



# Vocational Voice

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

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## Gov't Students Win: Presidential Powers *are* Limited



Queens Voc was the only school to win two units in the Constitution Contest.

by Gabriel E. Miller

“By the way they argued their positions, I think some of our students know the Constitution better than the elected officials who swear an oath to protect and defend it,” said Mr. Schimenz, whose class participated in the annual citywide Constitution contest.

On Dec. 12, Queens Voc students won two out of the six units in the We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution contest, which was held at Martin Luther King Jr. High School. The contest was organized by the Justice Resource Center.

Mauricio Bustamante, Anthony Chauca, and Vasiki Konneh won Unit Four, which dealt with the “values and principles embodied in the Constitution.” The group discussed the War Powers Resolution of 1973, said Mauricio. According to Mr. Schimenz, “They argued that the Constitution limited the power of the national government, and that the War Powers Resolution was unnecessary because the Constitution did give the president the power to engage in wars without congressional approval.” Anthony Chauca said that as they presented, he thought “about how a lot of restraints put on government are ignored.” Anthony said that during the questioning, they were asked a number of “what if...” questions, and that his group “didn’t get rattled by suggestions that the Constitution at times should be ignored.”

“I felt really proud,” said Mauricio. “We took a position that

differs from the way many people look at the Constitution, but we believed in it and we stayed firm during our presentation and the follow-up questions.”

After the judges left, Mr. Schimenz said he told the group that they “hammered home their point flawlessly.”

Katerin Coyago, Michelle Paguay, and Alissa Rivera won for Unit Six, which involved Constitutional Democracy, citizen understanding, and citizen participation. “They pointed out that participation is not enough. Citizens need to understand the importance of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution as well,” Mr. Schimenz said. “it was a solid presentation,” he said. When Katerin found out her group won, she said, “I felt like I achieved something huge. I cried a little, but they were happy tears. We worked really hard and it all paid off.”

According to Mr. Schimenz there are six topics, called units. Students from each school present a four minute statement to a panel of judges. Afterwards, the judges ask follow-up questions based on the presentation.

“The competition felt like a discussion. When were presenting, we felt comfortable, which helped all the groups,” said Danish Bokhari, who participated in a discussion of the differences between British and American principles of government.

Forest Hills won and James Madison took second place.

The top two placing schools are moving on to compete in Albany for the state competition.

## Ramdeo’s Class Wins Battle of The Shops

by Jhun Rhenz Martinez

For the second year in a row, Ms. Ramdeo’s class has won the Battle of the Shops, an annual competition that in which CTE classes compete against each other to bring in the most food for the City Harvest Food Drive.

“The students all came together,” said Ms. Ramdeo. “They collected money, looked for sales, and went shopping,” she said. Ms. Ramdeo said that her students were very motivated to help others and they were very motivated to win. “I’m very proud of them, she said.

The winning class gets a pizza party and an ice skating trip.

Mr. Rivera’s class came in a distant second place and Ms. Zagada’s class came in just behind Mr. Rivera’s plumbers.

According to Mr. Vega, 11 shop classes participated in this year’s Battle of the Shops. The classes that participated are taught by Ms. Gross, Mr. Mendez, Ms. Mitchell, Mr. Mugan, Mr. Petrilli, Ms. Ramdeo, Ms. Richards-King, Mr. Vega, Mr. Yu, and Ms. Zagada.

Last year, students and staff collected 1,500 pounds of food. The school’s total had not been determined as the paper was being published. “Last year’s competition was good. It was exciting,” said Mr. Vega. “A few of the classes that participated really put in the effort compared to previous years.” Ms. Ramdeo’s junior class won last year’s battle.

Determining the winner was difficult because of the variety of donations, so this year leadership students determined the winner by counting the number of cans,

eight ounces or greater, each class submitted.

Ms. Ramdeo prefers this year’s guidelines because “it is more specific,” she said. “Last year, students were bringing cereal, small cans, and cups of noodles.”

City Harvest helps feed nearly 1.4 million New Yorkers facing hunger each year and rescue some 150,000 pounds of food each day. City Harvest serves 500 soup kitchens and food pantries across New York City’s five boroughs.

This year the ice skating trip will be to the Wollman Rink.

## JANUARY REGENTS SCHEDULE

compiled by Purnata Anwar

January 26 Tuesday	January 27 Wednesday	January 28 Thursday	January 29 Friday
9:15 am	9:15 am	9:15 am	9:15 am
Global History & Geography	Living Environment	U.S. History & Government	Algebra 2 /Trigonometry
Physical Setting/Physics	Physical Setting/ Chemistry	Physical Setting/Earth Science	
		Geometry (Common Core)	
1:15 pm	1:15 pm	1:15 pm	
English Language Arts (Common Core)	Comprehensive English	Algebra I (Common Core)	State Admission Deadlines: Morning: 10 am Afternoon: 2 pm
Geometry (2005 Standard)			Good Luck!

## What’s Inside

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The Good that Goodwill Does



The rugby team: one of the many benefits of Goodwill.

by Isabel Flores

Goodwill Program offers classes such as Lead 2 Feed, peer mediation, workshops for students, Rugby team, and a yoga class.

Ms. Gross’ second and fifth period business classes participated in the Lead 2 Feed Program, which helps students develop leadership skills by working on needs that are being identified in the community. Students developed PowerPoint presentations on homeless people, and presented them in class. They identify a goal and strategy, and then develop an action plan.

The rugby team meets every Wednesday in the school gym from 6:30 to 7:30pm. In the fall season, they won 10 games and lost eight. The spring season will start on Jan. 13.

“We played against various rugby teams organized through

Play Rugby USA, a non-profit that trains teams throughout the city. We have played against Manhattan RFC the most,” said Rob Misaca, one of the coaches. “We will be playing in the AIG Cup on Randall’s Island this spring. Last year we took home the plate at this tournament,” he added.

The students on the rugby team are Brigitte Barcos, Gurman Bhumak, Jefferson Castillo (captain of the rugby team), David Hader, John Kostalas, Cristian Maceda, Dario Morocho, Michael Ortega, Alex Pastuizaca, Bryan Pulgarin, Emanuel Rios, Luis Torres, Michael Tenia, Karen Ulloa and Nafi Yasin. The coaches from Goodwill are Rosalind Anderson, Toby Butterfield, Michael Kengmanal, and Rob Misaca.

Goodwill also offers informational workshops for students. “We ask teachers who teach fifth, sixth, and seventh

periods if they want us to do presentations,” said Ms. Uriodain the program coordinator for Goodwill at Queens Voc. The presentations include resume writing, bullying, interviewing techniques, listening skills, and career assessment. Goodwill also offers a yoga class that meets every Thursday from 4pm to 5pm in the auditorium. “Most of the participants that we have are parents,” said Ms. Uriodain. “Yoga is a very calming and balancing sport,” she added.

Peer mediation is another program that Goodwill offers. The program uses students to mediate disputes. “There are about 15 trained students from last year who were trained by the New York Commision on Human Rights,” said Ms. Uriodain. The students who were trained last year are mediators this year. If students from the school have disputes, the mediators are responsible to help resolve the problem. “This year we are thinking about doing even more training,” she added.

“Students can drop by if they need someone to talk to or if they have any difficulties at school or at home. Whatever they say is confidential; they can feel safe. This is a community school haven for students who need someone to talk to,” said Ms. McCoy, the director of Goodwill program at Queens Voc.

“The mission of Goodwill Industries is to empower individuals with disabilities and other barriers to employment to gain independence through the power of work,” said Ms. McCoy.

of the club.

Uniting the senior and junior classes is the purpose of the club. “Rather than have rivalry, both classes can work together and help one another,” said Mr. Valdez.

The members of the club had a Secret Santa event on Dec. 22. “It worked out well for everyone because all the members got what they asked for,” said Helen Eng, club president. “We also played charades, which was a nice way to open up with each other and help reinforce the unity we aim for,” said Mr. Valdez.

Mr. Valdez is planning to send the members of the club to NetRiders, a national competition open to both high school and college students. “The competition involves knowledge of computer networking,” said Mr. Valdez. “I believe all of my students are capable of attending.”

Changes Ahead for the SAT

by Adham Kenawy

Students have been complaining about the SAT. They have struggled with the critical reading section because of how difficult they say it is, and have also struggled because they have a limited time to write the essay.

This complaining might come to an end as The College Board has announced that there will be a new SAT starting with the March

Calendar of Events

compiled by Jonathan Flores

Jan 15-17: Senior Trip  
Jan 18: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (School Closed)  
Jan 19-25: Final Exams  
Jan 21: Parent Association Meeting, Library at 11am-12:30pm  
Jan 23: SAT  
Jan 25: Marking Period 3 ends/ Term 1 ends  
Jan 26: 9th grade U.S. History practice Regents exam  
Jan 26-29: January Regents  
Feb 1: Chancellor’s Conference Day (school closed), CUNY and SUNY deadline for documents and applications  
Feb 2: Marking Period 1 Begins/ Term 2 begins, School Safety Committee Meeting  
Feb 5: Last date to register for the March 5 SAT  
Feb 6: ACT – Registration ended Jan. 8  
Feb 8: Lunar New Year (School Closed)  
Feb 15: FAFSA Priority Deadline  
Feb 15-19: Mid-Winter Recess (School Closed)  
Feb 25: PA Meeting, Library at 11am-12:30pm

Integrated Algebra Regents Exam, for the students who were invited, Library at 9:15am-12:15pm  
March 2: Marking Period 1 Ends  
March 3: Marking Period 2 Begins  
March 4: Professional Learning Friday  
Deadline to Register for April 9 ACT  
March 5: SAT – Register by Feb. 5  
Skills USA NYC Conference  
March 10: School Safety Committee Meeting  
Parent Teacher Conferences, 5:30pm-8pm  
March 11: Parent Teacher Conferences, 12pm-2:30pm  
March 18: Professional Learning Friday  
March 25: Good Friday (School Closed)  
March 29: Progress Reports Due  
April 1: Professional Learning Friday  
April 4: School Safety Committee  
April 9: ACT – Register by March 4

A Stalemate for Chess Club?

by Michelle Paguay

Every Tuesday during ninth and tenth period, chess club members hold their weekly meeting in the library. “We play chess and chat as we play,” said Anthony Pippis, chess club member.

Approximately 30 students attend chess club. “It’s great because you can come anytime and hang out with friends or learn to play chess,” said Mian Humza. Any students looking to learn a few new strategic moves can join chess club because of its open door policy.

“Chess enhances critical

thinking skills,” said Ms. Dimech, club advisor. Wilfrido Villalba added that members can “become more creative and have a good time.”

