

Vocational Voice

Vol. LXXII No. 4

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

Summer, 2007



Tigers become QV's first city-wide champions.

Varsity Baseball Team Wins City Championship

by Yessenia Perez

Queens Voc varsity baseball team made history this month by winning the city-wide B-Division championship.

The Tigers defeated Jane Addams High School 9-0 at Keyspan Park in front of an estimated 250 Queens Voc fans.

The game started out as a pitchers' duel, said the coach, Mr. Schimenz, with Tiger pitcher Dio Gonzalez striking out three and allowing only four hits. And it stayed that way through the first five innings. But in the sixth inning, second baseman Elbel Estrella singled up the middle and promptly stole second. Elbel tagged up on a fly out to right field and when the throw came in off line, Elbel made a try for home. "We gotta get a run" ran through his mind, he said. Elbel's head-first slide earned the Tigers the first run of the game. The next inning the Tigers scored 8, locking up the city championship. "I couldn't believe it," said catcher Danny Medina, "that we won it all, that we were the city champs."

The team had been to the playoffs eight times in the last eleven years, but didn't do so well. Ten years ago, the first year Mr. Schimenz was the head coach, the team made the second round of the playoffs, but not since. "All I asked for was to get to the second round again," he said. His team did more.

The Tigers captured their division championship with a win over Townsend Harris at Flushing Meadows Park on Thursday, May 17, but didn't get much time to celebrate as they quickly got on a bus to take them back to the school for the Honor Society Induction.

One week later, the ninth seeded team had a chance to celebrate as they ten-run-ruled Truman in the first round of the playoffs. "It was a nice payback," Dio said, referring to the team's loss to Truman in last year's playoff game.

The second round of the playoffs was in the Bronx, against Riverdale. The team took an early lead, with the help of designated hitter Steve

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Honor Society Reaches Century Mark

by Diomedes Gonzalez

This spring, 119 students were inducted into the Presidential Honor Society. Twenty seniors, thirteen juniors, forty-seven sophomores, and forty-nine freshmen were brought together to celebrate their academic achievements. The ceremony was on held Friday, May 17, from 6pm to 8pm.

Prior to the ceremony, students and parents gathered in the cafeteria for sandwiches, assorted salads, pickles, and sodas.

After eating, parents and students proceeded to the auditorium. As parents and siblings settled into their seats, the students prepared for their grand entrance. The official induction began at 7pm.

The honor society inductees entered the auditorium as "The Circle of Life," from the Lion King played. Brandon Drakeford, Gregg Nana, and Azadus Zaman, the color guard, entered holding three flags, the New York State flag, the New York City flag, and the United States Flag. After the Pledge of Allegiance, senior Gabriel Ortiz sang the Star Spangled Banner. Seniors Raiza Izquierdo and Yolanis Barros, welcomed the parents, students, and teachers. Estefania Garcia, also a senior, introduced Ms. Vittor, the school principal. Valeah Hoyte, a freshman, introduced Mr. White, the vice president of the Parents Association. Arien Hylton, a freshman, introduced Ms. Dattner, who coordinated the event. Marissa Mendez, Alexandra Mohamed, Jaspreet Singh, and Azaduz Zaman, read the Keys to Success. Senior Stephanie Valerio then introduced Mrs. Basirico, who then led the students in the recitation of the Ephebic Oath, the honor society pledge.

A candle-lighting ceremony took place to represent the spreading of knowledge. After the candle-lighting, the students were called by name and given their honor society certificate.

The varsity baseball team, having just clinched first place in their division, was in

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Seniors celebrate at Terrace on the Park.

Senior Prom A Spectacular Night Full of Memories

by Volodymyr Sulyk

Over 100 Queens Voc seniors attended their prom on Friday, June 1, from 8pm to 1am, at Terrace on the Park, in Corona.

"We picked Terrace on the Park because it has enough room to accommodate the amount of people that attended, it was reasonably priced, and it's convenient for most of the seniors," said Mr. Vega, the senior class advisor and coordinator of student activities.



Superman at his best

For the first time, Grupo QV performed at the prom, focusing on Hispanic music for an hour. "I asked Mr. Vega if he would consider for Grupo QV to perform at the prom and he agreed," said senior Junior Perez. According to Terel Watson, "Our prom was a lot better than I expected, I loved it, especially the guest performance by Grupo QV." A DJ played music the rest of the night, focusing mainly on Hip Hop, Reggae, Raggaeton, Techno, and Merengue.

According to Mr. Vega, "This prom was a huge success because the people who were involved were there to have fun and wanted to be there." In addition, "to having all of the seniors there on time and ready to party, I felt the prom was a huge success because other schools were trying to enter our prom and commenting on how their prom was "whack" and ours was "poppin." They must have judged our prom by the music they heard and how our dance floor was packed for the majority of the time. The students from other schools were constantly by our door watching our party," added Mr. Vega.

The buffet dinner included chicken marsala, sausage and peppers, fried calamari, and other selections. Drinks such as soda and alcohol-free piña coladas were served.

Prom tickets were sold in Room 143, Mr. Vega's office. The 145 prom tickets, 101 seniors and 44 guests were sold for \$75 each, a reduced rate because the food festivals raised a lot of money for senior activities.

The Royal Court, a prom tradition at Queens Voc, was selected by Mr. Vega and Ms. Vittor, who picked names from a bag. Diomedes Gonzalez and Elizabeth Zambrano were chosen as Prom King and Queen. "I was happy to win Prom King because I expected it to be someone no one really knew. Winning Prom King topped the night off for me," said Dio. Matthew Cabrera and Jelissa Pena were chosen as Prince and Princess, and Jephte Auguste and Estefania Garcia were selected as Duke and Duchess. "Prom was incredible," said Matthew Cabrera.

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Honor Society

attendance, as they rented a bus to take them back to school to honor two of their team members, Steve Pinell and Angel Tejada.

The 2007 honor society inductees are:

Seniors:

Arjenis Abreu
Yolanis Barros
Alan Casallas
Chia Hsien Chang
Jacqueline Concepcion
Angel Fung
Estefania Garcia
Gaochao Huang
Raiza Izquierdo
Kacy James
Renato Lulaj
Alfredo Poveda
Stephanie Robalino
Andrea Romero
Kelvin Smartt
Volodymyr Sulyk
Alexander Tenf
Stephanie Valerio
Heriberto Velazquez

Juniors:

Cindy Carrasco
Jonathan Carsten
Adrienne Diaz
Yara Diaz
Brandon Drakeford
Catherine Gomez
Dayana Jaramillo
Oscar Mendez
Jonathan Molina
Steve Pinell
Angel Tejada
Ruthie Vegas
Daisy Vivar

Sophomores:

Master Alamin
Syeda Ali
Jesenia Almonte
Tracy Ambrossi
Azmain Azad
Dalisa Batista
Aja Amara Bennett
Luis Campoverde
Brandon Carcano
Jinet Collado
Laura Cruz
Jessica De La Rosa
Marlene Fernandez
Wendi Fernandez
Rosa Gonzalez
Beatriz Gonon
Karolina Gorna
Dharvin Govideisami
Tiffani Galimi
Jeslenny Grullon
Jerry Hernandez
Leticia Huero
Fahim Islam
Joseph Lorenzi
Stephanie Lucero
Alexandria Lumpkins
George Manolas
Jonathan Mejia
Rebekah Montes
Gregg Nana
Ivana Nunez
Gregory Paul
Joel Pena
Jessica Perrier
Pervej Rahman
Jose Ramirez

Nelkin Ramirez
George Serna
Simranjeet Singh
Denise Soto
Monica Tito
Rosa Toalongo
Clarissa Tse
Chuong Tony Vu
Jefferson Zamora

Freshmen:

Meheraj Abedin
Daniyah Ahmed
Azan Asmat
Mohammed Begum
Jonathan Carvalho
Huang Chen
James Clark
Lisbeth Collado
Bryan Correa
Paola Ferreier
Peter Franco
Mark Fremista
Freddy Gomez
Catherine Hazoury
Juan Hernandez
Valeah Hoyte
Arien Hylton
Neil Kamath
Jonathan Kammerer
Cesar Liang
Marsha Longmore
Ludwig Albert Loy
Keith Alphonso Manasala
Thomas Mazzarella
Karief McKoy
Marissa Mendez
Alexandra Mohamed
Eliazar Morales
Naveen Nicholas
Hermilo Ortega
Steven Pabon
Muhamed Paljevic
Franklyn Panora
Kevin Pena
Jakub Piekarz
Shanley Porras
Jazmin Ramirez
Marilyn Reyes
Michael Rodriguez
Edward Salas
Veronica Sierra
Jaspreet Sing
Jatinder Singh
Chelsea Spitzschuh
Ashley Torres
Christy Urena
Jonathan Urena
Leonardo Valencia
Azaduz Zaman



Students show off their awards after competiton.

FBLA Gets Taste of Challenging Competition

by Jerry Chang

From Monday April 23 to Wednesday April 25, four Queens Vocational FBLA members and their advisor Mr. Mugan went to the Nevele Grande Hotel in Ellenville, New York for three days and two nights for the 2007 Leadership Conference. The students participated in a state competition and attended several state-level meetings.

Most FBLA teams competed in oral and written tests, but Queens Voc’s representatives only participated in the written test as most of them were experiencing the competition for the first time and wanted to get a feel for the competition.

Jacqueline Concepcion took the Computer Application and Business Procedures exam, Alejandra Lopez and Jonathan Maldonado took the Business Communications exam, and Stephanie Cerqueda took the Economics exam. As of June 12, the results were still unknown.

Active in Queens Voc’s FBLA Chapter are: Jacqueline Concepcion, president of the FBLA Chapter; Alejandra Lopez, vice president; Estefania Garcia, secretary; Jonathan Maldonado, treasurer; and Stephanie

Cerqueda, historian. Eight other students signed up and paid their dues but did not participate in any FBLA activities.

