can be contacted, and if the student is where he or she should be, there should be no problem finding the student.

If students honestly look at the reasons the use of electronics is not allowed, they would understand and accept the rule.

Texting even now in class proves that we are not responsible enough to text on our free time.

Vocational Voice

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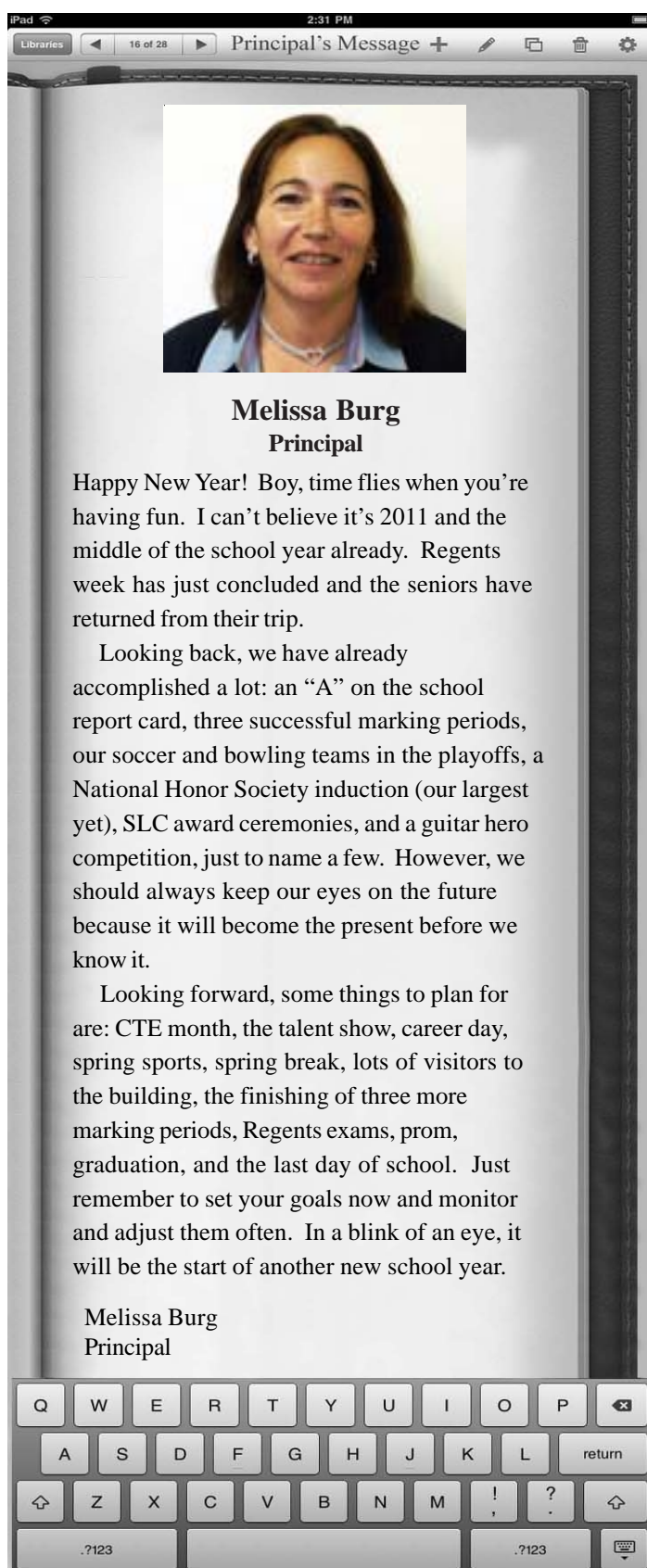
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**"Good enough" is
the enemy of "it
can be better."**



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Go to VocVoice.org

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**Do you have an
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articles in this issue of
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Write to us and tell us!
Be sure to sign your
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Schimenz's mailbox in
the main office.**



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Feedback: Our Readers Speak Out

by Dilpreet Singh

After publishing the first issue of the *Vocational Voice* we received much feedback from our readers.

The articles that got the most feedback were “1200 Students + 2 Open Bathrooms,” by Luseny Maldonado and “Filthy Bathrooms were to Blame” by Ricky Macklin. The articles were similar; they reviewed concerns with student bathrooms.

Emir De La Cruz stated that it is frustrating walking to the first floor to use the bathroom every time. **Clemente Martinez** wrote “when I’m on the fourth floor, I

Brian Sevilla wrote that “it’s annoying going all the way down from the fourth floor.”

have to run down to the first.” **Brian Sevilla** wrote that “it’s annoying going all the way down from the fourth floor.” **Yadira Perez** felt that it wasn’t fair that the girl’s bathroom was chosen to be on the picture of the article. **Stheffany Carrasco** thinks that all bathrooms should be opened. **Lurick Sanicho**, and **Breena Hallaseen** felt walking down all those stairs to go to the bathroom from room 416 is a real hassle. **Mark Hussein** hates when he goes and there is a line to use the urinal, so do **Amritpal Singh**, **Carlos Fernandez**, **Jonathan Rodriguez**, **Jefferson Vilcampo**, and **Raymond Diaz**.

Frank Pena wrote “we should get a petition to open up more school bathrooms.” **Randy Parshad** “wrote there should be at least two bathrooms open.”

George Penora wrote “I would give this article two thumbs up.”

Edwin Cuamani realized how much work the custodians actually do and thanks them.

Kevin Hernandez wrote “I always agreed that all the bathrooms should be opened but after reading this I changed my mind.” **Joseph Peterson** wrote “I agree that other bathrooms should be opened like the one on the second floor.” **Yessenia Torres**, **Vanina Romero** wrote “it’s fair what the school is doing about the bathrooms.” **Francisco Frias** believes students should do what’s right and take care of the school better. **Marget de Luca** wrote that “some people are just disgusting when it comes to taking care of bathrooms.” **Soe Ya Aung** wrote “it’s not right for all the students to pay for childish mistakes.” **Leo Rojas** liked the before and after picture. “It’s disgusting how the bathrooms are,” wrote **Maria Estrada**. “If we wouldn’t damage it we wouldn’t have to worry about it” wrote **Johana Calle**. **Valentin Martinez** disagreed and wrote “we should rally up and complain if you don’t want dirty bathrooms.” **Dino Zambrano** wrote “after reading your article it made me believe that boys and girls are just as unclean.” **Charles Hughes** found a way to use a vocabulary word when he wrote “I had an epiphany of the actions by the girls in the bathroom.” He wasn’t alone. **Anthony Ventimiglia** wrote “thanks for informing me about dirty girls.” **Carlos Zamora**

“used to think girls were sugar and spice, but now I know.” **Edgar Ines** felt the article

Nayomi Spencer wrote, “I really appreciate what the journalist did about informing the reader.”

showed how students treat the bathroom. **Estefania Tigas** wrote that if vandals looked at the before and after pictures, they might finally start caring. **Nayomi Spencer** wrote, “I really appreciate what the journalist did about informing the reader.”

Another article that got a lot of feedback was “Cafeteria Food Rated by Students,” by Elizabeth Pimentel. **Sandy Abiad** and **Wen Li Chen** both wrote that “there should be more fruits available.” **Jesus Victorio** “hates the fact that he has to eat pizza every day.” **Marti Mai** stated in his letter we should have cake instead of what we have now. **Monica Puspasari**, **Gurkirat Hans**, **Kevin Santos**, **Jamel De la Cruz**, and **Steven Castillo** wrote that students should be allowed to leave the school to get lunch.

Ten people wrote about “Soccer Scores: Second Division Title,” by Thomas Arbelaez. **Kent Vara** “was very pleased with **Michael Alvarado**’s quote ‘play as one, lose as one, win as one.’” **Andres Romero**, who was on the team, wrote the soccer team will be back next year and give it our all to win.” **Wilson Morocha** admires the team for

getting this far. **Jorge Calderon** another teammate wrote, “They deserved to win it all.” **Jonathan Calderon** wrote he is on the team and feels it was a great year. **Eric Aucasapina** felt the team was good even though they didn’t win the championship. **Lenny Sales**, **Michael Alvarado**, and **Kevin Olivares** think that the team showed great heart, spirit, and courage.

Three people wrote about the “Top Hairstyles Display,” by Jennifer Sanchez. **Kitzel Montes** wrote that “the show was great.” **Cynthia Vidal** found that “the competition was very competitive.” **Shoanyn Palomeque** believes the hairstyle competition “was a great idea.”

Three people wrote about “If Saving the Earth Depended on us...” by Henry Rivas. **Yessenia Torres** was glad the article informed her how to recycle. **Michelle Pineda** finds it “refreshing that the school is becoming involved in making the environment clean.” **Natasha Amas** is “glad the school is doing something good.” **Edwin Flores** feels good because he helped put the posters up around the school “I’m glad they mean something,” he wrote.

Three people wrote about “School Earns an A,” by Stephanie Gonzalez. **Luis Pascual** wrote, “If I were to give this school a grade, it would probably be a B, not an A.” But **Sandra Jarro** believes otherwise. “Since Queens Voc has been improving they deserve an A.” **Costantinos Papakostas** cautioned that even though we got an A, we shouldn’t take it easy.

Two students wrote about “Baseball Prepares for new season and the end of an Era,”

by Jirus Hizon. **Steven Polanco** wrote “baseball is my passion and I’m glad the school has a team.” **Carlos Rodriguez**, a member of the team wrote, “the team is great.”

Two people wrote about the article, “JV Basketball has New Coach,” by Jirus Hizon. “I hope Mr. Daniel does well this year,” wrote **Jose Daran**. **Andres Ospina** thinks the team might do better this year.

We’d like to thank the English teachers for having their classes write to us. And we’d like to thank Mr. Davidson, the only teacher who took his time to write to us.