Chess club members planned to compete in the Greater New York Scholastic Chess Championships on Jan. 9 and 10 in Brooklyn, but they did not.

“In order to compete we will have to raise enough money,” said Ms. Dimech. A bake sale was originally planned for Dec. 8, but “got caught in red tape,” she said. The bake sale has not been rescheduled. The club is hoping to participate in upcoming competitions.

5 test. According to The College Board, this exam will differ from the current SAT in total testing time, components, features, essay, and in scoring.

Total testing time for the new SAT is 3 hours, plus 50 minutes for the optional essay.

The current exam is 3 hours and 45 minutes. The new SAT is composed of evidence-based reading, writing, math, and the optional essay.

The current SAT was composed of critical reading, writing, math, and the essay but nothing was optional.

The new SAT has different features. According to The College Board, the new SAT has greater emphasis on the meaning of words in extended contexts and on how word choice shapes meaning and tone.

On the other hand, the current SAT’s emphasis on reasoning skills, vocabulary in limited contexts, and complex scoring is different from the new SAT.

Another new feature is that only the right answers count

toward the score; there is no penalty for wrong answers.

The current SAT gives a point for a correct answer and deducts a quarter of a point for each incorrect answer. Blank responses have no impact on scores.

The new SAT essay is optional and given at the end of the exam, however, the current essay on the SAT is required, given at the beginning of the exam, and is 25 minutes long.

The new SAT is scored on a scale of 400 to 1600. The scale ranges from 200 to 800 for evidence-based reading and writing, 200 to 800 for math, and two to eight points for the essay. Essay results are reported separately.

The current SAT ranges from 600 to 2400. The scale ranges from 200 to 800 for critical reading, 200 to 800 for mathematics, and 200 to 800 for writing and the essay.

According to The College Board, the new SAT has fewer questions on the reading and writing sections, and four more questions on the math sections.



Mr. Valdez started the club to bring students together.

Cisco Members Networking

by Vanessa Urrutia

The new Cisco Network Engineers club had three events so far this year.

At its first-ever meeting, members discussed and planned trips and activities. “We are planning to renovate the Cisco room,” said Mr. Valdez, coordinator of the club, “because we want to make the room cozier for students to be in a welcoming environment.”

The club is also planning to formally recognize those members who are Cisco certified, by putting their certification and the year they attained it up on the bulletin board.

The club is planning to meet on a schedule that best accommodates the members.

The club is for new and old

members of the Cisco class, and aims to ensure the graduating seniors build a relationship with younger Cisco students.

“We are working to set up a Facebook account for the club so seniors can give support after they graduate, whether financially or informatively,” said Mr. David, who is the back-up coordinator of the club. “They can also provide help with applying to college or obtaining internships, because kids get tired of listening to us, so the idea is to have them hear it from their peers,” he said.

On Nov. 25, the club had a Thanksgiving party at which juniors and seniors got to know each other more. “We want to make sure we get to know one another on more personal terms, to be more than just strangers,” said Bruce Sorrosa, vice president



## Let the Games Begin



**Robotics team ready to defend its stronghold.**

by Tysain Shand

The RoboTigers season officially kicked off on Saturday, Jan. 9, when the team received the guidelines for the robot they are to build this year.

The robot has to complete tasks that are much more complex than in previous years, said Mr. Ali, the RoboTigers advisor who started the RoboTigers in 2006.

The tasks are determined by the competition organizers. According to Mr. Ali, this year's game "is a combination of all the previous years' games." The goal is to build a machine that can meet the game's objectives, said Adham Kenawy.

According to the First Robotics Competition 2016 game manual, the game is called Stronghold, a Medieval tower defender game in

which two alliances of three teams each select defenses to fortify their outer works before competing simultaneously to score points while breaching the opponent's outer works and capturing the opponent's tower.

Now that the robotics season has officially started, the team meets Mondays through Saturdays to build and test their robot.

"The team has six weeks to build a robot that meets the guidelines," said Mr. Ali. Last year they made a robot that could go through a simulated landfill and organize it.

The members are organized into build, electrical, drivetrain, administration, programing, and media teams. Members get to choose what team they join and can be on more than one team.

Brian Green and Peter Beninati,

both Queens Voc graduates, train and mentor the team. Brian assists with the mentoring and training of the electrical team while Peter assists with the build team and the drivetrain teams.

Three-year veteran and build team member Bradley Moog said that he wants to make sure that everyone is trained so the team will be good next year too, because most of the team members are seniors who are graduating this year.

According to Bradley, the RoboTigers are the most successful team in New York State, with regional wins in 2009, 2011, 2013, and 2015.

Johnell Artis, a member of the build and electrical teams, believes that the team needs to be more efficient and it "needs to be better at building a robot that meets the criteria for each season," he said.

Davie Simmons agrees, but believes that the team will have a good season.

The team's first match is in March, and will be streamed live for those who are not able to attend. Mr. Ali said that he is confident that this year will be a successful year.

The team has been meeting three times a week since early November to train newcomers.

The members on the team are: Johnell Artis, Corina Barboto, Betsy Bravo, Anthony Chauca, Dakota Elbettah, Bryan Fernandez, Isabel Flores, Jonathan Flores, Luis Gomez, Sebastian Gomez, Luis Guerrero, Guadalupe Juárez, Adham Kenawy, Stephanie Lee, Denzel Lopez, Kevin Lopinski, Amanda Marte, Jhun Martinez, Bradley Moog, Jacek Mrozek, Camila Oviendo, Daniel Ozuruonye, Juan Prieto, Bryan Pulgarin, Randy Quroz, Maricarmen Ramirez, Miguel Romero, Adrian Santos, Jose Santos, Davie Simmons, Tia Singh, Margaret Trujillo, Luis Vasquez, Wilfredo Villalba, and Lin Yue.

## New Dance Team Steps Up



**Ms. Vasquez has her first meeting with the team.**

by Gabriel E. Miller

Students now have the opportunity to show their dancing talents by participating in the new dance team.

Ms. Vasquez, the guidance counselor for SED, and Ms. Volpe, an art teacher, are both the coordinators. According to Ms. Vasquez, students approached her with the idea of a cheerleading team. "Well I don't know how to cheer," she responded, "but I do know how to dance." Ms. Volpe said that she spoke to Ms. Vasquez about creating the team and that they both "thought that it would be good for the kids."

The first meeting was held on Nov. 23. According to Ms. Vasquez, about 55 students attended.

"I want to see what they can do and if they can follow the steps," Ms. Volpe said. "I also want to have people that really want to come," she added. According to Ms. Vasquez, out of the 53 students who showed up, only 23 were accepted.

The first rehearsal for the team was held on Jan. 8. According to Ms. Vasquez, rehearsals will either be Thursdays or Wednesdays. "Students will be learning different styles of dance

such as Latin, Street Jazz, a little Hip-Hop, and contemporary if I can," she added.

Ms. Vasquez and Ms. Volpe said they had a lot of dancing experience prior to forming this team. "I have been dancing since I was four, for all different styles, and for the last eight years I danced professionally with a salsa company," Ms. Vasquez said. Ms. Volpe said, "I've been dancing since I was a little kid. I dance tap, jazz, contemporary, and street jazz."

Some students already have dance experience prior to joining the team. "I dance salsa, merengue, a little bit of tango, and hip-hop," said Kimberly Maldonado. Jennifer Orduna said, "I do Mexican folk dance, cumbia, merengue, banda, waltz, street jazz, and tap."

The members are glad to have a dance team. "I think it's awesome that Ms. Vasquez made a team this year and is teaching us," said Lesly Ramirez. Kaya Timbi agrees. "I think that it was a great idea for QV to create this."

Ms. Volpe said, "It would be nice for the kids to perform for the school by participating in the talent show or in a play, even if we made a video and put it on the school's website."

## Programmed for Greatness

by Anthony Chauca

ScriptEd Advanced is a coding course available to students who have already taken the introductory ScriptEd class. Queens Voc students attend ScriptEd Advanced classes every Thursday from 4:30pm-6:30pm at Google's corporate campus, located at 76 9th Ave, in downtown Manhattan.

The advanced program continues the ScriptEd project-based approach to teaching with more rigorous curriculum.

According to Valentina Muriel, a senior at Queens Voc, the class works with some of the same languages and libraries as the introductory class, however the projects and the new coding languages being taught, such as PYTHON, are much more complicated.

According to Adham Kenawy, a senior at Queens Voc, ScriptEd Advanced introduces students to new application program interfaces, or APIs, which are essentially a set of routines, protocols, and tools for building software applications.

"The projects we've worked on have implemented many APIs, which will be widely used in many future projects," said Nehal Patel, a senior at Queens Voc. "One project we've worked on is a Sound Cloud API search, where users could search for a genre for music, and get a list of songs and artists based on the genre from SoundCloud," he said. Creating a fully functional

bot vs user game, redesigning a company homepage, and creating a fully functional WebApp are all projects included in the ScriptEd Advanced curriculum.

The students have grasped basic coding to the extent that they are now mentors for the first year ScriptEd students at the coding events they attend called Hackathons.

"The feeling of accomplishment from my first year class and the internship experience from the summer is what encouraged me to come back for the second year class," Nehal said. "Computer science was always an interest for me, and the first year class introduced the programming side of it. The second class is at a Fortune 500 company," he said.

Some students have even planned to focus on coding as a career. Rene Krisaldus, another senior at Queens Voc said, "Learning to code has persuaded me to pursue a computer science degree in college. I initially wanted to take mechanical engineering but the experience from the internship they provided me, it made me want to pursue a career in programming."

According to ScriptEd.com, the advanced class offers the most qualified students the opportunity to take part in a summer internship program.

For information about ScriptEd and ScriptEd Advanced, students can visit room 454 after tenth period on Mondays and Wednesdays or contact a ScriptEd teacher through ScriptEd.com.

## Leadership Class Delivers Holiday Cheer

by Angelica Campos

During the holiday season, Leadership students teamed up to bring holiday cheer into young children's homes through Operation Santa.

On Monday, Dec. 7, 15 leadership members and Mr. Vega, the coordinator of student activities, went to the United States Post Office on 33rd St and 8th Ave. in midtown Manhattan to pick up letters addressed to Santa.

The leadership students read 50-60 letters but only chose 20, said Mr. Vega. The letters, he said, were chosen by the students. Mr. Vega also said that the students were instructed to pick out letters with requests of about \$30 each, and listed a specific size and gender. "The students teamed up in groups of two or three and decided what letters they thought they were capable of responding to," he said.

Giovanni Cruz said, "It was a delightful experience. It felt



**Santa's little helpers are happy in delivering gifts.**

nice helping children celebrate Christmas."

