

Vocational Voice

Vol. LXXIII No. 1

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

Fall, 2007



Sometimes, there really is no such thing as a free lunch.

School-wide Free Lunch Program Ends

by Oscar Mendez

For the past four years, students at Queens Voc have received free lunch. Starting this November, some students were required to pay for their lunch if they wanted to eat.

At the beginning of the school year, students received lunch forms from their shop teachers. The forms had to be returned by September 25 for students to get a chance to qualify for free lunch. Students who qualified, based on their family's income, will continue to receive free lunch. Students who did not qualify or return their form by September 25 are now required to pay for lunch if they want to eat.

According to Ms. Vittor, Queens Voc has been in a program called Universal Free Lunch for four years. The program has expired, and now those students who did not return the forms or do not meet the requirements must pay for their lunch.

On November 7, students started receiving special "key cards" that are used to get

lunch. These cards serve as a form of identification when the students go to eat. Depending on the bar code number on the card, students will either receive free, reduced-priced or full-priced lunch. Students paying for lunch will have to pay at the cash register in the cafeteria. The cost of a full lunch is \$1.50, or 50¢ for those paying the reduced price.

By February, there is a possibility that students paying for lunch will receive a special card. "Parents must go online and put money in the card," said Ms. Vittor. "Students will swipe the card and they will be charged for the lunch."

It is possible for the school to have another chance to participate in the Universal Free Lunch program, but for that to happen, over 90% of the lunch forms have to be returned to Ms. O'Connor. So far, about 80% of the forms have been returned. The forms have to be processed online, and the city decides who qualifies for free lunch. If over 90% of the forms are returned, Queens Voc will qualify for the Universal Free Lunch program.

Tuesday Tutoring

by Yara Diaz

Tutoring has moved! Queens Voc has moved last year Friday 8th period tutoring to Tuesday 8th period tutoring.

One reason for the change to tutoring Tuesdays was that "we found students were starting their weekend early," said Ms. Radovich.

The Small Learning Community (SLC) directors decide which teachers tutor what subject, and which students need the class. "SES offers tutoring in cosmetology hours, SAT, homework, subject classes, and at times will use this period to conduct assemblies," said Ms. Newman. The School of Skilled Building Trades (SSBT), School of Computer and Electronic Engineering Technology (SCEET), and the School of Exploratory and Discovery (SED) are all doing the same. "The idea is to keep the students safe and in school, and to give them the most to be successful," said Ms. Radovich, director of SED.

Several shop teachers are using this period to prepare students for licensure test or certifications. "Students are being given a chance to practice for their copper certification before the actual test," said C-Tech teacher, Mr. Rodriguez. Mr. Grochala tutors cosmetology students for the National Occupational Competency Testing Institute (NOCTI) test, which is a test needed to obtain a cosmetology license.

According to the New York State School Report Card, the passing rate for Queens Voc students on the United States History and Government Regents decreased by 10 percentage points from 55% to 45% in 2005-2006. The passing rate on the Physical Setting / Earth Science Regents decreased from 43% to 39%. Tutoring is expected to help turn this around.

"Tutoring is an excellent idea that allows the teacher to help the students on a more individual basis, it is also very beneficial for the students who did not pass the Regents especially if they passed the class," said Ms. Wasilewski



Students now have another choice: a new, exciting major.

QV Adds Graphic Arts Program

by Yanel Leroux

Queens Voc has started a new graphic arts program because of the high demand of workers needed in this field. Last year, Mr. Garcia was hired to start the program. Currently there are two graphic arts classes, a ninth grade class with 25 students and a tenth grade class with 29.

Graphic arts is a four year program. The first year students are introduced to design and art. They learn to draw, study works of art, and learn how to use the principles and the elements of art and how to put them together. The principles of art are balance, repetition, and rhythm, and the elements of art are shape, line, and form. The second year, students learn to use Photoshop and Illustrator, industry-standard software programs that assist in the creation and manipulation of images. During the third year, they will learn to use Indesign, a software program that creates magazines, advertisements, and brochures, and they will apply

layout theories. Seniors in the program will learn portfolio development, run the design center for student and teacher use, and complete an internship. The design center will students and teachers services such as making brochures, advertisements, magazines, business cards, and web pages.

Students who start the program in the tenth grade will be introduced to design and art quicker and learn about Photoshop and Illustrator in the same year.

After four years of graphic arts, students will take a competency test to earn a NOCTI certification in graphic arts. Mr. Garcia is also looking into an Adobe certification test for the classes.

Mr. Garcia is working to acquire a Mac laptop cart "that will allow students to share files and use different design programs needed to be competent in the graphic arts industry or to further their studies in a post-secondary institution." Macs are the computers usually used in the graphic arts industry, because they handle graphics and images better than other computers.



Mr. Garcia has created QV's first new major in years.

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Check your Radio! New Deans on Call

by Catherine Gomez

As Queens Voc opened its doors in September, there were two new deans: Mr. Mendez and Mr. Rodriguez. Both are shop teachers, and both said they liked the opportunity to help keep Queens Voc a safe environment.

"It feels good being a dean," said Mr. Mendez, "it helps keep the school in order." Becoming a dean, said Mr. Rodriguez, was not a certainty. "Deaning entails a lot of paperwork, running around, and mostly confrontations with students." But both became deans after Ms. Vittor spoke with them. Mr. Mendez said he had not thought of becoming a dean, but "when I was approached I liked the idea of it."

As deans, Mr. Rodriguez and Mr. Mendez have the responsibility to enforce safety in the school building, to make sure that students are doing what they're supposed to do and not violating school rules. Mr. Mendez describes the dean's responsibility as "Maintain peace, clear the hallways, and make sure that

students are safe." Mr. Rodriguez added that deans must "respond to incidents throughout the school, communicate with parents if necessary, and follow through with suspensions, just to name a few."

According to Mr. Rodriguez, being a dean "doesn't feel any different from being a teacher; I grew accustomed to being a dean very quickly." As dean, Mr. Rodriguez teaches two fewer classes, the only class he teaches is the senior class for about three periods a day and an extra period on Monday. As for Mr. Mendez he teaches two classes that take up four periods a day, but Mr. Mendez "made sure that I kept my classes. If I couldn't, I would not have become a dean. I am a teacher and that's my career."

Mr. Mendez and Mr. Rodriguez join veteran deans Mr. Garofano and Mr. Schimenz.

"It seems as though that they both have been doing this for a long time," Mr. Garofano said of the new deans. "They fit right in as soon as they became deans, and have been a pleasure to work with."

Oh the Times They Had! Class of 1987 goes back to HS



Members of the Class of '87: Celebrating 20 Years!

by Steven D'Elena

Queens Voc's Class of 1987 recently held its 20th anniversary class reunion. On Friday, November 16, dozens of graduates went back to their high school—many for the first time since graduating—to tour their old school. Now twice as big as it had been, the alumni, led by Mr. Davidson, toured the building, not only to reminisce about the good times they had in the original school, but to see the new additions as well.

"So many changes; the school has a whole different spirit. The changes are what we always wanted. I'm glad to see that the school was improved,"

said Marisol Rico, who planned and organized the reunion.

The former students were delighted, they said, to see the former administrators and teachers who attended to see them. Some of the retired staff members saw the new addition for the first time too.

Among the retired staff members were Mr. Serber, retired principal; Mr. Reichig, the COSA for many years before he retired; Ms. Bertolami, who retired as the assistant principal of the business and cosmetology department; Ms. Hulak, Ms. Schauder, and Ms. Walsh, teachers; and Mrs. Malloy, the principal's secretary. Mr. Davidson, who said he started



Mr. Mugan demonstrates business software programs.

VE is More than a Virtual Success

by Catherine Gomez

Virtual Enterprise is a student-run simulated business. According to Mr. Mugan, who teaches the class, "Virtual Enterprise gives students an opportunity to apply the skills they've learned in high school to a realistic office environment; it allows students to test their leadership skills." Queens Voc has been participating in Virtual Enterprise (VE) since Mr. Mugan was hired, three years ago.

In order to create a realistic office environment, Mr. Mugan assigns students to departments to do "typical work that is done in an office, such as creating websites, product catalogs, and brochures, developing business plans, and maintaining financial records," he said. The idea behind VE, said student Cynthia Rojas, is to "work in an office and gain experience to run a business." Queens Voc's VE runs Diverse City Wear, a virtual clothing company.

VE is open to junior and senior business students only. To be selected, students create resumes and cover letters, and are interviewed.

"Virtual Enterprise meets two periods a day, in room 412," said Mr. Mugan.

VE students in the accounting department input financial records, and handle Diverse City Wear's money and banking to keep the business running and to compete successfully with other schools. The human resources department is in charge of "tracking attendance, reinforcing rules, giving our performance evaluation sheets, and creating an employee manual," said George Serna. The web design department designs the company's website, fliers, brochures, catalogs, and company calendar.

For the Advertising Week Competition, students in VE created a print ad raising awareness of reckless teen driving. According to Mr. Mugan, the ad week competition went well. "We didn't win but we may be getting internships for the students in Virtual Enterprise, which is more important to us."

The next VE competition scheduled is the Virtual Enterprise Local Business Plan Competition on Monday December 17.

teaching at Queens Voc when the 1987 graduates were just freshmen, also attended. "I was glad to see Mr. Reichig most because he was more than a teacher he was a counselor and a good friend," said Ms. Rico.

The night began with a meet and greet in the cafeteria. Mr.

Davidson then led the tour of the new building. After the tour, the alumni went back to the cafeteria for a buffet dinner. While they ate, many shared stories about their high school experiences and they asked many questions about the school now. Following dinner, they proceeded to the



"Twenty years ago, this was our schoolyard!"

SO: Lower Cost, Better Year

by Cindy Carrasco

The cost of joining the Student Organization (SO) has been reduced from \$7 to \$3 this year.

Last year, the extra \$4 was funded on school t-shirts and other "minor give-aways." Students showed no interest in those items, according to Mr. Vega, "So why charge the extra money?" he asked.

Membership in the SO includes the use of a locker, admission to all home basketball games and other school events, reduced cost for SO trips throughout the year, and an SO membership card. The first 200 freshmen to join also received a wallet and lanyard.

SO trips and activities are planned by Mr. Vega and his leadership class. The leading officers of the senior class, David Bermudez, Adrienne Diaz, Yara Diaz, and Dayana Jaramillo, are the directors of the leadership class. Still, Mr. Vega allows input from SO members, student athletes, and teachers. "We take all ideas and suggestions into consideration and we see if they're doable," he said.

Again this school year, Mr. Vega said, he wants to run trips to Knicks games and Broadway shows. He also wants to plan a different Honor Roll trip.

As for school events, "we want have more holiday dances. If all goes well, we are planning a holiday dance on Friday, December 14. We want to have another dance for Valentine's Day as well," said Mr. Vega.

"There are so many things you miss out on when you don't join," said Hanner Lopez, an 11th grader. Students interested in joining should see Mr. Vega.

gym for cake and soda, and danced to the music of a DJ. They partied like it was their prom all over again.

Many of the alumni still live locally, but others traveled from as far as North Carolina, Texas, and Florida.

"It was a great experience," Ms. Rico said, "seeing the new school and all of my old classmates. I just hope the students now will appreciate what they have."

[Editors' Note: Voc Voice would like to include comments and reflections from other alumni. We can be emailed at VocVoice@aol.com.]

Email us at:

VocVoice@aol.com

Queens Voc's Website Under New Management

by Ivan Perez

In November of 2006, Mr. Garcia, the web design teacher, took charge of the school website. The website was in need of upgrading and Mr. Garcia was interested and volunteered.

The new homepage is up and running but some of the other pages are "under construction." Mr. Garcia has put in more than 100 hours of work into the website, but has yet to complete it. "I have classes to teach," Mr. Garcia said, explaining that creating a school website takes a tremendous amount of work and time.