The Journalism class

Voc Voice thanks the English teachers who had their classes write to us.

received many anonymous letters from students. The *Vocational Voice*, however, does not print anonymous letters. We urge students to sign their letters. The letters we receive are important to us because we want to please our readers. We read them in class and enjoy them, even if they criticize our articles or our newspaper.

We encourage you to keep sending us letters about any article or any suggestions to improve our school newspaper. Letters can be placed in Mr. Schimenz’s mailbox in the main office. Comments can also be e-mailed to us at letters@vocvoice.org.

Tuesday Tutoring - Is it Really “Tutoring”?

by Shennel Cole

Every Tuesday, during what is commonly known as a “tutoring period,” teachers receive a folder with Spanish, and art worksheets for independent study projects. Students are required to do these assignments because they need this credit to graduate. Queens Voc has this “tutoring” period so students don’t have to do their independent study projects at home.

A “tutor” is defined as a person employed to instruct

another. So why do students at Queens Voc just sit around, listen to music, and text on their phones during tutoring.

It’s really not tutoring, as the teachers don’t even have to say anything because the instructions are on the paper. “Students come in, I take attendance, pass out the work,



Students relax and complete independent study.

some students work individually and others in a group,” said Mr. McCarthy, a plumbing teacher. Senior Ariel Soler finds the time “very boring, they just give us worksheets.”

Students who have art as tutoring find it easier because they just draw, or read the worksheet. Chanel Alston finds the

“tutoring” period “helpful, because it is always good to learn something new.”

Tutoring for music will begin during the fourth marking period.

Queens Voc should provide teachers who know the subjects they are tutoring. Instead of throwing papers in front of students, teachers trained in those subjects would be able to teach.

If you’re going to call a class tutoring, make sure that the students are actually being tutored.

Students Laugh at “Stupid Rules”

by Louis Pacheco

A rule by definition is a set guide for conduct. In Queens Voc the meaning is different.

Students often find the rules “stupid” or insensible.

Students not being able to wear hats is a rule that Phillip Borisuck finds funny. “Not only do students wear hats anyway, but this isn’t church. You can’t wear hats in church either.” Noemi Ramos says “the no hat in school rule is pretty dumb. Who are they hurting by wearing hats?”

Andi Syairifah also thinks the hat rule is one of the more dumb rules among the rest. “People should have the right to wear hats, and to deny them that right is stupid,” she said.

Brandon Navarette says “no electronic devices during our lunch period seems stupid. I mean, people need their entertainment!” Floyd Desoza agrees and thinks “the no cell phone rule is funny because if there’s an emergency people are going to use their cell phones anyway. People should have the right to communicate, especially in an emergency.” Chris Dasilva believes that not allowing students to use electronics during lunch is “unfair. It’s lunch! It’s our free period, and we should be able to do what we want,” he said. “It’s funny how so many students use their phones in school and they don’t get taken away. Students use them so often it’s like the rule doesn’t even exist. It just makes me laugh.” Chris also believes that not being allowed to leave the building if there is a hole in a student’s schedule is “just brainless.”

“Being able to choose your schedule would be a great, said

“People need their entertainment!”

Constantinos Papakostas. “You would be able to choose your schedule so you can get out earlier.”

Not being allowed to have “markers or Wite-Out is just plain idiotic,” said Jason Chen. “Wite-Out is used so often and is needed; to not have the right to have it in school is inconvenient.” [Editor’s note: the rule prohibits permanent markers because of their use in graffiti. Further, we have been

unable to find any school rule banning Wite-Out or any other brand of liquid paper.]

Students are not allowed to use the bathroom ten minutes before or after ringing of the school bell. “The bathroom rule is so unfair,” said Meliton Vazquez. “When you have to go you can’t help it, and no student is going to sit there and pee on themselves.”

“Security sometimes plays favorites, and it’s kind of funny how some students get better treatment than others just because they hang out with them. I was walking around in the halls with my friend, security comes along and tells her to get to class, while they tell me I have to go to room 109,” said Yasin Khan. This kind of double standard is unfair, he said.

What rules do you think are funny or unfair? Let us know. E-mail us at Editors@VocVoice.org, and we’ll put your comments in our next edition.

Wrdo Sblermca

by Thomas Arbelaez

Unscramble these words that are associated with Queens Voc.

- 1. IRNETNSPIH
- 2. OINNU
- 3. JNRMOALUIS
- 4. LETNRICECIA
- 5. RHCAPGITSAR
- 6. RPUMLBE
- 7. CSGMYTEOOLO
- 8. OCBRTISO
- 9. ECRTFIIED
- 10. QNSUEECVO
- 11. SISBNUES

Answers:

- 1. INTERNSHIP
- 2. UNIFORM
- 3. JOURNALISM
- 4. ELECTRICAL
- 5. GRAPHIC ARTS
- 6. PLUMBER
- 7. COSMETOLOGY
- 8. ROBOTICS
- 9. CERTIFIED
- 10. QUEENS VOC
- 11. BUSINESS

They Don’t Cut Hair or Wires, They Cut Class

by Mayra Bajana

It is 12:41pm on Wednesday, Dec. 15. Thirteen students are walking around the third floor halls with no passes. Three teachers are in the hallway. Not one cutter is told to go to class. The school safety agent comes up, but the cutters simply scatter to different floors to walk around.

Most of the cutters in the halls say they do not know their goals in life. They say they believe that their classes are useless and prefer the social life of being in the halls. They are confused. What will they be doing in a few years? “I don’t know, finish school” and “I’m not sure yet,” are their responses.

Ramon Azcona said he walked out of his class. “The teacher only bitches at me. There are other people with their phones out and I get bitched at, nah! Ian Clark says that cutting allows him to hang around and have more time to do other “things.” But what “things”?

Federico Castillo’s “thing” is walking around. “I cut because I was bored and didn’t want to go to class. The teacher wasn’t there and it lets me relax,” he said. Jonathon Webb

said he cuts because the teacher is boring. He doesn’t want to be in the Electrical Installation room because Mr. Maloney failed him. “I would work in McDonalds,” Webb says with a laugh when discussing his future. Islam Azharul says he cuts sometimes because “I have important things like doctor appointments or to hang out with friends.”

Among the cutters, one student explained that he was



“Just chillin’ yo.”

cutting because “it was a bad day.” Another said that “something came up.” A third said, “I had to hang with friends.” And another said he “was busy talking to this girl.”

Are these really excuses to cut class? Is it that the rest of

the day is not enough time for any other activities?

Cutters either don’t realize that they are being monitored or they don’t care. While the 40+ cameras in the halls and staircases are only occasionally monitored, they are connected to video recorders. But this doesn’t bother the cutters at all. Why should it? Getting spotted often means little more than being told to class. If that. On Monday, Dec. 13, at 12:31pm, seven cutters were walking around on the first floor and not one school safety agent said anything to them.

Frank Ayala says he’s been caught cutting plenty of times. “Nothing happened! Schimenz, Ms. Burg, all the deans, even teachers tell me to go to class and get out the halls. Schimenz, Rodriguez, and Mendez always say they will suspend me if they see me again. Still till this day, nothing has happened,” Frank said about the so called consequences.

“We speak to the parent, and the students and try to put them back on track,” said Mr. Rodriguez about what is done with cutters. He isn’t even astonished by the number of cutters in the halls. What is there left to do with the hallway cutters?

What will the future hold for all these Queens Voc cutters? McDonald’s will run out of open positions sooner or later.

Students’ New Year’s Resolutions

by Larry LeBeau

Every year, people come up with New Year’s resolutions. Here are a few resolutions from Queens Voc students.

Andres Agudelo - Junior
“Pass all my classes so I can be eligible to play in the last three games for the basketball team.”

Estefania Villegas - Freshman
“Get a job and save my money by putting it in my piggy bank.”

Jonathan Nunez - Junior
“I want to pass all my classes and Regents.”

Mike Bravo - Senior
“To join the gym because I’m fat and I have no upper body strength, so I want to get into better shape.”

Michael Feliz - Freshman
“I don’t want to get suspended from Mr. Samuleson’s class again. I’m going to try to pay attention in class and not do stupid stuff.”

Aichel Rivera - Senior
“To lose weight because I feel fat. Since I was 13 I’ve wanted to lose weight.”

Yubelyn Cruel - Freshman
“Get off Facebook and do my homework as soon as I get home.”

Maria Estrada - Junior
“I want to make it to senior year with an 80 or higher average and improve in EL.”

Jackie Jimenez - Junior
“Come to school on time and get an 85 or higher average.”

Stefan Thompson - Senior
“To get a job because I need more money, also to work on my English.”

David McCullough - Sophomore
“I want to try investing in the stock market.”

Eric Rojas - Senior
“To pass the U.S. history Regents so I can graduate with all my friends.”

Max Marin - Sophomore
“Pass this year and make it to the eleventh grade.”

Maria Toro - Senior
“To get a job because I want to stop depending on my parents and a job guarantees me more freedom.”

Jarvis Perez - Freshman
“I want to make it into the honor society by doing all my work and studying.”

Monica Vega - Sophomore
“I want to do better on my report card.”

Vanessa Mejia - Senior
“I want to get into a good college.”

Lexi Ambrus - Sophomore
“Pass my chemistry class and chemistry Regents so I don’t have to go to summer school, so I can go to the Bahamas over the summer for my 16th birthday.”

Good Luck!

by Luseny Maldonado

Inquiring Photographer

If you had the chance to end one of the world's problems, what would you choose and why?

Yessenia Bautista
Sophomore - Cosmetology



"I would want to find a cure for AIDS because so many people are suffering and dying and I feel people should have another chance to live."

Naiya Bustamante
Sophomore - Cosmetology



"If I could end any problem in the world it would be to end racism towards the gay community. I feel like everyone is and should be treated equally even though they have different sexual orientation."

Jose Cabrera
Sophomore - Plumbing



"I would end hunger because it's not fair that the United States has people that are overweight when there are people in Africa who don't have anything to eat, and in the United States there are people who throw away food."