Batool Abiad also participated. "It was cute because they were little kids that just wanted simple gifts," she said. Batool paired up with Purnata Anwar to respond to a letter of a boy. "We chose his letter because he only wanted clothes and toys, and it wasn't a lot," Batool said.

The deadline for students to

bring in the items to school was Thursday, Dec. 17. Leadership members then gathered the gifts. On Monday, Dec. 21, 19 leadership members went to the Post Office to deliver the gifts.

According to Mr. Vega, Queens Voc has participated in this program for several years, although the years that the school participated have not been consecutive.





Mr. Vega meets with the seniors in preparation for the senior trip.

## Senior Dance Done, Now They're Trippin'

by Jonathan Flores

A yearbook, diploma case, photo sitting fee, and graduation cap and gown are included in the \$115 senior dues.

The senior newsletter stated that the dues have to be paid by Feb. 6. A \$65 deposit was due on Nov. 20.

Because not all of the seniors are able to pay their senior dues, Mr. Vega, the senior advisor, helps seniors reduce the cost of their dues by selling chocolate. For each chocolate box sold the seller gets a \$30 discount towards the senior dues or senior trip.

Dancing, eating, and having a good time is what Senior Night was all about, said Johnny Quizhpi

who attended the dance. "I went because I'm not a good dancer and wanted to learn how to dance, so I felt that I would learn if I went," he said.

The dance was held in the cafeteria on Friday, Dec. 11. A few days was all it took to plan the dance and spread the word about it.

Admission to Senior Night, which included food and a DJ, was free. Deepan Rajau, senior class president who attended the dance, said "Senior Night was quite fun, it was nice to see so many seniors together and enjoy themselves." According to Mr. Vega about 130 seniors attended.

About the same number of seniors are going to the senior

trip. The trip is being held upstate at Honors Haven Resort Jan. 15-17. The three-day, two-night trip includes six meals, a hotel room and many activities, at the cost of \$330 per student.

Mr. Vega said that the tickets were sold out in a day. There are many free activities to choose from such as a game room, movie room, laser tag, rock climbing, karaoke party, snow tubing, skating, and nightclubbing.

Paintball, skiing, and horseback riding are available at an additional cost.

There are also indoor facilities such as a heated pool with a Jacuzzi; tennis, volleyball and basketball courts, health club, and ping pong.

## "Where can I Print my Homework?"

by Purnata Anwar

At the beginning of this year, three new Macs were added to the library. Ms. Ogunka loaned these Macs to the library until the end of the year. "With kids having the opportunity to use Macs in the library, they have access to more technology and applications. This way the computers are in use instead of lying around in my room," she said.

There are now six computers in the library available for students.

The computers in the library

are now printing efficiently again. Earlier this year, the library had a printing problem. Over the summer, custodians unplugged the computers, which resulted in the loss of the IP address and the computers could no longer identify the printing device. The Mouse Squad, led by Mr. Valdez, solved the problem in late October.

Now that the library's printer is working, the library is so busy that students look for alternative printers. "The library is unavailable every third period because a class is taught here, and

during all lunch periods on Friday because of book club," said Ms. Lewis, librarian.

Alternative printing places for students include room 449, room 413, and room 143, although that printer is not currently working.

The Writing Center, which was located in room 301, was a dependable spot for students to get their work done. "Mr. Elfreich, Mr. Samuelson, and I used the room when we weren't teaching, so the room was available all day for students to print," said Mr. Schimenz. "But the student population of the school increased and 301 was turned into a classroom," he said.

## Charitable Book Club Members Learn Life Lessons



After seeing *Mockingjay Pt 2*, readers stop for dessert.

by Derek M. Toohey

Book club members are currently reading *I'll Give You the Sun* by Jandy Nelson. The book has been popular among members of the book club because

they have been able to connect with the book's main character and become more sensitive to his struggles as they read, according to Ms. Lewis, the school librarian and head of the book club. So far this year, book club

members have read *Liars, Inc.* by Paula Stokes and *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho. According to Ms. Lewis, *The Alchemist* was the more popular of the two because "students gravitated toward the spiritual themes and life lessons throughout the book."

The next book they read will be decided through an interest survey. "I choose books based on young adult reviews from *The New York Times*, *School Library Journal*, *Goodreads*, and other librarian resources," said Ms. Lewis. "Students vote on the options I present." Students will receive their new reading material on Jan. 22.

Students typically read their books at home and discuss them during weekly book club meetings. Sanjidah Wahid, a

## Fall Blood Drive Postponed

by Cindy Carangui

The first blood drive of the school year, initially set for Dec. 21, was postponed because the auditorium was being used for yearbook pictures. Because of deadlines for yearbook pages, the senior portrait appointments for that day could not be rescheduled. If the pictures were prolonged, a late penalty may result.

Another problem is that "the stage isn't cleared out yet," said Mr. Vega, coordinator of student activities.

Because of a lack of storage space, the stage has been used temporarily. Mr. Alikakos, assistant principal for organization said, "During the month of January the stage will be cleared out and cleaned to get ready for

the blood drive. As a result, the blood drive should be rescheduled for February," he said.

Queens Voc has worked with the New York Blood Center since 2009, holding two blood drives in the auditorium each year.

The leadership class and Mr. Vega organize and run the event. "The leadership students are asked to find five potential donors that meet the requirements," Mr. Vega said. The donors are then added to the master schedule and given their appointment. When they arrive, they fill out required paperwork, the nurses register the donors, and a blood sample is taken to see if the donor is eligible to donate."

Usually, 40 to 60 people donate blood at each drive, Mr. Vega said.

## Students of the Month



Students of the Month for December meet with Principal Burg.

by Karla Loor

The Students of the Month for December are Kayla Alston of SED, Krismary Arroyo of SES, Andreas Demetriou of SCEET, and Edwin Guallpa of SSBT.

These students were selected for demonstrating December's theme: Initiative.

Each month one student from each SLC is selected as the SLC's Student of the Month.

Arista organizes the student of the month awards and decides the theme. Teachers are supposed to nominate students and then select the monthly winner during SLC meetings. The themes chosen are not only academic ones but personal ones as well, said Ms. Basirico, Arista advisor.

The chosen students are given certificates and have their pictures taken with Principal Burg.

"It feels good to be recognized by my teachers," said Derek Toohey who was selected as a

student of the month for November. The theme for November was Ingenuity. Derek said he believes he won because when faced with a challenging problem, he not only looks to what is in front of him to solve the problem but rather looks for other possible ways to solve the problem.

"I feel honored to be selected for student of the month because I haven't been student of the month since middle school," said Derek. His advice to other students is to try to be the best they can be all the time.

Previous Students of the Month for this school year were:

**November: Ingenuity**  
Derek M. Toohey - SCEET  
Katelynn Santiago - SES  
Eryk Rogulski - SSBT  
Maya Kenawy - SED

**October: Creativity**  
Nicole Pineda - SCEET  
Gosvami Cruz - SSBT  
Tania Jimenez - SED  
Tysain Shand - SES

senior, particularly enjoys this type of meeting. "Being able to discuss my interpretations and predictions makes me feel comfortable with sharing my thoughts," she said.

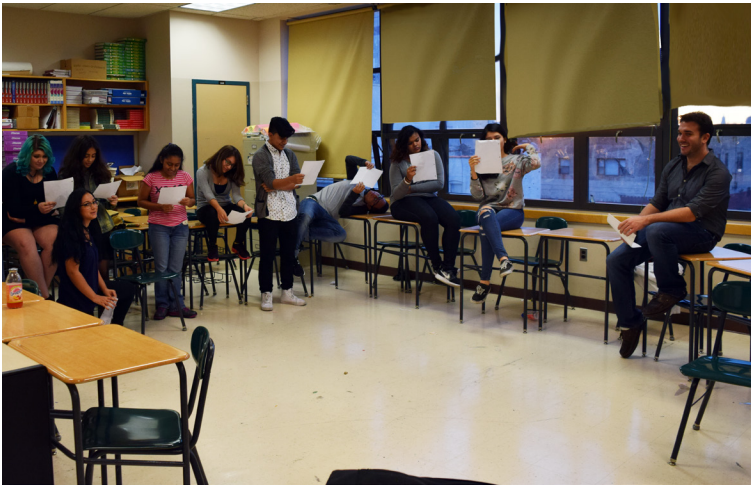
The club went to see *Mockingjay Part 2* at United Artists Movie Theater in Forest Hills in November. Before going to the theater, they went to eat at Cheeburger Cheeburger. Afterwards, they went to Martha's Bakery, according to Sanjidah and Ms. Lewis.

Book club members have been

selling chocolate to raise funds. The money will go toward their book club sweatshirts. Typically, the money is used to pay for trips and is donated to charity. For the past two years, the book club has donated \$250 per year to a charity called Doctors Without Borders, according to Ms. Lewis.

The book club is open to students in grades 10 and up as long as they average a 65 or better each marking period. The club meets in the library every Friday during periods five, six, and seven.





*Mr. Bahrenburg and his new theater troupe.*

## Lights, Camera, Action!

by Danish Bokhari

The new Theater club meets every Monday during periods 10 and 11 in room 358. There are 20 students participating in the club. All students are welcome to sit in during those periods to observe or join the club's activities, said Mr. Bahrenburg, an English teacher, who is the advisor of the club.

"Having students work on their monologues is a great way to engage them in understanding the environment and types of acting," said Mr. Bahrenburg. "I provide students with different narratives on the types of acting they would see in typical plays and performing arts."

At the last meeting, students were taught Method and Stanislavski's system of acting to inspire how they perform.

Stanislavski's system of acting is when an actor uses a memory to spark an emotion to replicate the character he is portraying. For example, if an actor wanted to play a sad scene, using the Stanislavski's system, he would recall a time in his life when his emotions would emulate that character.

Method acting, however, requires the actor to dive deep into the role he is playing and try to become that person. Mr. Bahrenburg said, "I encourage students to explore and discover what method works best for them."

Amanda Hess said that, when the club meets every week, "Mr. Bahrenburg tells us the activity

that we are going to do. We usually perform acting exercises such as the mirror image exercise, where we have to pick a partner and either lead or follow their movements and actions by mimicking them."

Samantha Pineda said she is interested in theater club because "I like to act and I love to sing. I'm passionate about both of those things and theater club seemed like a relaxing club to join where I could just let out all of my emotions by acting." Samantha added, "We're taught how to be patient with the person we are mimicking, how to speak clearly to an audience, and to express emotions through our acting, writing, and our performance."

"I would like to see theater club be expanded," Mr. Bahrenburg said. "In the near future I would love to implement elements of the production side of theater such as creating a stage crew to work with the technical aspects of the play."

