



Hurricane Sandy Ruins Homes, Shuts Schools

by Marilyn Bonilla

On Sunday Oct. 28, Mayor Bloomberg announced that public schools would be closed on Monday in anticipation of Hurricane Sandy. All city public schools eventually shut down for five days because of the massive destruction and the time it took the MTA to restore subway and bus service.

Closing down NYC public schools for a week caused the shortening of mid-winter break. The break originally was one school week off, from Feb. 18 through Feb. 22, is now just two days off, Feb. 18 and 19.

"We are pleased that the City, the Council of School Supervisors and Administrators, and the United Federation of Teachers reached an agreement on making up school days lost as a result of Hurricane Sandy...it is just as important

that we recover the time lost, and this agreement will provide students with additional class instruction," said a joint statement from chancellor of NYC department of education, Dennis Walcott, and heads of the schools' administrators and teachers' union. Dennis Walcott said that students are required to attend at least 180 days of school and it was necessary to keep the city eligible for state funding.

Seventy-six public school shelters were set up for the Zone A residents and others who had no place to go. Residents living in low-lying neighborhoods of



Queens Voc students help victims in Breezy Point.

the city, known as Zone A, such as Brighton Beach, Battery Park, Broad Channel, and Rockaway, were told to evacuate by 7pm on Sunday.

The super storm that hit on Oct. 29, left destruction throughout New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut.

The storm is blamed for

the deaths of at least 125 people, and the loss of power to 5.2 million people. New York University L a n g o n e M e d i c a l Center had to evacuate staff and patients since they were out of power. In Breezy Point,

Queens, a fire that occurred during the storm destroying at least 50 homes. The MTA, which transports about 8.5 million riders a day, was shut down because of flooding. A Con Edison plant exploded on 14 Street in lower Manhattan, causing a mass blackout. A construction crane atop a

skyscraper snapped from high speed winds and dangled over West 57 Street, resulting in the evacuation of residents and workers in the area.

Queens Voc students have been assisting in the rebuilding. Twenty-seven EI seniors from Queens Voc went to Breezy Point, Queens, to help with Operation Brighter Days.

EI students work from 8am-3pm on weekends to replace cables and outlets that had been submerged underwater. Some students are working toward their 60 hours, others such as Isaiah George and Sonia Orellana have completed their 60 hours but are volunteering anyway.

The scenes are chilling. "I saw a house that was ripped from its foundation, only the stairs were left," said Saul Cruz about the scene at Breezy Point.

Longer School Days as Block Scheduling is Eliminated

by Kimani Brown

Were you one of the students who returned to Queens Voc in September and realized that the school schedule changed and Spanish and art classes were added? Well, it all came about at the end of last school year.

Variances in the schedule, such as the block schedule the school had, have to be approved by the faculty each year. That is called a school based option, or SBO.

Mr. Davidson, Queens Voc program chairman, said he "proposed two kinds of schedules, a block schedule and a uniform schedule. The block schedule contained classes

before lunch to all be 54 minutes and meet for four days a week, while the classes during lunch were 42 minutes and meet every day of the week. Meanwhile in the uniform schedule every class meets for 47 minutes each day of the week."

According to Mr. Davidson, if Queens Voc kept the block schedule, the day wouldn't be as long, even with Spanish and art classes added. This is because all the classes would have fit into a nine period day.

Queens Voc teachers met twice in June to discuss the SBO and voice their opinions about the schedules. After the second meeting, they voted. Most teachers voted for the

uniform schedule. Queens Voc now runs on a uniform schedule that has ten periods from 8:04am-4:24pm.

"I prefer the uniform schedule because it's consistent and I don't have to worry about not seeing a class one day and then rushing to teach the information they missed plus the new lesson in one 54-minute period," said Mr. Vega, an electrical installation teacher.

Senior Saul Llapa said he likes this year's schedule better though it takes some time to get used to. "This schedule makes all the classes an equal amount of time. We don't have to dread going to some classes compared to last year, when the longer periods would seem to take forever to finish," he said.

While Saul is happy, others are not. Maria Perez, a junior, said that she preferred last year's schedule. "Every day our schedule would vary and we didn't have to worry about being in the same boring classes each day," she said. Sophomore Ashley Fernandez believes she benefitted more from the old schedule. "We had a reasonable



Creating art is better than writing about art.

Independent Studies Replaced with Spanish and Art Classes

by Dorothy Bailey

Once upon a time, Spanish and Art classes consisted of independent study worksheets. Today, students are taking the subjects and classes are now year long.

According to Assistant Principal Ms. Ocampo, Queens Voc has transitioned from independent study because, "For many years we had a waiver from the state that allowed CTE schools to waive the actual class in terms of art, music, and language. That waiver no longer exists, so beginning this year we had to implement either an art class that is year-long or a music class that is year long,

and a language course. This was directed straight from the state when we were audited last year."

The art curriculum includes line drawing, shading, color theory, sculptures, and collages, said Ms. Miaoulis. Mostly sophomores and seniors take this course. Ms. Miaoulis, Mr. Petrelli, Ms. Volpe, and Ms. Quartuccio are teaching art. Students are working on projects such as lettering, landscape, the human form, and collages. Skills that they are developing include mixing colors, and applying color theory. "I prefer this class over

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Mr. Samuelson works with Lizbeth and Charly.

Earning College Credits Through College Now

by Andy Collado

College Now courses are offered at Queens Voc and La Guardia Community College. The courses give students the opportunity to earn free college credits. “Every CTE program at Queens Voc requires advanced credits for graduation. The college classes will go on the students’ CUNY transcript,” said Ms. Newman. These credits are transferable to

CUNYs, and some SUNYs and private colleges. No student can earn more than 12 college credits, while in high school.

The College Now classes can help students with their English and Math Regents, according to Ms. Newman. With an English score of 75% and above on the Regents, the student can waive remedial

college English classes at the college they end up attending. With a math score of 80% and above on at least one math Regents, the student can waive remedial college math classes.

Senior Miguel Garcia said College Now classes are different from high school classes. “The grading system is much tougher. The teachers aren’t on top of you as much as high school. I took psychology in the fall of 2011 and English composition in the spring of 2012. Each class met two times a week. College classes definitely make you think outside the box. I earned six credits in total. The classes were worth it, my writing skills really improved. In Queens Voc I was a 90s to 100 student, in College Now I was just an 80s type of student,” he said.

The courses at Queens Voc are taught by Queens Voc teachers.

Basic Writing, taught by Mr. Samuelson is held Mondays and Tuesdays in room 302.

Students can earn one high school elective credit if they pass.

Math Concepts, taught by Mr. Raynor is held Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays in room 154. Students can earn one high school elective credit for this class, too.

Introduction to Business, taught by Mr. Stuart, is held Mondays and Thursdays in room 356. Students can earn three college credits and one high school elective credit.

Literacy and Propaganda, taught by Mr. Schimenz, is held Tuesdays and Thursdays in room 347. Students can earn three college credits and one high school elective credit.

The courses at La Guardia are Introduction to Business, English Composition, Literacy and Propaganda, Critical Thinking, College Algebra and Trigonometry, Precalculus, Topics in Biological Sciences, General Psychology, and Calculus. Each is a threecredit class.

Spanish and Art Classes

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the independent study worksheets,” Sophomore Breanna Losak said. “I feel bad because some of my students come in first period and don’t leave until tenth period, and some of them do not have a lunch. I know because I was a student once also, and so I try to make my class as enjoyable as possible,” Ms. Mialouis said.

Topics in Spanish class include language and culture. Mostly freshmen, sophomores, and juniors are taking this course. There are benefits to learning Spanish. “If you are in a career-readiness school, you should recognize that in your career a foreign language will help you to become more successful,” Ms. Karcher said. Senior Michelle Quinde said, “It’s great that they’re providing these classes now because most people don’t speak Spanish, and it’s great to learn a new language. Even though I already know Spanish, it’s great to know a bit more.” Ms. Karcher also said, “Students are doing well. They’re mostly enthusiastic about learning or becoming more fluent in Spanish. They are willing to do a lot of different activities. Their Spanish has improved. I’m very happy with my classes this year.”

Classes are also getting new resources. “We’ve gotten new textbooks and they’re going to give us internet components so the kids can do different tutoring programs on the internet, or videos,” Ms. Karcher said.

Burg said. The classes were AP Spanish, Chemistry, and Statistics. AP Chemistry and Statistics were unsuccessful because students were forced into the class, weren’t interested, and the exams were too difficult, she said. AP Spanish was successful, however, because of the native speaking kids in Queens Voc. These classes were discontinued shortly after in Queens Voc and replaced by the current ones this year. Ms. Burg said she would like to reintroduce AP Spanish if more students are interested.

Other AP classes Ms. Burg is considering are AP Psychology, Environmental Science, Art History, and English Composition. Mr. Papadopol said he would like to see AP Chemistry reintroduced, and AP Biology and Calculus introduced if students are interested in those subjects. Ms. Burg said it is up to teachers to be willing to teach an AP class if students are interested.

AP Class takes trip to Christie’s Auction House

by Khiran Samsundar



Ms. Hom’s AP Human Geography class went to Christie’s Auction House to make connections between *National Geographic* magazine and what they are learning in class. Photos and paintings were viewed by the public before they were auctioned off.

Mr. Whelan, who is teaching the class with Ms. Hom, said the trip was engaging for the students and they really appreciated seeing this riveting collection.

There’s an AP for that Class

by Raymond Gomez

Three Advanced Placement courses have been introduced at Queens Voc: AP Physics, AP European History, and AP Human Geography. AP classes are college level courses that students can take in high school. “AP classes are the next step in making Queens Voc a school of excellence,” Principal Burg said.

Ms. Burg and Mr. Papadopol, AP Physics teacher, attended a conference in Orlando, Florida. They learned that to teach an AP class, they would have to prepare a curriculum to submit to College Board for approval. Ms. Hom, AP Human Geography teacher, attended training in Taft School, Connecticut. She learned about lesson planning, how the AP exams are graded, and preparing the curriculum.

According to Ms. Wilson,

AP European History teacher, students are not required to be in any AP courses. Abdul Khan, senior, said he was selected for the AP Physics class but he was given a choice of whether or not he would like to stay in the class. “Mr. Papadopol hand selected students based on Regents scores,” Abdul said. Abdul earned a 93 on his Physics Regents.

Mr. Papadopol said students should pass a Regents exam of the same subject to be competitive. For example, a student should pass the Physics Regents exam to qualify for a seat in AP Physics. A Regents score isn’t needed to get into the class, however.

“There is a lot of competition for seats. Students with higher Regents scores bumped out students initially on the list,” Mr. Papadopol said. Ms. Burg said, “We didn’t want more than 25 students in an AP class.”

The students will take an AP exam in May, Mr. Papadopol said. The exam is three hours long, like the Regents exams, but there are more questions. Ms. Wilson said the AP European History exam has 80 multiple-choice questions and three essays, compared to the 50 multiple-choice and two essay Global Regents. Ms. Hom said students pay to take the exam. The price of the exam is \$80.

Mr. Papadopol said the AP exam is scored on a scale of zero to five. Scoring a three on the exam is considered passing. Passing the exam gives the student college credit he or she can use to save time and money in college. Students who pass an AP exam will not need to take the course again in college. Students will receive their scores in August.

Three to four years ago different AP courses were available at Queens Voc, Ms.

Longer School Days

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amount of time in the classes to understand the lesson and then complete all of the work that goes along with it,” she said.

Along with the schedule changes, came new enforced rules on some academic policies as well. Mrs. Basirico, guidance counselor for SES, said, “It’s a New York State requirement that students take a year of both art and foreign language in order to graduate.” Ms. Ocampo, assistant principal of Pupil Personnel Services, said, “Queens Voc had a waiver from the state that allowed us to waive classes in art and foreign language. The waiver doesn’t exist anymore, so we had to add either an art or music class and a foreign language.”