The FBLA members didn’t just go to meetings or take tests. They had fun as well. One party held for FBLA members served as a fundraiser for “Pre-Mature Babies.” Each of the chapters that participated donated money. A second party was the “Officers Ball,” for the newly inducted state officers and the retiring state officers.

Jacqueline Concepcion was proud of her team. “This year was different from last year because as a chapter, we were able to network with more chapters. What was surprising was that there was more diversity throughout the conference. This year we also had an official advisor, Mr. Mugan, the VE coordinator, who helped us to feel comfortable and get ready for new challenges.”

“The state competition was tough,” said Mr. Mugan. “There were high-leveled competitors from all over the state. What I found interesting about the conference was the speeches from the retiring officers; their speeches were very inspirational,” he said.

Medieval Treat for Honor Students

by Heriberto Velazquez

The spring Honor Roll Trip, on Friday, April 27, was to Medieval Times in New Jersey. Students left Queens Voc at 6 pm on a charter bus and returned to the school at 11 pm. The Honor Roll Trip serves to reward students with an average of 85 or above.

Thirty Honor Roll students attended the trip along with 10 other students. Eighty-eight students were eligible for the trip but many weren’t interested or were initially but dropped out of the trip.

As the bus pulled up to its destination, students noted that the Medieval Times building looks like a castle from outside. Once inside, the students were taken into the arena. Within the arena, seating areas were various colors, each section having its own knight to root for. The show began with introduction of the knights and there was singing and jousting. During the show, the audience was served dinner, which consisted of roast chicken, ribs, soup, a sweet potato, soda, and for dessert, apple pie.

The Honor Roll students that went were: Dniyah Ahmed, Jacqueline Concepcion, Luis Flores, Christopher Gomez, Beatriz Gonon, Karolina Gorna, Elihu Hernandez, Valeah Hoyte, Gaochao Huang, Arien Hylton, Kacy James, George Manolas, Marissa Mendez, Alexandra Mohamed, Gabriel Ortiz, Muhamed Paljevic, Gregory Paul, Joel Pena, Julissa Perez, George Serna, Simranject Singh, Veronica Sierra, Jasmine Sosa, David Stanojev, Volodymyr Sulyk, Monica Tito, Rosa Toalongo, Michelle Vega, Tony Vu and Kayla White. Non-Honor Roll students who attended were: David Bermudez, Michael Calderon, Elbel Estrella, Yuri Gomez, Diomedes Gonzalez, Alejandra Lopez, Daniel Medina, Kearon Muzamali, Christopher Saldana, and Annakay Vaz.

“The trip was full of Medieval Fun!” said Michael Calderon. David Bermudez agreed. “The trip was fun and the show was great!” he said.



EI Students Get OSHA Certified

by Estefania Garcia

Seventeen seniors completed the requirements to receive OSHA General Industry Certificates. The students were required to take a 10-hour class to receive the certificates from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

The classes, which started before spring break and finished in early June, took place on Mondays in room 406. Mr. Bowen taught the students the safety and health curriculum.

OSHA’s mission is to assure the safety and health of America’s workers by setting and enforcing standards; providing training, outreach, and education; establishing partnerships; and encouraging continual improvement in workplace safety and health. OSHA establishes regulations for workplace safety and enforces those regulations through inspections and fines.

“This gives the students an edge, it gives them the awareness about dangerous conditions that can exist in the workplace, how to address them, and the proper equipment and how to use that equipment safely,” said Mr. Bowen. The 17 electrical students that completed the requirements were:

Arjenis Abreu
Keon Badger
Alan Casallas
Jose Diaz
Elbel Estrella

Diomedes Gonzales
Waqgas Hussain
Jose Lopez
Luis Antonio Menacho
Fernando Mendez

Kevin Munoz
Nikolas Nissirios
David Stanojev
Voldymur Suluk
Alex Pulla
Jordan Issaza

Graphic Design

by Estefania Garcia

Graphic arts has been added to the majors offered at Queens Voc.

Part of the School of Entrepreneurial Studies, the program will give students an opportunity to gain hands-on experience in the Graphic Arts Industry. The Graphic Arts program is a 4-year sequence that enables students to learn procedures, techniques, and programs used in the Graphic Arts Industry.

“The purpose of the Graphic arts is to develop career paths for students interested in the graphic arts industry. Mr. Garcia is a professional graphic arts teacher and Queens Voc will benefit from his expert skills. He will teach students the skills needed to be successful in that field,” said Ms. Newman, the director of SES.

This year, an introductory class for freshmen took place periods 2, 7, 8, and 9 in room 454. The students will receive a CTE credit and an art credit. For the 9th graders to continue this major they must reapply to the program, and incoming ninth graders must apply for the program as well.

“I think that this idea is phenomenal. I wish they would have started this major when I was a freshman. It is a great attribute to Queens Voc, as it will enhance students’ potential and give them hands-on experience in graphic arts,” said business student Brandon Drakeford.

The program introduces students to layout and design. Graphic arts deals with images, whether visual or printed, that serve the purpose of communicating with an audience. Students will learn to create flyers, posters, CD covers, business cards, portfolios, and web pages, said Mr. Garcia.

Second-year students will learn how to use Photoshop and Illustrator to manipulate and save images for various uses. Third-year students will learn about layouts and design at an intermediate level and will fine-tune their skills in Dreamweaver and InDesign.

Students in the final year of the graphic arts curriculum will be split into two groups. One of the groups will work in the QV design studio and the other group will be assigned company internships. In the spring term they will switch, to allow each group to get a feeling of working in a company as well as working in the QV design studio.

“I expect the curriculum to foster and further the development of those students who are interested in pursuing a career in the graphic arts industry,” said Mr. Garcia.

Perfect Attendance

by Kelvin Smartt

Some students have attended school every day this school year. To show our appreciation, and to let them know their dedication hasn’t gone unnoticed, *Vocational Voice* would like to commend the 39 students who have perfect attendance:

Adames, Edwin
Ahmed, Daniyah
Alamin, Master
Alvarez, Brian
Ayisah, Maxwell
Cabral, Paul
Cameron, Wade
Carvajal, Jean
Choudhury, Razim

Collado, Melissa
Crespin, Steven
Drakeford, Brandon
Florida, John
Fremista, Mark
Gomez, Christopher
Gomez, Freddy
Grullon, Jeslenny
Hernandez, Elihu
Hernandez, Jerry
Hernandez, Juan
Jean Philippe, Daniella
Josey, Tyree
Lam, Wai Lun
Lazarevic, Dario
Liang, Cesar
Manolas, George
Marin, Diego
Mesa, Tulio
Modesto, Lizbeth
Monzon, Kara Ann
Morales, Eliazar
Ortiz, Richard
Pabon, Steven
Rahman, Pervej
Ramirez, Janno
Romero, Arturo
Singh, Dev
Singh, Simranjeet
Tseten, Dopdyel

Seniors Choose Personalities

by Renato Lulaj

Senior Personalities Awards are highly popular. Coordinated as part of the yearbook, the awards are always a big topic of discussion among seniors, who select their “senior mosts.”

The nominees were selected by a committee put together by Mr. Stefanidis, the yearbook advisor. Seniors voted in room 143, the student activities office. The winners were:

Awards	Male	Female
Best Dressed	Romeo Harrinandan	Abiola Raji
Best Hair	Joseph Colon	Normajeon Noel
Best Eyes	Lukas Zaczeniuk	Ana Gomez
Most Outspoken	Kelvin Smartt	Rayvan Walker
Most Athletic	Diomedes Gonzalez	Dairis Jimenez
Best Smiles	Janio Fernandez	Crystal Tejada
Shyest People	Alfredo Poveda	Kayla White
Best Personality	Joel Moreaux	Jennifer Cabrera
Most Unique	Joel Tabares	Luisa Irala
Biggest Flirts	Junior Perez	Anadia Diaz
Most Known	Junior Perez	Rayvan Walker
Head Turners	Rene Cruz	Estefania Garcia
Class Clowns	Nicholas Nissirios	Leilani Payne
Know-It-Alls	Steven Vargas	Diana Espinal
Best Couple	Daniel Medina	Yesenia Perez
Most Congenial	Daniel Medina	Cassie Vasquez
Most Likely To Succeed	Alan Casallas	Yolanis Barros

Career Day Shows Students that Just as in School, Success in Life Comes with Hard Work

by Raiza Izquierdo

On Friday May 4, Queens Voc’s sixth annual Career Day took place. “Career Day has become one of the most important traditions at Queens Voc. I’m so happy that we started Career Day and that everyone enjoys it. I’m happy we get to interact and meet new people from different industries, even if it’s for one day,” said Ms. Vittor, Queens Voc principal.

Thirty-two guest speakers spoke to more than eighty classes, sharing information and personal insights about their careers, to help students get ideas about career choices available to them. In the hallways, representatives from the United States Navy, United States Coast Guard, and United States Air Force displayed their recruiting information.

Many of the guests agreed that Career Day encourages students to think about the career paths they may follow. “I love to come here so I can...help students decide on their career choices and to keep them on track,” said Dean Dobbins from Embrace Technologies. Dr. Lawrence Muller, from LaGuardia Community College said that “Career Day is a good opportunity for students to learn about the different careers at this stage of their lives.” Leah Rambo, a guest from Legal Momentum, said, “It was good going around to different classes to talk to students and it was an excellent opportunity to inform



students about the various careers out there.”

Students were impressed with their speakers. Junior Perez, who escorted Jackie Morgan from the United States Army, said that “Career Day was very interesting because we got to meet people from different career fields. Another escort, Arielle Rios, said, “Career Day was a success, the information the speakers provided was useful. I noticed that their personalities opened up and the students got personal insights about their careers.”

On Career Day, the guests and their escorts were stationed in the library when then guest speakers weren’t in classrooms speaking and the school provided them with a continental breakfast buffet and pizza for lunch.