Junior Dakota Elbettah said, "Theater is a wonderful club for students who aren't very vocal to present themselves in a way that can be powerful. In the future, even if we don't progress in a thespian route, we will be able to take our creativity and make every book or play we read unique."

Mr. Bahrenburg said he has three major goals for the theater club: To see a performance no matter the scale that students can observe, bringing special guest actors to speak to the students interested in pursuing acting, and to put on a short play sometime

## The Happy Return of GSA

by Helen Eng

R=AIN has been on a hiatus, but it is back with Ms. Miaoulis as the advisor. "It is a great opportunity to be a part of a club that has real meaning. A GSA is all about the LGBT community coming together with other allies in a safe zone. What is said here stays here," she said.

The club members are creating a new logo for R=AIN and planning trips to museums and the LGBT centers in Queens and Manhattan. There will also be

fundraising events. Ms. Miaoulis said she wants to have guest speakers from GSAs in other high schools to come in and help improve our GSA.

There have only been two meetings since they began in November and about 20 members have attended. Members such as Hilary Rios, Erick Mathus, and Amanda Hess are very excited for R=AIN to be back.

"I'm most excited about the trips, projects, getting to know each other, and helping educate the younger kids," said Hilary.



*GSA meetings have resumed and the members and advisors are planning new activities.*

## Gotta Play 'em All

by Jhostyn Gallardo

The Gamer's club will have Mr. Muzamali as the advisor for the year. "The students told me that they needed an advisor and I wanted to continue to make sure the students have a place to interact with other gamers," said Mr. Muzamali.

Mr. Yu, who started the club last year with Disorn Kwunchaithanya, took over as coach of the new girls' soccer team in the fall, limiting his availability. Mr. Yu said he will still be the advisor when Mr. Muzamali cannot attend the meetings.

"I am enjoying being the advisor for the Gamer's club. Whenever we play Call of Duty, the games get really intense," said Mr. Muzamali. He enjoys playing RPG games. "I love the Final Fantasy series, Total War series, Skyrim, and Fall Out," said Mr. Muzamali.

Mian Humza, a senior, said,

"I like being in the Gamer's club because it's a fun pastime." Senior Davaughn James said he joined the Gamer's club because he aspires to be a game developer. "I enjoy playing video games with other people and the Gamer's club allows me to explore many different gaming platforms," said Davaughn.

Disorn, the founder and president of the Gamer's Club said, "I play Left 4 Dead, League of Legends, and Pokémon: Omega Ruby. I also recently created a Steam account, an online platform where you can buy and download games."

"An issue for the club is not being able to use room 416 and having limited access to computers," Disorn said. Davaughn, added that "The lack of resources like TVs and SMART Board compatibility with game consoles has been an issue." Another issue for the Gamer's club has been low attendance.

Erick, a junior, said he first joined R=AIN his freshman year because it was a group that he can fit in with. "This year, I expect us to introduce and be ourselves in a safe environment," he said.

Amanda has also been in R=AIN since her freshman year. "I hope the group gets closer and we can spread safety. Students use derogatory terms that offend the LGBT community and that needs to stop," she said.

R=AIN welcomes students interested in finding out more about its activities. There are GSA meetings on the first Tuesday and the last Tuesday of every month in room 105 during 10th period.

According to Disorn, only about seven members have been consistently attending meetings. "I hope there is a greater turnout for future tournaments," he said.

According to Disorn, Gamer's club is not exclusive to video games and is open many other types of games such as board games, card games, PC games, and handheld games, although the most popular

**The most popular video games so far have been Call of Duty: Black Ops and Black Ops 2**

type of games played have been video games this season. "The most popular video games so far have been Call of Duty: Black Ops and Call of Duty: Black Ops 2," said Disorn. Haw Wunna Zaw, a freshman member, said "Computers and Xbox 360 have been the most popular modes of gaming in the club."

"The process of deciding to pick a game is very democratic. Everyone gets their voice heard in the club. The players take vote on the type of game they want to play and the order in which the games will be played," said Mr. Muzamali.

According to Disorn, the Super Smash Brothers Wii U/3DS tournament was successful. "Approximately 24 members came and all the members were eager to smash each other for the win," he said. Mr. Yu and Mr. Muzamali hosted the event. Mr. Yu said that "Brandon Castro, a junior and Gamer's club member, fought through eight rounds and captured the crown." The tournament started around 4:30pm and ended at 6:30pm.

Meetings are typically held in Room 404 on Tuesdays after 10th period.

## Queens Voc gets Fancy with Art

by Istiak Ahmed

QVAMA, Queens Vocational Arts and Media Association, is an afterschool club led by Ms. Ogunka that allows students to explore visual art projects. They meet in room 454 every Thursday during 10th and 11th periods.

According to Ms. Ogunka, advisor and graphic arts teacher, the club currently has ten official members, and they are still open to having new members in the club. There is no limit to the number of people allowed into the club, she said.

"Whoever wants to join the club must have their parents

signature on the QVAMA Club Agreement form to be an official member of the club," said Ms. Ogunka. Students are also required to pass all of their classes and have good attendance to maintain their membership in the club.

"QVAMA is an iteration of the animation club, and the purpose of changing the club is to make it more inclusive to the student body. The first two years were focused on animation, but now we added different categories in visual arts," said Ms. Ogunka.

According to the QVAMA contract, the club members learn skills in graphic arts, drawing,

animation, video editing, and web design.

"We are planning to submit work to art contests," said Ms. Ogunka. "I am currently working with a Queens organization to source a site for murals," she said. "One of the members is planning to make an animated reflection of the past four years in Queens Voc, and another member is working on a live-action film on teen issues," said Ms. Ogunka. QVAMA also helps students with schoolwork that involves drawing and art.

According to club co-founder Luis Lopez, "We learned how to draw, animate, and work together because everybody has a specific

responsibility in the club."

"One goal of QVAMA is to finish an unfinished project from last year, an animation of a battle of kings. The scripts were developed and we began to animate but we could not finish because we had to learn the program, which took longer than we thought. However, we plan to finish this project this year," said Luis.

According to Ms. Ogunka, another goal of QVAMA is to grow to 15 steady members and take two club trips with all the members of the club.

"QVAMA is a club where the members bring in their visual art skills and they work together to help each other with their weaknesses so they can develop projects together," said Ms. Ogunka.





**Students and chaperones toured the Mercedes-Benz plant.**

## VE Goes International

by Katerin Coyago

Students Purnata Anwar and Gabriel Miller traveled to Germany in mid-November to represent DCW and STAR, two of Queens Voc's Virtual Enterprise businesses.

Purnata, Gabriel, and Mr. Garcia spent a week in Germany. Virtual Enterprise International organized the trip.

Mr. Garcia was a chaperone for the trip. "I was in charge of the well being and safety of the students from the day we left until the day we came back. When we visited other places I made sure that the students got as much of the culture as possible," said Mr. Garcia.

"For the first three days they stayed with host families, German families that have students in VE. This way the students created a stronger bond and got to experience a different culture," said Ms. Mitchell.

Mr. Garcia said he was "glad to see the students exposed to a friendly, accommodating people like the Germans. It was exciting from the cultural perspective."

The main event, the International Trade Show, took

place in Karlsruhe, Germany. At the trade fair, there were booths that represented different firms. "At each booth, customers could buy a product or service. Purnata and I shared a booth with the other New York City students," said Gabriel. Purnata said the NYC booth "had a huge United States flag as well as giveaways, caps with our business logo, key chains, and catalogs with our products. DCW's catalog had clothing and accessories and STAR's catalog had employee recognition products and business cards."

On the second day of the show, there was the Bosch Business Challenge, Gabriel said. According to Mr. Garcia, students were tasked with preparing a business plan for the Bosch Corporation. Nine groups competed. Gabriel's group won first place and Purnata's group won second place. "The groups were put together based on countries. There were nine groups and in each one there are 10 people representing a country. Our group represented the United States," said Purnata.

During this week in Germany, according to Mr. Garcia, they went

sightseeing and visited places such as the Mercedes-Benz factory in Germany. "We learned how to put together a Mercedes-Benz. By the end of the trip," Mr. Garcia said, "they created such a strong bond with the Germans and it was hard for them to say goodbye."

### Tennessee

Students Alicia Lucero, Vanessa Urrutia, and David Valenzuela traveled in November to Tennessee to represent DCW and STAR in the "Mid-West Regional Trade Show" in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. Other VE teachers accompanied them to Tennessee.

"We had students coming from Illinois, Michigan, New York, Tennessee, North Carolina, and South Carolina," said Ms. Mitchell. David was one of the students to represent NY. "At the trade fair, I represented my firm, STAR, since I am the chief executive officer. I attracted people to my booth and tried to get sales going, as well as collecting contracts from other businesses," he said. The Tennessee trip was successful, said Vanessa, "because we made a lot of sales and we made a \$70,000 profit. We also met a lot of great people who had similar ideas to us."

The students also visited a market square, a theme park named Dollywood, the Smokey Mountains, a country rodeo, and the Dixie Stampede.

"The Dixie Stampede is a Christmas dinner show, where diners are served chicken, potatoes, soup, and bread, but are given no utensils to eat with. In addition there are performances with horses, magic tricks, singing, and jokes," said Alicia.

Vanessa said the Smokey Mountains "is one of the most famous national parks. We went up approximately 6,000 feet and we were able to see the great views."

## Takisha Sturdivant-Drew Queens Voc Graduate and Famed Stylist Runs Workshop for Cosmo Students

by Cristian Chamba

### Healthy Hair Workshop

More than 110 cosmetology students attended a workshop for healthy hair at the Sheraton Hotel in downtown Brooklyn on Nov. 2. This was the first time this conference was ever held.

The workshop was hosted by Queens Voc graduate Takisha Sturdivant-Drew, a celebrity makeup artist whose work has been featured in print and television commercial ads for clients Pantene, L'Oreal, Aveda, and more.

Mr. Garcia, the SES director, and Takisha's assistant Mallory, organized the event to help students apply what they are learning to the real world.

"It was a wonderful opportunity for students to see how healthy hair should be treated," said Mr. Garcia, "and it shows students that if they have the drive, they can really make it in this world."

"I had a lot of fun and learned to put cream on hair before applying heat. I enjoyed the transformation Takisha did on the women," said junior Isis Flores.

Ms. Crosbie, Ms. D'Onofrio, Ms. Lingstuyt, Ms. Quartuccio, Ms. Richard-King as well as the principal, Ms. Burg attended the event.

### Junior Updo Contest

Victoria Guerrero won the Junior Updo Contest organized by Ms. Lingstuyt and Ms. D'Onofrio. "It was cool how everyone had their own hairstyle; it was competitive and a lot of fun," said Victoria. She received a blow dryer and a blow dryer brush for winning the contest.