Juniors and seniors who had the chance to complete art and music projects but didn’t, now take these classes, making their day longer. “I failed one semester last year and have to take the class over in order for me to graduate. I really don’t like that this year it is an actual class we have every day, unlike last year where we only had to do projects,” said Seida Muratovic, a senior. But David McCullough, another senior, said, “I like taking the class now because we actually get to learn about the language and culture.”



For many students, dance is a part of culture.

Hispanic Heritage Fiesta Brings QV Together

by Andy Collado

Queens Voc celebrated its third annual Hispanic Heritage Festival on Friday, Oct. 10, as part of Hispanic Heritage Month. The entire student body was invited to this event, which was held in the cafeteria.

This year, 107 students bought tickets, about 30 more than last year. The tickets cost \$3 for student organization members and \$5 for non SO members. Approximately 20 participants who contributed a tray of food received free tickets, according to Ms. Rejalaga, who coordinated the event. The celebration was not only for students, as family members and friends were also allowed to attend, she said.

The festival included music and food. “The event was a good experience, since I’m not Hispanic. The food was fantastic,” said, Amrita Saini. Another student, Shannon Zinser, said, “The food was delicious. I really liked the empanadas.”

The students played salsa, merengue, bachata, and other Hispanic music. Students and teachers brought in food such as chicken, empanadas, rice, beans, potato salad, and desserts such as brownies and tres leche

cake. “All the cultures came together, celebrating the way we know how to, by eating and dancing,” said Ms. Rejalaga.

Many teachers and staff members helped with the festival by decorating, selling tickets, preparing and serving food and drinks. Mr. Alikakos, Ms. Ferrara, Mr. Garcia, Ms. Kramer, Mr. MacDonald, Ms. Ridge, Ms. Sartori, Ms. Toliver, and Mr. Vega helped make the event spectacular, said Ms. Rejalaga. “I’m grateful for the hard work students and staff consistently gives. It wouldn’t be possible without them,” Ms. Rejalaga said.

In addition to the festival, Ms. Rejalaga and 30 students went on a trip to El Museo Del Barrio to see the annual celebration of El Dia De Los Muertos, a Mexican holiday celebrated throughout Mexico and around the world in other cultures. The holiday focuses on gatherings of family and friends to pray for and remember friends and family members who have died.

Ms. Rejalaga said she is open to more ideas for next year’s celebration. A dance-off is one idea she is considering. She said she is also thinking about a multi-cultural festival, to get more students to go.



Students enjoying homemade Hispanic food.

CATCH the Controversy

by Saul Cruz

Catch? Catch what? This is the question Queens Voc students might ask themselves about the CATCH program.

CATCH, Connecting Adolescents to Comprehensive Health, is a program where female students can go to the nurse’s office the morning after unprotected sex, receive a pregnancy test, and a Plan-B contraceptive pill without any parental consent, provided that the student is not pregnant. The student can receive this from the nurse or CATCH health advisor. Plan-B can prevent pregnancy if taken 72 hours after unprotected sex, according to Duramed Pharmaceuticals, Inc., the makers of the contraceptive pill.

The CATCH program began in five New York City schools in January 2011 and later expanded to 13. According to Lisa Flam of NBC News, the schools were chosen because they are in neighborhoods with high teen pregnancy rates or with limited resources for young people to

get contraception. Queens Voc is one of those 13 schools.

Parents of students at all 13 schools were sent a letter from the school informing them about the CATCH program. Parents can bar their children from receiving birth control if they return a signed opt-out statement. Without an opt-out statement on file, the schools can confidentially give the contraception to the student. “An average one to two percent of parents at each school have returned the opt-out sheets,” said Alexandra Waldhorn, spokeswoman for the New York City Department of Health.

“I think it’s a very good program because it allows the student to take responsibility for their actions,” said Leslie Guadalupe, public health advisor for the New York City Department of Health and Queens Voc graduate. Ms. Guadalupe, who runs the CATCH program at Queens Voc, said that she “would rather teens focus on their academics than to be sexually active. But, we don’t live in a perfect world.”

According to Ms. Guadalupe, “any young adult of 12 can seek sexual reproductive care,” according New York State law. “There is more to the program than giving out Plan-B like candy. We educate the students as well,” she said.

The CATCH program created a stir on Sept. 24 of this year when the media first reported on it. There were a series of articles in the New York Post, and reporters from New York One were outside the schools interviewing students and staff members. Senior Ruhet Kumar believes the program is not helpful “because it gives teens more of a reason to be sexually active.” Some parents and staff members criticize the program, even suggesting that there is a double standard at work. “We can’t give out a Tylenol without a doctor’s order. Why should we give out hormonal preparations with far more serious possible side effects, such as blood clots and hypertension?” said a school staffer from one of the 13 CATCH schools.

Readers Realm Bookworms Unite

by Melissa Espinosa

The book club went to the Kew Gardens Theatre in Manhattan on Nov. 16 to watch *Perks of Being a Wallflower*, one of the books that they read last year. Romana Hussain said that she “enjoyed it a lot.” Nineteen members attended the trip, she added.

Last year, after reading *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins, the book club took a trip to see that film when it first came out.

“More trips are being planned, possibly another movie trip as well as some other trips to further enhance the reading environment, and a fun trip to a theme park to strengthen the members’ fellowship and to have fun,” said Marju Sotto another book club member.

This year the book club’s first book was *Miss Peregrine’s Home for Peculiar Children* by Ransom Riggs. Now the book club is reading *Finding Fish* by Antwone Fisher. So far the book is “interesting and it makes me feel close to the character,” said Marju. “It is a page turner and I highly recommend this book because it’s touching and it makes you realize how fortunate a person can be in comparison with other people in other countries,” he said.



Ms. Lewis and her sixth period book club members.

Ms. Lewis is the coordinator of the book club, which she began last December. Ms. Lewis said that this year, in order to maintain membership in the book club, it is required that members pass a quiz after each book. If they fail two quizzes, members will be put on probation.

Books for the book club are chosen by Ms. Lewis, who does not reveal the name of the book until the book is distributed to the members. Upsana Tyagi said the members feel anxious, and become deeply curious about the identity of the book. “Most of the books she chooses I like from the beginning. I like getting introduced to new genres,” Upsana said.

Ms. Lewis wants Queens

Voc students to know that the book club is a lot of fun. Jenny Aucaquizhi agrees. “We do fun activities, a great motivation to read books,” she said.

The book club really is for everybody. “I’m not a big fan of reading books,” Marju said “but it helped me improve my reading and writing skills.” said Marju. The book club got him to read books he might not have picked on his own, he said.





Sthephane and Yessenia laying out yearbook pages.

Seniors Working to Capture Memories for the Yearbook

by Fatima Osman

You can't go back in time, but you can look back at it. The senior yearbook promises to be a collection of memories that will make the class of 2013 look back on the fun they had.

To keep the yearbook promise, the yearbook has to be created first. The committee members are "taking photos of school events, students, and faculty," said Ms. DeCarlo, the yearbook advisor. The committee, she said, "is laying out the yearbook pages using an online program from Jostens." The yearbook will be 96 pages long, because "we try to cover every senior event," she said. "Each shop class has its own page," said Ms. DeCarlo, "and so do sports teams and school clubs."

"The entire yearbook is completed by the students and the only limitations," she said, "come from the program we use to create the book."

The senior photo shoot went "very smoothly," said

Ms. DeCarlo, "as most of the students showed up on time for their photos." Senior photos were taken in the auditorium from Nov. 26 through Nov. 30, from 8am-4pm. The yearbook advisor added that "it is important for seniors to remember to log in on to the studios website in order to select their yearbook photo." Students who do not select a yearbook photo may be unhappy with the picture the studio selects for them. Students can also use the website, jasienowskistudios.com, to purchase pictures.

A new feature this year allows seniors to upload photographs they want to share with the yearbook, even if they are not in the yearbook staff. Ms. DeCarlo said that seniors can either register at replayit.org or go to QueensVoc.org for a link to register. After typing in Queens Vocational, seniors should type in the password, VocTech2013. "There is a free application for smart phone users so that they send their photos directly from their phone

to the website," she added. Ms. DeCarlo said that the "new website will allow everyone to contribute and be represented in this year's book," she said.

The cover of the yearbook—a tiger cub walking into the school building—was drawn by Raymond Gomez, senior president. Committee members are going to create a customized cover, using the money from a fundraiser they had during parent teacher conference, said Ms. DeCarlo. The yearbook theme is family, she said. "Like branches in a tree, we all grow in different directions, but our roots keep us all together," is the yearbook quote.

The yearbook team plans two senior events, the class of 2013 group photo and Oscar night. Ms. DeCarlo said she "works closely with the school's COSA, Mr. Vega to organize the various senior yearbook activities." Meetings are held in the library on Mondays after school. Members "organize our plan of action for the first ten minutes," Ms. DeCarlo said, "then they begin working on their individual pages in the computer lab."

Senior Michelle Quinde is on the yearbook committee. She said she joined "to help out and to put my ideas into something everyone can see. I like that we can work together and make this big project. I want the yearbook to be different, something everybody will enjoy. I don't want anybody to be left out from the yearbook. I want this yearbook to stand out from the past yearbooks."

With hard work comes success. "At the end of the year, we get to take pride in creating

an amazing yearbook that will keep alive the memories of high school for many years to come," Ms. DeCarlo said. "I always try to get the students' input and listen to their ideas so that the yearbook can accurately represent the individuality of each senior class."

"Everybody came to QV not knowing one another but four years passed by quickly and everybody now knows

each other, creating memories and that's how QV is a family. We want to represent that in the yearbook," said Michelle.

The cost of the yearbook is included in the senior dues.

"Anybody who has ideas for the yearbook should join the yearbook committee," said Michelle.

"Get involved. Make your senior year great," said Ms. DeCarlo.

Seniors on the Road

by Laura Duarte

days and three nights.

The senior trip will be to Honors Haven Resort & Spa in Ellenville, New York, Jan. 18-20.

"We were risking not having a senior trip by spending too much time planning the other trips and not committing to any. Rather than cancel the senior trip entirely, I decided on Honors Haven," said Mr. Vega, the senior advisor.

Keivan Jimenez, who graduated last year, said that "The senior trip to Honors Haven last year was amazing. I wouldn't change it for anything else."

The trip to Honors Haven Resort & Spa is priced at \$289 for three days and two nights, with the following included: Roundtrip transportation, six meals, heated pool and jacuzzi, movie room, game room with a pool table, hockey table, PlayStation, Wii, and XBOX, all day snack bar, and much more.

Early this October, Mr. Vega tried to comply with the requests of the seniors to have their senior trip elsewhere. Queens Voc seniors went to Honors Haven the past four years. "I'm open to new ideas," Mr. Vega said at the time. But there was limited time to decide and they weren't getting any closer to a decision.

Myra Andrews suggested that the seniors go to a resort in Orlando, Florida, or to the Busch Gardens in Williamsburg, Virginia. The trip to Virginia was priced at \$450 for four

"The thing with a nicer trip is that most students probably wouldn't be able to afford it, and that's not worth it," said Mr. Vega.

Maria Abbasi concurred. "The whole point is to try to have the whole senior class to go, the more the better." Last year 42 percent of the seniors went to Honors Haven, "the highest percent Queens Voc has had," said Mr. Vega.

A senior meeting was held on Oct. 26 to discuss the estimated prices of the senior trips. The prices for the suggested trips were higher than the original price for the Ellenville trip. Individual chocolate fundraising was highly encouraged to make these trips possible. Seniors would have a box of chocolate to sell, and make a profit of \$25.

Flyers were distributed at Vegas room in 143 to seniors who wanted to find out more about the trip. After looking at the flyers side by side and seeing what each trip had to offer, students began to lean toward the traditional trip. "I definitely like this trip better. It has more activities for us to do, and it's cheaper," graphic arts major Ruth Galarza said.

"There wasn't enough time to plan it," Mr. Vega said of the trip to Florida. Senior class President Raymond Gomez said the trip came out to be too expensive to even be considered as an option. "A majority of people were fine with going upstate before bringing up any other ideas," he added.