In the library, students from various shops demonstrated their skills. Cosmetology students gave facials, electrical students showed their light bulb circuits, business and computer technology students used laptops and projectors to show the Power in Your Face projects

they created and how Photoshop works. At the end of the day the speakers were presented with Queens Voc t-shirts as gifts for their support of Career Day.

The following guests attended Career Day:
Chief James Alessi - United States Coast Guard
Diane Bailey - Tendrils - Owner
Andrea Ben - David - Speech Dynamics
Edwin Cadiz - Office of the Assembly woman C. Nolan
Michelle Campbell - Queensborough Com. College
Renee Daniels - LaGuardia Community College
Dean Dobbins - Embrace Technologies, Inc.
Denise Doyle - Non Traditional Employment for Women
Jeremy Fusco - USAF
Danielle George - Attorney
Eric Greenburg - Green Mountain Graphics
Gregory Holder - U.S. Customs
Francoise Jacobsohn - Legal Momentum
Marvin Jeffcoat - SED Speaker

Chantel Jeng - Queens Borough Community College
Abigail Lauer - Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal LLP
Domenick Marino - Trades School – Electrical
Gissel Marte - Northfolk Bank, Asst. Manager
Susan Mitchell - United States Custom Service – Area Director
Jackie Morgan - US Army
Dr Lawrence Muller - LaGuardia Community College
Roseanna Napolitano -Region 4
Monica Ortiz -Berkeley College
John Pascu - Parsons-Brinckerhoff Consulting Engineers
David Pineda - Army National Guard
Robert Potter - Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal LLP
Leah Rambo - Legal Momentum - SED
Marilyn Scher - Region 4
Vincent Stigliano - Queens Borough Community College
Andres Tovar - USAF
Elaine Ward - ISIS Plumbing Inc.
Desiree Wilson - U.S. Customs



Listening to pros helps students learn about life.

Queens Voc Gives Seventh Graders a Taste of their Future

by Yessenia Perez

Seventh graders recently enrolled at Queens Voc and Technical High School.

The students were part of a program called High School Now, developed by Region 4 to show junior high school students what high school is like. Queens Voc’s program ran from February 27 through May 2, on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 4pm to 5:30pm.

Four classes were offered: Electrical Installation, taught by Mr. David, Introduction to Computer Technology, taught by Mr. Cintron, Graphic Arts, taught by Mr. Garcia, and Introduction to Business, taught by Mr. Mugan.

Students came from IS 126, IS 10, IS 5, IS 93, and IS 125. According to Ms. Dattner, freshman guidance counselor, High School Now started with 86 students, but because the intermediate schools were offering tutoring for their ELA exams, the program ended with about 70 students. “Most students who attended the program will recommend it to fellow classmates and will consider Queens Voc as one of their choices on their high school application,” said Ms. Dattner.

In Graphic Arts, students learned how to use software such as Photoshop and Image Ready. Students learned how to make collages and overlay and manipulate images. “It was an excellent experience as I was able to share my knowledge of graphic arts with these students,” said Mr. Garcia. “The students were very receptive and excited about manipulating images and working with pictures they took with digital cameras.”

The Intro to Business class gave students insight about the history of computers and software. Mr. Mugan taught his students how to use Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint. Students learned how to develop resumes in Word and how to make webpages with hyperlink. They learned how to insert functions and graphs in Excel. And in PowerPoint they learned various ways to create a slide show. Their final assignment was a business plan that had to incorporate everything they learned throughout their High School Now experience and put it into a PowerPoint presentation.

In the Computer Technology class, students learned the

basic computer components and how to identify them. They also learned how to make different network cables, different types of internet security, and how to make different splices. “Teaching junior high school students was more challenging than teaching high school students because they lose focus easily,” said Mr. Cintron.

In Electrical Installation class, students learned how to make different cable slices, cable splices, and simple parallel and series circuits. Using lab boards, they completed labs and learned the theories behind their labs. Mr. David, the instructor, is not an EI teacher but still taught the class successfully. “It was challenging because I had to do the labs before the students. It’s not my field and I didn’t really have the materials or my own room,” he said. According to Mr. David, the students were interested in knowing about high school overall, not only the class.

Spring Spirit Week: Topics Hot Participants Not

by Denise Espinal

Spirit Week this spring was another opportunity for Queens Voc students to show their school spirit, but not many students took advantage of the chance.

Spirit Week took place from Monday April 23, to Friday April 27. The week started off with students wearing I love NY t-shirts of all different colors and styles for I Love NY Day. On Tuesday, students had a



Mikey and Oscar

wackier style for Inside/Out Day. On Wednesday, students dressed up as nerds wearing suspenders, bifocals, and high water pants for Steve Urkel Day. Thursday was Twin/Triplet Day, students who took part wore the same clothes. Friday was Hat

Day and the last day for Spirit Week. Students who participated wore wacky clown hats or regular hats. The categories were selected by Mr. Vega’s leadership team.

“I had more fun in the last Spirit Week because more students participated,” said Shanessy Morales, adding, “Although there were few twins this time, I still really enjoyed myself.” Sophomore Laura Gonzalez said, “I Love NY Day was hot because everyone brought their own unique style and wore different color shirts. There were yellow, black, and red shirts not only plain white shirts.”

“Spirit Week was not as successful as in the past,” said Volodymyr Sulyk, “because flyers had been torn down and there were few announcements to encourage students to participate.”

Queens Voc’s Superstar Student



Exceptional Student

by Daniel Medina

Senior Kelvin Smartt has been a Presidential Honor Society member for his entire high school career.

Kelvin was highlighted in the Queens Courier for Black History Month as an out-standing student at Queens Voc.

He has maintained above an 85 average his four years in high school. He has taken Honors English, Honors History, AP Statistics and Honors Living Environment throughout his high school years. He has received an Honors Certification from the New York State Bar Association for his participation in Mock Trial programs, and certifications for the completion of the Peter Jay Sharp program.

Kelvin is very involved in extracurricular activities in school and numerous activities outside of school. He is one of the representatives for the Smaller Learning Communities in his High School and has volunteered with his church in their after-school program and with their summer camp program. He has also interned at Golenbock Eiseman Assor Bell & Peskoe law firm. His greatest academic achievement is remaining on the Presidents Honor Roll.



Robot designers after a hard day at work.

Robotics Club in FIRST Regional Competition

by Arjenis Abreu

Queens Voc’s robotics club participated in the New York City Regional Robotics FIRST competition held at the Jacob Javits Center, located at 655 West 34 Street in Manhattan, from Friday, March 16 to Sunday, March 18. This is the second year that Queens Voc has participated in this competition.

“The FIRST competition is an international competition which involves 136 countries participating at a high school level, where students design, build, and compete with and against one another,” said Mr. Ali, the coordinator of the club.

The competing schools are sent requirements that they have to follow in order to compete. Thirteen students in Mr. Ali’s club helped design and build the robot used in the competition.

“We had to build a robot that uses a pneumatic system that extends a large arm 8 to 9 feet long and lifts inflatable

tubes onto racks,” said Terel Watson, one of the club members. The pneumatic system that the robot uses is made up of motors and gears for movement, and compressed air to operate the arm. “We had 6 weeks to design, build, and then to ship out a robot for the competition,” said Jordan Isaza, another club member in the competition.

Queens Voc came in 40th place out of 53 schools that competed. “We came in 40th place this year because our robot didn’t work the first three rounds,” said Terel Watson. “The controller we first had didn’t function properly to operate the robot’s arm the way we had to. But then we were given a new one later on in the competition,” said Mr. Ali.

The students who helped design and build this year’s robot for the FIRST Competition are: Joseph Colon, Jordan Isaza, Christian Jadan, Daniel Medina, Joel Moreaux, Kearon Muzamali, Iris Rivera, David Simms, Mitra Sukhai, Alexander Tenf, Preet Verma, Terel Watson, and Jung Wooyung.

Seniors Make the Best of Their Last Moments in HS

by Jelissa Peña

The Senior Prom was held on Friday, June 1, at Terrace on the Park, from 8pm until 1am. Senior Lizbeth Colon attended the prom. She said that she really enjoyed the prom and it meant a lot to her. Enjoying that special event with her friends made it an occasion she will never forget.

For the first time in Queens Voc history, Grupo QV played at the prom. The group began at 9pm and played for an hour. Jesse Collado, Ariel Cruz, Rene Cruz, Kevin Muñoz, Julio Olivo, Junior Perez, Leonel Torres, and Mr. Rodriguez, make up the band. “The band thought it would be nice to do something new and playing at the prom seemed to be a great idea,” said Junior. Senior Raiza Izquierdo said that the prom “was a very memorable event, and it was a

great opportunity to spend it with loved ones and friends.”

Senior yearbooks were handed out on June 11, in the auditorium, periods 4-7. The theme this year was “Life, Camera, Action.” Mr. Stefanidis was the advisor to the yearbook staff.

The senior barbecue was held on June 22, in the back of the school by the handball court. Seniors were able to watch the prom and luncheon videos during the BBQ.

Graduation rehearsals were held in at 9am in the auditorium on Monday, June 18, Friday, June 22, before the BBQ, and Monday, June 25. Caps and gowns and tickets to graduation were distributed on Monday, June 25, after graduation rehearsals. And the day the seniors have waited for, graduation, was held on Tuesday, June 26, at 7:30pm, at La Guardia Community College.