Abel Cabrera
Freshman - Exploratory



"Pollution because I want to make the world a better place to live in and have clean air and water."

Daisy Maldonado
Sophomore - C-Tech



"The corruptness in the government. They have so much power and they use it in a bad way, when they should use it for good."

Roberto Castillo
Senior - Graphic Arts



"Famine. There's no point of it being a world problem since there's so much food in the world."

Erick Cabello
Senior - Electronics



"The lack of faith and trust in God. A relationship with God is important."

Andrew Adames
Senior - Business



"Nothing, because in the end, destiny is what it is and a part of God's plan."

Andrea Sacharsky
Junior - Business



"War because they're wasting a lot of money and sending a lot of innocent people who are risking their lives. I think it's time to bring our troops back home."

Alex Kiourkenidis
Junior - Graphic Arts



"The economy of the country. If we could get a clean slate and manage our money and big businesses better, there would be less recession and more expansion in everyone's pockets."

If you could end one of the world's problems, what would you choose, and why?

Paola Hernandez
Senior - Electronics



"One of the world's problems that I'd like to stop is selfishness. People tend to give so much for others, but some just take it for granted or are never satisfied."

Maximillian Manticof
Junior - Electronics



"Cancer. It's the biggest killer disease out of all the diseases and there's no cure for it."

Jesse Clark
Freshman - Exploratory



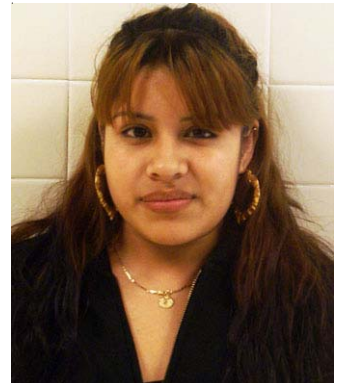
"I would want to end the war in Afghanistan because I have family and friends who are fighting over there."

Ledi Hipolito
Freshman - Exploratory



"Global warming because it's killing animals, affecting the weather and the icecaps are melting."

Lizette Cuazitl
Freshman - Exploratory



"Animal abuse. Many animals are getting hurt and killed and I feel bad for them, they're should be treated like human beings."

Nancy Morocho
Junior - Cosmetology



"Pollution. A lot of people are getting sick, that's something I would like to end."

Marilyn Bonilla
Sophomore - Cosmetology



"World hunger because no one deserves to starve and should have a plate of food every day."

Let us know what problem you'd solve. E-mail us at Letters@VocVoice.org

Our Teachers’ Annoying Habits

by Emilee Rosa

Can you imagine sitting front row waiting to be called on by your teachers and have them walk by, completely ignoring you? This is just one example of something teachers do that annoys students. Below, students share their views on what teachers’ do that annoy them the most.

Freshmen

Jordalys Quintero: “I hate when my teacher makes fun of me for being absent. When he asks me a question and I get the answer wrong, he always says, ‘that’s what you get for being absent.’”
Stacy Garcia: “I hate when my teacher assumes I’m the only one talking in class.”
Vanessa Arias: “I hate when teachers don’t know how to control their class. I hate when they don’t know how to teach.”

Osvaldo Nunez: “I hate when my teachers give me a lot of homework.”

Sophomores

Denisse Carbo: “I hate when I ask teachers a question and they ignore it and walk away. They do it every once in a while. I keep a serious face and ask someone else for help.”
Monica Molina: “I hate when I have a teacher and she talks on and on about her past experiences... She does this every time I have her as a substitute. I do my work and act like I am paying attention to her.”
Denisse Abreu: “I hate when I ask a teacher a question and their response never answers my question.”
Sebastian Betancur: “I hate when my teacher talks so much that it bores me to death. I hate when she reads a story over and over that I end up falling asleep.”

Juniors

Andrea Sacharsky: “I hate when teachers come to class in a bad

mood and they take it out on the class. I act negatively towards them because they bring my mood down with them.”

Philip Borisuck: “I hate when teachers give homework over the weekends because weekends are our days off and I don’t want to stay home doing worthless homework.”

Kevin Centurion: “I hate when teachers rush things and when they don’t take their time teaching the students.”

Ian Clarke: “I hate when teachers tell you that you passed the class when you actually failed the class.”

Seniors

Pablo Alvarado: “I hate when my teacher constantly says ‘mkay?’ He does this at least 70 times a period. I can’t help but count how many times he says ‘mkay?’”
Jonathan Reyes: “I hate when my teacher accuses me of making beats on the table when I’m actually quiet. He accuses me at least six out of the two times I make beats. I stop if I’m doing it, if not, I ignore him.”
Johnny Chino: “I hate when teachers call the deans for no

reason. For example, when I was a freshman, a teacher called a dean because a girl had just finished eating breakfast.”

Armando Molina: “I hate when teachers don’t believe that you did your work and think that you copied from someone else.”

Teacher Fun Facts

Think you know your teacher?

Think again.

by Jessica Angel

Think you know a lot about your teacher? Maybe not as much as you think.

Check out these facts about some of the teachers at Queens Voc.

1. Did you know that **Mrs. Watkins** likes horseback riding as well as scuba diving? She also used to go skiing in the past but stopped after she got married because her husband did not like to ski.
2. Did you know that **Mr. Alohan** has four children? He likes to joke around with his students and tells them that he has 16 kids, but the truth is that he has two sons and two daughters.
3. Did you know that **Ms. Rejalaga** used to work in a bookstore before she became a teacher?
4. Did you know that **Mr. MacDonald** went to college in Boston? He also has a driver’s license but has not had a car since he was in high school.
5. Did you know that **Ms. Gross**, aside from being a teacher, also sings in a choir? She has been singing in a choir for 12 years.

6. Did you know that **Mr. Romero** did not go to college until he was 27-years old? Also, during his lifetime he has killed thousands of crabs with his hands and has a collection of them.
7. Did you know that **Ms. Radovich** likes to play the accordion? Students would not think that she plays an instrument but she has actually played the accordion since she was 10 years old.
8. Did you know that **Mr. Devaux** majored in physical therapy when he was in college? Afterwards he came to Queens Voc to be a physical education teacher.
9. Did you know that **Mrs. Sharpe** likes to de-stress herself by playing the piano? She started learning to play about a year ago.
10. Did you know that **Mr. Burke** worked for a year in Germany? He worked in a manufacturing company.
11. Did you know that **Mrs. Lewis** has been to Hong Kong twice in her life? She describes it as being a “wonderful and exciting adventure.”

Can you find the shop tools?

by Kevin Peterson

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

Find these words in the puzzle.

- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| AMMETER | PIPE |
| BLOW DRYER | PIPE THREADER |
| CABLE | PLIER |
| COMB | PRINTER |
| COMPUTER | ROBOT |
| CONDUIT | SCISSORS |
| COPY MACHINE | SCREW DRIVER |
| CURLING IRON | SCREW GUN |
| FAUCET | SINK |
| LIGHTBULB | SOLDERING IRON |
| MONKEY WRENCH | STAPLE GUN |
| MULTIMETER | TEXTBOOK |
| NAIL FILE | WISE |
| NOTEBOOK | VOLT METER |
| PENCIL | WIRE STRIPPER |

Advice Column

by Shennel Cole

Problem: I was raised to believe that you don’t have sex until you’re married. You stay abstinent until you are married, but as I enter my senior year it as gotten a lot harder because my boyfriend is pressuring me to have sex. Many of my friends are sexually active so they don’t see it as a big deal and say “just do it already.” This is something that is very important to me and I don’t want to lose my boyfriend.

Advice: That’s a very difficult decision to make but I think that you should stick to your morals. If your boyfriend cares for you and respects you, he will wait. As for your friends, they’re no friends of yours. I wouldn’t hang around people who don’t support you and what you see in life. Surround yourself with people who will support you and be positive.

Problem: My best friend is having trouble in school and focusing because she’s too

worried with what people think about her. She hangs out all the time and expects me to be there and help her with all her work. I can’t because I have things to do also. I try to help her stay on track but she doesn’t listen. What should I do?

Advice: I think you’re a good friend because you care enough to think about her. You can’t help someone if she doesn’t want to help herself. Your friend will realize that you’re her real friend and you only want what’s best for her. Until she realizes that, I suggest you still be there for her because everyone needs a friend. You can still help her with her school work but do your own first.

Problem: I’m a freshman and I don’t have any friends. I’m very scared to make friends because I want to make the right ones. I don’t know how to go about making friends.

Advice: You just have to try. Life is all about living and learning from experiences. I know its hard being a freshman trying to fit in, but when you find that one group of friends, you’ll know that they’re the right ones for you.

Do you need advice?

Embarassing Moments

by Luseny Maldonado

You’re looking back and make eye contact with the person you have a big crush on and the next thing you know bam, you bump into a pole and all you hear is laughter. We’ve all gone through embarrassing moments where we turn red and wish we could disappear but not everyone is willing to tell the world their embarrassing stories. Queens Voc’s teachers and students share some of their mortifying moments.

“One day in elementary school I was chasing a boy I had a crush on and I tripped on a ramp, flipped, and fell. Everybody who was outside saw. It was mortifying.” -Paola Hernandez

“It was a rainy day, and I was on the bus. I rang the bell to get out and as I walked down the steps I tripped and everyone who was behind me fell on top of me. It took five minutes for everyone to get off of me. Everybody was staring at me and was really mad. It

was awkward and really embarrassing. I was wearing a white shirt too.” -Bryan Aldaz

“I was in Dorney Park during the summer and my little cousin was walking with his underwear in his hand and when we went to the bathroom he dropped it in the middle of the entrance of the park and I had to pick it up. Everybody thought it was mine and laughed at me. My face turned tomato red. I kept looking around. I was really embarrassed.” -Kelly Ramirez

“Last summer I went to the beach with my crush. We both went in the water and a big wave hit us. When I came up from the water he said ‘You might consider putting back your bikini back on.’ At that moment my heart dropped and I turned red. It was so embarrassing. At that second I put it back on. Unfortunately there were people around us which made it worse. It was embarrassing. I never thought I would go through an experience like that.” -Dayna Brito

Horoscopes

by Janice Ramirez

Sagittarius
November 22 - December 21
You have tons of great ideas for different types of groups and programs. Take them down and try to remember them.