Retired Teachers: Gone but not Forgotten

by Andres Ospina

Like students, teachers come and go. Three teachers who taught in Queens Voc recently retired. These teachers are Ms. Flynn, Ms. Sharpe, and Ms. Torres.

Ms. Torres, who taught cosmetology and health in the School of Entrepreneurial Studies, had been teaching in Queens Voc for four years until she retired this September. She worked 25 years as a cosmetology teacher for the Department of Education. Sophomore Zinniah Muñoz said Ms. Torres "has had a lasting impression not only on me, but on my fellow cosmetology classmates as well." Ms. Quartuccio, a senior cosmetology teacher as well as a friend and colleague of Ms. Torres, said that Ms.

Torres "loved teaching cosmo and as a result her passion was instilled in her students." According to Ms. D'Onofrio, another cosmetology teacher, the students held a retirement party for Ms. Torres last year. "The students did all the work," said Ms. D'Onofrio, "they brought cookies, cake,

"She was a great teacher and she would constantly motivate me."

soda, and surprised Ms. Torres outside in the courtyard."

Ms. Sharpe, who taught Chemistry and Physics in the School of Entrepreneurial Studies, taught science in Queens Voc for eight years. Senior Michelle Orozco, who had Ms. Sharpe for Chemistry last year said, "Ms. Sharpe was outspoken and serious when

she taught her Chemistry class. She was a great teacher and she would constantly motivate me to do better." According to Mr. Gorman, the assistant principal for academics, Ms. Sharpe retired to go back to Jamaica, her native country. "Ms. Sharp cared for her students, worked hard to prepare lessons, and wanted to see that her students did well in her classes," said Mr. Gorman.

Ms. Flynn taught speech for 15 years to students who needed language development. Ms. Kramer, a colleague of Ms. Flynn, said that Ms. Flynn "had a very compassionate side with the students she worked with." Senior Arif Abdul, who had Ms. Flynn for speech said, "I am thankful that Ms. Flynn helped me improve my English, and feel more comfortable speaking to other people."



Senior President and VP who worked on the trip.

Improved Graduation Rate Leads to Cuts in Budget

by Natanael Feitosa

Queens Voc lost two million dollars from its budget because of its success in increasing its graduation rate. Ms. Burg, the school principal, said that as a result of being removed from the transformation list, this budget cut would affect the whole school: teachers, teams, activities, and events.

The transformation list contains schools from New York that have low graduation rates, low test scores, or a combination of both. When Queens Voc was put on the list, it was given extra money to improve.

The school receives funds per capita, that is per student enrolled. According to Mr. Alikakos, assistant principal of organization, not only has the school lost the transformation money, the school is only receiving only 80 percent

of the money it is entitled to per student.

Despite requests for new materials, such as smart boards, art, science, Spanish, and literature books, the school cannot afford to buy these new materials this year, Mr. Alikakos said.

It was rumored that students would have to pay for their own certifications, but because CTE classes are funded by the federal government under the Carl Perkins Act, certification costs are still being covered by the school. Mr. Ali, AP for SSBT, said that the CTE funds were cut, too, but that he is “working with Ms. Newman to allocate the CTE budget accordingly, giving more equipment for the CTE classes that need it more.” According to careertech.org, the Carl Perkins act lost \$140.1million from its budget, affecting all the CTE schools in the country.

The budget cut is also affecting school activities. Ms. Burg said that the school will pay for fewer activities, such as trips. SkillsUSA lost some of its funding; as a result it increased the membership fee to \$15. Members of SkillsUSA must pay their own city, state, national fees, which allow them to participate in various competitions.

Not all school clubs will be affected by the budget cut. The robotics club is not affected by this budget cut because they get money from sponsors.

FBLA Meets for Competition

by Xiomara Paredes



Future business leaders prepare to host district meeting.

The FBLA fall district meeting was held on Thursday, Oct. 18, in the Queens Voc library.

Ms. Mitchell, FBLA coordinator, organized the event along with Sonia Sanchez, who was elected New York State FBLA Vice President of District 2 during the state conference in Rochester, New York, in April.

Schools from FBLA District 2 began registering at 9:30am. Among the members were NYS FBLA officers Crystal Nwaogbe, executive vice president, Sarah Arjun, vice president, and Robert Russo, board of trustee member.

At the meeting, topics referring to FBLA competition categories, calendar events, and community service activities were discussed. Later on, Habitat for Humanity presenter Jessica Medina discussed non-profit organization’s purpose and the community service opportunities offered to FBLA members.

Various workshops were offered by the FBLA team. Sonia Sanchez presented “Time Management,” and Ms. Mitchell presented “Driving Your Future.” The state officers also presented themes of “Parliamentary Procedures” and “S.O. You want To Be.”

Following the presentations, the Battle of the Chapters took place. Two representatives

from each school, including state officers, participated in the competition. Ms. Mitchell and Mr. Russo asked the students questions based on FBLA facts. The winner of the competition was Business Campus Magnet High School.

After the competition, guests and members went to the cafeteria for lunch and then returned to the library for further activities.

As a closing activity, the coin challenge took place. Queens Voc’s FBLA team won first place, collecting almost \$30.

“This year’s meeting was better than others. We were able to smoothly follow the schedule and, although there was a bit of a delay, we were able to make it up. That was great,” Ms. Mitchell said.

New Officers at the Helm of DCW

by Jose Recinos

Suveer Seemangal was elected CEO of Queens Voc’s virtual enterprise company, Diverse City Wear, in September. Also elected were Osvaldo Nunez, CFO, and Lisbeth Mejia, Bank Manager, and vice presidents for each department: Kenya Olmedo-administration, Monica Orellana-human resource, Lisbeth Mejia-accounting, Maritza Murudumba-purchasing, Phillip Gooding-sales and marketing, and Nahuel Sanabria-web design.

The students are selected to

be part of VE by their teachers Ms. Mitchell, Ms. Gross, Mr. Mugan, and the officers are elected by the VE staff, who are assigned to departments in DCW. “Virtual Enterprise International is an in school entrepreneurship program and global simulation that empowers students to unleash their potential through creating and managing business ventures,” said Ms. Mitchell.

In September, the students took part in the perfect pitch competition, which challenges students to make a brief but convincing and engaging elevator

pitch. Ms. Mitchell said she “hasn’t been informed of the results of the elevator pitch competition.”

DCW represented in the California 14th annual tradeshow against 20 virtual enterprise firms from New York and California. The tradeshow was held in the Bakersfield, California. CEO Suveer Seemangal and Ms. Mitchell represented DCW. Suveer competed in job interview, best salesmanship, and best booth. He placed 5th place in best salesmanship and 9th in best booth. Suveer with other students at the competition visited several

California sites such as University of California Los Angeles, Beverly Hills, J. Paul Getty Museum and Hollywood.

Currently, DCW staff is working on financial reports such as income statements and balance sheets. VE is also working on the business plan. “The business plan is showing the financial and systematic outline of our business is going to face to be successful,” said Suveer.

A business plan competition will be held at Monroe College in the Bronx, on Thursday, Dec. 20. “We plan to place top three

in the business plan competition because we have worked hard and we are preparing as a team,” said Osvaldo Nunez.



VE readies for competition.

Setting the Record Straight: What it takes to graduate from QV

by Raymond Gomez

Students talk a lot about graduating, but many don’t know what is required to graduate. Credits, Regents exams, internships, and even community service are mentioned, but most students don’t know the requirements to earn a high school diploma.

Ms. Burg, the principal, said that there are three different diplomas a student can earn. By earning 44 credits, a student qualifies for a Regents diploma which is available in any New York State high school. Credits are earned by passing a class with

a grade of 65 or higher. Earning 44 credits is a state requirement that can be met by earning credits in specific math, English, history, science, physical education, health, and elective classes. The student must also pass five Regents with a 65: English, one math, one science, U.S. History, and Global History Regents. Students must also take one year of Spanish, one year of art and/or music, and shop class, the latter of which substitutes for elective credits.

The second diploma requires 14 credits earned from CTE classes, a total of 58 credits. CTE classes are state approved classes and substitute for elective credits

in Queens Voc. To earn a Regents diploma with CTE endorsement, a student must also pass a CTE exit exam to be certified. In addition, students must spend a minimum of 60 Work Based Learning hours, internships in their majors.

An Advanced Regents diploma can be earned by obtaining a 65 on eight Regents exams: the previous five, plus Geometry, Algebra 2 and Trigonometry, and one physical science in addition to Living Environment. Students in Queens Voc don’t need to take a foreign language exam because they take a CTE exit exam. Instead students are required to have two credits in Spanish.

A student doesn’t need a CTE endorsement or Advanced Regents diploma to graduate. But, Ms. Burg said, students should aim for a CTE endorsement. She said that a CTE endorsement allows students to go into their field of work or save money by not having to pay for similar classes in college.

Students who are having trouble meeting graduation requirements can attend tutoring, Principal Burg said. Tutoring is available during student lunch periods, the best way to offer tutoring with consistency. Tutoring is available at least once a week, she said. “You can lead a horse to water, but you can’t make him drink,” the principal added.

Ms. Burg pointed out that it is the students’ responsibility to meet

the requirements for graduation.

A few years ago, Ms. Burg said, a local diploma was also offered. This diploma required a 55 or higher on Regents exams or a passing grade on RCT exams. Mr. Davidson said that in 2005, students needed two scores of 65 on any Regents and a 55 on the others. In 2006 and 2007, students needed three and four 65s, respectively. Local diplomas are no longer offered to students who entered 9th grade in 2008 and later. Students with disabilities are the only students who may earn a local diploma.

Students can pick up a copy of credit and examination requirements in the Guidance office. This document details all of the requirements for students to graduate.

Scaffolding Still Stands



Construction workers fixing the scaffolding.

by Chi lung Hsu

It has been two years since green scaffolding was built around much of the school. The scaffolding is an “eye sore,” said senior Raynier Cabrera. The scaffolding runs along the school from the front of the school on 38th Street to the back of the handball court, standing vertically as tall as 8 to 10 feet from the ground. “Its large size has put a damper on our beautiful school structure,”

Mr. Alikakos, the assistant principal, admitted. According to Mr. Alikakos, the scaffolding was erected to protect travelers and students from falling bricks, a problem that was created by water leaking between the school building bricks at the roofline. While the scaffolding does not impact most students, it’s an obstacle for the casual handball players to overcome. The pole interferes with their matches creating an unsafe environment for the players on the court. The school’s handball team has not been able to practice or have matches for two years. Furthermore, Mr. Vega, the COSA, said that because of the scaffolding, he could not hold anymore school barbeques in the school backyard. In the month of December, crews were repairing the scaffold after school. Mr. Alikakos said the repair on the roof hasn’t started yet because of communication problems with the contractors and that the scaffold will stay standing until the problem is resolved.

Learning about Pollution the Harrington Way



It’s not the cafeteria, it’s science class.

by Isaac V. Morales

It’s not every day we crumple up paper, and rip, shred, and toss paper balls around to get credit in class. In Mr. Harrington’s Living Environment class, students get to do it once a year. “It was a lesson on pollution,” he explained. The students were learning about “how pollution affects all the organisms in the biosphere.” Students ripped and

shredded paper to model pollution in class. If the class could create the pollution themselves, they would be able to “have a much better understanding of pollution and possibly raise their own awareness so that they do not become polluters themselves,” explained Mr. Harrington. Mauricio Bustamante enjoyed the lesson. “It was really fun. We got to throw papers in the class without getting in trouble for it.” The lesson, Mauricio said, “gave us a better understanding of what pollutes the world, what contaminates it, and how or why we should stop it.”