Places to Visit

by Jacqueline Concepcion

There are many spectacular places to see in New York City and so choosing what sites to see can be overwhelming for tourists as well as native New Yorkers. Here are a couple of places visitors might be interested in:

The Brooklyn Botanical Garden (BBG)

If you are a nature lover or just want to experience nature first hand with family, friends, or by yourself, then the Brooklyn Botanical Garden is a great place to visit. Something is always in bloom! The ponds are full of fish and turtles and vegetation and plants are always lush. Admire the variety of flowers such as roses, tulips, and gardenias, ranging in color, size, and scent. The BBG offers a variety of exhibits which display numerous plant species from all over the world. There are themed exhibits such as the Japanese garden, rock garden, and rose garden. There are also lots of exciting paths to choose from and relaxing rest spots such as the cherry tree-lined lawn that visitors are allowed to sit on. Visitors can spend as much time as they want in the park, from a few hours to a whole day. By visiting BBG, one will leave with admiration for the beauty of nature.

Admission Information: Mid-March to October: Open Tuesday-Friday 8am to 6pm. Weekends and holidays: 10am to 6pm. Rates: Adults \$8, Students 12+ with IDs \$4 BBG is located on 1000 Washington Ave., Brooklyn (take No. 2 or 3 train to Eastern Parkway). For more information visit <http://www.bbg.org>

Circle Line Tours

Circle Line Tours is a great way to relax and enjoy the city skyline with family and friends. Circle Line offers narrated cruises around Manhattan with sightings of the Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island, and the United Nations. There are a variety of cruises to choose from such as the three hour tour which is a complete tour of the city and historical sites, a two hour tour, and a 75 minute tour, both lets one see some of the most important sites of New York City. No reservations are necessary. Going on a Circle Line tour is a great way to get acquainted with the city!

Admission Information: Rates: Adults \$29, Children \$16 (three

hour tour), Adults \$24, Children \$13 (two hour tour), Adults \$19, Children \$11 (75 min tour) Tour Schedule: April 21 to September 3: The three hour tour departs every hour starting at 9:30am to 4:30pm. The two hour tour departs at 11:30am and 3:30pm. The 75 min tour departs at 11:30am, 1pm, and 3pm. Arrive 30 minutes before departure. Circle Line Tours is located on Pier 83, West 42nd Street, NYC. (Take the 1, 2, 3, 7, 9, A, C, E, N, Q or R train to Times Square 42nd Street; train B, D, F to 5th Avenue and 42nd Street, or 4, 5, 6 train to 42nd Street Grand Central Station.) For more information visit <http://circleline42.com>

Bear Mountain State Park

If you're looking for fun and adventure, then Bear Mountain is the place for you. Bear Mountain State Park features a large field as well as shaded picnic groves for families to enjoy lunch. The state park also features a lake in which people are able to fish, swim, and rent boats. Bear Mountain also offers river fishing, a swimming pool, a zoo, hiking, biking, and ski trails and ski-jumps. There is also a merry-go-round for the kids. Bear Mountain State Park is a great way to explore New York's natural resources.

Admission Information: Parking is \$6. Pool rate is \$2 for adults, \$1 for children 6-12. Admission for the zoo and trailside museum is \$1 for ages 13 and over, while children 6-12 are 50 cents. Merry-go-round rate is \$1 per person. Renting a boat costs \$3.50 per person, per hour, and a \$20 refundable deposit is required.

Take Metro-North to the Peekskill or Garrison stations and take a taxi to the park. A taxi runs up to \$25 one way. If you drive, take the upper level of the George Washington Bridge and make the first right onto the Palisades Interstate Parkway heading north. Go about 42 miles to exit 19, Bear Mtn. Park. Get off at exit 9 and take Seven Lakes Drive for 3 ½ miles to the Bear Mountain Circle. At the circle, take the second right. Follow the signs to parking lots.

The Cloisters

Travel back in time to medieval times and visit the Cloisters, a branch of the Metropolitan Museum devoted to the art and architecture of medieval Europe. The Cloisters is a replica of a medieval French gothic monastery that incorporates architectural

features such as quadrangles enclosed by a roofed or vaulted passageway. Tapestries, stained glass, illuminated manuscripts, and gardens adorn the cloisters. The cloisters offer a variety of exhibits displaying rich artifacts of past civilizations. These exhibits include Barcelona and Modernity, New Greek and Roman Galleries, Early Gothic Hall, Painting into Architecture, and so much more.

Admission Information: March to October: open Tuesday-Sunday 9:30am to 5:15 pm. Rates: Adults \$20, Students with IDs \$10 The Cloisters is located on Fort Tryon Park New York, New York (take A train to 190th Street). For more information visit <http://www.metmuseum.org>

Who's the Teacher

by Jelissa Peña

She went to the University of Philadelphia, and currently lives in Queens Village. She likes to shop often and loves to wear summer shoes in the winter. She is married to a music teacher, and goes to the beach almost every day during the summer. One of her favorite hobbies is reading books.

He is a social studies teacher, who has been teaching at Queens Voc for 10 and a half years. He owns 15 Queens Voc baseball shirts that the varsity team sold during the year. He likes to play soccer and tennis. He attended the University of Massachusetts, where he studied government. He is known as an autograph collector.

He lived in Boston for four years and attended Boston University. He produced an opera in 2002 and designed the logo for Career Day. He has been teaching since he was 16-years old and has been teaching at Queens Voc for 2 years. He managed a gallery on Martha's Vineyard, and studied history in Florence, Italy, and Baroque art in France.

He was born in a South American country but only speaks English. He attended Fordham University, where he studied Economics and Finance. He has been teaching at Queens Voc for 3 years and had a passion for history. He recently visited Jamestown, Virginia, for its 400th anniversary celebrations.

Mr. Persaud
Mr. Garcia
Mr. Price
Mrs. Lewis
Answers:

Mad Poppin' Poetry



Smiles show slam's success.

by Daniel Medina

Ms. Himmel hosted the schools' third ever poetry slam in the school library on Monday, April 30. Ten students participated in the poetry slam, and at the end the competition, Ms. Himmel told the contestants they were all winners.

Ms. Himmel said she was astounded with turnout. "I think this third poetry slam was the best one yet," she said. She thanked students, staff, and Ms. Vittor. "I was pleased with everyone's enthusiasm and support. Behind this event everyone involved became one big family," she said

Jessica Jaron, this year's poetry slam winner thought last year's winner Jonathan Maldonado was going to win. "I guess the last thing in my mind was winning, I just went out to do what I do best and that's spit [rhyme]," said Jessica. Jessica admits she was a bit anxious in the beginning because, she said, there a lot of "haters" in the school and those "haters" try and put people down.

Jonathan Maldonado came in strong in the first round with the highest score among the contestants, a perfect 30. "I felt that my performance outshined everyone else's." Though he didn't win and is upset with how the poetry slam was handled, he is glad that he contested. "I think last years poetry slam was better, it was more original," he said.

There were two rounds in the competition. In the first round students read their original poems, and in the second round they read a non-original poem. The students' overall score were tallied by the judges, Ms. Lewis, Mr. Samuelson, and student Brandon Carcamo. The students with the overall highest score in both rounds would win the competition.

According to Ms. Lewis, the contestants were rated on delivery, the poems they selected, and the emotions they expressed during the presentation.

The students who participated in the poetry slam were: Joshua Bland, Lizbeth Colon, Jade Duncan, Mahendra Jagdharry, Jessica Jaron, Geraldine Leibot, Jonathan Maldonado, Stephanie Mena, Crystal Muniz, and Everett Williams.

Ms. Himmel believes that the poetry slam will become an important legacy in Queens Voc. "Poetry comes from the heart, and it's not easy to reveal your heart and soul in front of strangers," said Ms Himmel about students who are tense about reading their poems. Ms. Lewis adds that students have to find the courage within them to recite a poem in front of classmates and friends.

"The poetry slam was a beautiful event for the school, it supported kids' creativity, and allowed students to hear what their peers have to say through an art form," said Ms. Lewis.

Did You Know?

by Kelvin Smartt

These facts were found on the funnyfact.com website, which represents these as "facts." *Vocational Voice* makes no claim that these are indeed facts.

- Dolphins sleep with one eye open.
- You burn more calories sleeping than you do watching TV.
- Every time you lick a stamp, you're consuming 1/10 of a calorie.
- You share your birthday with at least 9 million other people.
- The longest recorded flight of a chicken is 13 seconds.
- Every day more money is printed for Monopoly than for the US Treasury.
- A snail can sleep for 3 years.
- 3 people die each year testing if a 9-v battery works on their tongue.
- It is estimated that at any one time, 0.7% of the world's population is drunk.

The “N” Word

by Stephanie Baique

What’s with all the fuss about the “N” word? It’s hurtful, offensive, and inappropriate. But in the United States, people are allowed to say pretty much whatever they want, according to the First Amendment to the United States Constitution. At least, they used to be.

The First Amendment states, “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.” However, during Black History Month in February, New York City Councilman Leroy G. Comrie, Jr. came up with a proposal to ban the “N” word.

Councilman Comrie rightly points out that the use of the word causes a lot of people emotional pain. He believes the use of the “N” word, no matter who uses it, should come to a stop. On February 28, the City Council approved Councilman Comrie’s proposal by a vote of 49-0.

The City Council, however, is contradicting what the First Amendment states. The government is supposed to protect people’s rights, not take them away. The First Amendment does not state, “Congress shall make no law...abridging the freedom of speech, unless someone is offended...” If they are insisting that the “N” word be banned, they might as well insist on banning all the other abusive words that are used. Doing this may only give people a reason to use them more often, especially those who think that such a proposal is absurd.

In reality, banning the “N” word won’t do much to stop people from saying it, even though it means breaking the law. Clearly, people shouldn’t use the word. Maybe people will realize the pain that they cause and how disrespectful the word is. But the government needs to stop babysitting people’s language. Let them realize on their own what’s right and wrong to say.

Offensive language has always been around, and always will. Government attempts to regulate speech will result in reduced freedom and increased regulations over our lives. Where will these laws stop? What about words that offend some people and not others? What about criticism? Sometimes that can be offensive. Should we ban that?

People who use the “N” word shouldn’t. Their parents should have taught them that that word has no place in society. It is the responsibility of parents to teach their children about manners and respect. Teachers are another part of a child’s life. Teachers should explain the history of the word and why it is offensive and why it should not be used. If teachers and parents don’t do this, how can they expect children to learn about respect?