Cosmo students came up with

their own design idea and winners were chosen on Dec. 18.

Yohali Flores Ramirez placed second. She said that while she was happy in second, she felt she could have done better. Yohali received a hair straightener for her work.

Emely Tavarez came in third. "The competition was stressful but worth it," she said. Emely took home a curling iron for her third place finish.

"I thought the contest was excellent. Students got to learn several ways to set up hair, worked with each other, and used each other's feedback to improve," said Ms. Lingstuyt.

### Sunnyside Partnership

Ms. Quartuccio's senior class participates in community service each month at Sunnyside Community Center. In December, 28 students did hair, manicures, facials, and haircuts for men and women who attend the community center. Not only does the community service help the adults, it also counts toward students' work based learning hours for their CTE Certification.

Queens Voc and Sunnyside Community Center have partnered for 25 years, said Ms. Quartuccio. "Our seniors look forward to it, they get to use their skills in the real world," she said.

"I loved the experience and I got the chance to talk to all types of people. I also learned that we have to respect our elders because they are very kind hearted people," said Serenity Gonzalez.

Jossy Rodriguez said, "There was this one lady I enjoyed doing service on because she had this chronic disorder, she had the mentality of a kid. She was so happy to be getting a manicure."

## FBLA: It's all About the Competition



**Halloween was some work some play for FBLA.**

by Paulette Baque

Six FBLA members went to the Extended Care Facility located on Queens Blvd, on Dec. 18, to sing Christmas carols and give out holiday cards to patients.

"I felt great participating in this event by giving these patients the support and happiness in their worst times in life," said Alejandro Fernandez, the school's FBLA local chapter vice president.

"Our team plans to attend more volunteering and charitable events, including Valentine's Day.

We will also hold a Fashion Show in April, at the same facility in Queens," said Ms. Mitchell. The FBLA advisor meets with her students twice a month to gather ideas and discuss further events.

Students are also preparing for this year's State Leadership Conference taking place in Rochester, New York, April 13-15. There, members of FBLA participate in business competitions against other districts. Students prepare for the SLC by taking practice tests months before the actual

competition.

FBLA chapter President Gabriel Miller said, "I expect all of our members to do their best in the competitions. The students we have recruited are very dedicated to their work, and I have faith in their abilities."

"FBLA allows students to analyze and use their ideas to express how the business world really works," said Ms. Mitchell. "Students learn to meet and interact with students locally and statewide as well as to develop business leadership, and speaking and competition skills on a larger scale."

"FBLA is all about competition. We all get competitive and want to win, but at the end of the day we have a really good time because we learn, make new friends and gain experience," said FBLA Treasurer Mukta Roy.

This year, FBLA consists of 11 members: seniors Alejandro Fernandez, Gabriel Miller, Emily Peralta, Mukta Roy, and juniors Flor Amigon, Steven Cortes, Ngawana Dawa, Maria Fernandez, Kelly Ochoa, Yariel Ortega, and Annahi Rafeal.

## NYCycles Rolls Over the Competition

by Katerin Coyago

Queens Voc's newest VE firm, NYCycles, made it to the Virtual Enterprise citywide competition.

NYCycles is an eco-friendly transportation firm that finished in the top 20 NYC VE firms, and will advance to the citywide Business Plan Competition. Students Michael Bennett, Jessica Lucero, Kaden Mejia, Kevin Quintero, Katelynn Santiago, and Leslie Torres are members of the NYCycles firm. Mr. Mugan is the coordinator.

**"All the teams did really well. I was really proud of everyone," said Mr. Mugan.**

According to Mr. Mugan, all three Queens Voc firms, DCW,

STAR, and NYCycles, competed at the Queens Local Business Plan Competition. "All the teams did really well. I was really proud of everyone because my former students were on the other teams," said Mr. Mugan.

Leslie said, "Many underestimated us, but with hard work and dedication we succeeded to the citywide competition."

The teams were selected based on the overall scores of the written business plan and oral presentation.

The business plan competition will be held on Thursday, Jan. 14, at the United Federation of Teachers building in Manhattan.

The competition challenges students to use their global business expertise in their written business plans and oral presentations. "We had some challenges, but we overcame them as a team," said Katelynn.



## Editorial: Time to Change

In the article about the school's clocks (pg. 8), Mr. Raynor asks, "Since Queens Voc is so great, shouldn't our clocks be great too?" He's right: There is so much about Queens Voc that is great. For example, we have more clubs and activities than ever and our Regents test results continue to improve.

Years ago, this newspaper adopted the motto "Good enough is the enemy of it can be better." It's a motto that we should apply to ourselves and to everything we do and to every group we are in. Why not strive to be better?

But it's not just the clocks. It's our cafeteria and our bathrooms and our halls and our locker rooms and our classrooms. It's really about us.

We litter the school as if throwing garbage on the ground is second nature, as if we were taught to do that at home. Look at the school at the start of the day and at the end of the day and you will see what we mean. What happens in the boys' bathroom is a disgrace.

Principal Burg, in her letter at right, wrote about change. Improvement is change. A step in the right direction. There's always room for improvement--the "it can be better" part.

Working clocks would be an improvement. So would bathrooms that do not look like a war zone, staircases that are not littered, and a cafeteria that, at the end of the lunch periods, does not look like a garbage dump.

Ms. Burg is right. It's time to change. Mr. Raynor is right. Queens Voc is a great place, but "it can be better." That change is up to us students and staff.

## Vocational Voice

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

and embarrassing moments. I hope that next time you can add more stories."

There are some *Vocational Voice* readers who agreed with the opinions of the interviewees from "What Would YOU Change About Queens Voc?" compiled by Cristian Chamba. **Jason Sempertegui** wrote, "I agree to the fact that the school hours should go from 7:45 to 8:00." **Mersina Radoncic** really liked this article because "it shows that our opinions are really taken into consideration."

There were also letters about the newspaper in general. **Lizabeth Espinal** wrote, "What would make the newspaper a lot more interesting was if they added dramatic things such as fights and suspensions that were happening around the school." **Margaret**, who is obviously not our biggest

First," by Istiakh Ahmed had mixed responses from readers. Some agreed with the idea of more alarms and others didn't like it. **MD Kabir** believes putting door alarms on all the doors is a good way to stop students from ditching classes. **Jamyang Choedrup** disagrees and suggests, "they should let us use all the exits after 8th period so the main entrance would be less crowded." **Karen Gonzalez** disagrees with the idea of putting alarms on all the doors. It makes dismissal much harder. Especially on Fridays, when students are dismissed at the same time.

Responding to "Seniors Give Advice to Freshmen" compiled by Pamela Tavaréz, **Taina Santiago** wrote, "The article sends a positive message. Many students believe that the main year to focus is junior year but every year counts. This article should always be added and you should include more details about the risks of failing classes." **Michael Carneo** also agrees saying students other than freshmen can also follow this advice.

There were a few responses to Katerin Coyago's "Students' and Teachers' Embarrassing Stories." **Said Elsanhoury** wrote, "They were pretty embarrassing to be honest. However, there could have been more stories. Mr. Vegas's story was just straight up bad luck. You should try focusing on more teachers." "L.C." wrote, "The stories are kind of funny and embarrassing. I hope that you keep adding new and entertaining stories. These stories inform us that even teachers have their worst

by Helen Eng, Kevin Henao, and Adham Kenawy

The fall edition of the *Vocational Voice* elicited 150 letters, most of which came from Mr. Burke's class. We have endeavored to include as many comments as possible, and in the writer's own words. We do not read anonymous letters. In some cases, we were unable to decipher the writer's name.

The articles that received the most feedback were "School Wi-Fi blocked" by Tia Singh, "Students' Corny Pickup Lines" compiled by Betsy Flores and "Door Alarms Put Safety First" by Istiakh Ahmed.

"Many students wondered why did they have to block the Wi-Fi for certain things," wrote **Daisey Mendoza**. **Samuel Delgado** believes "It explains key words on the website that make it get blocked." **Paula Lopez**, **Cristian Escobar**, **Samanta Segarra**, and **Marcin Swaltek** agreed that the article was very informative.

We've also received numerous responses to Betsy Flores' piece "Students' Corny Pickup Lines." **Ahmed Khamis** wrote, "I love how you guys added the corny pickup lines. It gave me a reason to smile today." Most agree like **Eddie Marron**, **Hamlet Pena**, and **Steve Bedon**. "Corny but hilarious pickup lines, you guys should really add more lines," wrote Eddie. **Philip Papaccio** and **Aggelos Varvatsoulis** said that they are not funny and too corny to ever be used.

"Door Alarms Put Safety



**Melissa Burg**  
Principal

As 2016 rolls in and 2015 becomes a memory, many people make New Year resolutions. Statistics show not many people keep their New Year's resolutions. I believe that every day is a new day and it's never too late to make a change! Lots of people don't like change. Change can be scary and uncomfortable. Often people would rather continue doing something that's not working well than try something else. I don't really understand that philosophy. What's the worst thing that can happen; you make a mistake or fail? You just pick yourself up, learn from your errors and try again. I think being able to learn from your mistakes is one of the most important things that help you to become successful.

Most successful people weren't just lucky. They had to go through trial and error to find success. They had to practice to get where they're at and practice means taking a chance, being wrong (or at least not quite right), self-evaluating or getting feedback or both and then making the necessary adjustments to do it better next time.

Any day, every day, today is a good time to review things. Find one thing you would like to change or do better. Set up a plan to see how you can make it better and stick to the plan. If you stumble or fail, don't fret – just figure out where you can make a change in your plan and try, try, again!

Happy New Year everyone! I hope 2016 holds all you are wishing and hoping for!

Ms. Burg



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



Forever

**Mr. Schimenz**  
Main Office

**Readers can also write us at Editor@VocVoice.org**

fan, wrote, "Some people don't even read the newspaper. Some people do but honestly they shouldn't waste their time writing such long articles." **Jason Macancela** believes that the newspaper should include more outside information.

We do have some fans. **Cuahutemoc Cedamanos**, wrote, "The news articles are very well built. I only have good comments for the newspaper."

**Lisset Astudillo** wrote, "The school newspaper is organized, which is good for us so we can understand it better." **Jonathan Chimborazo** agreed. "The editors designed the newspaper very well and made it understanding for the students in Queens Vocational." "I think this fall's newspaper was interesting and I wonder how hard you people have to work to put this all together," wrote **Rina Gualpa**.



## Clocks to be Fixed All in Due Time

by Tia Singh

Two years after an exposé on the school clocks, nearly half still do not work properly.