List of School Organizations

by Marilyn Bonilla

Queens Voc offers many clubs, activities, and sports for students to participate in. Here is the list of the different activities and their advisors:

Clubs and Activities	Advisors
Black History Month	Mrs. Himmel
Book Club	Ms. Lewis
College Now	Ms. Newman
Construction Skills	Mr. Ali
Cosmo Clinic	Ms. Quartuccio
	Ms. Gonzales
FBLA	Ms. Mitchell
Leadership	Mr. Vega
Mock Trial Team	Mr. Davidson
Mouse Squad	Ms. Zagada
Music Club (Spring)	Mr. Zambrotta
Poetry Club	Mrs. Himmel
R=AIN	Ms. Kurnitz
Robotics	Mr. Ali
School Newspaper	Mr. Schimenz
Senior Yearbook	Ms. DeCarlo
Skills USA	Mr. Cintron
	Mr. Rivera
Student Organization	Mr. Vega
Virtual Enterprise	Ms. Mitchell
We The People	Mr. Davidson
Work Based Learning	Ms. Spallone
	Mr. Frank
Sports	Coaches
Boys’ Baseball	Mr. Schimenz
Boys’ Basketball	Mr. Maloney
Boys’ Bowling	Mr. Devaux
Boys’ JV Baseball	Mr. Cintron
Boys’ JV Basketball	Mr. Daniel
Boys’ Soccer	Mr. Ali
Co-ed Handball	Mr. Maloney
Co-ed Wrestling	Mr. Zambrotta
Girls’ Basketball	Mr. Devaux
Girls’ Bowling	Mr. Garofano
Girls’ Flag Football	Mr. Garofano
Girls’ Softball	Mr. Boyle
Girls’ Volleyball	Mr. Boyle

Studying A lot To get into college

by Judy Moy

Want to get into college? A high SAT score will help. The SAT is a national test taken by students to assess their academic readiness for college that most colleges specifically require in order to get in. The SAT is what most colleges and universities look at to select students into their school. It is a three hour and 45 minute test that consists of three sections: reading, math, and writing skills. For each section, test takers can get a maximum score of 800, with a possible total of 2400. The reading section includes reading passages and sentence completions. The math section includes questions on arithmetic operations, algebra, geometry, and statistics and probability. And the writing section includes a short essay and multiple-choice questions on identifying errors and improving grammar and usage. Senior Leiry Jaquez, took the test on Nov. 17, thought that the test was fair but, there wasn’t enough time in each section. “I would’ve done better if I had more time to study. The test is really stressful. I think the math section was harder than the reading section. To prepare students should definitely take

prep classes, sleep early the day before, and eat breakfast.” Upcoming SAT examination dates are: Jan. 26 (registration deadline Dec. 28), March 9 (registration deadline Feb. 8), May 4 (registration deadline April 5), and June 1 (registration deadline May 2), according to sat.collegeboard.org. Ms. Abrams, the college counselor, recommends that students take the SAT twice, once in the spring of their junior year, and then in the fall of their senior year. Although students can take the SAT as many times as they would like, it costs \$50 to take the exam each time. There are additional fees for students who register late. Some students, however, may be eligible for a fee waiver, which entitles them to take the SAT twice. Eligibility for the fee waiver is based on family income, so students must bring in a copy of their parent/guardian’s 1040 income tax form to Ms. Abrams. Preparation is the key to earning a good score on the SAT. Ms. Abrams, said, “People usually don’t do well without preparation.” There are many ways that students can prepare for this examination, such as extra classes. Queens Voc offers free Kaplan classes after school, although limited

seats are available. Optional classes, such as AP, honors, and College Now also help. There are many resources and help, such as questions and full practice tests on the College Board website. The PSAT is another good way to prepare for the SAT. The PSAT (Preliminary Scholastic Assessment Test) is the practice version of the SAT, and is offered at Queens Voc for free every year to sophomores and juniors. The PSAT contains the same material as the SAT. In addition to being good preparation, taking the PSAT enters students into the National Merit Scholarship Programs, which gives them a chance for college scholarships. Taking the PSAT also gives students a detailed report on their strengths and weaknesses and their projected SAT score. According to collegeboard.org, city and state colleges, such as those in CUNY and SUNY, are less expensive than private universities. CUNY and SUNY colleges look at the SAT as another admission requirement instead of a dominating factor. Although most city and state colleges require SAT scores, some do not, such as LaGuardia Community College, and the Fashion Institute of Technology.

Teachers Say Internships Make Better Students

by Andres Ospina

To graduate Queens Voc with a career and technical education endorsed diploma, students must complete a 60-hour work-based learning internship that could be voluntary or paid in a field related to their major.

Ms. Spallone, who manages the internships for cosmetology, business, and graphic arts students said, “The purpose of the internship is to gain real world experience. Students have to learn how to be on time and productive, and show interest, motivation, and pride in their work.”

Mr. Frank manages the internships for plumbing, electrical, and electronics, and Ms. Zagada manages internships for C-tech students. According to Mr. Frank, these internships aren't easy to come by. He has to go to various trade organizations and hopefully, he said, some of the people who own companies agree to the internship. “If students do well, and the person in charge of the job site likes the work they've performed, the owner will take more interns and refer Queens Voc students to other companies, which results in more job sites,” said Mr. Frank. The school cannot provide all its students with an internship.

Some students have to look for an internship themselves. Jonathan Lopez, a senior in business, found an internship at GNC. According to Jonathan, business students have to complete their internship in a business environment.

Andres Cadavid, a senior in electronics, is another student who found an internship himself. Andres interned for his father's bus company. “I soldered circuit boards, spliced copper wire, and tested bus batteries,” Andres said.

Students who look for internships by themselves must

speak with Mr. Frank or Ms. Spallone so that they can verify that the worksite is safe.

Teachers agree that students who return from their internship are more confident and less reluctant to participate in class. “Students come back like they've been woken up. They come back with more knowledge of the industry, and with a new found appreciation and motivation towards their school work,” said Mr. Abreu, an electrical teacher.

Mr. Rodriguez, a senior computer technology teacher, said he feels that students who return from their internships are more confident in class discussions and in class work in general.

Mr. Garcia, a senior graphic arts teacher, notices students are more mature and are more responsible with their school work upon returning from their internship. “Normally,” he said, “students who do their internship are excited because they get to work with famous artists.” But not all students agree.

Andres said his experience was good, “but it helped me realize I did not want to pursue a career in electronics.” Andy Collado, a senior in electrical installation, had a similar experience. “I liked the work experience but it made me realize electrical installation is not for me.”

Not only can internships improve the way students work, they can also improve the way teachers teach. Students return from their internships asking a lot of questions. According to Mr. Rivera, who teaches plumbing, students who return from their internships have been exposed to situations that aren't taught in class. As a result, he said that he and Mr. McCarthy, another plumbing teacher, change the curriculum to accommodate to the industry standards.

Calendar of Events

compiled by Raymond Xue

- Dec. 20:** Girls’ basketball vs. American Studies (Home)
– VE Business Plan Competition
- Dec. 21:** Boys’ JV basketball vs. Forest Hills (Home)
- Dec. 24-Jan. 1:** Winter Recess
- Jan. 3:** Wrestling vs. Grover Cleveland (Home)
– Boys’ JV basketball vs. Bryant (Home)
- Jan. 4:** Boys’ varsity basketball vs. American Studies (Home)
– Wrestling vs. Wagner (Home)
- Jan. 9:** Honor Society Induction & breakfast
- Jan. 5-11:** Robotics Competition
- Jan. 14:** School Leadership Team
- Jan. 15:** Girls’ varsity basketball vs. American Studies (Away)
- Jan. 16:** Wrestling vs. Flushing (Away)
- Jan. 18-20:** Senior Trip
- Jan. 21:** Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- Jan. 25:** Boys’ JV basketball vs. F.K. Lane (Home)
- Jan. 28:** Boys’ JV basketball vs. Aviation (Home)
- Jan. 30:** Boys’ JV basketball vs. Forest Hills (Away)
- Feb. 1:** Boys’ varsity basketball vs. Queens HS Complex (Home)
- Feb. 4:** Boys’ JV basketball vs. Bryant (Away)
- Feb. 6:** Boys’ varsity basketball vs. American Studies (Away)
- Feb. 8:** Girls’ basketball vs. Queens HS Complex (Away)
- Feb. 9:** Skills USA Competition
- Feb. 18, 19:** Mid Winter Recess
- Feb. 28:** CTE Night, –School Leadership Team Mtg



SO led QV's participation in the recent Breast Cancer Walk.

Lockers, Trips, & Dances: SO MANY REASONS TO JOIN SO

by Isaac V. Morales

SO members who paid \$5.

Are you one of the many students at Queens Voc carrying multi-layered clothing, textbooks, binders, spiral notebooks, pens, pencils and the rest of Staples along to your classes? Winter is here and the weight of those supplies won't drop like the temperature. Fortunately, student lockers are just a few steps away from classroom doors.

Mr. Vega, coordinator of student activities, is in charge of student lockers. Earlier this school year, all students were offered the option to register a locker and join the student organization. Students who wanted a locker had to pay a \$3 dollar membership fee and submit a completed locker form. Students who registered a locker received an official SO membership card. The card gives SO members certain advantages such as discounted prices to SO activities.

Earlier this school year, Ms. Rejalaga and Mr. Vega put together Queens Voc's 3rd annual Hispanic Heritage Festival. Just over 100 students attended the festival, at which food, refreshments, and desserts were served, music was played, and a raffle was held. Even a piñata filled with prizes and candy was broken. Johanna Torres, an SO member who attended the festival and helped put it together, said that she and her friends had a good time. She, along with other members, paid \$3 to attend, as opposed to non-

Apart from festivals, the SO is involved in other events such as the Breast Cancer Walk that took place on Oct. 21. Students from Queens Voc got together to walk three to five miles at Flushing Meadows Park.

The Hurricane Relief Effort was another event put together to help those who were affected by the recent super storm Sandy. The storm destroyed many homes, leaving many without heat, electricity, or clothing. “The ‘Relief Effort’ was put together for the students to donate basic necessities to these families in need,” said Mr. Vega.

During December, Queens Voc has been collecting unwrapped toys for Toys for Tots, a charity, run by the Marine Corps, partnered with several toy companies such as Toys R' Us, Scholastic, and Hasbro. The charity collects toys and child-friendly gifts for children of families struggling financially. Gifts for these children include but are not limited to “books, backpacks, board games, RC cars and trucks, skateboards, purses, and hair dryers,” according to the Toys for Tots foundation's FAQ webpage.

Queens Voc's biannual blood drive, hosted by New York Blood Center, took place on Monday, Dec. 17. According to Mr. Vega, about 90 students and staff members signed up for the blood drive. No further information was available at the time the paper was being published.



Abdul Khan donates blood during the blood drive on Monday, Dec.17. See our next edition for more details.

Queens Voc in 5th Place in Citywide Constitution Contest



Students in Mr. Davidson's Honors U.S. Government class competed in the citywide “We The People...the Citizen and the Constitution” contest. Twenty-seven Queens Voc students went to Martin Luther King Jr. HS on Saturday, December 8, to testify before a panel of distinguished judges and came in 5th place citywide. The students presenting the Philosophical and Historical Foundations of the American Political System took first place in that category.

Inquiring Photographer

by Khiran Samsundar

We asked students: “Has anyone ever said you look like someone famous? If so, who and why?”

Alexa Galante
Freshman



Natalie Portman

“I have been told by many people that I look like Natalie Portman because of my facial features, my smile & hair.”

Jocelyn Navarro
Freshman



Selena Gomez

“A lot of people have told me I look like Selena Gomez because we have similar facial features and hair.”

Yanci Torres
Freshman



Kendall Jenner

“I have been told that I look like Kendall Jenner because my smile, eyes, and hair are the same as hers.”

Have any good questions we should ask?

Email us:
editor@vocvoice.org

Davu Aiken
Freshman



Chris Brown

“My friends have said I look like Chris Brown because of my eyes and hair are similar.”

Johnell Artis
Freshman



Jaden Smith

“Many of my friends have said I look like Jaden Smith because of my locks.”

Joseph Santana
Freshman



Eminem

“A lot of people have said I look like Eminem because of my facial feature and my personality.”

Roxann Colon
Sophomore



Nina Dobrev

“Many of my friends have said Nina and I have very similar facial features.”