The idea is to first allow children to learn about the way to go in life and then let them experience it in life. Let them practice what they have been taught at home and at school so that they can manage life on their own. In this way, they turn out to be the well educated American citizens with the rights spelled out so clearly in the Constitution and with the maturity to speak and act appropriately.

Students in the Hallways

by Diomedes Gonzalez

Throughout the year there has been an ongoing problem with students roaming the hallways. Now at the end of the year, the problem has gotten even worse.

Throughout the building, students wander the halls. Students hanging out with their friends create traffic jams in the halls, distract classes that are in session, and disrespect the teachers who leave their classroom to clear up the mass of kids.

Safety agents, deans, and even administrators often disband the army of kids loitering in the halls. It may seem like a hard task but it really isn’t. Once kids see an administrator or a dean, they start to run for the staircases.

Why run? Why not stay there and do what they were doing? They run because they think they won’t be caught. And this part is true. The students know they won’t get chased down the hallway or staircase so they simply move to another location.

Kids are kids. They’ll take advantage of situations that allow them to. Maybe they should be. Maybe they know there is little consequence for being late to class. Maybe it’s that the students don’t care about their education. Maybe they should.

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

The 2006-07 school year has been a memorable one. The year’s events and statistics have made “Queens Vocational & Technical High School history.” We had the highest percentages of students pass the A+ Computer Repair Exam in the city (90%) and the most females of any school in New York City. Our Vex Robotics team won 1st place at the competition a few weeks ago. Our business accounting students achieved 100% passing on the NOCTI accounting exam and 90% of the students passed the NOCTI- Business Information Processing Exam. These achievements are very impressive and make us proud, just as the Varsity Baseball Team did when they won the PSAL Division B Championship.

People come to know about Queens Vocational & Technical High School through what is written about us in the newspaper, various websites, and by word of mouth. This year our achievements speak for themselves. Which is true for everyone here students, teachers, guidance counselors, staff and administrators – achievement needs no introduction. We all want it, we all strive for it, we all know it when we see it, and we all hope others recognize it.

Here’s to our 2006-07 Academic, CTE, and Athletic achievements and all who worked hard to make them happen. May this be the beginning of a long record of achievement at Queens Vocational & Technical High School! Graduates may your diploma be the first of many successes in your life. Congratulations to all! Have a wonderful summer.

Sincerely,
Denise Vittor

Readers Feedback

by Yolanis Barros

The Vocational Voice welcomes comments from readers about articles and the newspaper as a whole. Often, we receive letters from students who, either on their own or in their English or Advisory classes, comment on, praise, criticize, point out errors in the paper, or make suggestions for future editions.

Students in Ms. Dell’Omo’s freshman class wrote about the spring edition of the newspaper. “New Tech” by Volodymyr Sulyk caught the attention of many readers. “I liked how they know what the kids are really into like, I-Pods, Sidekicks, and PSPs,” wrote Taylor Modak.

Readers were also very interested in the sports articles. “I liked the sports section in the back about the softball and baseball teams, it was very interesting,” Joey Reyes wrote. Jose Palomeque agreed. “I like that you guys keep full contact with the games of the Lady Tigers and the varsity baseball team,” he wrote.

Nicholas Cabrera opined that there should be more freshman news featured in the newspaper “and more sports pictures,” he wrote. Ariela Rodriguez wrote that there should be more news on all grades in the school and more pictures added. Most of the class commented on how well the paper is organized, but would like to see clearer, or colored pictures. As Emilio Diaz wrote, “the way you could improve the paper is by putting color in.” Marissa Mendez agreed. “My only suggestion is to make the paper in color, I believe it will make kids more interested.”

Thanks to all those who wrote. Please feel free to contact us at VocVoice@aol.com if you have any comments about this edition or suggestions for next year.

VOICE GRAMS College Acceptances

by Anadia Diaz

compiled by Jacqueline Concepcion		Good luck to the senior classof 07' Senior Class President Estefania Garcia	
TO THE CLASS of 2007: May life be a succession of successive successes! Love and Best Wishes Always. Cheree Himmel	Hey seniors, good luck with everything and stay up! Jonathan Maldonado	To The City Champion Tigers	
To my wonderful, talented, senior cosmetology students, I wish you luck, happiness, and success. I will truly miss you. Mr. S. Grochala	Good Luck everybody. Cool Katz for life, love ya, 1. Mink Carillo	Guys it has been such a great year. We had so much fun with all of you guys whether it was in school, on our way to the field, and/or on the field. Make sure ya keep the teams name on top. Thanks to all of you for being there for us and for the unforgettable momemts we spent together. We hope we've had as much a impact on you guys as anyone could in the amount of time we spent together. Love you guys, and remember that we will always be here for you. Your Captains Elbel, Dio, Medina	
Have a nice summer, read, and get your minds ready for next year! Ms. Lewis	To all my senior buddies: I love you guys! Yay! Jonathan Carsten		
To all my pplz, good luck after high school. We've had some crazy days that I won't forget. Kelvin Smartt	To my captains: you have worked hard. You have played hard. You have led your team to a division championship and a city championship. And you have made your coach so very proud of you! Coach Rob Schimenz		
Stephanie, I hope you have a great life. Good luck. Jason DeMilt	Seniors: Have a great summer. You have earned it! Congratulations. God Bless. Mr. Lerro	To My Coach: These 3 years at Queens Voc have been my best. I never believed in miracles but the way you and the team changed me into a better person I will never forget. You without a doubt have been the greatest and most positive influence in my life. To me you were my coach, my best friend, and the person I always looked up to and now try to model. You made my 3 years fun, and I don't think I can ever repay you for that, but what I can promise is that you can always count on me as a friend, and former player, and captain. You are my hero and that I will be telling to the next decade of TIGERS! Medina	
Jacqueline Concepcion, Have a great summer. Good luck in college. Tulio Mesa	Coaches: Mr. Ali, Mr. Boyle, Mr. Devaux, Mr. Garofano, Mr. Maloney, Mr. Schimenz. Thanks for another year of service to our student athletes. Have a great summer vacation. God Bless. Mr. Lerro	To my coach: Thanks for being there for me. Through think and thin we managed to achieve our goal which wasn't to win the division or to be city champs but to build a family. Once again you did it. Thanks for all the dedication and "Inspiration" (I am a problem). Thanks for sticking with me and believing in me when i didnt even believe in my self. Thanks for bringing out the best of me. Elbel	
To OUR Baseball Team: Congratulations ON YOUR HISTORIC WIN! Always knew you had it in You! Mad Points! Ms. Cheree Himmel	Ninth graders: congrats and I look forward to meeting you next year! Ms. Schleich	To my Coach: 4 years of unforgettable moments. What a better way to go out. I'll always remember you for all that you have taught me. Im proud to be called the captain of your team for the last 3 years. You became a mentor to me throughout h.s. Even tho we dont agree sometimes we still manage to get things done. I have a tremendous amount of love and respect for you and it would be hard to take that away from me. Thanks for being there for me. You deserve everything we have achieved as team and as individuals. Your Boy Dio	
Class of 2007, thank you for making me feel welcome. Baseball team, thanks for letting me lead your bandwagon. Yearbook staff, thanks for coming through. Ms. Stefanidis	Mr. Schimenz and Boys Varsity Baseball- Congratulations for winning the 2007 City Championship and making school history! Enjoy time off. God Bless. Mr. Lerro		
It's been a crazy year but I've made it!! Jackie, you've been a good friend. Freddie Cardona	To the Voc Voice editors: you did it. Four editions! Conducting workshops for future editors city-wide! Your countless hours of work have paid off. You have produced newspapers that informed and enlightened. Thank you for showing that Queens Voc is a well-rounded school and that it's hard work that makes it so! Thank you for being there for me. R. Schimenz		
Dio, Elbel, Medina, the whole team will miss you. Good luck in college. Preppy	Mr. Pullano- Good luck in your teaching career. Enjoy summer. God Bless. Mr. Lerro.		
I'm gonna miss you guys and I love you Estefania. Joel and Yesenia	To my senior class 2007: like Walt Disney said 'All our dreams can come true...if we have the courage to pursue them.' Never forget that you have the power to write and fulfill your destiny! Love, Jackie Concepcion		
Good enough is the enemy of it can be better! R. Schimenz	I will miss all of you! Good Luck obtaining all of your dreams. Ms. Cynthia Dellomo		
I'm gonna miss you Dairis. I love you, have fun. Estephany Jimenez			
Baby, I love you, besos! Brandon Drakeford			
To the Lady Tigers: I'll miss you all, especially D.E.Y. Dairis Jimenez			
Congrats to our baseball team! Ms. Schleich			
Ms. Schleich's students: Thanks for a great year! Enjoy your summer. Ms. Schleich			
QVTHS Staff: I am proud to be your colleague. Enjoy your summer! Ms. Schleich			

College Acceptances

Many students plan to go on to college after they graduation. The students listed below have applied to and have been accepted to the listed colleges. The schools in bold lettering represent the schools the students have chosen to attend. Not all students have already made their choice.