Capricorn
December 22 - January 19
Stability is an important thing in you life, school work will keep you busy this month. This might bring some frustration and a few angry outbursts. Try to stay calm and keep your cool in situations.

Aquarius
January 20 - February 18
You are a very friendly person and your friends mean the world to you. It would be good for you if you joined some type of social club, or where you can help out.

Pisces
February 19 - March 20
You spend a lot of time trying to help others, continue doing what your doing karma is going to be good to you and in the future these favors will be returned to you.

Aries
March 21- April 19
Although many challenges arise, you always face them head on. Your natural instinct is to take charge. When it comes to school work or projects be sure to not leave anything unfinished.

Taurus
April 20 - May 20
You might be confused and don’t know what to do next, you shouldn’t make big decisions without thinking them through. Follow you instincts they will most likely be right.

Gemini
May 21 - June 20
This month will be filled with social activities for you. You’re a very outgoing person and easy going. Try not to let small conflicts affect your good mood.

Cancer
June 21 - July 22
This month try to make a new friend in school, and resolve any unfinished problems. You have a tendency to hold things in, express your feelings in a good way.

Want some *whine* with that?

by Jairus Hizon

From life to jobs to relationships, people have always wanted change. Now, with recent economic troubles, “change” seems like the answer. So the question is, “what would you change about Queens Voc?”

Many students, most notably seniors, believe that they should be able to eat out. Considering there are five major fast food chains in the area, with McDonald’s just up the block, eating out at lunch shouldn’t be a problem. Students in schools such as Aviation, just three blocks away, are able to eat out for their lunch period.

Many students also believe that they need new teachers because they aren’t being taught what they need to learn or just aren’t being taught properly. “We need more teachers that are passionate about what they teach, said Fernando Acevedo. Anyone can know something; it takes someone with skills to teach it,” he said. “Students like their teachers but find some of them just waste time.”

A few students said this school needs more school spirit. “It’s dead here,” one student said. “In my senior year in middle school, people were hyped all the time, now it just feels like another school year.” We have one week of school spirit where students act “hype” over what they can do or wear in school. Once that week passes, school spirit is dead again till the next spirit week. Notably, this student isn’t a cheerleader.

Because of recent problems in the school, students wish they could change the state of the gym floor. The huge bump growing on the floor makes it seem as if soon the other half of the basketball court may turn into handball wall. Gym classes that are split in two are now forced to share one side of the gym floor. Not only are students not able to play with sufficient space, but gym classes are now overcrowded. School basketball games have been moved to the opposing team’s court, or the Boys & Girls Club, so we no longer have home games for any of the school’s three basketball teams.

“I wish this school respected

Leo
July 23 - August 22
You like to be in the spotlight, try not too hard to fit in with the “cool crowd” be yourself. Maybe auditioning for the school talent show would be a good thing for you.

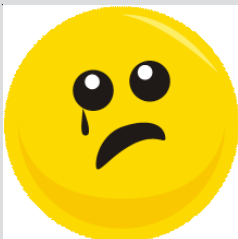
Virgo
August 23 - September 22
You a very hardworking and determined, you have the need to get everything perfect and sometimes this can get in the way of you actually enjoying something. Remember nobody’s perfect and try to have fun.

Libra
September 23 - October 22
You always stick up for what is right, and look out for others, which is a really good trait. Sometimes you might forget to take care of you own needs, take a day or two to pamper yourself and make yourself feel good.

Scorpio
October 23 - November 21
You value your friendships and relationships now even if you don’t show it and other don’t think so. You may want only a few people around you this month, and need a lot of alone time to think things through.

music the way the few musicians in this school do,” Jonathan Reyes said. “I would convert room 411 into a music room with real instruments and music recording programs installed onto the computers. That way QV can have another shop class that students would actually enjoy. This school needs more passionate musicians.” We already have students in school who play their instruments or sing. But we only see these abilities one day a year, in the school’s talent show. A music major would increase the diversity in Queens Voc. Only a few schools in New York have music majors and this change could be a positive one for Queens Voc.

We all want to change something about ourselves or our environment. We all want to improve. But it’s what we do with that urge that matters.



If You Could Be Any Superhero Who Would You Be?

by Freddy Flores

Which superhero would you like to be if you were given a choice?

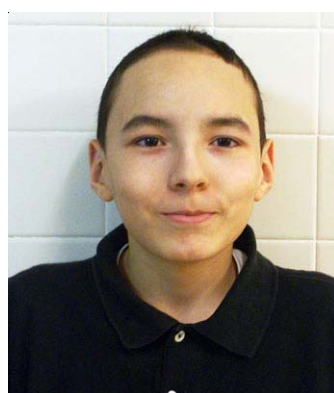
Jefferson Vilcapoma



Official Class 101

I would be Spider-Man. Spider-Man is very quick. He saves people and doesn't do the wrong thing. He wears a cool outfit. He is also very agile. I would correctly manage his powers for good. I would also swing through the buildings.

Abel Cabrera



Official Class 113

I would be Superman. I want to be very strong, flying around and everything. I really like the cape. If I ever wear that cape, I want my last name written on it.

Nayan Patel



Official Class 411

I would be the Flash. I would rob banks so quick that nobody would see me. I would always get away with the crime and at the same time laugh at everyone.

Cristofer Rodriguez



Official Class 411

I would be Iron Man. I love all the crazy technology he has and the hardcore weapons he carries on him. Plus, he knows how to get the good-looking girls.

Denisse Flores



Official Class 401

I would be Batman. He is the sneaky type. The black outfit gives the impression that he is a villain, or a hero with no feelings. When it comes to delivering justice, he does it. He has too much of a heart to hurt someone. The reason Batman became who he is was to make anyone who hurt others pay for their actions. He experienced it when he was a child. He learned how to face his fears, and I still want to face mine.

Anthony Biondo



Official Class 412

I would be Captain America. He fights for and stands for justice. Even though he doesn't have any superpowers, he goes beyond his limits to achieve peace.

Noemi Ramos



Official Class 412

I would be Wonder Woman. I would make sure that no harm would come to good people. I would also protect my loved ones.

Sylvester Nimako



Official Class 312

I would be Static Shock. Why? I like what he does. Even though I'd be a hero, I know I would abuse his powers. If a person has a super power, that person would abuse of them. Nobody is a good guy anymore.

Natalie Vegas

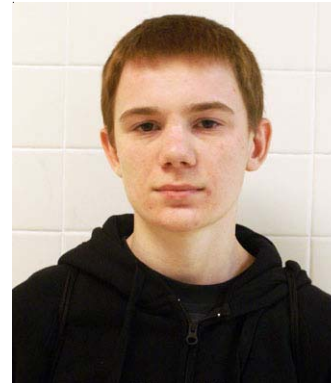


Official Class 411

I would be Spider-Man. I think he is really cool because of his powers. I would like to experience climbing walls.



Marcin Kochanek



Official Class 212

I would be the Hulk. Hulk is epically strong. I would do crazy things with that strength like climb tall buildings.

Natalie Guanga



Official Class 202

I would be Jean Grey. I could read anybody's mind and know what that person is thinking about me.

Gabriella Martinez



Official Class 101

I would be Roxas. I like how he overcomes various challenges when faced with trying to figure out who he is.

Kimani Brown



Official Class 223

I would be the Invisible Woman. With Invisible Woman's powers, I could be in a place that nobody knows. I'll use her powers for good instead of abusing of them.

Alan Arturo



Official Class 104

I would be Superman. Superman is really fast and really strong. He runs so fast and he never gets tired. I think that's cool.

Priscilla Delgado



Official Class 302

I would be Batman. Everybody talks about Superman coming out by day. I like how Batman appears in the night. I like how, just when a person blinks, he's gone. It's like he is everywhere at the same time

Meng Xue Qu



Official Class 222

I would be the Invisible Woman. Sometimes I don't want people to see me because I'm shy. In the cafeteria, I would be invisible while eating, so no one can see me.



Reviews



by Dario Javier

Windows Phone 7

Manufacturer: Microsoft
Rating: 4/5
Price: \$199
Carrier(s): T-Mobile, AT&T
Date released: November 8, 2010

Windows Phone 7 is the first-ever Microsoft phone. The new phone launched on Nov. 8 in the U.S. and Canada. The Windows Phone 7 sold 40,000 phones on its opening day, which was weak compared to other phone openings such as Android Phones and i-Phones, according to maximumpc.com. “We have devices of various shapes and forms, keyboards, no keyboards, phones that are optimized with surround sound, no surround sound so you get a wide variety of choices and yet a consistent delightful user interface that’s about you.” says Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer. The phone includes adjustable camera settings, a completely customizable start screen, users can automatically see stocks, weather, calendars, and interconnecting friend profiles from all of their favorite social and networking sites. The phone has a Windows marketplace which allows owners to download apps, games, and music. Windows Phone 7 also allows users to connect to Zune, Microsoft Office, and Xbox Live.

Blackberry Torch 9800

Manufacturer: Blackberry
Rating: 4/5
Price: \$199
Carrier(s): AT&T
Date released: August 12, 2010

The Blackberry Torch is the first Blackberry that features a sliding touch screen and a keyboard. The Blackberry Torch 9800 features traditional apps such as Blackberry Messenger, Facebook, Daily Horoscope, and Twitter but now also includes various new apps available such as a YouTube app and Podcasts app, according to “the #1 website for Blackberry users and abusers,” crackberry.com. The Blackberry Torch 9800 has various features most if not all Blackberry fans would like such as a 5MP camera, personal security, screen magnification, a more engaging multimedia, advanced social feeds, and enhanced browsing.