Zinniah Munoz
Sophomore



Michelle Rodriguez

“Many of my friends have said I look like Michelle Rodriguez because of my facial features.”

Erika Jara
Sophomore



Brenda Song

“A lot of my friends have said I look like Brenda Song because of my Personality and facial features.”

Chelsea Velasco
Sophomore



Angelina Jolie

“Some of my friends have said I look like Angelina Jolie because of my eyes and lips.”

Hamza Naseer
Sophomore



Zayn Malik

“I have been told by many of my friends I look like Zayn Malik because of my hair and facial features.”

Roberto Villanueva
Sophomore



Pablo Escobar

“I think I look like Pablo Escobar because I think I am a boss.”

Sofia Bonilla
Junior



Cher Lloyd

“A few of my friends have said I look like Cher Lloyd because of the way I dress and my curly hair.”

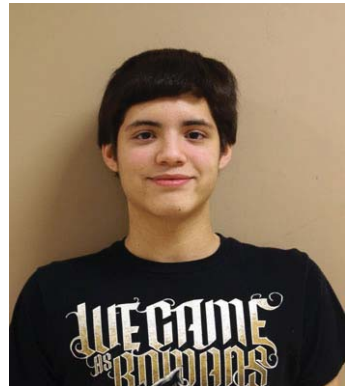
Jazleen Intriago
Junior



Selena Gomez

“A few of my friends have said I look like Selena Gomez because of my hair and facial features.”

Jonathan Espinosa
Junior



Orlando Bloom

“A few of my friends have said I look like Orlando Bloom because of my long hair.”

Horo-scoops

by Laura Duarte

Aries – Rocky Road (March 21 – April 19)

Always looking for fun and excitement you invest your energetic personality into finding something that captures your interest. You love challenges but when overwhelmed you tend to lose your cool. As a loving person you appreciate the affections of family

and friends that you value so dearly. Your blunt expressions may cause you trouble that if not fixed will follow you down along the road.

Taurus – Vanilla (April 20 – May 20)

As someone who comes off as plain and sometimes boring, you surprise people with your strong personality. Your warm heart and sincere humility is very attractive to others. You work hard for what you

think is right and important. This impulse to be great may cause you to be stubborn and do things your own way. But as time goes on you will learn from your mistakes and better yourself.

Gemini – Mint Chip (May 21 – June 20)

You just can't make up your mind. You have a hard time making a decision and committing to it. As someone who has an open mind, you have many

interests that you wish to explore. You are very friendly and easy to get along with, but you are very outspoken and like a good argument once in a while. You are smart and enjoy knowledge and the power that comes with it.

Cancer – Butter Pecan (June 21 – July 22)

On the outside you appear to be tough and intimidating, but within, you are very sentimental and emotional. You are very

Inquiring Photographer

Victoria Noel
Senior



Nicki Minaj

“I have been told I look like Nicki Minaj by many of my friends because of my eyes, skin color, body shape and name/ nick-names Litty Nicki & Vicky.”

Nichole Perez
Senior



Mila Kunis

“My friends have said I look like Mila Kunis because I have big eyes and my tiny facial features.”

Tyreck Thorpe
Junior



Jaden Smith

“I have been told I look like Jaden Smith because of my afro.”

Natalie Albacarys
Senior



Jessica Alba

“Some of my friends have said I look like Jessica Alba because of my smile and nose structure.”

Evelyn Guerra
Senior



Eva Mendez

“Many of my friends have said I look like Eva Mendez because of my Facial structure and my hair color.”

Vanessa Illera
Senior



Miranda Cosgrave

“I have been told by many I look like Miranda Cosgrave because of my facial features and my smile, along with my hair.”

Amrita Saini
Senior



Kim Kardashian

“I think I look like Kim Kardashian because I’m beautiful.”

Amin Al-Sayed
Senior



Seann William Scott

“I have been told by many I look like Seann William Scott because of my hair and facial structures are similar.”

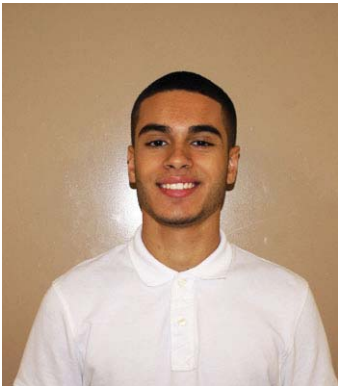
Antonio Dakota Torres
Senior



“Sideshow Bob”
The Simpsons

“I have been told by many I look like Side showbob because of my hair.”

Andy Collado
Senior



William Levy

“I have been told that I look like William Levy because of my smile and hair.”

Funny and Unusual Facts

compiled by
Jessica Alcaide

- Chewing gum while peeling onions will keep you from crying.
- On average, people will spend about five years eating during their lifetime.
- In our dreams we don’t invent faces but, see faces of people we have seen throughout our life that we may, or not remember.
- Colgate faced a big obstacle marketing toothpaste in Spanish speaking countries because Colgate translates into the command “go hang yourself.”
- Every time you sneeze, some of your brain cells die.
- Kissing someone burns 2.6 calories per-minute.
- When holding a seashell to your ear is not the sound of the ocean but you blood circulating through your ear.
- The food served in jail is more nutritious than the food served in school cafeteria.
- Men have buttons on the right and women on the left of any top clothing, such as: shirts, jackets and sweaters.

loving and caring. You have a shy personality but have a natural fierce urge to protect what you consider most dear. You have a sensitive personality and are easily hurt by others, but that does not get in the way of your sense of humor.

Leo - Chocolate
(July 23 – Aug. 22)

You like things done a specific way, your way. As someone who is very organized, you like to be productive in all you do. You have a competitive nature which helps you accomplish many tasks. But you are very stubborn and proud, some may even say vain. Despite that though, you have a gentle and generous heart. You have a very strong and passionate personality that comes off as intense for most people.

Virgo – Black Cherry
(Aug. 23 – Sept. 22)

A perfectionist and know it all, you want to always have the last word in all matters. You want to learn and understand everything. You may come off as demanding and pushy but you

mean well. Being hard-working and a pessimist does not go well together, so you always tend to worry and be stressed out. You are humble and seek to lend a hand to those who ask for your help. You enjoy being of service to others.

Libra – Strawberry
(Sept. 23 – Oct. 22)

You seek to have stability and harmony in your life. You are someone who is very respectful and diplomatic, at the same time bold and a risk taker. You have the means of being a leader, but you tend to procrastinate and be indecisive. You are very social and charming, a pleasure to be around. You have a personality attracts many and your friendliness may come off as flirtatious.

Scorpio – Cookies & Cream
(Oct. 23 – Nov. 21)

Mysterious and very conservative, you don’t like people to know much about you. You like to live drama free and indulge yourself in a life free of stress. You are prideful but your reclusiveness hides it well

from people. You have a creative mind and are very ambitious. As someone who doesn’t say much and just observes, your very wise and aware of the world around you.

Sagittarius –
Chocolate Peanut Butter
(Nov. 22 – Dec. 21)

You live life as an optimist, full of positive energy that you carry around and spread. You are very friendly and honest, you make for a loyal friend that everyone wants to have. You like to play and take risks hoping for the best outcomes even though sometimes that might not be the case. You don’t let anything keep you down for too long, you just want to have fun and keep your spirits lifted.

Capricorn – Rum Raisin
(Dec. 22 – Jan. 19)

Someone as responsible as you likes to keep things in their rightful place. You are very clean and put together; disorder is not something you enjoy being involved in. Being so proper and orderly you come off as being very rigid and serious,

but your intelligence and stress over daily responsibilities has made you a natural authoritarian.

Aquarius – Pistachio
(Jan. 20 – Feb. 18)

You have personality that is both sweet and loyal. As an independent person you like to make choices of your own instead of having to follow and listen to what everyone else wants. You have a rebellious character but still stick to responsibilities for you are an intelligent being. You are very honest and considerate of other people’s emotions.

Pisces – Coffee
(Feb. 19 – March 20)

As someone who is generous, you tend to be kind to others no matter what. You think about them before you think about yourself. You are very sensitive and thoughtful towards others, a true humanitarian. You are very loving and comprehensive towards friends and family. It doesn’t take much to make you happy; you appreciate all the little things in life.

Freshmen aren’t the only new faces this school year. Queens Voc has ten new teachers: Ms. Isaza, Ms. Karcher, Mr. Keum, Ms. Margulis, Ms. Martino Alves, Ms. Miaoulis, Ms. Nierer, Ms. Poltawsky, Mr. Rosenthal, and Ms. Volpe. Six of the new teachers are highlighted in this edition of Vocational Voice; the remaining four will be featured in the next edition.

Mr. Keum teaches Spanish to freshmen and juniors. He previously taught Spanish in Washington Irving and Norman Thomas high schools. Mr. Keum had a good first impression upon his arrival. “The school is very well organized and the staff members are friendly, polite, and helpful.” Mr. Keum said he decided to be a teacher “because my great grandfather was a Chinese script teacher in Korea, and being a teacher in Korea had a great significance. My culture is what inspired me,” he said. Mr. Keum said that he wants to teach students in a non-traditional way. “I plan to offer my students different activities and lessons to help them understand the subject. I want to teach in an alternate

Introducing QV’s New Teachers

by Marilynn Bonilla

way, rather than the traditional way of assessing with constant lessons and exams,” he said.

Ms. Margulis came from Forest Hills High School, and is now Queens Voc’s speech teacher. “Queens Voc is much smaller than Forest Hills, but I like it because it’s more diverse and everyone knows each other,” she said. When she came to Queens Voc she was pretty impressed because “teachers and students were friendly and welcoming,” she said. “I like that this school has small learning communities, classes that are manageable, and everyone is friendly,” Ms. Margulis said. As a speech teacher, she wants her students to do well in their classes and prepare them for the future by improving their speech. She decided to work with kids because “my mother used to be a teacher, and when I would go visit her in her classes, I saw her play games with her students while still teaching, I thought, this is awesome! I want to do the same thing,” she said.

Ms. Martino Alves teaches

U.S. history and health to freshmen and seniors. She taught government and economics at Bryant High School. Queens Voc is different from Bryant for her because of the SLCs. “The school has different opportunities for students and it’s interesting to see,” she said. Ms. Martino Alves’s first impression of Queens Voc was that “it’s a friendly place. Teachers work closely together...and there are good students who are interested in being successful,” she said. Ms. Martino Alves was inspired by the book *Pedagogy of the Oppressed* by Paulo Freire. “The book mentioned education being a key component to real social change, and that inspired me,” said Ms. Martino Alves.

Ms. Miaoulis, an art teacher, said she interviewed with many high schools, but Queens Voc gave her the best impression. “I like that it’s a small school and it has shop classes. This school prepares students for real life after high school and

life in the work force,” she said. Ms. Miaoulis decided to become an art teacher because she used to work in the YMCA and working with kids was something she enjoyed doing. As an art teacher, Ms. Miaoulis wants to get her students to realize that they can make a living through art. “Students say that they can’t draw, but I want to show them that anyone can get better at drawing, it just takes practice,” she said.

Ms. Nierer, an English teacher, teaches freshmen, sophomores, and juniors. Previously, she was a dean and an English teacher at Jamaica High School. “The differences between Jamaica and Queens Voc are that the students are more diverse and that it’s a much smaller school than Jamaica,” said Ms. Nierer. Her first impression of Queens Voc was, “people here are so nice, caring, helpful, and welcoming,” she said. Ms. Nierer decided to become an English teacher because when she was in high school, teachers always pushed her to do better, and she wanted

to help kids take advantage of academic opportunities. As an English teacher, her goal for her students is to do their best. She wants her students to thing “outside the box,” she said, such as improving their critical thinking.