Arjenis Abreu- **New York City College of Technology**
Ruth Arteaga- **College of Staten Island**
Stephanie Baique- **Queens College**
Yolanis Barros- **Baruch College**, Queens College
Kimberley Bennett- **Borough of Manhattan Community College**
Jack Cappello- **Devry**
Chia Hsien Chang- **Queens College**, NYC College of Technology
Lizbeth Colon- **Briarcliffe College**
Jacqueline Concepcion- St. John's University, St Joseph's College, Nyack College, **Pace University**
Anadia Diaz- **Borough of Manhattan Community College**
Nancy Diaz- **Queensborough Community College**
Linda Dutan- Medgars Evers College, Briarcliff College, John Jay College, Saint John's University
Denise Espinal- **New York City College of Technology**, Hostos Community College, Bronx Community College, Saint John's University
Diana Espinal- Johnson and Wales University, Franklin Pierce College, **University of Hartford**, Long Island University – C.W. Post Campus
Estefania Garcia- SUNY: Stony Brook, **Pace University**, St. Joseph's College, Lehman College, John Jay College
Leonel Garcia- **Lincoln Technical Institute**
Ana Gomez- **LaGuardia Community College**
Carlos Guerra- New York Institute of Technology, **Polytechnic University**
Romeo Harrinanidan- **New York City College of Technology**, City College, Queensborough Community College
Waqas Hussain- **York College**
Raiza Izquierdo- **City College**, Brooklyn College, Queens College, Lehman College, Medgar Evers College
Christian Jadan- **Hudson Valley Community College**
Alejandra Lopez- **LaGuardia Community College**
Renato Lulaj- **Saint John's University**, City College, Hunter College, John Jay College
Sandy Manjarrez- Queens College, **York College**, John Jay College, Medgar Evers College
Shacha Medal- **LaGuardia Community College**
Daniel Medina- Queens College, **LaGuardia Community College**
Fernando Mendez- **New York City College of Technology**, Queensborough, Hunter College
Joel Moreaux- Technical Careers Institute
Kevin Munoz- New York City of Technology, Lehman College, **Brooklyn College**
Junior Perez- Baruch College
Yessenia Perez- Queens College, **York College**
Asisat Raji- **Borough of Manhattan Community College**, Medgar Evers College
Sandra Remache- Borough of Manhattan Community College, Long Island University, Brooklyn Campus
Raydilkys Reyes- **Technical Career Institute**
Stephanie Robaline- **Chestnut Hill College**
Iris Rivera- Briarcliffe College, **Plymouth State University**
Jazmine Rodriguez- **Borough of Manhattan Community College**
Stephanie Rosario- John Jay College, Borough of Manhattan Community College, **Valencia Community College**
Jacqueline Sepulveda- **Borough of Manhattan Community College**
David Simms- NYC College of Technology, **Queensborough Community College**, The College of Staten Island
Kelvin Smartt- **Saint John's University**, York College
Volodymyr Sulyk- **New York City College of Technology**
Joel Tabares- **Saint John's University**
Jeffrey Truong- **New York City College of Technology**
Madeline Urena- **Borough of Manhattan Community College**
Stephanie Valerio- Lehman College, Queens College, **Baruch College**, Queensborough Community College, John Jay College
Cassie Vasquez- **LaGuardia Community College**
Anna-Kay Vaz- York College, Queensborough Community College, The College of Staten Island, **Queens College**
Terel Watson- **New York City College of Technology**, LaGuardia Community College
Kayla White- **Borough of Manhattan Community College**, Berkeley College, Queensborough Community College, **Queens College**
Elizabeth Zambrano – **Medgar Evers College**

Sudoku Puzzle

by Gaochao Huang

The objective of the game is to fill all the blank squares with the correct numbers. There are three very simple rules to follow. In a 9 by 9 Sudoku game:

- Every row of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order
- Every column of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order
- Every 3 by 3 subsection of the 9 by 9 square must include all digits 1 through 9

Easy

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

Hard

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

Word Puzzle

by Stephanie Baique

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

Orlando
Sea World
Six Flags
Dorney Park
Hawaii
Splish Splash
Walt Disney
Coney Island
Jones Beach
Bermuda

Central Park
Bronx Zoo
Chelsea Piers
Las Vegas
Flushing Meadows
Bahamas
Niagara Falls
Hollywood
Bear Mt.
Miami

Got Talent?

by Yolanis Barros

There are many talented students in the classrooms of Queens Voc, whether it's talented cosmetologists, electricians, talented singers, writers, or poets. Gabriel Acuna, Rene Cruz, Alejandra Lopez, and Jason Naranjo are four such talented students.

Gabriel Acuna, a freshman, and Jason Naranjo, a junior majoring in business, both practice Tae Kwon Do. Tae Kwon Do is a form of martial arts that teaches discipline and self-defense. Gabriel is a black belt, and Jason expects to get his black belt in about six months. Gabriel has been practicing for three years, since his mother saw and ad for S.Y. Kim's Tae Kwon Do and enrolled him in it. "I practice everyday for about two hours," said Gabriel. Jason started Tae Kwon Do two years ago, after he got in a fight at school and his mom begged him to enroll for self-defense. Now they are also both instructors at the school. "We teach lower-ranked kids and participate in tournaments twice every year," said Jason. "We also practice together sometimes after school and we take promotion tests every two months and black belt tests two times a year to advance in ranking," Gabriel, who just became a black belt a month ago, pointed out that "obtaining the black belt marks the beginning of the Tae Kwon Do career. Everything before

that is in preparation for Tae Kwon Do." In tournaments and competitions, Gabriel has won one gold medal, two silver medals, and two bronze medals; Jason has won three gold medals, two silver medals, and one bronze medal. They are both passionate about Tae Kwon Do and to them it's more than a hobby it's something they would like to do as a career.

Rene Cruz, a senior majoring in electrical installation, is a star on the varsity baseball team says his coach. He is also a bass player. Rene has been playing the bass for three years, and even though it was not his choice to start playing, it is now his goal



to become a recognized player in the future. "In the beginning, my brother forced me to learn because he wanted me to play for his group," he said, "but I started enjoying it, and now I practice everyday for two hours, except on Sundays." Rene plays jazz, contemporary music, and Spanish music. He plays for a band at his father's church, and for the school group, Grupo QV. His role model is Victor Wooten, a famous bass player who plays jazz and funk. Rene wants to be famous like him. "I don't like moving from band to band, but I'll do what I need to get publicity and be famous.

Alejandra Lopez, a senior majoring in cosmetology, has a talent for drawing. She started to draw last year, when she started to take a college class in design. Now it's her favorite hobby. "I draw when I'm on the train and on the bus," she said. "I draw to let my emotions out, I like my drawings to reflect how I feel." Most of her drawings are abstract art, drawings of figures, put together in black and



white. "I draw things that I see, and sceneries, but I most like to draw figures and shapes that reflect my feelings in a more abstract form," said Alejandra. "It's a hobby now but I would like to make a living out of it."

Book Review

by Jerry Chang

Anthem- by Ayn Rand

The society in this book, written in 1937, is similar to a communist society, where every part of every person's life is controlled. This society abandons "individuality" and introduces a motto stating, "We are one in all and all in one. There are no men but only WE, One, indivisible and forever." Everyone in this society refers to himself as "We" because the word "I" is forbidden. This is the word that the character, Equality 7-2521, is left to discover.

Equality 7-2521 is different from the other men within the society and his teacher tells him that is bad. It is bad to be different because in this society, no one is allowed to surpass anyone because they are all "equal."

Anthem is a refreshing book in which the author, Ayn Rand, presents a story based on a communist lifestyle. When I was asked to read this book, I thought it wouldn't capture my interest. But as I read the introduction, I was hooked. Not only does this book have a great story line, but it gives its readers insight about communism and how a communist society is.

Video Game Review

by Arjenis Abreu

Metal Slug Anthology

Metal Slug Anthology for the Playstation Portable (PSP) includes all 7 classic arcade games in one. Metal Slug is a shooting game. While playing, you only move to the right, shooting and tossing grenades on enemies while dodging their bullets. Picking up weapons and upgrades, and rescuing POWs, allow you to advance in each game to fight the different bosses. You also face big armored tanks, jets, helicopters, submarines, and more along the way.

The games in this collection are excellent. You can save your progress at any time. The only feature that might irritate you would be the extra loading screens during game play, but other than that, this is a fun game. I rate Metal Slug Anthology an 8 out of 10.

by Carlos Guerra

As we say goodbye to this school year, we can look back at many events and accomplishments. We asked some students, “What was your favorite moment this school year?”

Ana Gomez
Senior
Cosmetology



“My favorite moment is at the food festival. There were different varieties of food and it was delicious.”

Luisa Irala
Senior
Cosmetology



“My favorite moment is at Career Day because I met different people outside QV and I gave facials to the guest.”

Ruthie Vegas
Junior
Computer Technology



“My favorite time is being on the softball team. It was my first year and I had my first triple play.”

Lillian Garcia
Sophomore
Business



“My favorite moment was Spirit Week. Megan and I participated in Twin Day. It was funny.”

Inquiring Photographer

Franchesca Beltrane
Sophomore
Cosmetology



“My favorite moment this year is at gym. I played soccer with the seniors. I was awesome and I learned a lot of new tricks and I was able to apply them with my friends.”

Jason Castillo
Sophomore
Shop: Business



My favorite moment is winning the PSAL Baseball Varsity Division B Championship. It was a great experience and fun all year. I will never forget this moment for the rest of my life.”

Brian Duque
Junior
Electronics



“One of my favorite moments is being part of the handball team. I spent my afternoons playing handball with my friends after school.”

Catherine Gomez
Junior
Computer Technology



“My favorite moment is when I was on the QV girls’ basketball team. I had fun practicing with my friends and playing manhunt afterschool.”

David Bermudez
Junior
Electrical Installation



“My favorite moments this year were the great times at the Honor Roll Trip and helping out at the food festival.”

Steve Pinell
Junior
Computer Technology



“One of my favorite moments is watching the rookies on the baseball team. They mold into superior athletes and teammates. As a veteran, I saw myself in some of the rookies in helping the team win.

Terel Watson
Senior
Electronics



“The greatest moment is when I won second place in the statewide SkillsUSA competition. I was proud to represent Queens Vocational.”

Byron Pineda
Senior
Electronics



“My favorite moment is when I played in the indoor soccer tournament. Even though I won second place, I still had a lot of fun.”

Geraldine Leibot
Freshmen
Exploratory



“The most memorable time I had was when I went to my first Tigers baseball game. I was excited to go. I cheered them on and was proud that they won that day.”