Last school year, Mr. Garcia had his web design classes assist him with the work. This year, he hasn't had his classes

help, but is looking forward to having assistants help him gather the information needed for the website. "Getting information from different people on time," Mr. Garcia said, is the most difficult part of creating the website. Mr. Garcia finds little time in his busy schedule to contact staff members for information about SLCs, clubs, teams, and events that should be included on the website.

Mr. Garcia plans to have the website functional before the end of February 2008. The address to the website is www.queensvoc.org. Currently the website includes a directory, bell schedule, calendar and information on the school's library.



Mr. Bowen "enlightens" his 9th graders.

Many Freshmen Begin Year with Exploratory

by Christian Guiracocha

Queens Voc offers various programs of study: plumbing, electrical installation, business, cosmetology, computer technology, electronics, and graphic design. Before freshmen choose their major, they can take Exploratory, a program in which students "learn their strengths and get to know what's out there," according to Ms. Dattner, 9th grade guidance counselor. In Exploratory, students learn about career and technical educational courses offered at Queens Voc.

Exploratory runs through the entire school year. Freshmen students can take plumbing, electrical installation, electronics, business, or graphic design. The other majors, cosmetology and computer technology, aren't available for Exploratory, because they are screened programs and require certain scores on the statewide comprehensive reading and math tests, and middle school grade requirements. Freshmen take 3 of the 5 programs available for Exploratory.

Students taking Exploratory

are split into 8 different classes. The 8 classes are separated into 2 groups, block E & block F. Students in block E take business, graphic design, electrical installation, or electronics. Students in block F take business, electrical installation, electronics, or plumbing. Each course lasts 12 weeks, basically, 2 marking periods.

Students can apply for Exploratory in the 8th grade. After applying students are then selected by Ms. Dattner and Ms. Radovich, of the school of Exploration and Discovery, is the SLC for all Queens Voc freshmen. Of the hundreds of students who apply for the Queens Voc's Exploratory program, an estimated 200 are selected. Once the quota is reached, the other applicants aren't selected for Exploratory and can only enter Queens Voc if they are accepted to cosmetology or computer technology. Students attending Queens Voc must be in a career and technical educational course.

Of the 323 freshmen accepted this year, they're 204 freshmen taking exploratory.



Mr. Stefanidis leads his dedicated team of photographers.

Yearbook Committee Ready for '08

by Rusel Grullon

When seniors are about to graduate from high school they want a reminder of the great times they had in school, something to keep all their memories fresh in their minds. Neither graduation rings, diplomas, nor caps and gowns are better at keeping those memories fresh than a yearbook.

This year, Mr. Stefanidis, who is in charge of the yearbook staff for a second year, wanted juniors, sophomores, and freshmen involved too, rather than having only seniors work on the yearbook. He began recruiting during the last week of September but didn't get as many serious volunteers as hoped for. By now, though, the yearbook staff, which is still accepting members, has 10 major contributors. Mr. Stefanidis has not yet assigned tasks to the staff members but is hoping each staff member and even students who aren't staff members will contribute anything, from ideas to photographs.

Mr. Stefanidis is encouraging students to upload photos from their own computers for possible use in the yearbook. Students can go to images.jostens.com and login in with the user id: 1138856 and password: qvt2008. Once logged in, students should click "browse" and locate the photograph they want to upload, read the terms and conditions, and agree to them and click "image share." Students should then fill out the

contact information and image information, and click "save details" to complete the process.

Mr. Stefanidis has met with his staff to brainstorm ideas for features to include in the yearbook. The meetings also allowed the advisor to see which students were more creative, who had leadership qualities, and if they had the academic skills Mr. Stefanidis is looking for. Putting out a yearbook requires students who consistently step up to do the

Seniors with baby pictures for the yearbook can leave them in room 143.

work, and follow up on their commitments, and submit the work by the deadlines.

The yearbook staff uses their tutoring time to brainstorm and come up with ideas that can possibly be used.

This year, Mr. Stefanidis claims, the yearbook cover, which should be complete by now, is unique to any other yearbook cover ever used by this school. "We're kicking it up a notch," Mr. Stefanidis said. "The never-before-used theme is going to stand out and leave people impressed."

Currently the staff is working on the first third of the yearbook pages, which are due by January.



It's a "fresh" start in the plumbing shop.

Program Change Chaos

by Melanie Bencosme

Chaos with program changes seems to be the norm at the beginning of each school year at Queens Voc. Every year numerous students are given programs with gaps and multiple classes missing.

Students are programmed by a computer software called HSST (High School Scheduling and Transcripts). "HSST is used in every high school in New York City," said Ms. Vittor. HSST assigns students to their classes. HSST is updated often, and new features are added to improve the program's efficiency, however, there are still major scheduling issues at Queens Voc.

Numerous majors are offered at Queens Voc, which makes it much more difficult for HSST to arrange student schedules. "If there are two classes that are needed in a student's schedule, but it is in the same period, HSST tends to drop both classes," said Mr. Davidson. "This is where gaps originate."

Mr. Davidson, the program chairman, Mr. Ackerman, and Ms. Gonzalo, operate the HSST program at Queens Voc. "This contributes to the problem," said Mr. Ackerman, "There aren't enough people to take care of every student's schedule."

Mr. Davidson has the most responsibilities. Beginning in April, he works on programming and the master schedule. The guidance counselors generate a list of what courses the students need for next year. Mr. Davidson then types a master schedule. This intense nine-hundred line report includes: classes needed, when they meet, the number of students in the class, and who will be teaching the course. Mr. Davidson also has to make sure that the students receive the classes they need, and that teachers have the appropriate schedule. For example, teachers are not permitted to teach four periods in a row. After summer school is over and the grades are in, Mr. Davidson goes to work two weeks before school starts to begin to alter some of the student programs.

There isn't a specific answer to Queens Voc's scheduling problems, but suggestions are being taken into consideration by Ms. Vittor. "One way I can help would be to give Mr. Davidson more people to help him," said Ms. Vittor, "but the school's budget is too tight."

Senior Activities and Elections

by Ada Perez

Finally the moment seniors have been waiting for... Senior Year!

The first senior activity for the class of 2008 was the recent food festival, which took place on Tuesday, Nov. 20. The food festival was held in the auditorium lobby. Throughout the lunch periods, students lined up to get delicious home-cooked meals for \$4. As usual, the food festival was a huge success. Money raised in the food festival will help defray the cost of senior activities.

The next senior activity is the senior trip. The trip will take place Saturday, January 26, to Monday, January 28, at the Nevele Grande Resort in the Catskills. This has been a popular destination for previous senior classes.

Other senior activities include the senior luncheon, prom, barbeque, and graduation. The senior activities are organized by Mr. Vega, the senior advisor and COSA, Ms. Vittor, the principal, staff, and students.

To pay for senior activities, seniors raise money by selling candy, holding bake sales, and conducting food festivals. Mr. Vega said he plans to add more activities because he believes the school has a great senior class this year.

The senior officers for this year are President David Bermudez, Vice President

Dayana Jaramillo, Treasurer Yara Diaz, and Secretary Adrienne Diaz. No senior elections were held this year because the candidates had no opposition.

"I want a better senior year than the ones my brothers had," David said. The president's role is to unite the senior class by including all the small learning communities as they plan events and activities.

Dayana ran because, she said, she plans to make the class of '08 the best class in the history of Queens Voc. She plans to help run more senior activities and to make sure that a majority of the seniors have a good time. Dayana will assist David in uniting the senior class and planning senior events and activities.

Yara said she ran for treasurer because it is one of the hardest jobs, it has the most responsibility, yet she believes she can handle it. The treasurer keeps track of budgets, handles money, and also handles all the fundraising paperwork and money.

Adrienne said she ran for secretary because she wants to help make the school year a success. The secretary writes and distributes the newsletter, flyers, and permission slips. The secretary also keeps track of who handed in money.

With the enthusiastic officers and an advisor who believes this could be the best of the senior classes, the seniors seem primed to have a great year.

certain classes where you won't dare use your phone because you know the teacher would take it away and not give it back."

For some students it's an obsession. "It's impossible for me to not use my Sidekick," said senior Eva Jimenez, "I can't



Texting: hall of a habit.

turn it off; class is boring, it's an entertainment." Solangie Gomez, another senior, agrees. "It's a part of my life, it entertains me when school gets boring."

Senior Estephany Jimenez thinks otherwise. "Why come to school to use electronics? Students are always using their electronics, and then at the end when they are failing, they ask themselves why."

Eva Jimenez said she doesn't let her cell phone interfere with her school work. "I know when I need to stop and really pay attention in class."

Julian Castro, another senior, knows the risks he is taking. "I can get caught using my phone and get it taken away and risk missing an important message." Luis Flores is a junior and he too recognizes the risks. "A teacher can take it away, and I can miss the lesson and fail my tests," he said, and yet, he still does use his phone. "Sometimes I use my phone for an emergency and sometimes just for entertainment," he said.

Eva has had her cell phone taken away not once but twice. "It's my phone and I'm going to use my phone even if they take it away." Solangie has also had her cell phone taken away. "Mrs. D'Onofrio took it away when I was using it in class once, but she gave it back to me when class was over." She's aware she's not allowed to use her phone, but still does. "I know I shouldn't but, I'm used to it already, it's a habit."

Most of the students using their devices in school are seniors. But why is that? Seniors tend to use their phones more because they don't care, it's their last year and they know they are getting out of the school already. "Why worry? I know I'm going to pass and graduate, the work we get is easy, if I don't pay attention one day, I catch up the next," said Julian.

So what does happen when electronics are taken away? "When electronic devices are taken away, they are secured in a safe place until a parent comes to the school to pick it up, however, there are times when students get their electronics back. It depends on the situation," said Mr. Garofano.

The official policy? Electronic devices are not permitted in school and if students do carry them, they are to be kept away and off.

Prepare for the PSAT/SAT

by Adrienne Diaz

Want to get into the college of your dreams? A high SAT score is needed.

While students can practice for the SAT by taking the PSAT, the PSAT is shorter and has no essay or Algebra II like the SAT. The PSAT, however, qualifies students for the National Merit Scholarship. Students should practice for both.

To help students prepare for the PSAT/SAT, prep classes are offered to students. Some of these prep classes are:

The Peter Jay Sharp Program
PSAT/SAT prep courses are offered free to students. To get accepted into the program, students have to meet two sets of requirements. Mrs. Basirico, who coordinates the program for Queens Voc students, said that to be recommended, Queens Voc students must have a PSAT score in the high 40s, high 9th and 10th grade cumulative averages, and they must have 90% attendance. The Peter Jay Sharp foundation has its own requirements. The students must write an essay, their parents must attend a parent meeting, and the students must also register for the PSAT and SAT prep classes at Princeton Review. Students in the program can't have 3 consecutive absences or miss 3 consecutive homeworks, or they will be asked to leave the program. The Peter Jay Sharp foundation pays approximately \$1000 per student for SAT classes and \$300 for PSAT classes. These classes are free to qualifying students.

Kaplan Test Prep

Telephone: 1-800-KAP-TEST
Address: St. John's University
8000 Utopia Parkway, Jamaica, NY 11439
Queens College Kaplan Center
65-30 Kissena Blvd, Student Union Building, Flushing, NY 11367

Classes start in the summer/fall and return in the spring. The cost of these classes is \$1099

for 17 sessions. Usually it is only 12 sessions for the same price but, they give 5 free PSAT prep sessions.

Brownstone Tutors

Email:
info@brownstonetutors.com
Manhattan address:
275 Madison Ave, 4th floor
New York, NY 10016
212-878-6698
Brooklyn address:
134 Berkeley Place, 3rd floor
Brooklyn, NY 11217
718-554-0309

The tutors come to the students. The standard session is 75 minutes long. Students are expected to meet with their tutors for at least one session per week. Tutors travel anywhere in Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queens, and the Bronx.

Powerscore

Address: SLC Conference Center, 352 7th Avenue, 16th floor, New York, NY
1-800-548-1750

For the January 2008 SAT the classes start on December 2.