The negative aspects of the phone, according to digitaltrends.com, are functionality not completely compatible with touch, slow web surfing, flat physical QWERTY keys, poor network connectivity, and a smaller screen than smart phone competitors.

i-Phone 4

Manufacturer: Apple
Rating: 4.5/5
Price: 16GB-\$199, 32GB-\$299
Carrier(s): AT&T
Date Released: June 24, 2010

The i-Phone 4 was developed by Apple and, as the name suggests, is the fourth generation of i-Phone. The phone is thin and an all touch screen phone with a very modern look. The phone includes video chats, two cameras (front and back), screen magnification, and LED flash. Owners can use multiple apps at the same time and can record videos in HD.

CNET editors from cnet.com rated the phone’s new design a 9/10, features 9/10, and performance 8/10 giving it an overall rating of 8.6/10. According to their rating rubric, a device with an overall score of 8.0-8.9 is considered excellent. A product that receives a rating in this range is superior in so many ways that its relatively few drawbacks are not very important.

According to buzzle.com, many users have complained that the signal reception of the phone is not good. Apple’s response to this? “Gripping any mobile phone will result in some attenuation of its antenna performance, with certain places being worse than others depending on the placement of the antennas...avoid gripping it on the lower left corner in a way that covers both sides of the black strip...or simply use one of many available cases.” Also, the battery life of the i-Phone 4 seems to be slightly

poorer than the i-Phone 3G. Other issues that users complain about are no flash support, screen discoloration, overheating, and to many, its expensive price.

Xbox 360 Kinect

Manufacturer: Microsoft
Rating: 4/5
Price: \$150.00
System: Xbox 360
Date Released: November 4, 2010

The Xbox 360 Kinect is the ultimate controller-free experience. Now players can play various games where their bodies are the controller. “...and just like that, all three of the major game consoles now have some semblance of motion controls. Unlike the Nintendo Wii and Playstation Move, however, Microsoft’s Kinect for Xbox 360 opts to gets rid of buttons altogether, relying on body gestures and voice commands,” according to engadget.com.

The Xbox 360 Kinect is the latest and most advanced controller-free console accessory. The genres of games playable with the Kinect are sports games, adventure, dance, fighting, and fitness. The Kinect has also been used for physical therapy and rehabilitation, telemedicine, medical training and education, and neurocognitive and psychological practices,

according to sectorpublic.com.

Duracell myGrid Charger

Rating: 4/5
Manufacturer: Duracell
Price: \$79.99
System: Duracell
Release Date: Unknown

The Duracell myGrid charger is a wireless charging pad that can charge up to four phones at once. “Cord clutter is a thing of the past. With myGrid, you can easily charge up to four mobile devices at the same time. Simply attach a power sleeve or power clip to each device and drop it onto myGrid to charge,” according to www.duracell.com. There are three starter Kits, According to the website, the myGrid cell phone starter kit, myGrid i-Phone starter kit and the myGrid USB charger. The cell phone starter kit comes with a power clip designed for Blackberry, Motorola, and Nokia phones, even though it does work with most cell phones and MP3 players. The i-Phone starter kit is specifically designed for the i-Phone. It comes with a power sleeve designed for Apple 3G and 3GS i-Phones. It also works with most cell phones, handheld devices and MP3 players. The USB charger is Duracell’s portable USB charger that can be charged from the charging pad. It offers hours of portable power for hundreds of devices such as MP3 players, e-readers, cell phones, and other devices that have micro or mini USB ports.

Movies You’ll Love

by Elizabeth Pimentel

The Tourist

Rated PG-13

A movie full of twists and turns, *The Tourist*, is a movie “must see.” Elise, played by Angelina Jolie, is a mysterious woman who tricks Frank, played by Johnny Depp, into a trap with the police. It was Elise’s job to capture Alexander Pearce, but in the process fell in love with him. Apparently, Alexander had stolen 2 billion dollars from a gangster and the British government was looking for him.

In a letter written by Pearce, he tells Elise to find a man who resembles him, that way the police would think he was

Pearce, and he’d be charged for the crime. As Elise steps out of the train that left her in Venice, Italy, she finds an American tourist, Frank whom she uses in her plan to protect Alexander. Soon the police suspect that Frank is Alexander. Elise later apologizes to Frank for getting him into trouble. As Elise’s life hangs by a thread, destiny brings her and Frank closer together ending in an unexpected turn that leads Elise to the road of happiness.

The Fighter

Rated R

Mark Wahlberg and Christian Bale star in the sports film *The Fighter*, which deals with the life of a professional

boxer, Micky Ward, known as “Irish.” Mark Wahlberg plays Micky, a fighter who brings hope back to his family when they were in desperate need of money. His half- brother Dickie was the pride of Lowell, Massachusetts, and was supposed to be the first to win a championship belt. But when he lost an embarrassing fight against Sugar Ray Leonard, he gave up on boxing. Dickie became depressed and turned to drugs. He changes drastically, becoming violent and ending up in jail. Micky, trying not to follow his brother’s footsteps, decides to fight because he needed money for his family. Dickie realizes that he won’t get anywhere with drugs and decides to coach Micky in boxing.

This film of perseverance and family is a film worth seeing.

How Do You Know

Rated PG-13

To all those romantic comedy fans, *How Do You Know* is the movie for you. The movie centers around Lisa Jorgensen, played by Reese Witherspoon, who’s world revolved around softball, but gets kicked off the softball team. Her life soon gets complicated when she comes across George, played by Paul Rudd, whom she enjoys spending time with even though she has a boyfriend. Lisa falls for George but is unsure of her feelings towards her boyfriend Matty, (Owen Wilson) who is a major league pitcher. Not knowing what path to take, she has to makes one of the most important decisions of her life.

Love and Other Drugs

Rated R

Love and Other Drugs is a comedy-drama released in November that stars Jake Gyllenhaal and Anne Hathaway. Jamie (Gyllenhaal) dropped out of medical school, but then decides to go back because of pressure from his family. While covering for a friend at the hospital, he meets Maggie (Hathaway) who he used to pass time with. As they spend more time together, Jaime realizes that he has strong feelings for Maggie. Jamie gets promoted to a better job outside the country, but as he starts to leave, he realizes that he can’t live without Maggie. Desperately, he goes to look for her, but finds out that she had left to Canada to find a drug to cure Parkinson’s disease.

Love and Other Drugs is a good, yet predictable film.



Tips to Avoid Getting Sick in the Cold Season

by Valeria Enea

Some people hate the winter season. Not because of the snow or the cold, but because people get sick. But there's no need to get sick during the winter.

The following tips can help avoid sickness and, as a bonus, may even lead to more people liking the winter season.

But first, we need to find out exactly what gets people sick. Germs are the reason people get sick. The cold does have some effect on the immune system, but the main reason people get sick is the spread of germs, which weaken the immune system, causing the body to be at a higher risk of illness. Feel tired? Have a stuffy nose? If you answered yes, maybe you should read these tips.

Some of these tips seem like common sense. Some may be old wives tales. Who knows? Many have been shown to keep people healthy by ehow.com.

1. Go to the doctor and get your vaccinations. The medicine will protect the body's immune system from all those bad germs.

2. Wear leggings under pants. The leggings are tight

enough to fit under the pants and at the same time they are discrete. The leggings give your legs an extra layer of warmth against the cold temperature outside.

3. Bundle up by wearing gloves, a scarf, and earmuffs. These also serve to protect the body against the cold temperature.

4. For the guys and girls who don't want to ruin their hair with a hat, there are winter headbands. The winter headbands comfortably fit around the hairline, including the ears, keeping the hair untouched.

5. Exercise can help and prevent sickness. Exercising few times a week for 30 minutes helps the body's blood circulation and energy.

6. Get a full night's sleep each night. Eight hours of sleep each night allows the body and mind to regain their full strength.

7. Open a couple of windows in the house, even on a cold winter day. This helps cleanse the air in the house.

8. Try to drink a lot of fluids with plenty of vitamins. This helps strengthen the body's immune system.

9. It's essential to wash your hands before eating. There are thousands of germs on

people's hands, washing them or using hand sanitizer minimizes the risk of getting sick.

10. Avoid contact with people who are sick. The more contact with a sick person the higher the chance of getting sick.

Sometimes our immune systems don't always cooperate. These tips will help sick people feel better.

1. Feel a sore throat? Then rub Vicks Vapor Rub on throat and wrap a bounty on top. Then wrap a scarf around the bounty towel. Leave this on the entire night to reduce and soothe the sore throat.

2. Always have extra tissues with you. Runny noses can be a hassle. Having to ask for permission to go to the bathroom to clean a runny nose isn't fun either.

3. Drink tea in the morning before leaving the house. The tea helps warm the inner body temperature.

4. If worse comes to worse, take a sick day and stay home. Give the body a little TLC, this sometimes ends up being the best medicine. Staying home when you are sick will help prevent the spread of sickness and also helps others avoid getting sick.

Who's the Teacher?

by Karina Villalobos

Teacher 1:

This teacher is new at Queens Voc, from Jamaica High School. He loves to play tennis. Although he is a new teacher, students might recognize his name from an old high school sitcom.

Teacher 2:

This teacher uses the term "Yo!" to quiet down her students. She teaches multiple subjects related to business. She repeats everything three times.

Teacher 3:

She just came back from having her first child, Riley Lynn. She always wears black. This teacher is a huge fan of the Philadelphia Eagles, students can expect to see her husband on all her class trips.

Teacher 4:

He's probably taken away your hat, headphones, or electronics. He teaches two subjects and deans. He is a coach as well. He is known for saying "Good enough is the enemy of it can be better."