Chrisneber Soriano
Freshman
Cosmotology



“My favorite memory in school was being able to go to the Cosmetology program. Going to cosmo is fun because you get to do hair and make up. I was also able to make a lot of new friends.”

David Maysonet
Freshman
Computer Technology



“My favorite moment is the first day of school at Queens Vocational. I was nervous and I didn’t know what to expect. I met a lot of people and having a good time with them.”

Freddy Gomez
Freshman
Computer Technology



“One of my best moments was playing in the gym. I was playing baseball and I got a triple play. I was happy because people were depending on me to win and I am proud.”

Adrian Jarez
Freshman
Exploratory



“My favorite moment is when I was playing in the indoor soccer tournament and I scored four goals. I knew everybody and I had a great time.”

Andy Vasquez
Sophomore
Plumbing



“My favorite moment this year is starting plumbing this year. I had a fun time and I was able to solder pipes”

Marilyn Reyes
Freshman
Exploratory



“One of my favorite moments is when I was at the St. Valentine’s Day Dance. I was with my best friends, I danced a lot, and I met new people.”

Raydalkys Reyes
Senior
Cosmetology



“The best time I had was the senior trip. The pillow fight, paintball, and the club was the best. Everyone who went had a good time and we were together like family.”



Inside Tigers Sports



Young Team Shows Promise

by David Stanojev

The Lady Tigers softball team had a rough season. They finished this season in last place with a 2-13 record, including a 16-8 win against Frank Sinatra School of Arts and a forfeit against August Martin. Despite the record, said Mr. Boyle, the team showed effort in their games. "The team is young and inexperienced," said the coach.

Their season started off rough as the team lost its first 4 games. "Our team witnessed the worst beating ever," said Mr. Boyle, referring to the 25-1 loss against LIC. Dairis Jimenez, captain of the Lady Tigers learned, she said that "When you're playing, you're in it together, for the best or for the worst."

It's hard enough that the girls' softball team has to practice, play their games, and balance out school work with a

heavy season. According to Mr. Boyle, "They are always busy during the week."

"Because of the young team, we will benefit in the future," said Mr. Boyle. Next year's team will show new leaders such as Dayana Jaramillo. According to Dairis, "I believe Dayana will lead the team next year, she will be a great leader, and has experience from this year."

The Lady Tigers softball team includes seniors Nelissa Fernandez, Dairis Jimenez, Leidy Sierra; juniors Cindy Carrasco, Yara Diaz, Joana Garcia, Diana Giraldo, Dayana Jaramillo, Estephany Jimenez, Ruthie Vegas; sophomores Ashley Abreu, Tracy Ambrossi, Lorena Bonilla, Laura Gonzalez, Yvonne Johnson, Samantha Mendez, Shannessy Morales, Ivana Nunez, Magdaline Rodriguez, Jossie Vaca; and freshmen Ashley Addonisio, Karen Alvarez, Brigitte Diaz, and Samantha Lupo.



Indoor Soccer Tournament has its "Greatest Team"

by Fernando Mendez

The second annual indoor soccer tournament, organized and directed by Mr. Ali, was held in the gym during the last two weeks of April.

The "Greatest Team" won the indoor soccer tournament by beating the "Milhores do Mondo" in the final, on Thursday April 26.

Teachers and students, and most members of the varsity soccer team, participated in the tournament. "Many students looked forward this indoor tournament; by doing this they encouraged me to run it," said Mr. Ali, coach of the varsity soccer team.

"The tournament functioned as tryouts for varsity soccer and to have additional fun," said Mr. Ali.

"The indoor soccer tournament was a good way for players to develop their skills, and for the coach to see who understands the game," said Hector Roche, captain of the varsity soccer team. Christian Jadan, a member of the soccer team, said "the tournament was good, there was a lot of talent displayed, and hopefully players

will use their skills for tryouts for our soccer team." Humberto Batista agreed. "The tournament was great, our school has good players and our varsity soccer team will have a good future," he said.

Mr. Raushan, who played on the teachers' team, found the tournament enjoyable for another reason. "The tournament was very competitive, and this also was a good chance to interact with students on a different level," he said.

"Ten teams wanted to play but only the first eight teams that gave their lists were selected because there wasn't much time. The pm school students were using the gym so we couldn't use the gym excessively. Because of the insufficiency of time, the teams had to play knockout mode, each half was 15 minutes," Mr. Ali said, who said he was "impressed with quality of the plays and how many students improved their skills."

The teams and their players were:

The Greatest Team: David Lawrence, Renato Lulaj, Waleed Samar, Ozan Cetinkaya, George

Guevara, Darwin Gomez, and Kenneth Marin;

The Milhores do Mondo: Byron Pineda, David Bueno, Freddy Cardona, Gregory Paul, Humberto Batista, Milton Morocho, Beshion Bailey, and Pablo Ayora;

La Gran Colombia: Diego Marin, Ahemed Gawashty, Diego Ramos, Fernando Mendez, Camilo Salazar, and Christian Jadan;

Pumas: Aaron, Autro Z, Artro Romero, Jose Palomeque, Luis Castillo, Luis Veras, and Robert Andrade;

The Kingz: Jay Ocampo, Milton Cardenas, Jonathan Miranda, Leo Nunez, Franklin Mejia, George De Los Rios, Steven Llorante, and Jose Flor;

Polska: Karol Gumieniak, Piotr Gumieniak, Michal Dziekonski, Jakub Piekarz, Mateusz Schiffer, and Lucas Zaczeniuk;

QV Warriors: Adrian Juarez, Adrian Ramirez, Edwin Hernandez, Jose Hernandez, Jesus Perez, and Luis Romero;

The Teachers' Soccer Team: Mr. Mc Donald, Mr. Raushan, Mr. Burke, Mr. Guerrero, Mr. Zambrotta, and Hector Roche, the captain of the varsity soccer team.



JV Providing Great Preparation

by Daniel Medina

The JV baseball team had a winning record for the second time in its three year existence, finishing its season with a 4-3 record, in fourth place in the Queens East standings.

Because of weather-related issues, the team had to postpone a handful of games, but that didn't seem to stop the team from drubbing Far Rockaway 14-5 its first game. "Winning that game was exciting," said second year player Luis Arias.

After that, the team forfeited to Newtown but the Tigers bounced back and defeated Francis Lewis 4-3. "They were a tough team that didn't give up, we just played better than them on that day, said Luis.

The Tigers then lost two straight games, to Cardozo and Bayside, before bouncing back and demoralizing Flushing HS 25-0, and defeating Queens HS of Teaching 10-4. "I believe the team has been playing so well because we have a fairly deep pitching staff as well as a good

defensive team," said Mr. Garofano, who has coached the team since it began.

The pitching staff was led by Marc Vecchio, who posted a 3-0 record, striking out 53 opponents in 25 innings. "I knew whenever they gave me the ball I was going to deliver," said Marc.

Luis believes that the season went well because everyone on the team was able to contribute in so many different ways. "Everyone on the team just got along and helped one another,"

said Luis, who finished his tenure on JV.

"Everybody on the team was helpful; they would help me with fundamentals like bunting. Those fundamentals eventually led to me getting my first hit of the season," said freshmen Francis Reyes.

"Coach G is a good coach who makes good decisions, and knows how to call a game," said Luis, "he has prepared me mentally and physically when it comes to baseball." But the coach credited his team. "I know

the team will give 100% and leave nothing on the field," Mr. Garofano said.

The JV baseball team members are sophomores Luis Arias, Nicholas Garratt, John Horton, Mingmar Lama, Santiago Orellana, Bryan Pena, Joel Pichardo, George Serna, and Marc Vecchio. The Freshman of the team are Azan Asmat, Ariel Avila, Huang Chen, James Clark, Jeffer Hernandez, Jasson Mateo, Connor McCarthy, Francis Reyes, and Sensual Scottborgh.

SENIOR SPORTS PROFILES

by Denise Espinal

Dairis Jimenez



Age: 18
Team: Girls’ Varsity Softball
Position: Catcher
Years on Team: 3

“She’s very supportive and competitive, we’re going to miss her a lot.”
- Yara Diaz

“As captain this year, she’s been the stabilizing factor as well as a contributor both on the field and off. She’s also a mentor for the younger girls.”
- Mr. Boyle

Leidy Sierra



Age: 17
Team: Girls’ Varsity Softball
Position: Shortstop
Years on Team: 1

“She’s made great progress and hopefully she’ll continue to do so.”
- Dayana Jaramillo

“She’s a senior supporter, first year player that improved steadily.”
- Mr. Boyle

Elbel Estrella

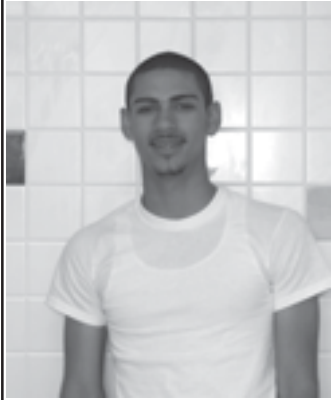


Age: 16
Team: Boys’ Varsity Baseball
Position: Second Base
Years on Team: 4

“He was a big surprise this year and he is one of the main reasons why we are where we are today.”
- Steven D’Elena

“Elbel has been a consistently solid player. He stepped up this year and helped lead us through a great season.”
- Mr. Schimenz

Rene Cruz



Age: 17
Team: Boys’ Varsity Baseball
Position: Pitcher/Centerfield
Years on Team: 2

“Rene was a great influence this season, and I’m glad he was on the team.”
- Carlin Vizcaino

“Rene was on the team as a sophomore and was developing well. His return in his senior year helped us win games and brought a level of maturity that set a fine example for the younger players.”
- Mr. Schimenz

Janio Fernandez



Age: 18
Team: Boys’ Varsity Baseball
Position: Outfield
Years on Team: 1

“The way he played made him stand out, he contributed to our success this year, and it was great having him on the team.”
- Angel Tejada

“Janio’s first and only year on the team was one of good skills and intense play.”
- Mr. Schimenz

Handball Season Strong: *Players Recieve Top Ranks in Queens*

by Iris Rivera

Queens Voc’s handball team finished with a record of 9-3 this season, in second place, and made it to the playoffs for a third year in a row.