Weekday lessons: 6-9pm

Saturday lessons: 10am-1pm

Saturday practice test: 10am-2pm

Sunday practice test: 2-6pm

For future dates check:

www.Powerscore.com

Meet the "Mayer"

by Oscar Mendez

Students and teachers were surprised to find that they had a new assistant principal when they returned to school in September.

Mr. Brian Mayer is Queens Voc's new assistant principal of security and organization.

Before coming to Queens Voc, Mr. Mayer worked at Long Island City High School. He was a computer science teacher and coached boys' varsity basketball, girls' basketball, girls' tennis, and cross country. He also worked in a program for students who had gotten suspended.

When he learned that Ms. Vittor had a position open at Queens Voc, he quickly took it. "I missed working with kids," he says. "It's like a family here, and I missed that."

Mr. Mayer is in charge of the security aspects and the business aspects of the school. "I really get involved in a lot of things," he says. "It's very exciting."

Check out the
school's website:
QVTHS.org



Mr. Vega and his leaders prepare for the food festival.

Students Using Electronics in School

by Adrienne Diaz

"Who isn't using electronics?" said Mr. Garofano a dean. "Even adults in the building use electronics, however adults know the appropriate times to use them."

Students aren't allowed to use electronics in school, yet they still do. Diana Giraldo, a

senior, uses her cell phone in school. "The school doesn't take stuff seriously; they take your phone and give it right back." She said she knows the "proper" time to use her phone. "There are certain classes where the teacher doesn't know how to control the class, so you use your phone and they don't say anything, but then there are

Don't Go Later, Come to College Now!

by Daisy Vivar

Interested in earning college credits while still in high school? College classes are offered in LaGuardia Community College and in Queens Voc. College Now classes meet Monday and Wednesday, or Tuesday and Thursday, after school.

Composition, General Psychology, Elementary Statistics, Literacy and Propaganda, Critical Thinking, and Principles of Accounting 1 are all classes which are offered at LaGuardia after school. Basic Writing and the Math A Workshop classes are offered at Queens Voc.

At Queens Voc, Basic Writing is taught by Mr. Schimenz, and the Math A



Psychology, and Critical Thinking is taught by Professor Miguel Molina.

The college classes offered at LaGuardia Community College are called cohort classes. There are 12 Queens Voc students



Workshop is taught by Ms. Erkins. Most of the classes are taught by professors from LaGuardia Community College. The Composition class is taught by Professor Colon, Professor Brenda Graber teaches General

enrolled in the cohort classes, 32 students enrolled in Basic Writing, and 16 students enrolled in the Math A Workshop.

Jesus Perez, a senior, is taking the Critical Thinking course. He takes this course at LaGuardia

Community College. "I want to do better and get better writing skills, because I want to be more prepared for college," he said.

Maria Moreno, a junior, is taking Basic Writing. She likes the class because they practice and go over their mistakes. "I wanted to improve my writing for the English Regents," Maria said.

Stephanie Acosta, a junior, is taking the Math A Workshop. "Even though the class is long, the teacher makes it interesting," she said.

Not only do the grades from these classes go on their high school and CUNY transcripts, the credits might also be transferable to another college.

"These courses are paid by La Guardia Community College and should be taken seriously," Ms. Newman said.

The classes started in September and will end by December 20. Students can see Ms. Newman to apply for spring term classes.

In Memoriam - Mrs. Sweet-McNeil

by Jonathan Carsten

Mrs. Tracey Lyn Sweet-McNeil, a beloved teacher at Queens Vocational and Technical High School passed away on August 1, 2007, at the age of 45.

In 1984, Mrs. Sweet-McNeil graduated from Fisk University. In May 1987, she started teaching Global History at Queens Voc, the only school she ever worked in as an educator.

Mrs. Sweet-McNeil served as an advisor to the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), an organization that prepares students who plan to major in business in college. Students in FBLA compete in local, state, and nationwide competitions. She felt that FBLA "...was a way to make education real," according to Ms. Vittor, the school principal.

"She was a great colleague to work with," said Mrs. Himmel, an English teacher. "I had the greatest respect for her." Mrs. Lewis, the school librarian, said, "When I started at this school,

she was one of the first people who welcomed me to the school; she was a beautiful person."

Mrs. Sweet-McNeil was interested in learning about different cultures and entertaining people as she ran Queens Voc's many international food fests.

Mrs. Sweet-McNeil took a leave of absence in early 2005



due to health reasons. Former students of Mrs. Sweet-McNeil have shown deep sadness after learning of her passing. "I was very upset because I was expecting her to come back and

teach," said Nicholo Martinez, a senior business student. "Even though she was only my teacher for a short time, I will always remember what she taught me."

"I think her time was cut short, but she left her mark on Queens Vocational," said Ms. Vittor. "She grew up as a teacher here at Queens Vocational, but Queens Vocational also grew on her."

She is survived by her husband Michael McNeil, her daughter Taylor Emanuelle Sweet, her mother Evelyn J. Sweet, her sister Leslie A. Sweet, her grandmother Sara L. Harrison, and many other devoted family members.

Mrs. Sweet-McNeil will be missed by all who knew her here at Queens Voc. Mrs. Himmel wrote a heartfelt sentiment, "For one who has been greatly missed, may her spirit now live in bliss." Many were fond of Mrs. Sweet-McNeil because of her love for life and teaching. She leaves behind a great legacy that will follow many in their hearts and minds forever.

Why are so few Bathrooms Open?

by Yanel Leroux

At Queens Voc, most student bathrooms are locked; only three are open throughout the day. Ms. Vittor, the school principal, decided to close most bathrooms to control vandalism.

One boys' bathroom is open at a time, usually on the first floor. Two girls' bathrooms are open, one on the first floor and one on the third floor.

When all the bathrooms were open, vandalism was rampant. Faucets were ripped off the sinks and stolen, locks were ripped from the stalls, graffiti was written on the stalls and walls, mirrors were cracked, and toilets were clogged with paper towels and even a tape ball. The tape ball was so large that the toilet had to be removed and replaced.

Repairing bathrooms is costing the school thousands of dollars, according to Ms. Jarrett, the head custodian, about five thousand to six thousand a year.

The first floor bathrooms are easier to monitor because the main office, the security desk,

the custodial office, and the guidance offices are there. There are more adults on that floor than anywhere else in the building. That makes them easier to protect. Last year the school had a monitor who had students sign in and out of the bathroom, but that took a school aide away from other work that needed to be done.

"Vandalism in the bathroom makes you wonder whether



The only open boys' room.

people have respect for themselves and their peers," said the school principal, Ms. Vittor. "It made me very disheartened to see that the students did not appreciate the new building after not having it for so long," Ms. Vittor said.

Mouse Squad to the Rescue

by Steve Pinell

Mr. Cintron, who has been assisting Mr. Rodriguez with the Mouse Squad for the last 4 years, is the group's new advisor.

"I am looking forward to the challenge of preparing our students to serve our school. Even though Mr. Rodriguez is no longer in charge, he will still be consulting and assisting the team," said Mr. Cintron.

Mr. Rodriguez stepped down after 4 years as head of the Mouse Squad, and Ms. Vittor decided to put Mr. Cintron in charge. "I felt that I needed to do other things," said Mr. Rodriguez, about why he stepped down.

Mouse Squad is a city-wide program in junior and senior high schools, in which students learn to repair computer-related equipment, such as computers, SMART Boards, projectors, LCD monitors, and printers.

This year, Edwin Adames, Razim Chowdury, Damont Combs, Pasquale Fevola, Catherine Gomez, Tyree Josey, Neil Kamath, Vincent Lim, George Manolas, Richard Ortiz, Christopher Pimiento, Tony Vu, and Cecil Whiley, were selected for the Mouse Squad by Mr.

Cintron. George Manolas is returning for his second year.

"Being a member of the Mouse Squad is great, since it's the first time that I have a job as a computer technician," said Neil Kamath, a tenth grader.

Students interested in joining the Mouse Squad attended an informational meeting on Friday, October 5, in room 217, the Mouse Squad office. Mr. Cintron interviewed twenty-five students on October 11, and made thirteen selections on October 22. According to Mr. Cintron, members of the Mouse Squad are selected based on their knowledge of technology, their personality, and how they deal with customers. Once selected, members are trained to fix computers and help customers.

The students work on systems at least 3 times a week in room 217 and at locations around the building, from 3 to 6pm. So far, they have been working on the laptops in room 421 to fix a wireless network issue. They must get the laptops to detect a printer through the wireless network.

Readers who would like assistance from the Mouse Squad should see Mr. Cintron in room 217.

Just Don't Stand There: *Do Something*

by Brandon Drakeford

Queens Voc has many clubs and activities available to its students, but not all students know about them. Here is a list of the current clubs and activities that Queens Voc conducts.

Clubs & Activities

Black History Month
Business Day
Chess Club
College Now!
Constitution Contest
Cosmo Clinic
Creative Arts
Debate Team
Dream Job
FBLA
Leadership
LEARN
Mock Trial Team
Peer Mediation
Poetry Slam
School Newspaper
Senior Class
Senior Yearbook
Shakespeare Contest
SPARK
Skills USA
Student Organization
Work Based Learning

School Teams

Boys' Varsity Soccer
Boys' Varsity Bowling
Girls' Varsity Bowling
Boys' Varsity Basketball
Girls' Varsity Basketball
Boys' Junior Varsity Basketball
Girls' Varsity Softball
Boys' Junior Varsity Baseball
Boys' Varsity Baseball

Teachers to Contact

Mrs. Himmel
Mrs. Newman
Mr. Papadopol
Mrs. Newman
Mr. Davidson
Mr. Grochala, Mrs. Quartuccio
Ms. Radovich
Mr. Davidson
Ms. Radovich, Mr. Mugan

Mr. Mugan

Mr. Vega

Ms. Spallone

Mr. Davidson

Ms. Kurnitz

Mrs. Himmel

Mr. Schimenz

Mr. Vega

Mr. Stefanidis

Mrs. Himmel

Ms. Kurnitz

Mr. Cintron

Mr. Vega

Ms. Spallone

Coaches

Mr. Ali

Mr. Devaux

Mr. Garofano

Mr. Maloney

Mr. Devaux

Mr. Garofano

Mr. Boyle

Mr. Garofano

Mr. Schimenz

Calendar of Events

by Lia Cespedes & Emmanuel Portorreal

All games are home and start at 4:30pm, unless otherwise noted.

November 28 - girls' varsity basketball vs Wagner

- First boys' varsity basketball game, at Aviation

November 30 -Last day of the 2nd marking period

-boys' varsity basketball vs Wagner

December 1 -SAT

December 3 -3rd marking period begins

-Girls' varsity basketball vs Info Tech

December 5 -Hanukkah

-boys' varsity basketball vs Info Tech

December 7 -boys' varsity basketball vs Townsend Harris

-NYCSPA conference

December 8 -ACT

December 10 -First JV boys' basketball vs Flushing

December 12 -boys' varsity basketball vs HS for Construction

December 13 -FLC Test

- Honor Roll Trip

December 14 - SO Winter Dance

December 17 - VE Business plan competition

-JV boys' varsity basketball vs Bryant

December 18 - girls' varsity basketball vs HS for Construction

December 19 - boys' varsity basketball vs Aviation

December 22 - Winter begins

December 24 - Jan. 1 Winter Recess -school closed

December 25 - Christmas

January 2 - school begins

- boys' JV basketball vs G. Cleveland

January 4 - boys' varsity basketball vs Renaissance

January 7 - boys' JV basketball vs F.K Lane

January 8 - girls' varsity basketball vs R.F Wagner

January 9 - boys' varsity basketball vs Newcomers

January 11 - boys' JV basketball vs HS for Law Enforcement

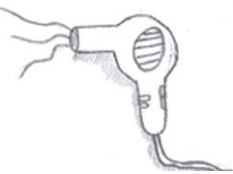
January 14 - boys' varsity basketball vs Info Tech

January 16 - girls' basketball vs American Studies

January 18 - boys' varsity basketball vs HS for Law Enf.