Teacher 5:

This teacher got married over the summer in the Dominican Republic. She is the only cosmetology teacher who still works in a salon. Some of her students say she should be a dean after she recovered a lost phone when she searched her students, and said whoever did it was "grimy."

Answers

Ms. Guzman
Mr. Schimenz
Ms. Wilson
Ms. Mitchell
Mr. Feeney

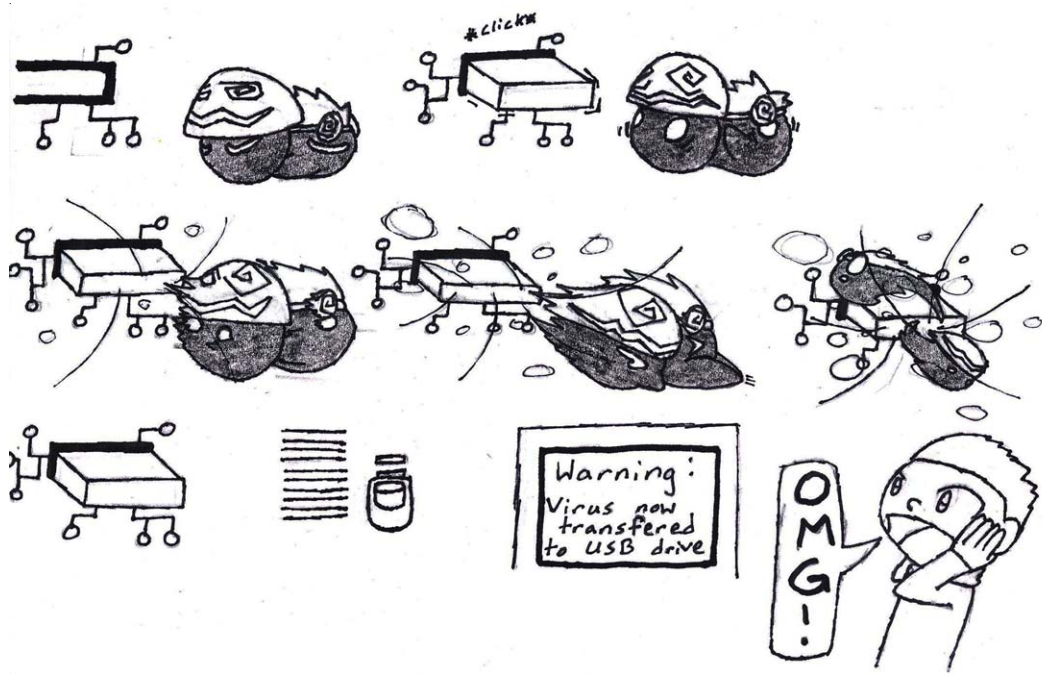


by Brenda Vazquez



by Sahury Gonzalez

Students' Artistic Creations



by Aneita Torres

by Stephanie Gonzalez

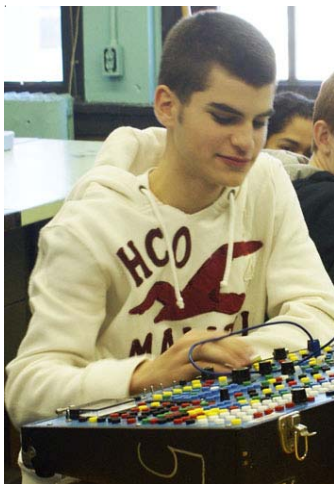
Vocational Voice asked teachers of sophomore CTE classes to recommend their best student. The teachers selected the following sophomores as outstanding in their CTE class.

Questions

1. What attracted you to this major?
2. Did you take this shop in the ninth grade? If so, how has it changed?
3. What do you enjoy best about your shop?
4. Do you think this major is right for you? Why or why not?
5. Is this something you see yourself doing after leaving Queens Voc? How? If not, what will you consider doing?
6. Is this shop what you expected it to be? How?
7. Would you recommend this shop to the current freshmen? Why or why not?

Amin Al-Sayed - Electronics (Morning) - Mr. Raushan

1. I'm good with computers and I like it.
2. No, last year I had taken C-Tech; it's different and now I have to choose between the two.
3. Teachers are cool, the things we work with are fun, and it's something I want to do.
4. I think it is, I'm doing pretty well in it and I'm ahead of everyone.
5. I think I will probably be doing this in the future.
6. Yes, I heard good things about it and found it really fun.
7. Yes, I believe it's really fun.



Chi Lung Hsu - Electronics (Afternoon) - Mr. Raushan



1. I like how you can light a light bulb. Also I like my teacher, he is cool and funny.
2. No, in the 9th grade I had C-Tech with Mr. David for the whole year.
3. We get to do hands-on, not like in Mr. David's class where we had to do labs and write a lot more.
4. Yes, when I was young I liked to play video games and now I get to explore the computer world.
5. I haven't decided yet.
6. Yes, I have seen my father

doing the same soldering and splicing. I learned something from my father and was expecting this.

7. Yes, I believe electronics will be popular in the future and its fun.

Daisy Maldonado - C-Tech (Morning) - Mr. Yu

1. I didn't like cosmetology when I was in it and everything else was too hands-on so decided to choose this since I also like computers.
2. No I didn't; I had cosmetology instead.
3. Mr. Yu makes it real interesting, and since the world revolves around technology, it's a really good shop to be in.
4. Yes, I really enjoy it. I had no passion for cosmetology and I have it for C-Tech.
5. Yes, I think being in this shop will help me find a really good job and help me make money doing something I enjoy.
6. When I first got into C-Tech, I thought it would be boring and find no interest, but I really like it and its fun.
7. Yes, it's a really good shop. Mr. Yu is a good teacher and will help you through this experience.



Raymond Xue - C-Tech (Afternoon) - Ms. Zagada



know about C-Tech in case something happens with your own computer.

1. I like computers; in the future I want to be a computer programmer.
2. Yes, I've been learning new topics.
3. The classmates and labs.
4. Yes, in the future it will help me to get a part time job in college.
5. Yes, I can learn new skills to help me later on in life.
6. Yes, it continues from what Mr. David taught me last year and more in depth.
7. I would recommend it because it will be fun and it's good to

Monica Vega - EI (Afternoon) - Mr. Bowen

1. When I started in Exploratory I didn't find anything interesting besides EI. You can learn more things in this shop.
2. Yes, we no longer only do splices. We build circuits and check our jobs.
3. I can be with my classmates and I also learn a lot about electrical installation for free!
4. Yes, I don't find myself doing anything else. I fit in just right.
5. Yes, there's a lot of interesting jobs that can come out of it. I can even be a supervisor.
6. Yes, in the 9th grade they told me how much harder it's going to get and it has met its expectations.
7. Yes because it's a lot of fun, only if you're interested in hands-on work; it's really great.



Valerie Lara Lopez - EI (Afternoon) - Mr. Maloney



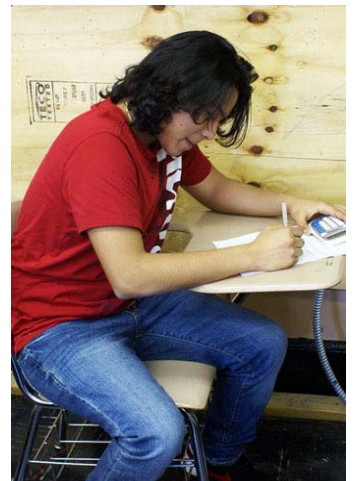
1. It's the less boring one.
2. Yes, but it really hasn't changed.
3. The teacher, Mr. Maloney, makes it fun.
4. Yes, I enjoy it.
5. Yes, since I'm going to get a specialized diploma I'm not going to just leave EI alone, I'm going to keep pursuing it.
6. Yes, I was aware there would be more jobs and learn more than I did in the 9th grade.
7. Yes, it is not something ordinary.

Sonia Orellana - EI (Afternoon) - Mr. Abreu

1. I came to this school for graphic arts, but my friends were in this shop so I decided to change.
2. No.
3. Working; doing the actual jobs.
4. I think it is because I enjoy doing it and I'm good at it.
5. Yes, like going for jobs and stuff.
6. I think it's better than I thought. I thought we would just sit around but no, I actually like it.
7. Yes, it's cool and it's something a person can really get into.



Christian Lopez - EI (Morning) - Mr. Cintron



1. It has to do with math and I can get a license when I graduate.
2. No I didn't.
3. You don't have to sit down all period; I like the hands-on work and no practical.
4. Yes, I enjoy learning about electric circuits.
5. Yes, I will use what I graduate with to my advantage
6. Yes.
7. Yes, only if they also like hands-on work.

Myra Andrews - Cosmetology (Morning) - Ms. Lingstuy



1. I've been doing hair since the third grade.
2. Yes; it's more complicated and more work to be done.
3. I like doing hair.
4. Yes, since I've been doing it for so long, I've grown a passion for it.
5. Of course, even though I don't want it as my main job; I'll keep it as a side job.
6. Yes, I knew what I was getting into and how hard I may have to work in order to pass the class.
7. Yes to any girl because they can have a career they can eventually fall in love with.

Continued
on next page

Profiles

Continued from
previous page

Heather Clarke -
Cosmetology (Afternoon) -
Ms. Spallone



1. I like hairstyling. It would be a good career choice in the future.
2. Yes, we learn more stuff than just the basics.
3. We get to work hands on and now work from a book.
4. No, it's just something I can learn for now.
5. No, I want to work with entertainment.
6. Yes, they told us we would be working with mannequins and we are.
7. Yes, it's a lot of fun and you can build your creative skills with doing hair.

Jessika Guerrero - Graphic
Arts - Ms. Ruiz



1. I like designing websites and editing images.
2. Yes, I liked it when I took it last year. Now I have more opportunities with designing this year than last year.
3. The topics I do
4. Yes, I enjoy it.
5. Yes, I like it.
6. Yes, since it involved designing images.
7. Yes, for the people who enjoy working in a designing atmosphere.