Ms. Poltawsky teaches physical education. Before teaching in Queens Voc, she was a substitute at Franklin Delano Roosevelt High School. Ms. Ferrara, the coordinator of the School of Exploration and Discovery, told her Queens Voc was hiring a new physical education teacher, so Ms. Poltawsky sent in her resume and met with Ms. Burg. She said that once she got the job, she loved the school. “The students are nice, the staff members are helpful, and they make me feel welcomed,” she said. Ms. Poltawsky said she became a physical education teacher because her passion has always been sports and fitness. “I believe that it’s important for high school students to learn about sportsmanship and fitness,” she said. “I want to combine my love for sports and teaching and share it with the students.”

Students Disrespecting Cafe Staff

by Jessica Alcaide

The way they act at school probably isn’t the way they act at home.

Some students behave in the cafeteria in a way that would probably embarrass their parents. Or, do they talk to their parents this way?

Rakeem James, a senior, witnessed a student use foul language toward a cafeteria staff member. “Once a kid got angry because he had to pay



Most students are respectful, say kitchen workers.

full price lunch and called the lunch lady a ‘b***,’” he said.

Senior Johanna Torres, also witnessed a student being

disrespectful to a cafeteria staff member. Johanna said that once, during her lunch period, a girl cut the lunch line, went

straight to the lunch lady, and demanded she take her number since she didn’t have an ID. The lunch lady told her that students with no ID had to go to the back of the line. According to Johanna, the girl responded with “a nasty attitude,” saying, “I’m already here, so you are going to take my number!”

Mr. Schimenz, who deans during fifth period lunch, recently witnessed a couple of male students screaming profanities at the lady working the cash register because the line was moving slowly. He went up to the students and told them to imagine that was their mom. They wouldn’t like someone talking to their mom

that way, he said.

But Mr. Garofano, who also deans fifth period, says students are respectful to cafeteria staff and he rarely sees students being disrespectful to them. According to Mr. Garofano, “there might be students disrespecting the cafeteria members but I don’t see it fifth period since this period has more juniors and seniors who are more mature and respectful.”

A cafeteria staff member, Ms. Gazzara, said that most students in Queens Voc are “respectful, but some are not.” Even so, there are only a few incidents of disrespectfulness a year, she said.

Guidance Counselor Schedules

compiled by
Isaac Morales



Room/Ext	Name	In	Out	Lunch	SLC/ Inquiry Team
151A/1511	Ms. Basirico <i>School of Entrepreneurial Studies</i>	8:20	3:30	Period 5 <i>(11:34-12:19)</i>	Period 6 Monday SLC Meeting
151B/1512	Ms. Dattner <i>School of Exploration & Discovery</i>	9:20	4:30	Period 7 <i>(1:11-1:53)</i>	Period 8 Wednesday SLC Meeting
151E/1515	Ms. Judge <i>School of Skilled Building Trades</i>	8:00	3:10	Period 7 <i>(1:11-1:53)</i>	Period 5 Wednesday SLC Meeting
151D/1514	Mr. Holder <i>School of Computer Electronics and Engineering Technology</i>	8:00	3:10	Period 6 <i>(12:22-1:08)</i>	Period 7 Wednesday SLC Meeting
153/1531	Ms. Carfagno <i>Pupil Accounting Secretary</i>	7:45	3:05	<i>(12:00-12:50)</i>	Available Monday - Friday
143/1432	Ms. Abrams <i>College Advisor</i>	8:00	3:00	Period 6 <i>(12:22-1:08)</i>	College Advisement on Tuesdays and Thursdays
151C/1513	Ms. Kurnitz <i>SAPIS/SPARK</i>	8:30	4:00	Period 6 <i>(12:22-1:08)</i>	Available Monday - Friday

SLT Gets New Members

by Crystal Scottborgh

Htet Aung was recently elected as SCEET's new student representative in the only challenged SLT election. "I was in 9th grade leadership and I wanted to have a similar, perhaps more enjoyable experience, so I decided to try and join the SLT," said Htet.

The other new student members were unopposed: Paula Iorlano and Breanna Losak representing SES, Jordan Balacer and Merry Shil representing SSBT, and Davier Simmons representing SED.

"I wanted to be a voice for the freshmen and be able to raise any concerns they had. I wanted to be involved because unlike many freshmen, I am not shy," Davier said.

Junior Kevin Hernandez is serving his second year as a SCEET representative. "It is always good to know what's happening around the school," said Kevin, who has been on the team since freshman year, "and it's good to have input and be able to offer advice," he said.

The SLT "works with the principal to improve the school," said Mr. Schimenz, who was recently re-elected as a faculty representative to the SLT. "It is a chance for students, teachers, and parents to raise concerns and work towards solutions," he said.

Ms. Volpe, one of the new art teachers, was elected in October, replacing Mr. MacDonald who had been on

the SLT the past two years.

The SLT has pushed for changes. "There were complaints for years about the school not having a website. If the robotics team had its own website, and the baseball team had its own website, why didn't the school have a website?" said Mr. Schimenz, who credits Mr. MacDonald with pushing this issue. The website was created by Ms. Ruiz; however once she left Queens Voc, Mr. MacDonald took over. "It's a vibrant, great school website," said Mr. Schimenz.

Issues that have been discussed recently include budget cuts, school facilities, and sufficient college information. In the November meeting, Ms. Dattner discussed different scenarios of child abuse and what people should be aware of.

Other members of the SLT are Ms. Burg, principal, Mr. Boyle, UFT chapter chairman, Ms. Rychalski, Parent Association president, Ms. Ocampo representing administration, Ms. Abdollah, Ms. Lopez, Ms. Puma, Mrs. Robinson, and Ms. Vega, parent representatives.

Each school is required to have a school leadership team. The SLT meetings are open and non-SLT members are allowed to attend. Students or teachers with concerns should speak to their SLT representatives. The SLT meets monthly in the library, from 4:30pm to 6:30pm.



Student reps discuss issues with Ms. Burg.

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

Write to us and tell us!

Be sure to sign your letter and put it in Mr. Schimenz's mailbox in the main office.

Vocational Voice

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



45 Cents

Mr. Schimenz
Main Office



Melissa Burg
Principal

The Power of You

After the last few months, where so many people had to deal with terrible tragedies, it's hard to remain positive! Many things in life just seem to "happen" to us. We try to understand them, but some things will just never make sense.

As we change our calendars and start a fresh new year, we must believe that things will get better. Sometimes the world seems so cold and even your best isn't good enough. Believe that you have the strength to make it happen, whatever that "it" may be. Remember, you are never alone. There is always somebody to reach out to for help. Don't ever stop believing in the POWER OF YOU...the results might surprise you!

I wish you all peace, love and happiness in the coming year and always!

Melissa Burg
Principal



The Vocational Voice staff wishes our Queens Voc family happy holidays and a productive New Year.



Corrine Lopez has great skills and a great attitude.

Freshman Wins Nationwide Tae-Kwon-Do Competition

by Khiran Samsundar

Freshman Corrine Lopez, a black belt in Tae-Kwon-Do, won first place in form and second place in sparring in a nationwide competition held on Saturday, Oct. 27, in Manassas, Virginia. “I felt awesome when I won my medals, it made me proud of myself. I knew all my hard work had finally paid off,” Corrine said. “Before the competition, I practiced every Saturday for three hours from Sept. to Oct.,” she said. Corrine started going to United Tae-Kwon-Do School in Woodside when she was ten. “I was so excited to join because all the other students practicing gave me motivation,” she said. She later left to go to K-Spirit Tae-Kwon-Do School in Brooklyn because her teacher left to open his own school and she wanted to

continue to train with him. Corrine quickly turned Tae-Kwon-Do into a hobby. She fell in love with the sport, especially from watching movies such as The Karate Kid series and Bruce Lee movies. “Tae-Kwon-Do teaches you self-control. It also helps you lose weight, which is usually a good thing,” said Corrine. “If you want to join Tae-Kwon-Do, go for it,” Corrine’s parents told her. Her parents have given her a great deal of support, she said, which helped her continue to improve at the sport. Now, Corrine practices on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays for two hours each day. She doesn’t have a competition coming up, but she is working to get her second Dan, which is her ranking. She wants to get a higher Dan which would mean her getting a black belt with a gold stripe.

by Miguel Garcia

Through internships, students can gain valuable experience in the real world, and have fun if they’re lucky enough as well, said Daisy Maldonado, a senior majoring in electronics. Students at Queens Voc are required to get 60 hours of work based experience related to their major, to graduate with a CTE endorsed diploma. Mr. Frank said that the 60 hours are required for any student who wants this endorsed diploma. And after spending four years in a CTE school, who wouldn’t? Mr. Frank helps the students in Queens Voc by informing them of internships that he learns of from trade journals. Since it’s harder for him to find internships related to electronics he has to research electronics related businesses, contact them, and convince them to hire students as interns. During an internship, students may get a dose of what the real world has to offer after graduating high school. Mr. Frank said that some students have told him that in the internships, it’s a whole different ball game. He believes that it’s a good, worthwhile experience because it gives students a sense of reality. “Some students have come back to me telling me how they’ve gotten jobs in places they’ve done their internships in,” said Mr. Frank. Daisy earned her 60 hours in an internship over the summer in Manhattan with Axiom, a law firm that has a computer/engineering department. Company lawyers

drop off their laptops to that department to get them fixed. The employees in this department also make cables such as UTP, coaxial, and fiber optic. Daisy said that she screwed up on the very first day by soldering two boards together and didn’t know what to do, but that didn’t stop her from trying to get better and not committing that mistake twice. “They would constantly make fun of me and make jokes about me because I was so short. One day, one of the lawyers was leaving his laptop with us to get fixed. He asked us, ‘Why didn’t you guys tell me that it was bring your kid to work day?’ I felt so embarrassed,” said Daisy. “Even through all of this, it was a pretty fun experience because everyone made working fun and we would have random parties and treats,” she said. Senior Diego Palacios, majoring in electrical installation, interned at Crescent Energy located in Manhattan. He researched space availability for events and any new updates or projects that their affiliated companies had done or were planning. He also filed important papers involving million dollar companies. ““Don’t be late on your first day on the job’ was the advice that my dad had given me the night before, so I couldn’t believe that I had overslept on the first day of the internship, luckily for me I still arrived before my boss did,” Diego said. Sonia Orellana, another senior EI major, interned at Alburdan Electric Co. in Queens. She was

an electrical helper to a supervisor who worked there cleaning out smoke detectors. They went around to whoever hired their services to clean out their smoke detectors so that they could function properly. “Since I’m short, whenever I had to get to the smoke detector I would have to go up the very last step of the ladder in order to reach. Since I’m afraid of heights, this made it a mission every time I had to do it,” said Sonia. “My partner would sometimes joke around by moving the ladder a bit and telling me, ‘Don’t worry, if you fall you won’t pass the floor.’ We would just begin to laugh.” Saul Llapa, a senior majoring in Graphic Arts, did an internship at Trees NY. His job was to prune trees using all kinds of tools such as pull pruners and pull saws. “I wanted to know more about trees and the importance they have in our society, so I decided do this internship,” said Saul. After doing this job for a month, he said that he has developed an appreciation for trees. “This internship not only helped me learn about trees but also my presentation skills because we had to do presentations for little kids on proper tree care,” Saul said. “I remember that my first time doing it I kept getting nervous and uncomfortable but as I kept doing more that nervousness went away,” he added. Graphic arts students are able to do internships not related to their major because they have to do a graphic arts project based on their internship, said senior Raymond Gomez.

PUZZLES

Word Search

by Dorothy Bailey

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

VOCATION
SPANISH
SENIOR
CLASS

PLUMBER
COSMETOLOGY
BUSINESS
ELECTRIC

ATTENDANCE
HONORS
REGENTS
SPORTS

ART
BAKE SALE
GRAPHICS
HOMEWORK

Word Scramble

by Kimani Brown

Directions: Unscramble the following words of this winter season.