Future cosmetologists and their customers: students gain practical experience.



by Tecomblah Siedio

The senior cosmetology clinic, the full-service Elite Salon, is open to students and teachers. Located in room 334, the Elite Salon is open from 8-10:30am, 12:30-3pm (periods 1-3 and 6-8) on Thursdays and Fridays.

Seniors in the cosmetology clinic perform a full line of services on students, teachers, and outside clients ages 21 and over. The experience the seniors gain helps to prepare them for their NOCTI Exam coming up this spring.

The cosmetology clinic is a whole new experience for senior cosmetology students.

Mr. Grochala and Mrs. Quartuccio teach in the cosmetology clinic. "The difference from senior cosmetology students and the rest of the cosmetology classes is that the seniors in the clinic work on live people, and it prepares them for a real salon," said Mr. Grochala, who teaches the morning cosmetology clinic. Mrs. Quartuccio said that the senior cosmetology students

Cosmo Clinic: Open for Business



"have more unstructured time and their skills are finer- tuned.

Raven Harris is one of the students in the afternoon cosmetology clinic. "This year we have more responsibility and more jobs to complete. I enjoy this more than last year because it gives me more time to work on what I want to," she said. Neferteria-Ann Hennix, a student in the morning cosmetology clinic, said the hardest part of being a senior cosmetology student is the "fifty jobs due each marking period!"

The money raised in the Elite Salon is used to buy supplies for the shop.

Here is a list of the services they perform and the pricelist:

BLOWDRY

Style short hair	\$4
Chin length w/ shampoo	\$6
Extra long hair	\$7

HAIRCUT

Plain	\$5
Shape Up	\$3
Special Design	\$6

BRAIDS AND FLAT TWIST

Half Head	\$5
Whole Head	\$8

Designs	\$2
Hair Weaves	\$10+

ESTHETICS

Facials	\$5
Eyebrow shaping	\$3
Wax	\$5

NAILS

Purchase of nail kit required with first visit	\$0.50
Nail Tips (Acrylic, Wrap, etc)	\$12 and up
Manicure(Individual est)	\$3
French Manicure	\$3
Fill-in Manicure (Individual Estimates)	\$10
Paraffin Wax with Manicure	\$8

HAIR COLORING

Shampoo	\$3
Single Process	\$15
Double Process	\$20
Frosting	\$25
Rinse-Temporary	\$4

HAIRSTYLING

Permanent Wave	\$20
Chemical Relaxers	\$20
Finger wave/ Pin curl Style	\$10
Roller Set	\$5
Thermal Press	\$5
Thermal Cut	\$5

Library Schedule

The library is open during the following periods:

Monday

2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9

Tuesday

2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9

Wednesday

2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9

Thursday

1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8

Friday

1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8

WANTED



Information leading to the arrest
and conviction of persons
vandalizing our school.
It's time to put an end to vandalism.
Support your school.

Why Students Apply to Queens Voc

by Dayana Jaramillo

Queens Voc students take majors that can lead to good paying jobs right after graduating. There's a big demand for career and technical education, as each year approximately 3,500 student apply to Queens Voc. According to Ms. Dattner, guidance counselor for School of Exploration and Discovery, there is a set number of students the school can accept for each program. This year, 350 new students were accepted. We decided to find out why some freshmen applied to Queens Voc.

Questions:

1. How did you find out about Queens Voc?
2. Was there any specific program you were interested in when you applied? If so which one?
3. What shop do you have now? Are you considering it as a major? Why or why not?
4. Do you like the school so far? If so, what do you like about it?



Shiva Rampaul

1. I found out about Queens Voc through the high school directory.
2. The program in which I was interested in was electronics.
3. I'm taking C-Tech right now. I am considering it but I am more interested in electronics since it is more technical and more hands on.
4. Yes, I do like the school because it's safe, has a lot of great opportunities, and the attitudes of the teachers are better towards the students.



Daniela Mejia

1. My brother, Jonathan Mejia, attends Queens Voc and he encouraged me to apply.
2. I really was not interested in any specific program.
3. I'm taking plumbing. I am not considering it because it is heavy work and you get dirty.
4. I do not like the school so far because it is too little and too crowded.



Ambar Sencion

1. The guidance counselors from Jr. high school told us about Queens Voc and the licenses that you can earn by the time you graduate.
2. When I applied, I was interested in cosmetology and I also wanted to try-out for the handball team.
3. I'm taking cosmetology. I am considering it because I want to own a spa one day and come out with a hair product line. Taking cosmetology now will help me accomplish that.
4. I like the school so far because you are treated differently from Jr. high school. You are given more responsibility and the teachers are more involved with the students.



Jessica Angel

1. Some of my cousins and friends have come to this school and they liked it.
2. I applied for the exploratory program because I wanted to experience all the shops before actually choosing one.
3. Plumbing. I'm considering it because I like hands-on work.
4. I like the school because I enjoy the shop classes and I've made new friends.



Daisy Huiza

1. While looking through the high school directory, I came across Queens Voc and when I saw cosmetology I thought it was cool and I wanted to take the course.
2. I applied specifically because of cosmetology. In this class I will learn how to do hair and nails and that will be an advantage because I could do it myself and won't have to pay for getting it done anymore.
3. I'm taking cosmetology. I think it's fun. We learn all types of things about cosmetics and I want to take the class.
4. I like the school because it provides a safe environment for all students.



Alvaro Berrio

1. I heard about this school from one of my friends. She really likes the school and suggested I should come.
2. I thought the programs were all interesting but I was not interested in a specific one.
3. I'm taking electronics. I'm not considering it because I find it to be boring.
4. I like the school because I think the shop programs are good and they give a better opportunity when you graduate.



Bryant Perafan

1. My friend that lives in my building attends the school and she told me about it.
2. The reason I applied was because of the soccer team. I didn't tryout this year because I wanted to focus on my academics. If I can handle that, then I will be able to handle being on a team as well.
3. Plumbing. I am not considering plumbing because I do not like it.
4. I do like the school because there are a lot of girls and because next year I will have the opportunity to try out for the soccer team.



Luis Torres

1. I found out about Queens Voc when I was looking for high schools to apply to. I found the school in the high school directory, a book that lists all the high schools in New York City. The programs sounded interesting.
2. Electrical installation, because I have friends that are taking it and they say it is fun.
3. I am taking computer technology right now. I am considering it because I find the class to be interesting.
4. I like the teachers, especially Mr. David. He's mad cool.



Janet Tellez

1. I learned about Queens Voc when I came to the open house. I found the school to be very nice and the teachers were very nice during the program.
2. When I applied to Queens Voc I was interested in cosmetology because I like the theory behind it and enjoy working with people and making them look nice.
3. I am taking cosmetology right now. I am considering it because I really like it and I would like to do this for a living.
4. So far, I do like the school because the programs give us great opportunities and also because I've meet new people.

Read a Good Book Lately?

by Michelle Thomas

Looking for a good book that makes you think? With all the books in print, it's often hard to figure out what would be interesting to read. Here are several books that book lovers might want to check out.

The Five People You Meet in Heaven, by Mitch Albom, focuses on an 83-year old man named Eddie, and moments before his death. Readers learn

about Eddie's travels through life, and, meet the people who were affected by him during his lifetime. *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* is a "Phases to Life" fiction, so this would be a great book for people of all ages to enjoy.

When the Wind Blows, by James Patterson, is a great mystery book. This book is about a devastated veterinarian, whose husband was recently murdered. Shortly after, Frannie,

the devastated vet, makes a mysterious discovery in the woods not too far from her animal clinic.

Garden Spells by Sarah Addison Allen is a different type of book; this book is a "Religion & Beliefs" fiction book. *Garden Spells* is about the Waverley's, a curious family of outsiders in their hometown in Bascom, North Carolina. The Waverley's are known as outsiders because they were endowed with peculiar

gifts. Not only do the Waverley's have a reputation, but their garden has one also. The garden's prophetic fruit, which grows on a feisty apple tree and has edible flowers, has special powers.

War and Peace by Leo Tolstoy is a classic. In this "Peoples & Cultures" fiction, the reader learns about the Russian culture. *War and Peace* is an epic book of the Napoleonic Wars. It is a

philosophical study and a celebration of Russian spirit.

The Gathering by Anne Enright is a great book, a "European Peoples & Cultures" fiction. *The Gathering* is about love, disappointment, and shared memories. The Hegarty family and their nine surviving children gather in Dublin, Ireland for the wake of their brother Liam, who has drowned at sea.

COMMENTARIES

Queens Voc Different from College?

by Angel Tejada

As high school winds down and college approaches for some students, students should start becoming more responsible and dedicated. College, much different from high school, isn't the place where teachers will continue to "baby" students as they often do in Queens Voc. "Teachers aren't really on you like in high school," said Tania Artiles, an '06 Queens Voc graduate, "If you do the work, ok, if not, you'll pay the consequences."

"In college you have more freedom, but it can lead to laziness, which causes you to do poorly in your classes," said Diomedes Gonzalez, an '07 Queens Voc graduate. It's the students' responsibility to do their work and homework. Students pay for their classes so they're the ones throwing away their money. If you fail a class in Queens Voc, you can retake the class for free.

College also differs from high school in that colleges don't inform parents about their child's grades. No calls home, no progress reports, no report cards for parents. For parents to get their child's grades, or otherwise communicate about the student, their child must sign a form giving the college permission.

Both Dio and Marianne Bencosme, an '06 Queens Voc graduate, said that college work and homework isn't much different from the work given by some teachers in Queens Voc. But in college, the students have to research a lot, it's not just going on the internet and getting a simple answer. The student has to actually put effort in it to get a good grade. According to Marianne, there aren't going to be any inflated grades like some students receive in high school.

In the colleges that Dio and Marianne attend, Connors State College in Warner, Oklahoma, and LaGuardia Community College, their classes average 35 students. But not all college classes are that size. At John Jay College of Criminal Justice, for instance, some classes are

taught in seminars. According to Estefania Garcia, an '07 Queens Voc graduate, there are about 300 students in a seminar at John Jay.

Schedules also differ between college and Queens Voc. Dio said that like most college students, he doesn't take the same classes everyday. Classes are generally Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, or Tuesday and Thursday. Queens Voc ran on a college-style schedule 2 years ago, but students didn't adapt well and students absent on a Tuesday or Thursday missed half the week's work in that class. College students don't miss class as much as high school students.

Girls' Sports Come up Short

by Michelle Thomas

There are more than twice as many sports teams for boys than there are for girls. Queens Voc has a ratio of 3 girls' sports teams to 7 boys' sports teams. But under Title IX, a federal law, our school is supposed to have an equal number of boys and girls teams, because there should be equal opportunities for girls and boys to participate in school sports programs.

Queens Voc has girls' varsity basketball, girls' varsity bowling, and girls' varsity softball. But the options for boys are far more numerous. Boys' teams include: junior varsity baseball, varsity baseball, junior varsity basketball, varsity basketball, varsity bowling, varsity handball, and varsity soccer.

There are not twice as many boys in the school as girls, but by the number of teams, you'd think there were. Comments such as "the girls aren't interested," or that "there is no funding," aren't accurate. Generate interest. Funding is there, it has to be to follow the law.

Since Queens Voc is supposed to have equal teams, it would only be fair if a girls' handball team or a girls' soccer team were added. If there were a soccer and handball team for girls, that would be great because the girls would be participating in

the same sports as the guys, and so participation wouldn't matter what sex athletes are.

Queens Voc would have equal amounts of sport teams if there were no junior varsity baseball or junior varsity basketball for boys. What is wrong with having regular boys varsity baseball and basketball, the boys don't need two basketball teams and two baseball teams, if there aren't enough teams for girls. Queens Voc doesn't have a junior varsity softball team, even though other city schools have them.

Soon or later things will change. Mr. Lerro said he would "still like to add 3 more teams," such as girls' track, volleyball, and soccer. "Mr. Lerro tried to get a girls' track team one time, but since there was not enough support, the PSAL cancelled the team and it was disbanded," Mr. Boyle said.