The first round of the playoffs was held at Queens Voc on Thursday May 17, where they played Francis Lewis High School, losing 3-2 in a close competitive match. “We were very confident in going to the playoffs with a key victory versus Bryant, which was undefeated, 38-0, over the past four years,” said Coach Maloney. “Two of the losses were 21-20 and the team had many opportunities to win each game,” said Coach Maloney. David Stanojev, won the first singles game 21-18, and Darwin Gomez and Muhamed Paljevic won first doubles 21-10. “We had a lot of opportunities to win, but things didn’t fall our way. But overall, it was a great season,” said David Stanojev, the team captain.

Queens Voc’s handball team won their last match before the playoffs, beating Aviation 4-1 on Wednesday, May 9. The first game, second doubles, was won by Queens Voc, 21-7. The

second game, first singles, ended with David Stanojev winning 21-13. Queens Voc lost their third game to Aviation 16-21, but won their fourth game when Jonathan Dempsey stepped in for Leonel Garcia, who sustained an injury during a match, defeated his opponent in singles 21-19. The fifth game ended with Gabriel Ortiz winning 21-12. This win for Queens Voc’s handball team brought their overall record to 9 wins and 3 losses.

“This game was an important game to win. Having won 4-1 against our rivals was very thrilling. We gave it our all and it turned out well,” said senior Luis Menacho, a member of the team.

On Wednesday May 2, the team defeated Arts and Business 5-0. The first game, first doubles, was won by Darwin Gomez and Muhamed Palijevic, defeating Arts and Business 21-16. The second game, first singles, was won by David Stanojev, who defeated his opponents, 21- 11. The second singles game was won by Leonel Garcia, 21-9, and the third singles game was won by Jonathan Dempsey, 21-14. The second doubles match was won by Gabriel Ortiz and Waqqas Hussain, 21-16, bringing the Tigers record to 5-0.

Other victories include wins against Newcomers twice 4-1 and 3-2, Bryant 3-2, Long Island City twice 3-2 and 4-1, and two forfeits by Wagner.

Coach Maloney is proud of the team to have come this far. “Coming into this season we had only two returning starters, so it looked like it was going to be a rebuilding year,” explained Coach Maloney. “But the

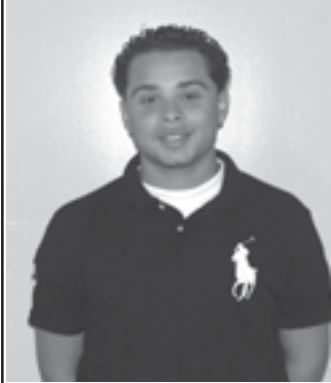


David serves up an ace.

players stepped up and performed well. I give them credit for practicing hard to improve their game. It is obvious the hard work paid off.”

After the playoffs, David Stanojev, Leo Garcia, Darwin Gomez, and Muhamed Paljevic

Daniel Medina



Age: 17
Team: Boys’ Varsity Baseball
Position: Catcher
Years on Team: 3

“Danny shows an extreme amount of class, respect, and heart, on and off the field, while being an amazing player.”
- Rafael DeOleo

“Danny, a great catcher and batter, kept the team’s heart in the game. He’s been a wonderful leader as well as a solid player.”
- Mr. Schimenz

Diomedes Gonzalez



Age: 17
Team: Boys’ Varsity Baseball
Position: Pitcher and Outfield
Years on Team: 4

“Dio is a great leader, he plays hard out there and I don’t think without him we’d be in the position we’re in today.”
- Jason Castillo

“Dio has been a guiding and motivating force for the team for years. He’s a tremendous player. He’s also been a strong leader, and the only 3-year captain in our team’s history.”
- Mr. Schimenz

participated in the Queens Borough Individuals Tournament at Newtown HS. David finished second place overall in Queens, and Leo lost the consolation game for third place in a close battle.

David Stanojev then competed in the City-wide Individuals Tournament at Grand Street Campus. According to Coach Maloney, David won his first two games decisively to reach the semi-finals, but then lost that game, 21-20, finishing fourth amongst the city’s best

handball players. “I was very proud of the way David handled himself during the tournament, said Coach Maloney. “His character, his demeanor, guided his play throughout the tournament.”

Members of the Queens Voc handball team are: David Bermudez, Jonathan Dempsey, Jose Diaz, Leonel Garcia, Darwin Gomez, Waqqas Hussain, Aaron Lorenzana, Luis Anthonio Menacho, Gabriel Ortiz, Muhamed Paljevic, and David Stanojev.

Varsity Baseball Team Wins City Championship



continued from front page

D'Elena, who hit a homerun over the leftfield fence. Riverdale came back but the Tigers eventually won that game 11-8. "I realized we had a stronger team than I thought," Elbel recalls thinking.

Gregorio Luperon, the number one seeded team in the B-division, was next up. The game was scheduled to be played in East New York. The Tigers arrived at the field late because of train delays and found Luperon on the field practicing. Their school had rented a van for the team. That didn't bother them, as the umpires gave the team time to warm up. Luperon took a 2-0 lead but the Tigers came back to tie the game. In the fifth inning, Dio hit an inside-



Captain Dio Gonzalez

the-park homerun to left center. Despite getting into trouble in the next two innings, no more runs scored and the Tigers, having knocked off the top team in their division, advanced to the fourth round.

On Tuesday, June 5, Queens Voc had its sports banquet. So did fourth-seeded Taft HS. But both teams had other plans. They played the semi-finals, the



Coach gets a gatorade shower.

fourth round of the playoffs, in East Flatbush. “Taft’s baseball team is our friend,” said Coach Schimenz, “we go there on Saturdays and play them in non-league games.” The teams played neck and neck, but the Tigers took the lead for good in the top of the sixth inning, winning the game 11-9. “We’re going to the ‘ship,” the captains said they thought as the game ended.

As the playoffs progressed, the celebrating lasted a little longer, but the coach reminded his players to be dignified. "Remember, he said, you wouldn't want another team rubbing our faces in it," he said. But he too thought, "Wow, we're going to the championship!"

The final game of the season was at the home of the Brooklyn Cyclones, Keyspan Park, on Friday, June 8. It was to be a memorable day. The PSAL sent a bus to pick up the team. Ms. Vittor, the principal, together with Mr. Lerro, the athletic director, scheduled a trip for interested students so that they could attend the game. Two hundred students and teachers, and dozens of former Tigers baseball players attended. "It was great to see the amount of support we had," said team captain Danny Medina. By all accounts, they enjoyed the game.

“Winning the citywide
championship game was way



more that I was hoping for and way more than what I was expecting us to do. If you would've seen the way we started at 2-3, you would have said there's no hope. But here we are, City Champs!" said senior Rene Cruz. Janio Fernandez also a senior said "I felt excited and shocked. I didn't think we were going to make it all the way."



Captain Elbel Estrella

The season started out shaky. “When our record was 2-3 it felt like it was 2-10,” said Mr. Schimenz. After having a meeting and watching a Japanese baseball documentary called Kokoyakyu, the Tigers won eleven in a row to clinch their division championship. They then won their next five playoff games. “The meeting brought us together even more than we had been,” said Emmanuel Portorreal, “and that motivated us on the field.”

As a team, the Tigers had many goals. But the bulk of those goals came from the coach and the captains, “my right-hand men,” the coach said. When he got a call from a newspaper reporter asking who was

pitching in the semi-finals, the coach said that he didn't know.

"The captains come in early and we plan out the practices and games together," he said. Coach Schimenz said that the reporter replied that he never heard of that. "It works," the coach said, have great

Three-year veteran Daniel Medina, one of the team captains, said that his goal this season “was to try and build unity within the team so that we could be successful.” Elbel Estrella, a captain and four-year veteran, said that “in the beginning of the season I told the coach that it didn’t really matter to me whether I was a captain or not, I wanted this season to be my best. But once he introduced me as a captain, everything changed because it became my responsibility to make this season successful, instead of taking a back seat and just being a player. Being a captain of this championship team was an honor beyond measure.” Four-year veteran Diomedes Gonzalez, who has been a captain for three years, said that “this season has been incredible, it has gone above and beyond what I expected.”

"It's been a great season," said Coach Rob Schimenz. I have had a lot of fun, and the kids are always going to remember this season. The Queens Voc Tigers

Check out our website: www.qvtigers.org

are different. I often say that we are our opponents' favorite team. After the calls and emails I got from other coaches before and after the championship game, I believe it more than ever. That's a tribute to the players. Maybe even more of a tribute of being city champs."

In August, the New York Mets will be honoring the city champs from Queens by providing them with tickets to a game and introducing the Tigers on the field before the game begins.

The members of the varsity baseball team are Seniors: Rene Cruz, Elbel Estrella, Diomedes Gonzalez, Janio Fernandez, and Daniel Medina; Juniors: Steven D'Elena, Juan De LaCruz,



Captain Daniel Medina

Annaldo Jimenez, Steven Pinell, Emmanuel Portorreal, Guillermo Taveras, Angel Tejada; Sophomores: Alex Almanzar, Carlos Belliard, Jason Castillo, Jamie Collado, Rafael De Oleo, Danny Fernandez, Erwin Gonzalez, Jonathan Matias; and Freshmen: Roy Aranzamendi, Raylin Leroux, David Lopez, Daniel Ortiz, Jhonneiry Perez, Carlin Vizcaino.



"Thanks to the Queens Voc community for your support."

TIGERS SPORTS CONTINUED INSIDE