1. ISTREG

2.BEDMRECE

3.DOCL

4.OLSASNFWKE

5.KHNAUAKH

6.RASHACMTI

7.LETMIETSO

8.TIFGS

9.RETE

10.ASRFC

11.STENMTI

12.WNE EYSAR
- _____

12. New Years

11. Mittens

10. Scarf

9. Tree

8. Gifts

7. Mistletoe
6. Christmas

5. Hanukkah

4. Snowflakes

3. Cold

2. December

1. Tigers

Answer Key

Freshmen First Impressions

by Antonio Torres

Questions:

1. How do you like Queens Vocational and Technical High School?
2. What do you think about the school's teachers? Why?
3. Who is your favorite teacher?
4. Are the students respectful?
5. How do you feel about your schedule?
6. What major are you interested in?
7. Are you thinking about transferring out of this school?



Anthony Nunez

1. It is a great school with a great learning environment.
2. The teachers are great with students and I love the way they teach.
3. Mr. McCarthy. He is a relaxed person and treats us with respect.
4. The students are all hard working and show a lot of respect.
5. I do not like the schedule at all. It is way too long and I cannot hang out after school.
6. I am interested in the electrical shop class. It provides us with good skills for the future.



Sandy Cordero

1. I like this school. It may seem small, but there are large opportunities.
2. I like all my teachers and the way they bring us the information.
3. Ms. Rejalaga. She is funny and sweet.
4. The students listen and are very undistruptive.
5. No! It is way too long, and the days seem forever.
6. Electrical is the program for me!
7. I won't be transferring out of this school. This school is great.



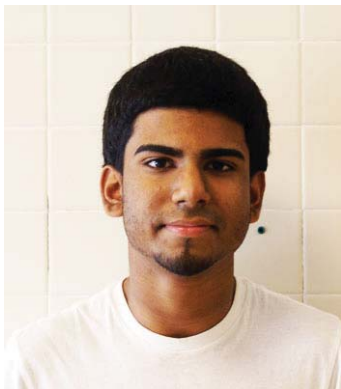
Emily Peralta

1. It's a good school.
2. Some teachers are fun while others are annoying and rude.
3. I do not have a favorite teacher as of yet.
4. Some students know how to act while others act like children.
5. I dislike my schedule. I cannot hang out with my friends after school.
6. Cosmo.
7. I am thinking about leaving this school. If not this year, then for sure next year.



Sofia Oviedo

1. It is a great school. It helps me to look for my career in the future.
2. Pretty cool for the most part. Some teachers are creepy.
3. Mr. Elfreich is my favorite teacher. He allows the students to be themselves.
4. Sometimes they yell across the room to each other, other times they are respectful.
5. I leave after ninth period, so my schedule is fine.
6. Robotics. This program is new, creative, and different.
7. No. I have a lot of friends in this school.



Faiaj Jamal

1. Pretty good; it is a decent school.
2. The teachers are very fair.
3. Mr. Elfreich. He is a funny guy and takes learning to a whole new level.
4. Yes. They are very respectful

students.

5. It is a bad schedule. I get out at 4:30 and I have no time to see my friends.
6. Plumbing.
7. Yes. I feel I will not be using the programs this school has to offer in the future.



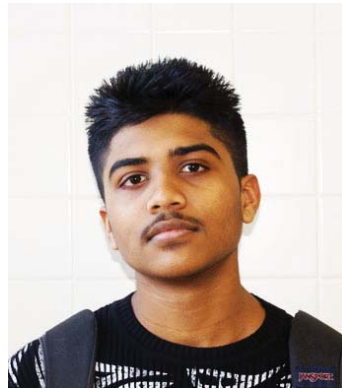
Orietter San Martin

1. Horrible because I'm doing bad.
2. They're fair.
3. Ms. Kramer. She is very nice, plus she passed me.
4. The students have much respect for the teachers and for the most part do not talk back.
5. This schedule stinks. I wish I were able to get out earlier.
6. I am interested in electrical.
7. No. I like the programs this school has and all my friends are here.



Erick Peralta

1. This school is awesome!
2. There are only two teachers I don't like.
3. Mr. Elfreich. He is cool, funny, and we can have a great time in his class.
4. The students are very respectful not only to the teachers but also to one another.
5. I do not like this schedule. I am not able to see my girlfriend after school.
6. Electrical Installation has my heart right now.
7. Heck no!



Harnoor Bhumak

1. On a scale of 1-10, this school is a solid 10.
2. They all have good teaching methods and are very interactive.
3. Mr. Elfreich. He brings English language arts to a fun and interesting level.
4. Some of the students are cool while others are rude.
5. I come in third period and leave tenth period. Seems like a fair schedule.
6. C-Tech
7. No way!



Kerlyn Lora

1. This school is very big and I do not like it.
2. Most of the teachers are very cool.
3. Ms. Ferrara is my favorite teacher. She is cool, plus I'm taller.
4. The students can get out of hand, but are very respectful.
5. It is an ok schedule. I thought as freshmen we would have a shorter schedule.
6. I am interested in robotics, so I can learn mechanics.
7. I was thinking about leaving, but I am starting to like this school.



Michael Mensah

1. I do like this school a lot.
2. The teachers know how to have fun and can really connect with the students.
3. It's a battle between Mr. Radding and Mr. Elfreich. Both are very cool teachers.
4. Some students were cool in the beginning, but now that they know

the school they act out.

5. I have first period through tenth period everyday and I hate it.
6. I am looking at the easiest shop for me. Right now it would be business.
7. I am not leaving this school. All the teachers are cool and there are great programs.



Brittany Mancheno

1. I do like this school.
2. Some teachers are cool, while others are very boring.
3. I do not have a favorite teacher.
4. The students are ok. Some act out while others are quiet.
5. I do like my schedule because the classes are a lot of fun.
6. Graphic arts to learn web design.
7. Yes, I would like to leave this school to have a regular schedule.



Amber Malone

1. It's good. The days are long but it goes by smoothly.
2. I like all my teachers. They are all good at what they do.
3. Mr. Harrington is my favorite teacher because he treats students like adults.
4. The students just stay quiet and to themselves.
5. I start second and leave at tenth. I cannot stand it.
6. Business.
7. I am considering transferring because they days are too long.

How do you like our first edition?

Let us know.

Letters can be placed in Mr. Schimenz's mailbox in the main office or emailed to letters@vocvoice.org

*Vocational
Voice
Welcomes
the class of
2016*

SENIOR SPORTS PROFILES

by Joseph Taveras and Henry Alvarez

Kimani Brown



Team: Girls' Varsity Bowling
Years on team: 3

"She is the best player on the team. She is also captain. We can count on her a lot, if it weren't for her we wouldn't have done as well as we did."

- Brenda Taveras

"Kimani is everything a coach could want in a player. Along with being the team's best bowler, she is also a leader and a wonderful student."

-Coach Garofano

Denisse Carbo



Team: Girls' Varsity Bowling
Years on team: 1

"She knows how to help out players when they don't understand how to do something. And she is a good player."

- Ashley Fernandez

"Denisse been a wonderful addition to the girls' bowling team. As a good overall athlete, she had no problem picking up the sport."

- Coach Garofano

Kiara DeLaRosa



Team: Girls' Varsity Bowling
Years on team: 3

"She is a very good player"

- Leiry Jaquez

"Kiara established herself as a member of the A team. She got better each year she was on the team."

-Coach Garofano

Leiry Jaquez



Team: Girls' Varsity Bowling
Years on team: 2

"She was my friend in school and helped me improve as a bowler."

- Priya Seejor

"Leiry came a long way as a bowler. Normally a C-bowler, she has made significant improvement in her game and became a starting member of the B team."

- Coach Garofano

Judy Moy



Team: Girls' Varsity Bowling
Years on team: 2

"Judy was not too friendly but was a very good bowler."

- Maria Perez

"While Judy is a very quiet young lady, she became a very effective bowler."

- Coach Garofano

Evan Dunkley



Team: Boys' Varsity Bowling
Years on Team: 2

"Evan was always focused and made accurate rolls."

- Htet Aung

"Evan was on the A team and was a big part of a very solid team. He was also a great contributor."

- Coach Devaux

Esteve Escorza



Team: Boys' Varsity Bowling
Years on Team: 1

"Although its Esteve's first year on the team, he learned a lot and helped the team."

- Evan Dunkley

"He is an athlete and has picked up bowling quickly and was very helpful down the stretch."

- Coach Devaux

Alex Artunduaga



Team: Boys' Varsity Soccer
Years on team: 2

"Alexander has good skills as a soccer player."

- Abraham Zepeda

"He is a back-up goalie and is always at games. He is very skilled and when asked to make saves he does it."

- Coach Ali

Jonathan Henry



Team: Boys' Varsity Bowling
Years on team: 2

"Jonathan is an outstanding bowler. I learned from him."

- Esteve Escorza

"He improved a lot from last year and became a member of the A team."

- Coach Devaux

Kenny Rios



Team: Boys' Varsity Soccer
Years on team: 4

"Kenny started off the season as a defense and became a forward. He was one of our strongest players, scoring goals and always showing effort on the field."

- Michael Alvarado

"First started was called 'the wall' for his defense. He became a forward and was very skillful as a soccer player."

- Coach Ali

Miguel Caicedo

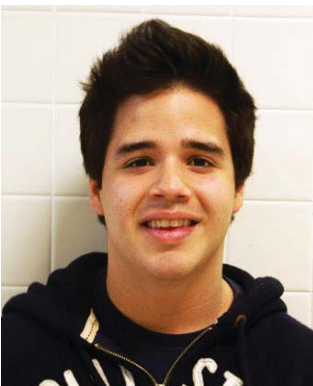
Team: Boys' Varsity Soccer
Years on team: 1

"Miguel puts in effort every time he plays and you always see an improvement in his game."

- Alexander Artunduaga

"He plays true to the game should be able to finish his plays as his game progresses."

- Coach Ali



Jose Recinos



Team: Boys' Varsity Soccer
Years on team: 2

"Fast as Lightning."

- Nicholas Kotiakis

"He is very fast and has ability to improve."

- Coach Ali

Nichole Perez

Team: Girls' Varsity Bowling
Years on team: 2

"Nichole is one of the best bowlers, she helps you out when needed and she is always positive. She's a great asset to the team."

- Jenelle Perrucci

"Nichole was a member of the A team and has become one of our most productive bowlers."

- Coach Garofano





Coach Boyle and his team have reason to smile.

Storm Finishes the Volleyball Season that “could have been”

by Ashley DeMoss

The Lady Tigers volleyball team ended the season in third place in their division with a 4-5 record.

“We had a very good season but it was too short because of Hurricane Sandy. We missed out on three games, which made us miss out on a playoff spot. Overall, it was a fun season with a disappointing end,” Coach Boyle said.

Some of the team players were also disappointed but nevertheless proud of their

team. “We did really well. I definitely think we could have made it to the playoffs given the opportunity, but unfortunately we did not due to Hurricane Sandy,” Monica Vega said.

The girls defeated Aviation, Wagner, Academy of Career in TV and Film, and American Studies. The girls lost by close games to Frank Sinatra, Richmond Hill, John Adams, Metropolitan Campus and Campus Magnet.

Mr. Boyle said his team had numerous star players such as Thalia Cia, Christian

Flores, Nabila Parnella, Sabrina Spiecker, Monica Vega and Dayana Zamora. According to the PSAL, Sabrina Spiecker, has an average of 70 service points, 20 digs, and 16 kills through the whole season. “She’s a very good player. She helps me out a lot. She is the kind of player you want. She plays hard and she plays to win,” Mr. Boyle said. Sabrina said not only did she have a good year but the team did too. “I feel this year was the best and biggest year of accomplishments. We really made it far,” She said.

There were 15 girls on the volleyball team: Seniors Christian Flores, Nabila Parnella, Sabrina Spiecker, Monica Vega, and Dayana Zamora; Juniors Rachel Ackerman, Gabriella Biondo, Thalia Cia, Lisbeth Lopez, and Jocelyn Talavera; Sophomores-Liliana Fernandez, Zinniah Munoz; and Freshmen-Jocelyn Navarro, Sofia Oviedo, and Tia Singh.