Hopefully new teams will be added. There will be a sign-up sheet available in January 2008. Teachers are needed to coach teams too. New enthusiastic coaches could help generate support for new teams. When



Shooting for more sports.

the new teams are in action, Queens Voc girls will be able to feel that they are as valued as the boys who go here. More students will become involved in extracurricular activities—mainly sports—and the ratio of boys to girls teams would be more even and more fair. Tennis anyone?

Do We have Inflated Grades?

by Natalie Vargas

Grade inflation can be found in every school. Over the past 3 years, I've noticed a couple of classes where students get grades that seem too high; students who were rarely prepared were getting 80s. It was as though teachers felt pressure to pass all their students. Is there pressure on

teachers to get their students to pass? Or to get the "super seniors" to graduate?

Speaking to teachers about grade inflation was a touchy subject. The moment grade inflation was mentioned almost every teacher paused. Many spoke about how the grade is based on their class policy, specifically: effort, homework, class work, attendance, tests, and quizzes. But is there any pressure? "There is pressure, but not to pass the students but to get the failing ones to do better," said Ms. Gallagher, who teaches science.

As the end of each marking period nears, there are always students running to their teachers asking for make-up work or extra credit projects so that they can pass. Many teachers give a project or a bunch of handouts for students to fill out. Is this acceptable? Wouldn't this inflate their actual grade? The original grade could be a 50 and get raised as high as 15 more points, with the completion of the project or handout. Some students—who go to class all semester and do all their work—pass, but then the students who didn't, still pass, because they were able to get a project done in a few days.

Richard Uribe, a junior, majoring in business, believes that "this is fair, because the teacher doesn't know if the student is having tough times and can't make it to school." But Daniel Medina, a graduate of Queens Voc, said that "giving students who slack off during the school year make-up work isn't fair because they need to earn their grades the same way as the other students. Queens Voc is supposed to get you ready for college, but the college life and grades are completely different."

With the issue of grade inflation going on, colleges recognize that they cannot depend on school grades to determine how much their applicants really know. One teacher's 85 can signify another teacher's 55. The amount of work that the teachers calls for varies; some students can pass by just showing up to class and participating a few times, while other teachers require steady attendance and high quality work. This is the most likely reason that colleges focus on SAT scores rather than the school grades. It's the same test, same questions, and same standards.

Grade inflation is a problem found in every school. Do the high grades in Queens Voc stand for something, or is it just grade inflation?

HW takes a Back Seat

by Shamel Lobban

Myspace, AIM, Facebook, AOL. Familiar terms we've all heard before. Many teenagers today browse the internet instead of doing their homework. Apparently even teenagers who do their homework spend more time on the internet than on their homework. Of students who



Student texts during class.

were interviewed, all admitted they spend more time on the internet than they spend on homework.

"I spend like 1 hour to 2 hours on homework, and about 5 hours on Myspace and AIM," said freshman Valentina Betancourt, who admits she never even signs out of her Sidekick. Senior Jade Duncan said she spends about "5 hours on Myspace and AIM," or as she put it, "until I go to bed."

Has homework gotten so easy that students can breeze through it? Of 11 students who were interviewed, the average amount of time spent on homework was almost 50 minutes, and almost 2 hours and 30 minutes on the internet.

Why do teenagers spend more time on the internet than on their homework? Freshman Ariel Soler said, "kids are more interested in people's lives than their own." She went on to say that if kids would do their homework, "they would do better on tests."

Many students believe that homework is boring, unimportant, or unnecessary. Many students do not acknowledge that homework has a purpose. It is there to help students to reinforce what they have learned in class, and help them do better on tests. Do Myspace, AIM, Facebook, and AOL help us to do better on tests? We all know the answer to that.

Where are your priorities?

Editorials

Saved from the Bells

The sound of fire alarms was a nuisance last year, caused by immature students who needed to grow up and get a life. Because they didn't and tried to act "gangsta" by pulling fire alarms, covers were added.

The problem has been mostly solved by the addition of fire alarm pull-box covers. The new covers cut down on the number of false alarms being pulled. Classes now run better without the bells ringing and all those announcements saying that we should not evacuate.

We're glad the problem has been solved. The cases were also a great way of stopping the ringing throughout the whole school. Now when one of the little babies messes with the covers, the sound is limited to the area that contains the open case and stops when the cover is placed back on. That helps our education because it limits the interruptions to our classes. Thanks to all those involved.

Oh...one more thing. According to the announcements we still have to fix the smoke alarm in the elevator shaft!

This We Pledge

The Pledge of Allegiance and morning announcements should be a part of each school day. We should appreciate the freedom we have in the United States, more freedom than in most countries in the world. Hearing about the various events in our school each day improves school spirit. We support spirit in our country and spirit in our school.

Changes Needed

Program changes at Queens Voc are part of our back-to-school routine. Students are frequently left with holes in their schedules and nowhere to go. They either roam the halls or go home. Sometimes they go into the auditorium and play the piano!

In the beginning of the year, students receive their programs, but many of us receive new schedules and switch classes. Sometimes, we get program changes within a few days. Other times, it takes weeks. Or longer. One problem with delayed changes is that students are behind on class work after they have been transferred.

In this edition, we have published an article called "Program Change Chaos" that explains the causes of these program changes. We're all inconvenienced by program changes—students, teachers, guidance counselors, the program office, administrators—but we should come together to solve these problems.

Students can start by passing their classes so we can be programmed for the right classes to begin with.

A Disclaimer

The views presented in these editorials do not necessarily reflect the views of our administrators or advisor. The views in our commentaries do not necessarily reflect the views of our editors, administrators, or advisor. We think that our fellow students should have a way to air their views. If you agree with what we say, let us know. If you don't agree, let us know that too. Letters and emails are welcome.

Vocational Voice

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

Principal's Message



QUEENS VOCATIONAL & TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

Denise Vittor, Principal

Thanksgiving has passed and the holiday season is upon us. Traditionally this is a time of good will, meaning a time to give to others. Many of us translate "giving" into "giving presents," which is fostered by the stores, the media, and the holiday traditions. Giving to others however, is much more than just giving presents. It means giving/showing respect to each other each and every day. It means being empathetic toward each other; putting yourself in their place and truly thinking about how they feel. It means not taking advantage of a situation or each other. Giving means doing something nice for someone without wanting something in return. It means treating others as you want to be treated. This is something all of us want, but only some are willing to do.

As we move toward a new year with only a month or so left, make giving to others a priority. Concentrate on what you give, not what you receive. Give respect, give of your time, give your help, give to someone in need, give your effort and yes, give gifts, too! Hopefully, by giving this holiday season you will continue to give of yourself for the rest of the year. "Givers" contribute to society, "takers" don't. As the Queens Vocational & Technical High School community, let's be givers.

Sincerely,

Denise Vittor
Principal



**Do you have an opinion on
any of the articles in this
issue of the *Vocational
Voice*?**

**Write to us and tell us! Be
sure to sign your letter and
put it in Mr. Schimenz's
mailbox.**



**Mr. Schimenz
Main Office**

Shop Word Search

by Angel Tejada

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

Exploratory
Hard Drive
Patron
Highlights
Thermal Compound
CPU
Heat Sink

Electrical Installation
Wire Strippers
Screw gun
Plumbing
Pipes
Grease
Cosmetology
Blow Dryer

Manicure
Mannequin
Computer Technology
Computers
Business
Accounting
Conductors

Latest Gizmos

by Ada Perez

iPhone

The iPhone is Apple’s first foray into the cell phone business. With the iPhone—an ipod, phone and camera in one—users can browse web pages as if they were using a laptop. The iPhone allows users to view videos, but only on YouTube. The iPhone’s appearance is very similar to an iTouch, Apple’s latest iPod. Prices start at about \$300 for a 4Gb model and \$400 for an 8Gb model. The iPhone takes a little while to get used to because the phone has no keypad and its touch screen has no stylus. iPhone users cannot copy, paste, or drag information and they can’t view pages that require flash. Like any new gadget, the iPhone has a few glitches. For example, the iPhone freezes and has a built in battery the user can’t remove. Apple recently gave all AT&T users who purchased the iPhone when it was first released a \$100 rebate.

iTouch

iTouch by Apple looks like an iPhone, but its not a phone. Prices start at \$300 for an 8Gb model and \$400 for a 16Gb

model. The iTouch mirror back is prone to scratches and has a black plastic piece covering the WiFi antenna. Unlike the iPhone, the iTouch lacks buttons for controlling music. The iTouch has Safari, YouTube, calendar, contacts, clock, and a calculator.

Sidekick LX

Sidekick LX is the latest Sidekick added to the T-Mobile family. The LX is thinner, and has a louder speaker and bigger buttons than the other sidekicks. The back cover is rubber rather than plastic, so it’s a little more protective. The LX allows its users to record videos. It also has bigger buttons. The LX is available in blue and black. The LX, which was released on October 24, sells for \$299 when customers open an account with T-Mobile. Users are better off waiting for the prices to go down.

Sidekick Slide

T-Mobile has also added another Sidekick to the Sidekick family, the Sidekick Slide. The Slide, also known as the 3 1/2, the Slide was released on November 8. It is sleeker and more stylish than the Sidekick 3. Unlike the LX, the screen slides instead of flipping, a screen technology borrowed from the Sharp Aquos TV. The Slide is only available in a black and purple combination.

Preparing for College

by Yinaury Sanchez

Preparing for college isn’t as difficult as it may seem. It’s actually very simple if the correct steps are taken. “A student can start preparing for college as early as 9th grade,” said Queens Voc’s college advisor, Mrs. Basirico.

But some students may not be thinking about college in the 9th grade. Still, some may believe it’s too early and feel they can start later on in their high school years. “It’s never too late to start preparing for college but it’s best to start early,” said Ms. Basirico.

Yodaryl Moronta, who graduated from Queens Voc in 2006, did well his senior year, but his overall average did not increase much because it included the previous years when he didn’t do so well. “Like many 9th graders, I didn’t think much about college. I just wanted to pass the class. I wasn’t focused on keeping my grades up to get into a good college. Once my senior year came around I realized my mistake and got my grades up, but because of my previous grades my average didn’t get much higher. I suggest all 9th graders should start off doing well in their classes and getting

good grades so 3 years from now they won’t regret it like I did,” he said.

To stay focused on good grades, high school students should think about what major they would like to study in college. Then, research colleges that offer that major. Part of preparing for college is deciding where to go. Mrs. Basirico asked, “Do you want to live at home with your parents and be a commuter student? Would you like to go away for college?”

Once students have narrowed down their choices, they should visit the colleges. Make sure you’re comfortable with the environment,” Mrs. Basirico said, “and decide if it fits your personality.”

Paying for college isn’t always such a hassle either. Most students get financial aid, although the amount is based on family income.

Students can apply for financial aid starting January of their senior year. “Financial aid, such as Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) are based on the previous year’s income,” Mrs. Basirico said. Students can also participate in a college work-study program. “In a work-study program, you get a job at the school such as working in a bookstore or the library. The work study program pays you. You can put the money towards your college tuition or you can keep it,” Mrs. Basirico explained.

Some students may also get scholarships. “Students can apply for as many scholarships as they’d like. There are a variety of scholarships and many are based on GPA, essays, community service, and leadership qualities. Often, an essay is required for a scholarship,” said Mrs. Basirico.

Asking teachers for recommendation letters is a way of increasing acceptance chances for colleges, but make sure the college requires them first.

Want a
locker?
Join the
SO.
See Mr.
Vega in
room 143

Josh's Music Reviews

by Joshua Bland

Soulja Boy
Souljaboytellem.com

At the age 17, Souljaboy, born Deandre Way, has the radio buzzing and the streets dancing. “Crank That” his number one single across the country, has held the number one spot on the billboard charts for 4 consecutive weeks.

It’s sad to say, but “Crank That” is the only song worth listening to on the album. Despite the hype for Souljaboytellem.com, there is nothing new on the album.