Christian Flores - Business (Morning) - Ms. Gross

1. It was the only shop to interest me.
2. No, I didn't have it during Exploratory.
3. You have outside organizations participating with the school and you get to meet other people.
4. Yes, it is going to apply to what I do after high school.
5. Yes, working and attending a good college to major in business.
6. No, I didn't expect having to take certification tests.
7. Yes, you get to learn a lot of stuff and learn to manage a company.



Cindy Sanchez - Business (Afternoon) - Ms. Mitchell



1. I like working with computers.
2. No.
3. I enjoy being able to work in groups and with computers.
4. Yes, I learn more skills.
5. Yes, the skills I learn will help me to pursue a career of my choice.
6. No, I thought it would have to do more with accounting.
7. Yes, if the student wants to work with banks and money, it would be a good choice.

Jose Cabrera - Plumbing (Morning) - Mr. Rivera

1. The money that a plumber can earn.
2. Yes; jobs are more sophisticated.
3. The people in it.
4. Yes, it is a hands-on job and I'm really good with that.
5. Yes, I'm going to be a plumber.
6. Yes, in freshman year it was fun for me and now it's even more fun. Although others may find it to be getting harder, I have found it to be easier.
7. Yes I would; only if they like hands on work.



Anderson Moran - Plumbing (Afternoon) - Mr. McCarthy



1. It was cool and I want to be a plumber.
2. Yes, I am a lot better now.
3. My friends.
4. Yes, I enjoy plumbing especially the hands-on work.
5. Yes, I plan on pursuing a career in plumbing.
6. Yes, I was pretty sure we would be working on a lot more jobs and furthering our skills.
7. Yes, it's a lot of fun and the teachers are cool.

Who is Your Role Model?

by Kevin Sasuman

"People never improve unless they look to some standard or example higher and better than themselves." - Tyrone Edwards

The students of Queens Voc share who inspire them and who guided them to be the people they are today.

Andrew Adames

"I would have to say Kevin Brewer from the Jabbawockeez. He managed to make a living off what he wants to do and yet he still manages to keep a steady life."

Vanessa Arias

"Tyra Banks. She gives people self confidence."

Nefertari Roman

"My mom. She raised 3 kids on her own and got us all what we needed"

Johnny Chino

"My mom, because she doesn't need help from anybody. She always does what she can to give us a better life. She's encouraging me to go to college too."

William Callahan

"My uncle, because he listens to me and gives me advice."

Joel Polonia

"My mother, no doubt. She's an amazing human."

Gabriella Martiney

"Lil Wayne and Eminem. They are good rappers. They make good music and they are a good influence."

Rodrigo Bringas

"Bruno Mars. He's nice and sweet with the girls."

Hugo Collado

"Mr. Rodriguez and Lebron James. Mr. Rodriguez because he's a good influence, he's inspirational, and he keeps it real. Lebron James because he's a great athlete."

Maria Amay

"My mom. She showed me how to be a real woman."

Elliot Ortiz

"My role model is Michael Jackson because he's my inspiration for dancing."

Pamela Infante

"My role model is my mother because she has not only been there for me but she's my inspiration to keep going in life."

Bryan Aldaz

"My dad is my role model because he is a great father, husband, friend and one of the hardest workers I know. He works from 7am to 5pm and then goes to school from 5:30 to 10:30 pm. He does all this just to support his family while I struggle with just school."

Andi Syarifah

"My mom because she's everything I want to be and she inspires me."

Francisco Frias

"My role model is my father because from an early age he put me on the right track and inspired me to be who I am today."

Biaani Garcia

"Jesus, because he lived such a blameless life yet he took all the blame of the world as his own because he loves us. He didn't complain once and he doesn't regret it. That is the most perfect love."

Victor Juan Aguilar

"My role model is my dad because he's always there when I need him even through the good and bad times he can give better advice than the people I meet by his life experiences. He encourages me to be strong and to be different than others. He also wants me to be someone I want to be in the future."

Denisse Carbo

"My role model is my mother, Why? Well because she has taught me a lot and I learned a lot from her. She helped me through all these years of school and to fulfill my dreams and never give up. She will always be there for me, and I hope one day I could show her that my career will make a difference in life."

Dominick LoMonaco

"My role model is Robert De Niro, he is a good actor and he always seems to act himself and doesn't seem to change in different films."

Vanessa Cora

"My mom is my role model because she's been through a lot in life and as a single mom, she still manages to provide us with food and shelter. She is a wonderful, loving mother. She is a strong, determined woman that can conquer any obstacle. She always puts her children in front of herself so I look up to her as my role model."

Senior Sports Profiles

by Daniela Heredia

Devante Brown Furlong

Age: 18
Team: Boys' Varsity Basketball
Position: Center Guard
Years on team: 2

"Good player, he knows a lot about the game. He's always willing to help."
-Corbin Albridge

"Hard worker, who gives 100%, has improved his skills since last year."
-Mr. Maloney

Sebastian Bonilla

Age: 17
Team: Boys' Varsity Basketball
Position: Forward
Years on team: 2

"Good player, potential. Nice person."
-Corbin Albridge

"Has great basketball instincts. He makes the team complete when he is on the court."
-Mr. Maloney

Tomas Bueno

Age: 17
Team: Boys' Varsity Basketball
Position: Shooting Guard/ Point Guard
Years on team: 2

"Fast, thinks about his every move before he makes it. Very smart and willing to pass the ball"
-Corbin Albridge

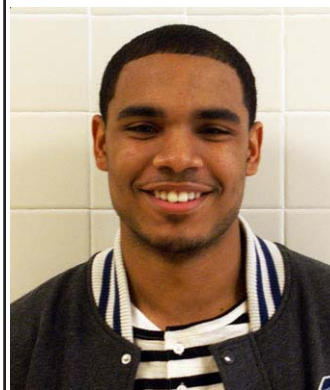
"Has a knack for the game and drives well to the basket"
-Mr. Maloney

Stewart Cole

Age: 18
Team: Boys' Varsity Basketball
Position: Shooting Guard
Years on team: 2

"Good player with a lot to offer but can get a little cocky at times."
-Kevin Salinas

"Has so much potential to be the best player I ever coach! Swish is all I can say about his shot."
-Mr. Maloney

Hugo Collado

Age: 17
Team: Boys' Varsity Basketball
Position: Point Guard
Years on team: 2

"Good point guard, always a player we can all count on."
-Kevin Salinas

"Hard-nosed player who gives 100% all the time."
-Mr. Maloney

Ricky Macklin

Age: 17
Team: Boys' Varsity Basketball
Position: Point Guard
Years on team: 1

"Ricky is very fast and confident."
-Kevin Salinas

"Super-fast player who tries hard and is still learning the game."
-Mr. Maloney

Kirk Palmer

Age: 17
Team: Boys' Varsity Basketball
Position: Shooting Guard
Years on team: 1

"A good player who helps out and can do a lot, him and his brother should play for the team more often."
-Kevin Salinas

"First year player who has game. I look forward to see his skills flourish."
-Mr. Maloney

Kurt Palmer

Age: 17
Team: Boys' Varsity Basketball
Position: Shooting Guard
Years on team: 1

"Great player. He's very smart and plans before he plays."
-Kevin Salinas

"First year player with speed and mad handle. Wish he was on the team the last two years."
-Mr. Maloney

Kevin John Sasuman

Age: 18
Team: Boys' Varsity Basketball
Position: Point Guard
Years on team: 2

"A point guard who can do more than what he thinks he can achieve."
-Kevin Salinas

"Dedicated player who plays different roles for the team."
-Mr. Maloney

Luis Torres

Age: 17
Team: Boys' Varsity Basketball
Position: Forward/ Center
Years on team: 1

"Good player that always gives his best on the court."
-Kevin Salinas

"Solid first-year player who should be a positive factor in the end."
-Mr. Maloney



We are the Tigers!

The Mighty Mighty Tigers

Senior Sports Profiles

by Daniela Heredia

Maximo Muniz



Age: 17
Team: Boys' Wrestling Team
Weight Class: 130
Years on team: 2

"Good wrestler. If he stays in weight class he'll do well. He's a good teammate."

-Ricardo Ortega

"Very dedicated to the team but unfortunately he takes a lot of college classes which sometimes conflicts with the ability to practice with the team."

-Mr. Zambrotta

Joshua Tome



Age: 17
Team: Boys' Wrestling Team
Weight Class: 215
Years on team: 1

"He's nice; a good wrestler who has a lot of technique."

-Julio Sepermentegui

"Extremely organized and available for me; one of my right-hand men. Puts in tons of effort, he helps me take care of a lot of the organizational aspects when I'm not around."

-Mr. Zambrotta

Dilpreet Singh



Age: 17
Team: Boys' Wrestling Team
Weight Class: 189
Years on team: 3

"Puts in so much effort into the team and has great energy."

-Julio Sepermentegui

"Extremely organized and available for me. He's definitely one of my right-hand men. Puts in tons of effort, he helps me take care of a lot when I'm not around. Dilpreet helps me with a lot of the drills."

-Mr. Zambrotta

Kelly Ramirez



Age: 17
Team: Girls' Varsity Basketball
Position: Guard
Years on team: 1

"She's quiet, works well with the team."

-Eliana Moronta

"Kelly is a hard worker and determined to get better. Kelly has improved greatly since the beginning of the season."

-Mr. Devaux

Florencia Oviedo



Age: 18
Team: Girls' Bowling Team
Position: Team B
Years on team: 3

"She's really fun to be with and is always there to cheer up the team when we're competing."

-Eliana Moronta

"A member of the B-team, she's a very good bowler, a great player, and a big reason why we won the division."