“What Time is it? Who Knows!” was an article by Valentin Martinez published in the Summer 2014 *Vocational Voice*. The article took second place in the best school news in the “Newsies!” contest for New York City high school newspapers.

“After Valentin’s article, a plan was written up to the Department for Division of School Facilities to fix the clocks in Queens Voc,” said Mrs. Marcia Jarrett Holland, head custodian engineer and building manager of Queens Voc. Although it would only take one week to fix the clocks, “it is not considered a priority because we have a functioning bell schedule. Structural repairs such as fixing a leak in the building takes priority over the clocks,” said Mrs. Holland.

According to Valentin’s article, “Of the 110 clocks *Voc Voice* staff found, 56 work properly.” Currently, 61 clocks are accurate out of the 105 clocks that were observed. Only clocks that are accessible to students were included in both studies. Of 29 clocks in the old wing, 18 clocks are accurate. In the new wing, 14 clocks are accurate out of 24.

The clocks do not matter to everyone. “Clocks are not a real necessity because we all have cell

phones,” said Ms. Dimech. Senior Johnell Artis, agreed. “I don’t pay attention to the clock because I check the time on my phone,” he said.

According to Queens Voc’s student handbook, students are not permitted to check the time using their phones: “In their classes, teachers may allow the use of electronic devices for educational purposes....”

Assistant Principal Ali said he doesn’t use his phone in class. “If I can use my phone then doesn’t that mean my students can use their phones as well?” he asked.

The clocks still are important to some teachers and students. “The clocks are a matter of professionalism,” said Mr. Raynor. “When you walk through the halls and see clocks with different times it leads to the question what else is wrong? Since Queens Voc is so great, shouldn’t our clocks be great too?” he asked.

Senior Randy Shivilabak finds the malfunctioning clocks “annoying because as seniors we have scheduled appointments with the college counselors and if we don’t know the time we might miss the appointments, which can cause us to miss opportunities. Some might advocate using cell phones to check the time but there are teachers who will confiscate a phone for being out.”

“Hopefully by September 2016, all the clocks will be fixed,” said Mrs. Holland.

## SkillsUSA: Doing Good & Doing Well

by Vanessa Urrutia

The SkillsUSA bake sale that was held during the Parent-Teacher Conference on Nov. 29, raised \$1,081 that will help fund the group’s activities, said Ms. Ramdeo, the advisor. In December, they raised \$175 through its Candy Cane Grams. The candy canes were distributed Dec. 20, 21, and 22.

Not content with raising funds for their upcoming competitions, five members assisted a food pantry at a local church before Thanksgiving. “They packaged and distributed bags of goods for hundreds of people,” said Ms. Ramdeo. Angel Escalante, Ian Iyeke, Katherine Polanco, Salma Rivera, and Randy Shivilabak worked from 11am to 3pm on Saturday, Nov. 21, at the food pantry. “Each month they distribute food at the church,” said Randy, “and they know they can call whenever they need us to help

again,” he said.

In preparation for the upcoming city and state competitions, Ms. Ramdeo plans to hold an in-house competition for engineering on Friday, Jan. 22, from 2:30pm to 5:30pm.

Despite the article in the Fall 2015 edition of *Vocational Voice* that reported 85 members of Queens Voc’s SkillsUSA chapter, Ms. Ramdeo said, “There won’t be a need for a big competition involving all trades because of the small scale of students interested in competing this year. Teachers are holding competitions just within their classes,” she said.

The competition will consist of cable construction, troubleshooting, and a short written exam. It will determine who competes for Residential Systems Installation and Maintenance, which the SkillsUSA team has won five times consecutively. “Hopefully this year will be our sixth win,” said Ms. Ramdeo.



Students gather to show their Blackout Day participation.

## A School Full of Spirit for a Week

by Cosme Tellez

“Spirit Week was a huge success this year,” said Mr. Vega, coordinator of student activities (COSA).

“There was a huge amount of participation throughout the entire week, especially Jersey Day and Blackout Day,” he said.

Spirit Week was scheduled from Dec. 14 to Dec. 18. Monday was Nerd Day, Tuesday was Jersey Day, Wednesday was Pajama Day, Thursday was Blackout Day and Friday was Twin Day.

“Promotion for this event started on Dec. 9, too close to the event date,” said Mr. Vega, because the posters were not quite finished yet.

Another reason for the delay was that last year the posters were put up too early causing the hype to fade and students eventually forgetting about Spirit Week.

Mr. Vega said he decided that promotion is better if it is close to the upcoming event.

The themes were chosen by surveying students during lunch periods. Students from the Leadership class distributed a list containing eight choices to pick from. They then tallied up the votes and chose the five most popular themes.

Mr. Vega said that some students from this year and in past years have complained that there was a lack of variety and most of the choices were previously done.

He counters this claim by saying that the students are the ones who chose what activities are going to happen. “We did add some new choices, however we left some of the old choices there because they’re easy to do and participate in,” said Mr. Vega.

Senior Alicia Lucero said, “The choices could’ve been more

creative, fun, and new. Nerd Day has been done every year and it is not a good representation of real nerds.” Alicia added, “They should add a Celebrity Day for students to dress up as their favorite celebrities, and an ’80s day for students to dress up in typical ’80s clothes.”

Senior Ariane Bolanos “liked that they kept the old themes like Jersey Day, however choices like Nerd Day are becoming overused. Next time, they should give more options like a Comic Con Day for students to dress up as their favorite superheroes.”

Since the winter Spirit Week was a success, Mr. Vega is planning to have a spring Spirit Week with new options. Mr. Vega plans to hand out another survey to students throughout their lunch periods and hopes that more students vote and participate in the next Spirit Week.

## What Was the Worst Holiday Gift You Ever Got?

by Cristian Chamba

worst because it was a banana.”

—Iverelix Gonzalez, sophomore

—Amber Rivera, junior

Many years ago, my dad got me a bracelet for Christmas. It was a very nice bracelet except for one problem: he spelled my name wrong!

We asked some students: What was the worst holiday gift you ever got?

“A pair of boots, that’s it, and it is not even snowing.”

—Johnathan Espinoza, freshman

“I got a knitted sweater but I don’t really wear sweaters like that.”

—Revindia Singh, sophomore

“Some underwear. What the heck am I going to do with underwear?”

—Lyman Iyeke, senior

“I got a banana once. It was the

“As a prank my friend gave me a bag of feces.”

—Thiaralyn Objio, Senior

“Socks and underwear. I was expecting something more.”

—Tommy Alvarez, sophomore

“I got a brown beanie but I don’t wear those types of hats.”

—Marc Borrayo, junior

“Carrot flavored Naked juice. I don’t like carrots.”

—Jeffrey Acosta, junior

“I got socks, which wasn’t what I wanted. I was expecting something better like electronics. I already have too many socks.”

“A swimming suit. I don’t even know how to swim.”

—Jason Pineda, Senior

“A toy robot. I am already old and I don’t play with toys.”

—John Sibri, freshman

“I got 10 dollars for Christmas, not even in a card. They just handed me it.”

—Angel Condo, senior

“My grandma gave me a plain mug once.”

—Zuhayer Hussain, sophomore

“My brother gave me bubble wrap in a box for Christmas.”

—Erica Huerta, junior



# Movie Reviews

**Inside Out**  
by Danish Bokhari

Disney's Pixar film, *Inside Out*, directed by Pete Docter, has received movie ratings of 94 out of 100 on Metascore and 98% on Rotten Tomatoes. *Inside Out* dives deep into the emotional psyche of 12-year-old Riley Anderson who is forced to move from her childhood home in Minnesota to San Francisco. As you follow her story, the emotions

in her head are characters that influence her behavior, shaping and changing her experiences. Joy, Anger, Sadness, Disgust, and Fear are all unique characters that are Riley's emotions. The movie is illustrative and creative, showing how the human brain functions by depicting memories as orbs that we store inside our brain. The important orbs are the core memories that define a person's interests while the other memories are experiences that can be forgotten as the person grows older. When a conflict arises between Joy and Sadness, the effects on Riley are.... Watch the movie to see. Pixar has outdone

itself with the beautifully designed world of Riley's mind, filled with details spanning from her train of thought to a pit where memories are forgotten. *Inside Out* is a truly marvelous animated film and an emotional experience.

**Star Wars: The Force Awakens (Episode VII)**  
by Gabriel E. Miller

*The Force Awakens*, the first movie in the new Star Wars trilogy, is a continuation of *Star Wars: Episode VI - Return of the Jedi* created by George Lucas. *The Force Awakens* has already broken several records such as the

biggest domestic opening, which grossed in \$247.9 million.

*The Force Awakens* follows the characters Finn and Rey. Finn is a stormtrooper for the First Order, a faction that emerged after the fall of The Empire. Rey is a scavenger trying to survive on her own on the desert planet of Jakku. When BB-8, a robot that is carrying the location of the last Jedi, is found by the two, they work together to return him to his master.

One of the reasons as to why *The Force Awakens* had massive success was having the actors from the original trilogy reprise their roles. Harrison Ford returns

as the famous Han Solo and Carrie Fisher as Leia Organa. The visual effects are stunning during the massive space battles and intense fighting scenes.

Even though *The Force Awakens* is a great movie, it still has its flaws. The overuse of a Death Star for a third time felt like a cop out and the biggest flaw of the movie was that the antagonists, Supreme Commander Snoke, Kylo Ren, Captain Phasma, and General Hux were developed poorly.

*Star Wars: The Force Awakens* is open for newcomers to the franchise because it starts off with a new story once more.

# New Year's Resolutions

by Jhun Rhenz Martinez

Roughly half of all Americans make New Year's resolutions yet less than 10 percent succeed ,reports statisticbrain.com. We asked some students: "What is your New Year's resolution and how will you accomplish it?" These are their responses:

**Disorn Kwunchaithanya:** To study hard and achieve my dream of becoming a computer programmer. I will accomplish this by going to college and meeting new people who are interested in coding.

**Haw Wunna Zaw:** To get higher grades in my education. I will accomplish this by studying, sleeping earlier, and stop playing games such as Counter Strike and League.

**Kevin Eng:** To make new friends and get along with people more.

**Matthew Rodriguez:** To make sure that my idea of a pretty cool

comic called Dragon Men gets noticed. I will accomplish this by going to places that will get it published.

**Constantine Kalstas:** To graduate, improve my body at the gym, and to get my crush. I will accomplish this by taking things easier, being assertive, and being confident.

**Karina Rodriguez:** My New Year's resolution is to pass my classes, do better than last year, stop cutting classes, and do my homework.

**Veimar Balbuena:** To lose weight. I will accomplish this by balancing the amount I eat and stop drinking soda such as Pepsi.