Biggie and Pac are probably rolling in their graves at the sound of this “hip-hop” album. Every song sounds the same. Most of the songs sound as if they are quotes from “Crank That” that were turned into individual songs. “Report Card” sounds like a sorry version of “Throw Some D’s!” from southern rapper Rich Boy.

Another song that questions souljaboy’s artistic skill is “Bapes,” taken right from “Crank That.” “I got me some bathing apes,” he sings, as the hook repeats itself 4 times. Overall the album, is a huge disappointment of cheesy lyrics and unfinished beats.

Keke Palmer
So Uncool

Born Lauren Keyanna Palmer, aka Keke Palmer, has dropped her first debut album, *So Uncool*, on Atlantic records. The album’s first single, “Foot Working,” gives you reason to jump up and dance.

So do songs such as “Music Box,” about being a child from the ghetto. Although she’s a young girl, on the track “How will I know,” Keke shows a side of her that you wouldn’t expect to see, as she sings about being in love and questions how she will know if she has found the right one for her. On the final track called “Hood Anthem,” she approaches the subject of being considered a ghetto person. She breaks it down and explains the struggle behind being ghetto and proud. “Each of us are beautiful in our own way,” she says.

So Uncool is packed with inspirational songs and fun material that any kid any age can relate to.

“Our Plans”- Student Goals for the Year

by Josue Sanchez

People often set goals for themselves, and develop plans to achieve these goals. We've taken a look at some Queens Voc students and the goals they have set for the school year.

Questions

1. What are your goals for the upcoming year?
2. Why are these goals important to you?
3. How are you planning to accomplish these goals?



Name: Ingrid Solarte
Grade: 10
Major: Cosmetology

1. My goal is to start off just where I ended last year, with high grades. I want to be really focused with my school work.
2. To feel good about myself and be able to make my parents and my boyfriend proud. I also want to be able to go to a good college right after I graduate Queens Voc in 2010.
3. I'm planning to accomplish my goal for this upcoming year by being on time to school and all classes, and do my class work and homework everyday. I'm going to stay on point all year long.



Name: Jesus Perez
Grade: 12
Major: Electrical Installation

1. My goal is to graduate from Queens Voc on time so that I can go to a college right after.
2. This goal is important to me because I want to make my parents really proud by being the first person in my family to go to college.
3. I will accomplish this goal by trying my best in school, doing what's right in and out of the building, and making sure I stay in school to pass all my classes.



Name: Jonathan Matias
Grade: 11
Major: Electronics

1. To keep my grades up, and to accomplish as much as I can in school or on the baseball field with the varsity team.
2. These goals are important because achieving them will allow me to have more doors opened in the future.
3. Stay in school and do well in all my classes. Try giving it 100% when I get on the field with my team.



Name: Nathalie Peña
Grade: 10
Major: Cosmetology

1. My goal for this upcoming year is to pass every class so I don't end up in summer school.
2. This goal is important because I want to feel really good about myself and go on vacation with my family.
3. By obviously doing all my work and coming to school everyday on time.



Name: Christian Gauna
Grade: 10
Major: Graphic Arts

1. My goal is to have good grades in all my classes, to keep away from summer school.
2. This goal is important because I really want to be able to enjoy my summer with family and friends and not have to spend it doing work.
3. I plan to accomplish this goal by not cutting any of my classes and also by finishing all my school work on time.



Name: Kearon Muzamali
Grade: 12
Major: Electrical Installation

1. My goals for the upcoming year are to do well in school and just have fun. I really want to enjoy senior year, participate in all of the school's events, and of course make sure I'm well informed about the career I want to follow in order to make the right decision.
2. These goals are important to me because this is my future! I want to be the best I can and to do so I must do very well in HS.
3. I plan on accomplishing these goals by attending all of my classes this year on time! I also want to be involved and part of all the events and activities Queens Voc has to offer.



Name: Carlin Vizcaino
Grade: 10
Major: Electrical Installation

1. My goal is to be a great part of the varsity baseball team, and for my class grades to be good.
2. These goals are important to me because I want to show my parents what I can do and make them proud. I want to be eligible for the team all season.
3. I would accomplish these goals by focusing more on school work and by not letting myself slack off at anytime.



Name: Chaimae Benali
Grade: 9
Major: Exploratory

1. My goal for this year is to have high grades in all my classes.
2. This goal is important to me because I want to start off good and end up good, so I can have a good career in the future.
3. I'm planning to accomplish this goal by studying real hard and by remaining focused throughout the year.



Name: Margaret Castellanos
Grade: 9
Major: Cosmetology

1. My goals are to get higher than an 85% average, be on time everyday, and do really good in my major.
2. These goals are important to me because, when is time for me to apply for college my senior year, I'll have a better chance of going to the college of my choice.
3. To be able to accomplish these goals I will not talk as much in class, I'll wake up as early as I can so I can get to school on time, and do all my school work.



Name: Lenny Correa
Grade: 9
Major: Exploratory

1. My goal is to get good grades so I can pass all my classes.
2. This goal is important to me because if I do well in school I'll have a better chance of finding a good job after high school.
3. I'll accomplish this goal by studying for all my classes and giving in my school work on time.

HOLIDAY BASH

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14

STUDENT CAFETERIA 6:30-9:30PM

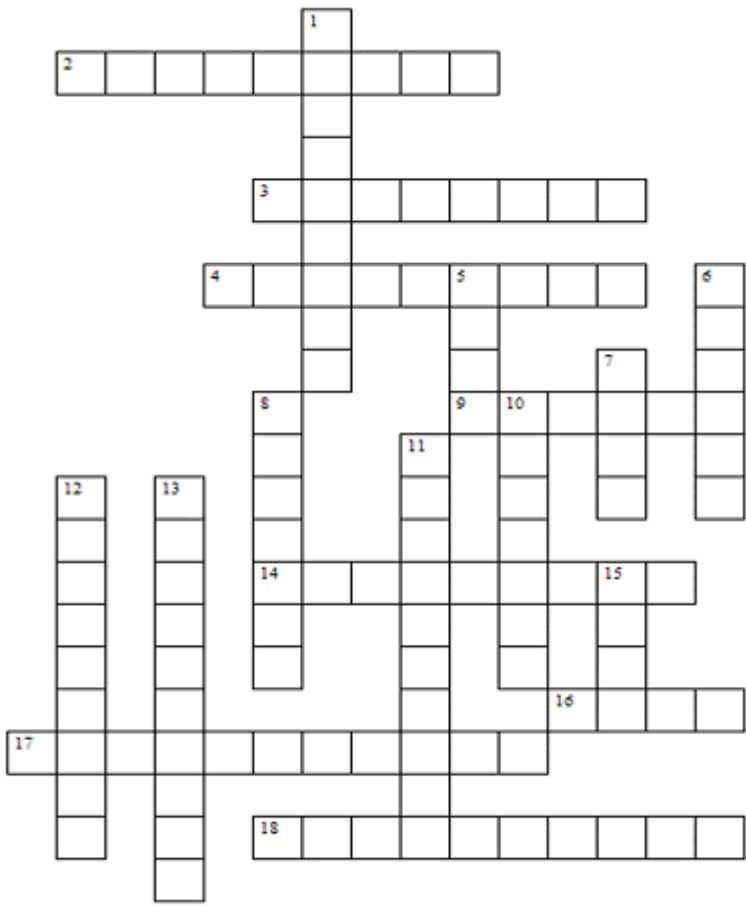
SEE MR. VEGA OR LEADERSHIP STUDENTS

IN ROOM 143.

Crossword Puzzle

by Josue Sanchez

SAT VOCABULARY



ACROSS

- 2- Lacking energy, weakened, exhausted
- 3- Cheery, optimistic, hopeful
- 4- The creation of new words, or a new word
- 9- To destroy the reputation of
- 14- Relating to the sense of smell
- 17- To think, contemplate
- 18- Capable of reading minds

DOWN

- 1- Required, not optional
- 5- To urge, to provoke into action
- 6- A superficial or deceptively attractive appearance, façade
- 7- Enormous, immense
- 8- Silly, foolish
- 10- The experience of another's feelings as one's own
- 11- Impeccably clean, spotless, pure
- 12- To diversify
- 13- Unable to be penetrated, unaffected
- 15- To demolish



Horoscopes

by Lia Cespedes

Aries - Feel like having an adventure? You are most likely to go on a journey soon. It doesn't have to be far, just go to a place where you want to visit for a while. Bring some friends and surprise them on this journey. It will help you to relax.

Taurus - Today a lot people around you will not agree with you. Instead of arguing with them, listen to others, and then if you feel it is necessary you give your opinion. It is a good way to develop your listening skills.

Gemini - Your social energy is ready for someone new. It may be a new crush, but more likely it's someone who's friendly and on your level. Don't look for it, it will come to you.

Cancer - Today you will have two needs. You want to take time for your social life, but you also want time to yourself. Good news! You can do both, spend time with your friends or family, but make sure you also make some quiet time for yourself.

Leo - You've got all the answers, even for questions nobody has thought of asking. It's a good day to look for others who need your help. It's also nice to do things and not take credit for it. Help others it will make you feel good.

Virgo - Today your leadership skills are sky high! You are so confident about your skills, that you will take challenging situations and try to resolve them. It is a great day to join with friends and work on new

Recipes

by Annaldo Jimenez

Coconut Flan

1 pack of Jell-o flan Spanish style custard
1 package of caramel sauce
2 ½ cups of milk
1 can of cream of coconut
1 cup of Bakers Angel Flake Coconut

First, pour the caramel sauce into a 9 by 5 inch loaf pan. Separately mix the milk, the cream of coconut, and the baker's angel flake coconut in a pot. Under a medium heat flame, mix these ingredients constantly until the mixture is thin. Then, remove it from the stove and pour this mixture over the caramel layered pan. Refrigerate for two hours and enjoy.

Pumpkin Pie

40 NILLA wafers
2 teaspoons of sugar
3 teaspoons of melted butter
2 packages of Jell-O vanilla flavor instant pudding and pie filling
1 teaspoon of pumpkin pie spice
½ cup of COOL WHIP
Crust mix

Cover the inside of an 8-inch square pan with foil paper, mold the crust mix into the pan and let it harden. Then, pour 1 cup of milk into a large bowl and add the pudding mixes. Beat the mixture with a whisk until it's well blended. Next, add the pumpkin and pumpkin pie spice, mix well until the mixture is thick. Then spread the mixture evenly onto the bottom of the crust. Put the mixture in the fridge for about fifteen minutes or until it's cooled. Spread whipped cream over the pumpkin layer in the crust. Finally get the NILLA wafers and put them around the edge of the pie plate.

ideas.

Libra - Make up your mind. You are spending too much time making decisions that won't benefit you. In fact you thinking so long about unnecessary concerns will cause stress. You are over-analyzing. Give a simple solution to the problems and decide quicker especially when it is unimportant.

Scorpio - You're in the mood to make changes, especially in your school work. Be sure that you are organized and stay that way. The results could turn into something messy and very weird indeed.

Sagittarius - Your love life is at a point where you want to spend more time with that special person to build a better relationship. That's because today you want to improve the relationship. Try planning

Sudoku

by Juan De La Cruz

How to solve a sudoku - Put a number from 1 to 9 in each empty box. Each number must appear once in each horizontal row, as well as in each vertical column and in every 3 by 3 box grid.

Sudoku #1
Hard

		2	1					5
	5			3		8		
8					6	3	1	
		1		7		9		
	7	5	4				8	
				2		1		
5					8			
	2			6	1		3	
7	1					5		8

Sudoku #2
Easy

	3	8			5	6		4
	4			9			5	
2			8		6	9		3
		7		5		1		
1	5	4	3		9		2	
		3		8		7		
4		9	5		2			7
	8			6			9	
5		1	9		8	4		

something romantic and don't let others disturb you.

Aquarius - Romance for you has a greater possibility today. So what can you do to improve your chances? Love signals are the key to improve your chances of making a connection. When you meet people today let your expressions show your true intentions.