-Mr. Garofano

Despite Gym Floor: More Ups Than Downs

Continued from back page

bubble in the gym floor, and over the past few weeks two more bubbles have developed. The gym is now divided in half since the bubbles are only on one side. The damage to the gym floor has caused a major problem, said the coach. "You can't run as fast with only half of a gym, and you certainly can't practice full court and prepare very well for games," he said. Senior Devante Brown said that "for only half a gym, we're not doing so badly, it allows me to play twice as hard." Another player, Kurt Palmer, finds that not having a gym hurts their motivation. "Having home games is the best and I miss the home crowd," he said. The coach is also dealing with the dilemma

by looking towards some of the neighboring schools and asking if the Queens Voc team can use their gym. He's reached out to Aviation, Info. Tech., and Frank Sinatra, without success. Before Queens Voc had a gym, the Tigers used to practice and play at Aviation, but because of a problem with the wrestling team, Aviation won't let Queens Voc use their gym. Coach Maloney has even looked into having games at the YMCA but they charge \$250 per game. The price is too high and the team doesn't have the proper funding. As of now the team plays at numerous locations. The team plays home games at the opponent's gym. They also play at the

Boys and Girls Club in Astoria, which charges \$50. This arrangement might last all season. "I don't know when the gym is going to be repaired, they haven't given me a date," said Mrs. Holland.

The team consists of Bryan Aldaz, Corbin Aldridge, Sebastian Bonilla, Tomas Bueno, Stewart Cole, Hugo Callado, Michael Dowlatram, Devante Brown Furlong, Fredrick Jah, Ricky Macklin, Dominique McClaney, Kirk Palmer, Kurt Palmer, Kevin Salinas, and Kevin John Sasuman.

Stewart Cole was appointed team captain, according to the coach, because "he's a returning player, seems very mature, and his very respected among his other teammates." Stewart is also the leading scorer, getting many as 31 points in a game. He is second place in scoring in the PSAL Queens B West division with 137 points.

JV Basketball Struggles

Continued from back page

Mr. Daniel emphasized that his team has a lot to learn but that the junior varsity program is slowly heading in the right direction. Mr. Daniel is becoming more comfortable with his role as a leader.

"Nothing starts out perfect, but only time will tell," he said.

Lady Tigers Remain Unstoppable

Continued from back page

"To help his players, the coach normally holds five practices a week," said Marva. "We usually practice from 4pm-6pm. We even try to hold practices after the boys' basketball games if possible." But the damage to the floor in the gym has caused the team to reschedule home games and it limits the amount of space they have during practice. Because of this, the team is only able to practice on the available half of the gym.

According to Athletic Director Lerro, the gym will remain split in two until the problem can be resolved. "Chances are that the gym might have to be like that till the end of the year."

"It's sad what happened to the gym," Julissa said. "With this year being my senior year, I wanted to play home games. Now because of the gym floor we can't." But Mr. Devaux is remaining positive. "That's the hand you're dealt in life; you have move past it."

Esteve believes Mr. Daniel is doing a good job and is guiding them to become better people on and off the court. "He may be a softy at times, but he does not accept losing," said Esteve.

There are 13 boys on the JV basketball team, 6 sophomores:

"Defensively, the team has gotten better because of play time. The Lady Tigers are able to play as a team," said Coach Devaux.

Shakirra and Coach Devaux agree that despite its record, the team is struggling offensively because of the lack of gym time available. "We would like more gym time in order to work on plays," said Shakirra. The leading scorers for the Lady Tigers are Shakirra Smith, averaging 23.50 points per game, and Marva Jones, averaging 8.83 points per game. Marva is the team's leading rebounder with 102 rebounds an average of 17 per game.

According to psal.org, there are of 11 active students on the team: seniors Julissa Ballesteros, Steffi Garcia and Kelly Ramirez; juniors Elixandria Brienza, Marva Jones, Elaina Moronta, Michelle Rojas, Shakirra Smith, and sophomores Dorothy Bailey, Ajna Morina, and Monica Puspasari.

Amin Al sayed, Alan Figueroa, Eamon Mansfield, Anderson Moran, Yannis Pascal, and Esteve Escorza; and 7 freshmen: Jose Duran, Phillip Gooding, Harsimar Jassar, Rick Lim, Carlos Ramos, Marcos Ramos, and Joel Salcedo.



Mr. Maloney produces another solid team.

TIGERS

Wrestling: First Timers in ‘A’ Division Come in 6th

by Alex Molina

“What’s done cannot be undone,” Shakespeare wrote in Macbeth. The 2010 wrestling season ended with the Queens Voc Tigers in sixth place in their division, right smack in the middle of the large school ‘A’ central division, with 5 wins and 5 losses.

According to Captain Dilpreet Singh, who has been on the team for three years, “the team was better than expected. I thought we would win only a couple of matches because we are in the A division, but the team showed we are better than what we are.” The “go to” wrestlers, he said, were “Danny Corona and Francisco ‘Frank’ Cornier because both show heart and 110 percent in every match.”

According to the Public Schools Athletic League website, psal.org, there are 35 active wrestlers on the team. Of them, the wrestlers with the best records include sophomore Tomas Duarte, with a record of eight wins and one loss; senior Esteban Soler, with a record of seven wins and one loss; junior Javier Pasarin, with a record of four wins and one loss; junior Juan Alzate, with a record of four wins and two losses; and sophomore Frank Cornier, with a record of four wins and three losses.

“I think many players are moving in the right direction, but there are few players who don’t understand how serious others on the team take wrestling,” said Coach Zambrotta. “The team is not consistent, just individuals are. Life is full of responsibility; you can’t take on the responsibility of being a wrestler and ignore the rest of responsibilities. Dedication, determination, and perseverance are some qualities needed to be a wrestler,” he said.

Coach Zambrotta is looking to have another good season next year. “The experiences that we had in matches makes the team stronger, so next season we know what to expect. As far as leaders for next year, leaders emerge naturally, though they tend to be the older players on the team. They exert a maturity when compared to their teammates and are typically the best wrestlers because they demand excellence from everyone on the team,” said the coach.

This is the first year a majority of the wrestlers isn’t seniors. Most wrestlers are sophomores and juniors, and this gives the coach high hopes for future seasons. The more experienced the team is, the better the team will be as a whole and allow techniques to improve, said Coach Zambrotta.



Dilpreet Singh, wrestling captain on top of his game.

Despite Gym Floor: More Ups Than Downs for Boys’ Varsity B-Ball

by Shennel Cole

The boys’ varsity basketball team started off the season losing their first game to Newcomers High School, but they got their season back on track and, just past the half-way point in their season the team record is 6-3, and in third place in their eight team division.

The team is led by long-time coach Mr. Richard Maloney, who teaches electrical installation and also coaches the handball team. “The focus is the same every year. By playing disciplined ball, make the school look good, and have fun, after all sports are fun.”

In December, according to the school’s head custodian, Mrs. Jarrett-Holland, “the gym floor buckled,” possibly caused by water. This has left one massive

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SPORTS

Lady Tigers Remain Unstoppable After First Loss

by Dilpreet Singh

The girls’ basketball team has amassed a 10-1 record, putting the Lady Tigers in first place in the Queens B West division.

The Tigers lost their season opener against Academy of American Studies, 45-42. But since that, the team has gone without a loss. According to Marva, “we lost because we didn’t have most of our players; they were at a bowling playoff that day.” The girls’ bowling team was playing on Staten Island that day and many members were on both teams, according to Coach Devaux.

The Tigers first win came against Frank Sinatra, 60-33. Shakirra led with 26 points. Michelle Rojas added 12 points and Marva Jones added 10 points to the scoreboard, according to psal.org.

Led by Coach Devaux, the Lady Tigers have a strong team with several of last year’s starting players returning for another season.

Julissa Ballesteros, Marva Jones, and Shakirra Smith are the team’s captains. Mr. Devaux picked the three because “they come to practice, they are hard working, and helpful to the younger players.”

Mr. Devaux has figured out a game plan that works for the team. He has a large array of students willing to play, each with their own distinct styles, strengths, and weaknesses. “Compared to how the team was my sophomore year, it is better that we have more girls on the team,” said senior Julissa Ballesteros. According to Mr. Devaux, “Early in the year, we had good chemistry because we have a lot of returning players.” That allows the players to read each other during a game and have insight on the next move to come, whether it is a pass, a crossover, or a shot, said the coach.

According to Elixandria Brienza, when the regular season finishes on Feb. 12, the Lady Tigers want to make it further in the playoffs, unlike last year when the lost in the second round.

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JV Basketball Struggles

by Ricky Macklin

Despite the JV basketball season being off to an 0-4 record under Mr. Jean Daniel, the new coach, the team, he says, is making good progress.

The team is currently in 9th place, last in the division. The team’s lack of confidence and weak on-court communication, the coach said, is the reason for this poor start.

Yet the new coach believes the team has a talented core of athletes. With good defensive play, the team has to work on scoring consistently and moving the ball around better, said Mr. Daniel.

The season began with a close loss to Grover Cleveland, 36-33, but was then blown out by Newtown, 68-28, Flushing, 68-19, and F.K. Lane, 61-34.

Mr. Daniel does not feel his team can use the gym floor as an excuse for this poor start. “No matter where we play our games at, we should still perform at a high level.” I think that is what my players fail to understand, he said.

“Working together as a team is something we need to improve on,” said Esteve Escorza, the team captain. He believes the team lack confidence, “I constantly tell the team that we are just as good as any school we play.”

But Esteve also knows that there is room for improvement in everyone, even himself, stating that he needs to improve on his zone defense. Esteve feels the leadership that he displays on and off the court has a big part in him being chosen to be a captain.

The starting five players for the JV Tigers are sophomores Esteve Esorza, Alan Figueroa, Eamon Mansfield, Phillip Gooding, and freshman Albert Ferrari. “Mr. Daniel does a great job rotating players in and out of the game,” said Esteve. The coach does this because he believes that his “bench players are just as talented as the starters,” he said.

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1st place up in the air.

Tigers Sports Continued Inside