**Juan Aviles:** To be a nicer person by changing my ways.

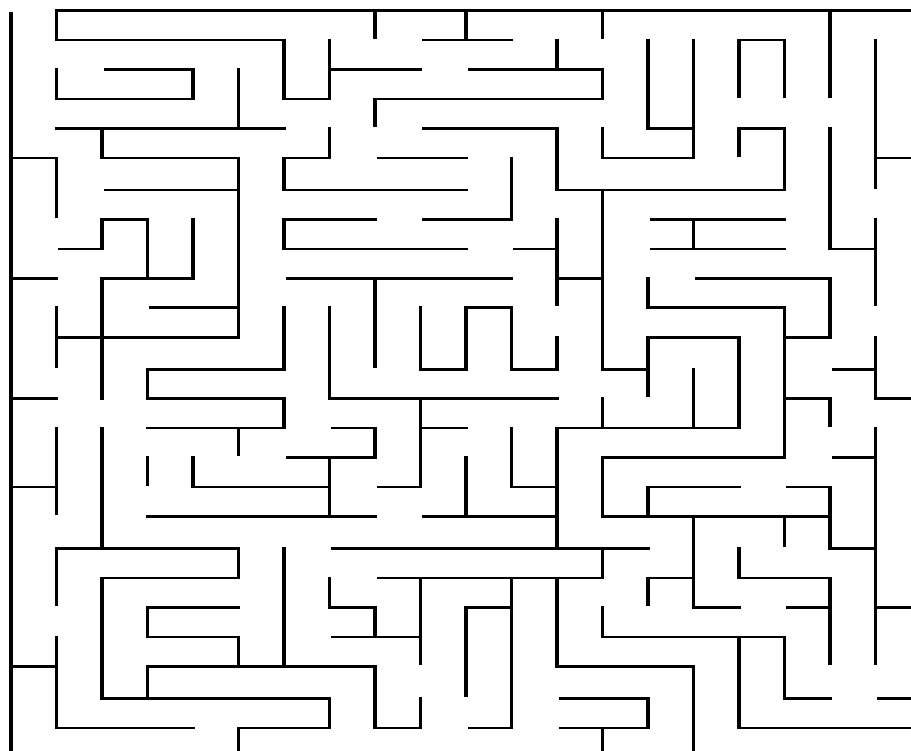
**Donnie Guerrero:** My New Year's resolution is to lose five pounds. I will accomplish this by going to the gym.

**Christine DeFelice:** My New Year's resolution is to eat healthier. I will accomplish this by having better eating habits.

# Valentine's Day Maze



Help him get to his valentine



Let's see if you can solve it!



# Horoscopes

by Tia Singh

**Aries (March 21-April 19)**

In order to function, you must stay busy. You will find in the upcoming weeks many times where you can help people out. Use this as an opportunity to be productive with your time.

**Taurus (April 20-May 20)**

In the near future there will be an argument between you and someone close to you. Try to stay open to the other party's ideas and you will find that what you are arguing about is not worth losing a relationship.

**Gemini (May 21-June 20)**

Being open and honest when communicating with others will help you avoid conflict, more than

you think. Do not lie to the people around you because it's no better than lying to yourself. Learn to accept yourself so you won't be inclined to lie to others.

**Cancer (June 21-July 22)**

Stress has consumed your life lately. You will be happier when you think with your head rather than your heart. You're a very emotional person and can easily motivate people, use this to your advantage and don't let it become a liability.

**Leo (July 23-August 22)**

Lately, you feel like a lost puppy, with no direction or place to go. If you persevere through these hard times, everything will work

itself out. Do not get caught up in the past and what you didn't do. Instead think of what you can do now that will get you to where you want to be.

**Virgo (August 23-Sept. 22)**

You have been so caught up in everyone's lives that you forgot to live your own life. Take some time to relax and enjoy yourself, maybe by indulging in a book or movie. You will remember through these activities that you have your own life to improve.

**Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)**

You may feel frustrated because things are not going as you planned. Slow down, take a deep breath, step back, and see what you need to get done. Establish clear goals in mind and set out to accomplish them.

**Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)**

Lately it feels like everyone is out to get you and that everything you do is wrong. Do not let this limit your potential; there is success headed your way if you are willing to work for it.

**Sagittarius (Nov. 22- Dec. 21)**

The frustration that comes with this time of the year is something that has been keeping you from reaching your goals. Be persistent during the hectic season. Harder challenges will result in more rewarding outcomes.

**Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)**

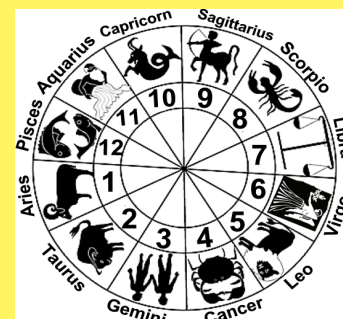
You've been very distracted lately and despite your many tasks you feel like you're not getting much done. Try to manage your time more wisely and set your priorities straight.

**Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)**

There has been a lot that you keep to yourself lately. Instead of letting it all build up, vent to someone you trust; it will be better for your mental health in the long run.

**Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)**

You've made a very meaningful decision lately regarding an important part of your life. You may feel you made a wrong choice, but remember that you thought thoroughly about your options before making your choice.





# SENIOR SPORTS PROFILES

by Jennifer Cosme

**Samantha Perez**Girls' Varsity Basketball  
Years on Team: 2

"She has really improved on her game. She got more fundamentally sound by improving her skills, got stronger with her dribble and shooting technique, and has a better form." —Coach Devaux

"Samantha shows sportsmanship towards the team, always has positive attitude, and is outgoing. She has also improved over the years."

—Vanessa Myroniuk

**Katelynn Santiago**Girls' Varsity Basketball  
Years on Team: 4

"Katelynn is a veteran who became a leader by always being ready to help her teammates. She is going to play big minutes as a starter." —Coach Devaux

"She is a good player, one who has taught me a lot. Katelynn knows what she is doing on the court and she is always motivating the team."

—Zaire Morgan

**Lincoln Speer (Co-Captain)**Boys' Varsity Basketball  
Years on Team: 2

"Lincoln has developed his skills throughout the years coming from JV to varsity."

—Coach Maloney

"Lincoln is a good teammate but he tries to be the whole team sometimes. E for effort when trying to control the team. He's improved a lot during the years."

—Andrew Garcia

**Marcos Casado (Co-Captain)**Boys' Varsity Basketball  
Years on Team: 2

"Marcos has a great court vision and has the ability to control the game."

—Coach Maloney

"Marcos is a quiet teammate but he plays hard and tries his best to encourage everybody."

—Ali Askar

**Andrew Garcia**Boys' Varsity Basketball  
Years on Team: 2

"He has great shooting abilities and hustles all the time."

—Coach Maloney

"He is a good player and fun during practice. He has improved a lot through the years."

—Seamus Ryan

**Seamus Ryan**Boys' Varsity Basketball  
Years on Team: 1

"Seamus joined the team recently. He's a good athlete and can play a lot of sports, and basketball is obviously one."

—Coach Maloney

"Good player, he has a nice offense and makes his time worth on the court."

—Anthony Cabrera

**Anthony Pippis (Co-Captain)**Varsity Wrestling  
Years on Team: 3

"Anthony has always been a good kid and wrestler. He listens and is going to make a good adult one day. He has a bright future in college."

—Coach Zambrotta

"Anthony is a great captain. He is really strict, hardworking, and fun to be around. He motivates the team a lot."

—Ngawang Dawa

**Christopher Moroch**Boys' Varsity Basketball  
Years on Team: 2

"Christopher plays hard in practice everyday."

—Coach Maloney

"He tries his best, has potential, and believes in the team by encouraging us."

—Dylan Sankarsingh

**Michael Kammerer**Boys' Varsity Basketball  
Years on Team: 2

"Michael learned to respect the way I want him to play the game."

—Coach Maloney

"Michael is the best teammate. He comes to practice on time and is a role model. He is always encouraging us to do more."

—Marcos Casado

**Jimmy Gutierrez**Varsity Wrestling  
Years on Team: 2

"Jimmy is a good kid. He amuses me in practice despite my sergeant mentality and he helps provide balance for the rest of the team."

—Coach Zambrotta

"He's supportive, thinks of others, and he is a great teammate."

—Richard Martinez

**Andrea Zaavedra**Varsity Wrestling  
Years on Team: 3

"Andrea is the only female on the team this year and she shows a lot of heart. Many girls are intimidated but she doesn't care nor bother. She is extremely nice and respectful."

—Coach Zambrotta

"She's a really good teammate that doesn't give up. She's the only female this year but works harder than everyone else."

—Min Woo Lee

**Xi Zheng (Captain)**Girls' Varsity Basketball  
Years on Team: 4

"Xi is a veteran and captain of the team. She has really embraced her role. She is very competitive and I expect big things from her."

—Coach Devaux

"Xi brings up the hype to the team. She's really an amazing basketball player that I look up to; she's like a 'mama duck' always taking care of us."

—Victoria Guerrero

**Tysain Shand (Co-Captain)**Varsity Wrestling  
Years on Team: 3

"Responsible kid, good student and person. He is a good wrestler and is always willing to help. He is going to do well in life."

—Coach Zambrotta

"Tysain is a great captain; he motivates us all the time and is a great wrestler that shows a lot of dedication. I will miss him next year."

—Thiago Garabato

**Sahoniel Batista (Captain)**Varsity Wrestling  
Years on Team: 4

"I have very few kids like him every year. Unfortunately because of a shoulder injury he can't wrestle most of the season. Despite that, his dedication to the team is encouraging to all of his teammates."

—Coach Zambrotta

"Saho is a great captain who has helped me a lot with my technique and always motivates us."

—Angelo Sinchi

**Bayron Quillay**Varsity Wrestling  
Years on Team: 2

"Bayron shows a lot of promise this season. Unfortunately, he didn't wrestle before, but if he keeps it up he is going to have a productive year."

—Coach Zambrotta

"Bayron is a good teammate. He is very dedicated and shows that by always practicing. If he learns something new he tends to teach us."