Pisces - Simplicity is your key to have a great day. Try to

avoid complications, try to see life's challenges and make them simpler. It's also a great day for you and a close friend to have some fun. Take a picture for memories.

Capricorn - It's time to finally make a change to yourself. Go for a new look or style but you may want to start out with small steps. You're not one for overnight changes; try to make sure it all goes well, and don't try to impress others.



Drawings by Aneita Torres

Freshmen's First Impressions

by Christopher Luna

What did you think when you first came to Queens Voc? Each year, we ask some of our new freshmen.

Questions:

- 1) What was your first impression of Queens Voc?
- 2) What made you decide to come to this school?
- 3) What major have you selected? Why?



Kunga Deki

- 1) It was kind of intimidating and scary.
- 2) I knew some people who were attending this school.
- 3) Yes, I was thinking about joining business. I think it's an interesting major.



Jennifer Bedoya

- 1) I liked it. I think it's a really good school.
- 2) I came for c-tech.
- 3) C-tech because I like working with computers and I think I'm good at it.



Elizabeth Pimentel

- 1) I though it was very nice, clean, and big. I was satisfied.
- 2) Mostly because of the cosmo program. Also, it's near my house.
- 3) I have not decided yet.



Ahmed Ebrahim

- 1) It was ok, it wasn't that bad. Teachers are ok too.
- 2) Because of the different shop programs they offer.
- 3) I have not decided yet. I have only had EI. It's not bad.



Jahnpiere Garcia

- 1) My first impression of Queens Voc was that it is a big school. All the teachers are friendly.
- 2) I decided to come here because they had a business program.
- 3) I want to major in business. My dad is a businessman and that motivated me to choose business.



Andrea Cordoba

- 1) I thought it was big, I was expecting a smaller school.
- 2) I wanted to go into business, and I wanted to go to a small school.
- 3) Business, because I'm good with numbers and It's a good career.



Joshua Rodriguez

- 1) It was an interesting school. It is a whole new world.
- 2) My good friends Ralph Aranzamendi and Jefferson Aldaz. Also, the Division B Championship baseball team.
- 3) I want to be in plumbing because it makes good money.

Welcome
to
Queens Voc

Weird But True

compiled by Natalie Vargas

- A one-day weather forecast requires about 10 billion math calculations.
- Oysters can change genders back and forth.
- Lizards communicate by doing push-ups.
- The Mona Lisa has no eyebrows. It was the fashion in Renaissance Florence to shave them off!
- A "jiffy" is an actual unit of time for 1/100th of a second.
- The only 15 letter word that can be spelled without repeating a letter is "uncopyrightable"!
- The year that read the same upside down was 1961. That won't happen again until 6009.
- The Capitol building in Washington DC has 365 steps to represent every day of the year.
- The first bike was called a hobbyhorse.

- The first penny had the motto "Mind your own business."
- The Statue of Liberty wears a size 879 sandal.
- The "ZIP" in the ZIP code stands for Zone Improvement Plan.
- U.S. paper currency isn't made of paper – it's actually a blend of cotton and linen.
- Jimmy Carter was the first U.S. president to be born in a hospital.
- The average life span of a major league baseball is 7 pitches.
- If you have 3 quarters, 4 dimes, and 4 pennies, you have \$1.19. You also have the largest amount of change without being able to make change for a dollar.

Want to read more weird facts?

All these facts were taken from snapplefacts.com and weirdfacts.com.

Game Reviews

by Emmanuel Portorreal

Halo 3

Genre: Sci-Fi
Platform: Xbox 360
USRB: (M) Mature
Cost: \$59.99

Halo 3 is the third chapter of the Halo trilogy. Master Chief, the main character, has a mission to help the humans defeat the aliens. Halo 3 is a great game for people who like first- person shooter games. Xbox Live and 4-player mode make this game better than playing regular missions. In Xbox Live, gamers can play by themselves, or have multi-player matches, with up to 16 players on different maps.

There are lots of fun modes in this game: slayer, in which players are in an all out death match, capture the flag,

territories, and infection, where some of the players start as zombies. The only weapon players can use in Infection is a sword, and the players must kill or turn their opponents into zombies, until only one player remains alive. Players can use vehicles to help get them to the action.

The game has not changed much from Halo 2. It still has the same basic modes and it isn't that much fun when you are playing by yourself. Other than that, you can play Xbox Live for hours.

Game rating: 9
Graphics: 9
Fun Factor: 10 (online)
Fun Factor: 7 (offline)

MLB: The Show '07

Genre: Sports
Platform: PSP
USRB: (E) Everyone
Cost: \$39.99

MLB: The Show '07 is one of the most realistic MLB games for the PSP. It has changed a lot from MLB: The Show '06. The Show '07 has more game modes and new features. This game is up-to-date, with players and teams from the 2007 session. Gamers can play with other people online or through the AD-HOC connection, but they have to have the same game to play.

There are a lot of fun modes, such as manager, season, home run derby, and career mode, in which gamers get to create their own player and play as if it were real life. They start at spring training and can work themselves up to the Majors.

This game will make you want to play for hours because it's fun and easy to play and you won't get bored.

Game rating: 8.5
Graphics: 7.5
Fun Factor: 9

Who's the Teacher

by Shamel Lobban

See if you can figure out who the teachers are, based on the clues below.

Teacher # 1

He's tall.
Has blond hair.
He wears glasses.
He only teaches seniors.
Has been teaching for twenty years.
Who is this teacher?

Teacher # 2

This teacher loves to watch the show *Lost*.
His beard is always the same year round.
He's obsessed with zombies.
He believes that somewhere in the world there has to be a hot dog tree.
His favorite team is the Chicago Bears.
Who is this teacher?

Teacher # 3

He wears cowboy boots a lot.
He sings for tourist at Battery Park with a rainbow wig on.
He's on YouTube.
Who is this teacher?

Teacher # 4

He likes to say see you tomorrow on Fridays.
He likes the band called The Grateful Dead.
He's makes up nicknames for students.
Who is this teacher?

Answers:

Teacher #4: Mr. Schimenz
Teacher #3: Mr. Harrington
Teacher #5: Mr. Ryan
Teacher #1: Mr. Crochala



Inside Tiger Sports



JV Basketball

Fully Developed & Ready for the Court

by Christopher Luna

Eight of the ten players on the JV basketball team's roster last season, including the five



JV tryouts show super skills.

starters, became juniors and were not eligible to play this year. Although many of the Tigers players won't be returning this season, tryouts in mid-November had the team's coach, Mr. Garofano, hopeful.

The Tigers completed their developmental season with a record of 2-9, and are now in the Queens 1 division with Newtown, Flushing, Aviation, Grover Cleveland, Forest Hills, Franklin K Lane, William C. Bryant, and HS for Law Enforcement & Public Safety.

The first game of the season is a December 10 home game against Flushing. The Tigers will have 16 games this season, including 8 home games. Coach Garofano said he is looking forward to playing a 16-game season, 5 more games than last year. He is also looking forward to having a team that is competitive in their division, with players who don't quit.

Coach Garofano held tryouts for the team on Friday, November 9, and Monday, November 12. During the tryouts, he put the players into teams of five and ran scrimmages. "I looked for players to fulfill the needs of the team: rebounders and players with endurance," he said.

The coach said he will attempt to have some non-league games played before the season begins.

"Mr. Maloney, Mr. Devaux, Mr. Vega, the COSA, and Mr. Lerro helped out a lot," Mr. Garofano said, referring to the team's first season. Mr. Garofano added that he was happy with the support the team got. "It was nice to see the SO students come to the games," he said. Mr. Garofano said he is expecting a lot of support again from teachers and students.

by Melanie Bencosme

The Tigers varsity baseball season hasn't even begun but they have had an active fall.

The team continued its tradition of helping at orientation at the end of August, attended a Mets game, held try-outs, participated in a community service activity, and attended a Championship Ring Ceremony at Queens Voc.

The Championship Ring ceremony coordinated by Mr. Vega and his leadership students was a Queens Voc first. Set in the student cafeteria, the ceremony included the 2007 varsity baseball team and dozens of students and teachers. Ms. Vittor presented the team members with their rings. "Take your place with the greats, because you are," she said, adding that the ceremony was a "mighty celebration for the mighty Tigers!" Those in attendance were given Ring Ceremony tee shirts, and ate pizza and soda. Before the ceremony got underway, the attendees saw a slideshow, and a documentary on the 2007 season, produced by



Former captain Fernando Nuñez and the 2008 seniors.

former Tiger captain and Queens College student Tanvir Toy. Jose Marine, the representative for Herff Jones, the company that made the championship rings, told the players that their rings are "a symbol of achievement." Toward the end of the ceremony, the team presented the coach with a plaque, and the captains Elbel Estrella, and Daniel Medina gave the coach a laser-engraved, lighted picture. "Receiving the plaque and picture from the guys really made my year. A lot of work goes into coaching this team and I'm glad they recognize this," said Mr. Schimenz. "Mr. Vega did a great job setting up the event," said senior Annaldo Jimenez, "we all felt even more special because of the work he put in."

The 2007 Tigers baseball team members were invited by the Mets to attend a game at Shea Stadium. On Saturday, September 8, the Tigers were introduced on the major league

field as the "City Champions," before the game. "Ms. Vittor was there to see us," said veteran Raylin Leroux, "that was pretty neat."

There wasn't much time to look back, as the team began to prepare for the upcoming season. Tryouts started on September 22, and ran until mid-October. Fifty-two players tried-out at least one of the eight tryouts, run by former players and veterans. "The tryouts went well; there were a lot of good prospects, a lot of freshmen," said Annaldo Jimenez, a senior and second year varsity player. The Saturday tryouts were held on all four fields at Maurice Park. During tryouts, the players worked on their throwing, running, and fielding, and during the weekday tryouts were split into inter-squad teams to play each other. "I was looking for skills, attitude, team effort, commitment, and talent," said Mr. Schimenz, "and there was a lot there."

The team continued its participation in It's My Park! Day, a community service

activity that also serves to bring together returning players and rookies. The first park day of the school year took place on Saturday, October 20, from 9am to about 3pm. "Park Day helped me show that I'm a hard worker, don't slack, and it's good for the team to get to know each other and interact," said Joshua Rodriguez, a rookie freshman. Twenty seven players were selected, including fourteen returning players.

Anthony Arias
Armando Avila
Carlos Belliard
Erick Cabello
Steven D'Elena
Juan De la Cruz
Rafael De Oleo
Raymond Diaz
Luis Espinoza
Danny Fernandez
Annaldo Jimenez
Larry Lebeau
Raylin Leroux
David Lopez

Jonathan Matias
Christian Perez
Jhonney Perez
Emmanuel Portorreal
Joao Reyes
Abel Reyes
Joshua Rodriguez
George Serna
Esteban Soler
Guillermo Taveras

Angel Tejada
Carlin Vizcaino

The returning champs of Queens Voc are not only teammates to one another, said Carlin Vizcaino a sophomore, "The team spends so much time together, and quality time, that we're more like a family. The new players are learning that quickly."

Girls' Basketball: High Expectations

by Carlos Mason

The Lady Tigers basketball team has begun the season with high expectations. Now in the second season at varsity level, Coach Devaux will have a team of experienced players, as most of his players are returning from last year. Together with a few new players he says will be big contributors this year, the team is poised to do well.

Mr. Devaux has announced that Karolina Gorna will be the captain this season.

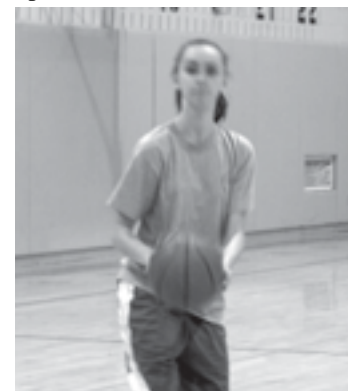
The official basketball schedule has 14 games, 7 home and 7 away. Mr. Devaux will also schedule 5 non-league games.

The team practices Monday through Friday, 4 pm to 5:30, and will practice on Saturdays, the coach said, if needed.