Mr. Boyle was saddened that the season ended the way it did for his senior girls. “Sorry that we didn’t get a chance to play in the playoffs. I really wish they could experience playing there” he said.

tradition that began five years ago, the newly assembled team and numerous former players came together for the annual Thanksgiving Dinner. About 36 current and former players attended.

Kevin Hernandez, a three year player, was recently appointed varsity team captain. “I can take on the responsibility, I know what I have to do,” said Kevin. The coach made this selection because “the team participates in a lot of activities all of which take planning, and Kevin’s always there helping. Kevin was a captain during his freshman year. “Many players just want to play and don’t realize the work that it takes to get to this point. Kevin isn’t the only one helping, and I expect to appoint a few more captains,” he said.

The boys selected for the varsity team are: Robinson Adames, Henry Alvarez, Jordan Balcacer, Andy Collado, William Callanan, Eric Castro, William De Los Angeles, Harlinson Gavaria, Daniel Henao, Kevin Hernandez, Joan Mulato, Hamza Naseer, Osvaldo Nunez, Dolapo Oyekanami, David Pena, Jarvis Perez, Eddie Quiles, Jhon Reynoso, Nathaniel Rodriguez, Mario Salcedo, Travis Savino, Joseph Seino, Brandon Taveras, Joseph Taveras, Cristian Trujillo, Charles Urena, and Adrian Vega.

New Gym Uniforms: Requirement has Rocky Start

by Diego Palacios

Queens Voc began selling green shorts and gray t-shirts in November after dozens of complaints from parents and students that the new uniform policy was impractical.

The new policy, instituted by the Physical Education teachers, requires students to wear green shorts, sneakers, and a gray t-shirt in order to participate in the physical education activities.

The complaints mainly focused on the unavailability of green shorts in local stores.

As for the gray t-shirts, the PE teachers agreed to allow students to wear any Queens Voc shirt as a replacement for the gray t-shirt if they do not have one.

The shirts and shorts are being sold together for \$18 while supplies last. They can be purchased in Mr. Vega’s office, room 143. These shorts and shirts have the name of the school as well as a tiger logo on the shirt. Mr. Vega, COSA, ordered 100 sets of shirts and shorts in various sizes. He will order more if the demand is high.

According to Mr. Garofano, this policy “was put in place to unite the students and to bring comradery to the whole school.” Mr. Devaux said that “The uniform itself represents authority and respect that students have towards one another.” The shorts are required to be green simply because they symbolize the school colors, said Mr. Garofano.



Students now need green gym shorts for full credit.

Baseball Tryouts as Varsity goes A

by Isaiah George

In early December, the varsity baseball team found out that it was moved up to the A-division.

Eleven straight years of playoffs, three division championships in seven years, and getting to two baseball championships in seven years was the impetus behind the move, Coach Schimenz said.

“Now it’s going to be tougher, we need to come together even more,” he said.

The baseball tryout on Saturday, Oct. 13, set the stage for the upcoming season. The tryout was held at Maurice Field from 8am-3pm, where nearly 60 students vied for spots on the varsity and junior

varsity teams. Ten former Queens Voc Tigers baseball players ran tryouts and, with the team leaders, rated the potential players. “The tryout was a success because of the way the graduates worked together and encouraged the potential players,” said the coach.

When tryouts ended, the coach, his former players, and the current team leaders discussed the picks. “Skills are important, but players have to be cooperative and coachable. Players with big egos aren’t coachable, and if you’re not coachable, you won’t be an asset,” said Coach Schimenz. Veterans, too, have to try out. “It’s a one year contract,” the coach said.

In keeping with a team



William should make varsity, “Zuzu” (’05) says .

JV Basketball Coach to Change Tactics

by Amin Al-Sayed

After two years of disappointment, Jean Daniel, coach of the JV basketball team, said it’s time for a turnaround. His team has not made the playoffs and has not had a winning record. Last year, the team improved to a 3-11 record.

The turnaround was delayed as they began their regular season on Dec. 13, with a loss at Flushing HS.

Coach Daniel along with School Safety Agent Stevens, the assistant coach, held tryouts during the week of Nov. 5. Veterans Alexis Nieves and Jacob Sobilo were joined by 14 new players: Sandy Codero, Angel Diaz, Justin Felder, Alejandro Fernandez, Christopher Fnu, Catrell Jewel, Michael Mensoh, Krizon Maynard, Joshua Rodriguez, Travis Savino, Xavier Rios, Nicholas Saba, Lincoln Spear, and Omar Zaid.

Coach Daniel said that in the past he has had individuals do what they want, with no

sense of teamwork. This year, Mr. Daniel said, he wants “more team oriented basketball.”

Officer Stevens said he’ll use his basketball experience “to teach these young kids how to play organized basketball and how to play it at a high level.”

Coach Daniel wants a team effort from starters, bench players, and even himself. “I believe I have more discipline and I expect commitment from my players. Everyone has to do his part and be held accountable,” he said. “There are no excuses,” he said, “after losing records the past two years, I’ve learned a bit on what it takes to win and I hope it will help turn this team around.”

Agent Stevens believes he can help make the team tough. “Coach Daniel is more of the good cop; I’m the bad cop. I want to teach these kids to be aggressive physically and mentally,” he said.

Sophomore Catrell Jewel said the team has a good bond and is building chemistry. “I believe if we play as a team we can go far in the playoffs.”



Soccer Team Short on Starters Still Does Well

by Joseph Taveras

The boys’ soccer team ended the season with eight wins, five loses, and one tie, and a total of 25 points scored. They went to the playoffs but were eliminated in the first round as Campus Magnet shutout the Tigers, 2-0. The Tigers beat Franklin K. Lane twice, Townsend Harris twice, and Richmond Hill, Robert F. Wagner, HS for Arts and Business, and Grover Cleveland once each. The five loses were to Grover Cleveland, Richmond Hill, Robert F. Wagner, and Newtown twice. The Tigers tied HS for Arts and Business in their final game of the regular season.

“It’s not easy to compete with many new players; it takes time to get the team’s act together,” said Coach Ali, who had only two returning starters.

According to the coach, top players this season were forward Kenny Rios, goalie Gerardo Amigon, and mid-fielder Alex Gonzalez.

The team was weakened at the end of last season when they lost nine starters out of the 13 players who graduated in June. “I needed more time to put together a team that played united,” said the coach. “I had no finishers. The team had a great start but toward the end they lacked scoring.” Last year the leading goal scorer for the Tigers was John Velasquez with 18 goals. This year four players, Miguel Caicedo, Kenny Rios, Alex Gonzalez, and Andres Puli, led with four goals each. The most competitive games

that the Queens Voc soccer team played this year were against Newtown and Grover Cleveland, said senior Miguel Caicedo. They were the toughest games, he said, because they were competitive until the final minutes. The Tigers split with Grover Cleveland and lost both against Newtown.

The captains this year were senior Kenny Rios and junior Michael Alvarado. “Michael was selected captain because he knew how the team worked as a freshman and had great leadership skills,” said Mr. Ali. Kenny had been captain since his junior year.

According to psal.org, there are 33 boys on the soccer team: Alexander Aguilar, Kevin Alarcon, Radfan Ali, Michael Alvarado, Alexiz Alvarez, Gerardo Amigon, Jonathan Amon, Alexander Artunduaga, Jatinder Bhatti, Mateus Braga, Miguel Caicedo, Chris Chique Chicaiza, Cristopher Curillo, Harlinson Gaviria, Juan Gomez, Alex Gonzalez, Jorge Grajales, Mike Hernandez, Nicholas Kotsakis, Jeffrey Montoya, Guadalupe Nahuacatl, Jesus Palao, Joel Pazmino, Andres Puli, Kevin Quiroz, Jose Recinos, Brian Reyes, Kenny Rios, Anthony Saguay, Christian Solarte, Marcin Trzeciak, Md Uddin, and Abraham Zepeda.

For the Tigers to have a chance next year the team would have to be far better than this years’ team, Mr. Ali said. There could be as many as 17 returning players. “Next year I will start tryouts and practices earlier to improve,” he said.



There will be many returning soccer veterans next year.



Kimani Brown, captain, relaxes with teammates.

Girls’ Bowling Season Cut Short Team makes Playoffs with 6-2 Record

by Crystal Scottborgh

“The affect of the hurricane was quite substantial,” Coach Garofano said about the girls’ bowling season. Three games scheduled for the week school was closed after Hurricane Sandy were cancelled because of school closings. “Those three games could have raised our stats. We were practicing

after school from Monday to Thursday. We were definitely well prepared,” said Priya Seejor.

The bowling season was supposed to last from Sept. 25 to Nov. 8, but the last game was played on Oct. 25. With their six win and two loss record, they managed to make it to the playoffs, but they lost in the first round to Van Buren, 2-1 on

Boys’ Bowling has Short Season Also make playoffs with 6-2 Record

by Amin Al-Sayed

They were off to one of their best seasons until hurricane Sandy hit and ended their regular season early. The boys’ bowling team had a record of 6-2 for the season before it was cut short. Coach Devaux said he was disappointed that PSAL canceled their last 4 games regular season games.

Despite the canceled games, the boys made the playoffs. They defeated Abraham Lincoln High School in the first round, but then lost to Susan Wagner in the second round, three games to none.

The team hadn’t had a winning record in three years, but Captain Evan Dunkley said he believed that experience from last year helped him improve as an individual and also as a team player. He bowled a similar average as last year with a 159.63 but provided the leadership to mentor many of the new and young bowlers, he said.

“As a player, I learned that team work is going to win every game and things I had to improve in was picking up my spares and giving tips to

my teammates to improve our game,” Evan said.

Evan was one of this year’s returning players, along with Angelo Andino, John Gamble, Jonathan Henry, and Christian Teran. New additions were Htet Aung, William Callanan, Esteve Escorza, Mohammed Hossain, Licerio Nique, and Derek Toohey. Coach Devaux said he picked his new players based on their skillset and the ability to take advice and improve their game. He also expected his veterans to take responsibilities to mentor the new bowlers. Co-Captain Christian Teran led the team with a bowling average of 197.18, followed by Angelo Andino, who bowled an average 162.08.

“We played from behind for most of the season, we came together, we played as a team, and we played hard. We were the underdogs, compared to last year when we had leads from the beginning” Coach Devaux said.

Queens Voc’s athletic director, Richard Maloney said, “I was very impressed with the B-Team, they kept them in the game and gave them a chance to win.”

Nov. 14.

“Kimani Brown was our best bowler with an average of 140. She was a great competitor,” said Coach Garofano. Kimani had been on the team for three years. “I always remained focused during the games,” said Kimani, the team captain. “I love to motivate my teammates so we could play the best possible,” she said.

Another one of the team’s top bowlers was Maria Perez, a two-year veteran. “Maria is a junior with an average of 120. She became one of the team’s best bowlers,” said Coach Garofano. “She’s really good. Next year, after all of the seniors are gone, she’ll be the best bowler on the team,” said Priya.

The students on the team include seniors: Kimani Brown, Nichole Perez, Brenda Taveras, Judy Moy, Jenelle Perrucci, Priya Seejor, Denisse Carbo, Leiry Jacquez, and Kiara Delarosa, junior: Maria Perez, and sophomores: Upsana Tyagi and Ashley Fernandez.

The seniors say they had a great time. “It is a fun learning experience,” said Judy, a second year bowler. Kimani agreed. “It is fun even though it can be challenging. I have become a lot better since I joined freshman year.”

“We are all helpful to one another. If someone is struggling and wants to improve their bowling, we try our best to get them to play their best,” said Ashley. “We act like best of friends. I can’t wait to join the team again next year.”

“The first game I went to, I saw everyone’s motivation and it made me want to join the team,” said Melissa Carbo, a sophomore at Queens Voc who has attended multiple games. The team’s home bowling alley is 34th Avenue Lanes, in Jackson Heights.

The school does not provide funding for school sports. To fundraise, the girls’ bowling team had a bake sale. “We were able to raise approximately \$500 to pay for the team’s uniforms and practices at our home bowling alley,” said Denisse.

Tigers Sports Continued Inside