—William Teyuca

**"Talent wins games, but teamwork and intelligence win championships." - Michael Jordan**



# SENIOR SPORTS PROFILES

by Jennifer Cosme

Joshua Rodriguez



Boys' Varsity Basketball  
Years on Team: 2

"He has developed his jump shot. This is his first year officially on team."  
—Coach Maloney

"Josh is always the first in practice; he should get more playing time. He is one of the best shooters I've seen."  
—Michael Kammerer

Charles Urena



Boys' Varsity Basketball  
Years on Team: 2

"Charles has the ability to be a vital member of the team."  
—Coach Maloney

"Charles has improved a lot. He is supportive and always wants us to do better."  
—Lincoln Speer

Dylan Sankarsingh



Boys' Varsity Basketball  
Years on Team: 2

"Dylan became a more physical player and he can do everything, which is good for an A division team."  
—Coach Maloney

"He's always enthusiastic, always bringing the team together and trying to set a place to help us win."  
—Charles Urena

Travis Savino



Boys' Varsity Basketball  
Years on Team: 1

"Travis has the ability to play the game and needs to realize the competition is higher than what he is used to."  
—Coach Maloney

"Travis is a very good player and teammate; he's also a tough guy."  
—Christopher Morocho

Jose de los Santos



Varsity Wrestling  
Years on Team: 1

"Jose is very fast on the mat and pushes real hard on practice."  
—Coach Zambrotta

"He's respectful, has good sportsmanship, and is always helping us. He is always there when I am about to give up."  
—Kevin Tenempaguay

Jerick de Jesus



Varsity Wrestling  
Years on Team: 2

"Jerick trains very hard and is always willing to help out the team in any way possible."  
—Coach Zambrotta

"He wrestles nice; he is a beast on the mat."  
—Alfredo Sanchez

Luis Torrez



Varsity Wrestling  
Years on Team: 1

"His first year wrestling. At practice he puts in a great deal of effort and is always willing to help the team."  
—Coach Zambrotta

"Luis is hard-working and he motivates us a lot. He is strong in his weight class, shows dedication, and is persistent."  
—Juan Alarca

## JV Basketball Starts with Wins



William looks to pass in a Saturday morning practice.

**continued from back page**  
can to help the team be better," he said. Jose is tied with Rejon Johnson averaging 15.0 points-per-game. Jose leads the team with 5.5 assists-per-game. Rejon, the other captain, leads the team with 19.0 rebounds-per-game.

"I think we have an excellent

opportunity to make the top two in our division. We have a very good shot to make the playoffs, which we have never done," said Ms. Karcher.

"Defense wins games," Ms. Karcher tells her players during games and practices. According to Ms. Karcher, the teams' biggest

strength is their defense. By playing good defense, it will translate into offense, and help the team win.

Practice time is limited. The team is last in preference of which team gets the gymnasium. They practice in the gym every other day, from 6pm-9pm and on Saturdays from 11am-4pm, said Ms. Karcher. "A group of 15 to 20 students comes to practice. I would say that most of them come all the time," said Ms. Karcher.

The active team roster consists of Jose Batista, Juan Beriguete, Ramse Cuello, Fode Diakite, Jamayel Hussain, Zuhayer Hussain, Rejon Johnson, Muamer Ljesnjanin, Vince Ngilit, Jordan Olivares, Randy Paulino, Tyler Settles, Kevin Tlapanco, William Viera, and Seldon Wynter.

Currently inactive are Tyrell Adams, Donte Carruth, and Edison Rodriguez.



Wrestling team is hoping there are no problems this year.

## "New" Coach, New Team

**continued from back page**  
students left the team," he said.

Saho, a three-year captain, believes he was reappointed captain because he is one of the hardest working people on the team. "Without the captain and co-captains it would be a hassle to organize the team overall," he said. Alongside him are co-captains Anthony Pippis, Tysain Shand, and Min Woo Lee.

Saho's expectations for this season are really high. "I expect the team to not give up when things get rough on the mat." He also expects the team to come together as a family, we come together we can achieve our goal," he said.

Practice is held in the cafeteria every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Mr. Zambrotta said he makes sure that the workouts the wrestlers do are intense. William Teyuca, a three-year veteran, enjoys of the workouts and how the team is able to work together during practice.

To make the team, a student must hand in a medical, parental consent, must be passing all classes, and must weigh at least 88lbs, but no more than 285lbs.

Senior Andrea Zaavedra is

the only girl on the wrestling team. "I feel comfortable being the only girl but it is also stressful because I can't catch up with the guys at times," she said. "I get intimidated because my opponents are guys. Most of the times I don't win."

Sophomore John Kostalas dislocated his arm during his match against Aviation on Jan. 7. Mr. Zambrotta said John won't wrestle for the rest of the season because of his injury.

This year's roster for the wrestling team are Diego Abreu, Saho Batista, Giovanni Cruz, Ngawang Dawa, Jerick Dejesus, Thiago Gabarto, Christopher Gonzalez, Jimmy Gutierrez, Sangay Gyaphal, John Kostalas, Min Woo Lee, Richard Martinez, Anthony Pippis, Bayron Quillay, Tyrek Rollings, Alfredo Sanchez, Tysain Shand, Angelo Sinchi, Kevin Tenempaguay, William Teyuca, Luis Angel Torres, and Andrea Zaavedra.

Mr. Zambrotta sees this season as a building year. The sophomores and juniors need more experience, "can't get good overnight," he said. He expects next year to be a heavy season for the rising juniors and seniors.



Tatyanna warming up.

## Girls' Varsity Basketball

**continued from back page**

time. They work hard and play well."

The members of the team are: Kate Lesli Canlobo, Anely Cortes Molina, Sofia Garcia Lucero, Victoria Guerrero, Tea Mack, Ziaire Morgan, Vanessa Myroniuk, Jordalin Ortega, Samantha Perez, Tatyanna Redillo, Amber Rivera, Valerie Sanchez, Katelynn Santiago, Ashante Stanley Niblack, Ashma Tamang, Diana Woloszyn, and Xi Zheng.

Please support Queens Voc sports teams. Readers can find team information and schedules at PSAL.org. Search on Schools tab or go directly to <http://www.psal.org/profiles/school-profile.aspx#24539> to access the Queens Voc page.





# Hundreds Attend Pep Rally

by Betsy Flores

Queens Voc's first pep rally in modern history was held in the auditorium on Nov. 24. About 300 students, including the school's fall and winter sports teams, cheered in the audience as each team member was presented on stage by their coaches.

The teams that took the stage were the boys' and girls' soccer teams, the boys' and girls' varsity basketball teams, the boys' junior varsity basketball team, the girls' volleyball team, the rugby team, and the boys' and girls' varsity bowling teams. "The wrestling team was invited to participate but they did not because their roster was not set," said Mr. Vega.

"It was a huge turnout of students and staff that attended the school's first pep rally. It shows that our students support our athletes who work hard to be in school and pass their classes while they sometimes miss class to attend games and stay late after school for practice," said Mr. Devaux.

Michael Tenia, a member of the rugby team, said that he and his fellow athletes enjoyed the school spirit the audience had when team members were called up to the stage.

Mr. Vega, the coordinator of student activities, said that the Leadership class and other students were looking through books and came across the idea of having a pep rally. "Many students were really enthusiastic about having a pep rally of our own and suggested that we should have one. Students came together and asked many teachers what they remembered at their high school pep rally and took ideas to make one of our own," said Mr. Vega.

Many audience members enjoyed this event and enjoyed cheering on the teams. "I had a lot of fun," said Jennifer Sarmiento. "The whole school got together and showed the teams how much we support them. We all got prizes like foam fingers or pom-poms, and goodie bags with candy, press-on tattoos, and necklaces. With all of us cheering on, I hope our athletes got motivated to perform well in their future games," she said.

Besides the audience members receiving prizes including Queens Voc beanies and basketballs, athletes received a QV water bottle.

Mr. Vega said he hopes many students enjoyed this event and are willing to attend another pep rally in the spring to support the spring teams.



## Girls Shoot for Victory

by Andrea Zaavedra

The girls' varsity basketball team coached by Mr. Devaux started strong with seven wins, and one loss to Maspeth. Maspeth, coach Devaux said, was the team's "biggest competition."

The Lady Tigers are a division B team. So far, the Lady Tigers have defeated High School for Construction 33-22 and 50-42, Aviation 43-23, Wagner 33-6 and 48-16, Metropolitan Campus 43-32, and Queens High School Complex 38-37. The score in the loss to Maspeth was 51-39.

Xi Zheng, the top scorer of the season so far, has averaged 12 points, two rebounds, two assists, and has shot 73% from the free throw line per game.

This year's captains are Victoria Guerrero and Xi Zheng. "I chose them as captains because they are veterans, they lead by example, and are respected by the team," said Mr. Devaux.

"The veterans and the new players have great potential. With more practice, the new players will get better," said Xi. "As the captain of the team, I expect the girls to have dedication. I want to see the hustle and motivation for basketball. I also expect them to become great friends with each other and be respectful members," she said. Xi added that "I don't want to expect too much. I wouldn't want to jinx it. It all depends on how well the team communicates and plays with each other." Victoria agrees with Xi. "The new players show a lot of effort and dedication. I expect my teammates to get along, bond, have fun, and play their hearts out. I'm expecting to get as far as we can in the playoffs," she said.

With 10 new members on the team, Mr. Devaux expects that the team will learn to work together throughout the season. "I want to help them become a better team and a better player individually," he said. Mr. Devaux said that the new players contribute to the team and that they are getting well adjusted. "The vets are present to help the new teammates. They are devoted to the team. They hardly ever miss practice, and if they do, they tell me ahead of

**Continued on page 11**



*Lady Tigers gather onstage with the school mascot to an auditorium full of supporters.*

## "New" Coach, New Team



*Captain Saho leads his team in stretches before first match.*

by Michael Ortega

The wrestling team has two wins, one loss, and one tie, in fifth place in the division.

The team's first match was "intense" said Captain Sahoniel Batista. The team missed a lot of weight classes and had no choice but to forfeit matches, but "we started to win match after match. It was crazy; we tied at the last minute," he said.

Mr. Boyle was appointed coach but later withdrew. Mr. Zambrotta, who was reappointed as the coach, said he is expecting to rebuild the team. "Since I was not the coach last year, many students left the team," he said.

**Continued on page 11**

## JV Boys on a Winning Streak

by Kevin Henao

We had a close game against Bryant, but we focused and came together to win the game."

Ramse Cuello added, "We are playing at the level we want to and in the hardest of times, we gather up and try to get the win for the team. We put all our differences aside and focus on the game. We need to play team basketball to win."

Jose, the starting point guard, said he is currently playing at the level he wants to. "I'm distributing the ball really well and scoring is coming too. I'm doing what I

After finishing with a 7-5 record last year, Ms. Karcher and the boys on her JV basketball team are very optimistic about making the playoffs this season. The team is off to a good start with a 2-0 record. The boys had a 37-35 victory against Bryant and a 15-point blowout against Aviation.

"The season has gotten off to a great start, with us winning our first two regular season games and going undefeated in the preseason," said Zuhayer Hussain.

Captain Jose Batista said the season "couldn't be going better.

**Continued on page 11**