Mr. Devaux expects a major improvement from last year, he said, because "there will be a lot more teamwork and organization on the court." This will allow plays designed in practice to be used, and the team to be more competitive in games because of

the higher skill levels most girls on the basketball team have gained.

Mr. Devaux believes he will be able to use a couple of "go to" players to help the team succeed. "Last year we played well as a team, but I didn't have any individual play makers, this year I will have a few 'go to' options."



Captain Karolina Gorna

Not only does Mr. Devaux expect a better season, so does returning point guard Melissa Alzate. "Our team is a lot stronger and more girls know how to play, so we should have a good season."



Girls find practice fun, but know hard work is ahead.

**Gym uniforms are for sale
in the cafeteria during
all lunch periods.
A full uniform costs \$16.**

SENIOR SPORTS PROFILES

by Ronald Carrasco

Andrew Ferguson



Age: 17
Team: Boys' Varsity Basketball
Position: Forward
Years on Team: 3

"Andrew should become more of a team leader this year. He has the early edge on becoming team captain."
—Coach Maloney

"He gives off leadership energy, we feel determined to win."
— Sky Ferguson

David Bueno



Age: 17
Team: Boys' Varsity Soccer
Position: Mid-Fielder
Years on Team: 3

"He has the skills to travel with the ball and cross into the area for the forwards to score."
— Coach Ali

"David has good efforts on the field."
— Michael Ruiz

Yara Diaz



Age: 17
Team: Girls' Varsity Bowling
Years on Team: 2

"She has become a solid contributor on our B team this year."
— Coach Garofano

"She gives off a happy energy which keeps the team going"
— Ivana Nuñez

David Bermudez



Age: 16
Team: Boys' Varsity Bowling
Years on Team: 4

"Throughout his 4 years he has improved every season. David has improved on and off the alley in leadership as well as his bowling skills."
— Coach Devaux

"His positive energy keeps us in the game."
— Anthony Hughes

Karol Gumieniak



Age: 18
Team: Boys' Varsity Soccer
Position: Defense
Years on Team: 3

"He's an extremely good player, very talented, and can play in a defense or offense position."
— Coach Ali

"Karol improved a lot. He is very aggressive on defense as well as offense."
— Diego Marin

Girls' Softball Looking Toward the Future

by Steve D'Elena

"Last season was a growing season," with only one senior as an everyday player, said Mr. Boyle, coach of the Lady Tigers softball team.

The Lady Tigers finished their 2006-2007 season with a 2-13 record, their two wins coming against Frank Sinatra and August Martin. The Lady Tigers defeated Frank Sinatra on March 20 at Bush Field by a score of 16 to 8. Their other win was a forfeit by August Martin on May 5.

This year, the coach has greater expectations. With only the loss of one exceptional player, said Mr. Boyle, the Lady Tigers will basically have the same team on the field as last year, so the players will have a better understanding of the rules and expectations of the game. The Lady Tigers haven't had an official tryout, but Mr. Boyle said he had a good turnout at the sports meeting, with 35 potential players attending.

Mr. Boyle and his veterans and potential new players meet every Tuesday during the tutoring period to "physically and mentally work together," said Mr. Boyle. He said this will help the girls who are interested in playing this year develop chemistry within the team. Mr. Boyle said this time together during tutoring was

possible with the assistance of Ms. Vittor and Mr. Davidson.

Mr. Boyle has appointed senior and 3-year veteran Dayana Jaramillo as the team captain for the upcoming season. "I hope that the girls will come together and be more united on and off the field" the new captain said. As captain, Dayana hopes to help the new players and also improve her own skills on the field, to set an example for the other players. "I am happy to be captain because I will be able to mentor the younger girls on the team," Dayana said.

Dayana and Mr. Boyle scheduled a bake sale to help raise money for equipment for the team. The bake sale took place on Monday, October 18. The team raised about \$500.

Twenty veterans are returning from last year: Ashley Addonisio, Karen Alvarez, Tracy Ambrossi, Lorena Bonilla, Cindy Carrasco, Brigitte Diaz, Yara Diaz, Joana Garcia, Diana Giraldo, Laura Gonzalez, Christi Hernandez, Dayana Jaramillo, Estephany Jimenez, Yvonne Johnson, Samantha Lupo, Shannessy Morales, Ivana Nunez, Magdaline Rodriguez, Jossie Vaca, and Ruthie Vegas.

"We need to hustle more and work together more to help build up our teams chemistry," said Lorena Bonilla, a junior and 3-year veteran.

High Hopes for Boys' Varsity B-Ball

by Juan Delacruz

As November ends, the high school basketball season starts. To help build another successful team, Mr. Maloney, coach of the Tigers varsity basketball team, held tryouts the last weeks of October.

"For a two week span, I watched the players compete against each other for a spot on the team and I was impressed. I saw good basketball skills and I also saw some areas that needed improvement," said the coach. According to Mr. Maloney,



The coach inspires his team.

during tryouts he looked for players' basketball skills such as, shooting, running speed, dribbling, and court awareness.

Last year the coach took 18 players on the varsity basketball team: 9 seniors, 3 juniors, and 6 sophomores. This year, his goal is to have fewer players. He said that players not chosen for

varsity basketball will develop better on the JV team because if they stay on varsity they won't get any play time.

Last year, the basketball team had 9 seniors who have since graduated. But Mr. Maloney is confident. "Whenever you lose seniors, it impacts the team," he said, but he is impressed with what he has seen from the returning players this year.

The basketball coaches have had problems scheduling practices because there are 3 basketball teams and 1 gym. The coaches worked together to schedule equal time for each team to practice. Part of that plan involves having one team practice from 4 to 6pm, a another will practice from 6 to about 8pm.

The team's league record last year was 5-10 but they had many close games. To do better, said David Bermudez, a veteran, "The team needs more chemistry, fewer people with egos, and more people to step up to fill in leadership roles on and off the court. To control egos, everyone needs to remember that we are a team and if we win, we win as a team, if we lose, we lose as a team." David said, "Even players who contribute more to the team have to remember, they wouldn't be able to win without the rest of the team."

This year, the Tigers have 18 league games scheduled.

Jorge Herrera



Age: 17
Team: Boys' Varsity Soccer
Position: Defense
Years on Team: 4

"Jorge shows a lot of potential, but needs to be more focused and committed."
— Coach Ali

"Jorge has become a wiser player this season."
— Gregory Paul

Their first game is on Wednesday, November 28 at 4:30, at Aviation. Two days later the team has its home opener against Wagner. According to Mr. Maloney it doesn't look like the basketball team will have any non-league games, but he will hold practice a game.

To see the Tigers varsity basketball schedule and the team roster, check out the psal website www.psal.org.

**Join SO
See Mr. Vega
in Room 143**

TIGERS

SPORTS

Boys' Soccer "Kicks" It to the Playoffs

by Dayana Jaramillo

The boys' varsity soccer team ended its season with a record of 7 wins, 3 losses, and 2 ties, placing third out of six teams in their division and making the playoffs for the fourth consecutive year.

The boys won the first playoff game, defeating John F. Kennedy 3-2. "This game was harder on the team because we were not used to this field, but we all thought positive and hoped for the best," said Coach Ali.

Their second playoff game was against Eleanor Roosevelt High School on Friday, November 2. This time, the Tigers were not as fortunate. They were defeated 1-0.

Hector Roche, a junior and captain of the team, said, "Not being able to continue in the playoffs was very disappointing, but I know we all worked

very hard and I served as great assistance to all my team members when they needed help or when we were in close games."

"Being able to make the playoffs and advance to the second round," said senior Alex Peneloza, a 3 year

veteran, "was a new experience, since each round becomes more competitive and everyone wants to advance."

According to Mr. Ali, the boys worked really hard all season long. "All the effort that was put into practice, the hours that were dedicated on perfecting their drills, all paid off during the games." He admits that the team's defense needed improvement, but he was always confident in his team. "The guys played well and due to all their hard work and dedication we made it to playoffs."

The team consists of 15 veterans and 5 rookies. The veterans are: Pablo Ayora, Beshion Bailey, David Bueno, Ozan Cetinkaya, Ahmed Gawashty, Karol Gumieniak, Piotr Gumieniak, Diego Marin, Milton Morocho, Gregory Paul, Alex Penaloza, Diego Ramos, Hector Roche, Michael Ruiz, and Jefferson Zamora. The rookies are: Frank Ayala, Eustaquio Coyotl, Byron Loja, Steward Naula, and Santiago Orellana.

Boys' Bowling Strikes into the Second Round of Playoffs

by Yara Diaz

For the third year in a row, the boys' bowling team made the playoffs. Their first playoff game was Thursday, November 8, when the team defeated East NY Transit Tech to go on to the second round. In the second round of the playoffs, the team traveled to Staten Island to play New Dorp High School. The boys lost 2-0.

The team wasn't too happy with their performance this year, going to the playoffs with a 5-5 record. "The season could've been better, and even though we went to the playoffs, it doesn't mean we were performing our best," said Anthony Hughes. "I think everyone has a different way of bowling, and everyone needs to practice their own style. The team should take practice more seriously," said David Bermudez, the only senior on the team.

The team's three top bowlers for this year were Anthony Hughes with a 175.36 average, Ludwig Alb Loy with a 153.20 average, and Thomas Hock with a 150.69 average.

The boys' bowling team began its season by defeating Academy of American Studies and Aviation. Then they struggled and lost to Newtown and Bryant. During the remainder of the season, the team defeated LIC twice and Aviation once more, but lost to American Studies, and Newtown and Bryant again.

The team consisted of 11 players, including 3 veterans and 8 rookies. The veterans were: Steven Abreu, David Bermudez, Anthony Hughes, and rookies Paul Cabral,

Girls' Bowling Third Straight Playoff Berth

by Tashio Douglas

The Queens Voc girls' varsity bowling team played well this season. The team finished in second place with a 7-5 record, and made it to the playoffs for the third year in a row.

"Overall, the season was good and we should have won the division, but a few minor problems toward the end of the season hurt the team," said Mr. Garofano, who has coached the team for the past 6 years. "Nevertheless, I'm proud of my players because they are all determined and they played to their potential," said the coach.

Team matches and practices were held at 34th Ave. AMF Lanes in Woodside. The team practiced Mondays through Thursdays unless they had games.

Thirteen players, from sophomores to seniors, made up the team. High school bowling teams are divided into A and B teams, and the players are placed according to their skills. The team was almost evenly divided between experienced veterans and rookies.

Lorena Bonilla, Yara Diaz, Christi Hernandez, Dayana Jaramillo, Ivana Nunez, and Magadaline Rodriguez were the team's veterans. Joining them this year were rookies: Melissa Alzate, Michelle Cotrina, Diana Giraldo, Estephany Jimenz, Melinda Leon, Samantha Lupa, and Jamila Rodriguez.

Junior Magadaline Rodriguez, a 3-year veteran, achieved an average of 129.62, the highest on the team. "I wasn't much of a bowler until I joined the girls' bowling team. Now, bowling has become very natural for me," she said. Due a few problems toward the end of the season, Magadaline said, she wasn't able to be on the team anymore and couldn't participate in the playoffs. She said that the season was good but she was disappointed that she couldn't help her team at the end of the season.

Ivana Nunez, who averaged 125.56, has been on the team for 2 years. She looks forward to next year, when "we will do better."

The new players were just as positive. Melissa Alzate and Jamila Rodriguez, both 10th graders, said, "we enjoy being on the team and felt the season was good." These two players were both moved to the A team their first year.

"We'll play better and most of all have fun," Ivana said.



Thomas Hock, Lawrence Lebeau, Ludwig Alb Loy, Daniel Maysonet, Louis Pacheco, Jose Ramirez, and Jonathan Urena.

"The team didn't play to its full potential except for one of our games," said Mr. Devaux, coach of the team, "but my new players this year have good skills and have gotten good practice for next year." Two of the four starters on the A team, and one starter on the B team are rookies.



TIGERS SPORTS CONTINUED INSIDE