



Vocational Voice

Vol. LXXXX No. 1

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

Fall, 2014

Queens Voc Students Break Records in Fight Against Breast Cancer

by Leslie Puebla

Eighty Queens Voc students helped fight against breast cancer, at the annual Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk on Sunday, Oct. 19, at Flushing Meadows-Corona Park.

The students walked three miles and raised a record-breaking \$6,715, making them the “number one school in Queens for fundraising,” said Mr. Vega, the coordinator of student activities. Initially Queens Voc students set a school goal of \$3,000, and Mr. Vega encouraged every student who walked to raise \$50 or more.

“This year we exceeded our goal by double the amount, and students once again had lots of fun. Teachers really went out of their way to sponsor students. We had a lot of support from the teachers,” said Mr. Vega.

Last year Queens Voc was again awarded a pink, silver, and gold banner, signifying they raised more than \$5,000.

The money raised will be used to help provide care for the breast cancer fighters after they have dealt with chemotherapy.

Students from different grades and SLCs attended the walk. The

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Students take a photo op in front of the Unisphere at Flushing Meadows Park.

Students Struggle to Succeed on AP Exams



Mr. Raynor's AP Calculus BC class plans to beat the odds.

by Mir Raonaq

Advanced Placement (AP) classes can lead to college credits for students who pass the exam, but at Queens Voc students struggle to pass the exam.

Of the 69 AP exams taken by Queens Voc students last spring, none scored a five, none scored a

four, four students scored a three, four students scored a two, and 61 students scored a one. Four students earned the college credits from the exam.

Last spring, six students took the AP exam for Art History and all scored a one. Eleven students took the AP Psychology exam, and again all scored a one.

Twenty-three students took the AP exam for European History, three students scored a three, earning the college credits, and the other 20 scored a one. In AB Calculus, 18 students took the AP exam, 16 scored a one, one student scored a two, and one student scored a three, earning college credits. In AP Physics, 11 students took the exam, eight students scored a one and three scored a two.

Each AP exam score is a weighted combination of the student's scores on the multiple-choice section and the free response section. The final score is reported on a five-point scale. Obtaining a three is passing, anything lower than a three is failing and no college credit is given. There aren't many students who have taken the AP exam and passed with more than a two,” said Mr. Gorman, assistant principal of the Math and Science Department. Nevertheless, he said, “It shows a great deal of effort when a student takes the class because it helps develop academic scores.”

Last year, Queens Voc offered five AP classes: Psychology taught

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Queens Voc, Meet College

by Chris Lexis

Queens Voc held a college fair with representatives from nearly 20 colleges, mostly CUNYs and SUNYs. The fair was held in the auditorium on Tuesday, Nov. 25. Junior and senior classes were escorted by their teachers to meet the college representatives.

Mr. Ilardi, one of Queens Voc's college advisors, said he

suggested an in-house college fair so students would get a sense of what colleges offer and what their admissions counselors look for.

“Students are properly prepared for college because QV offers great opportunities,” said Mr. Ilardi. “Students must expose themselves to college so they can get an idea of what college is like.”

Amauris Ortiz, the

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In-house college fair was popular with juniors and seniors.

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Coding Class Improves Employability

by Eudeirys Espinal

Sixty students have been accepted to a new after-school coding program in Queens Voc called ScriptEd, which helps students learn HTML, CSS, and JavaScript to build the front, or customer side of websites.

The program aims to help promising students find summer internships in which to use their skills. The program is teaching students skills applicable to the

real world. “Front end developers are key right now. Companies are asking for front end developers,” said Mr. Bijesse, program manager at ScriptEd.

Coding is introduced by “taking very small steps,” said Jacob Sherman, a volunteer teaching scriptEd students coding. Mr. Sherman began his career as a lawyer but now has his own start-up.

Mr. Bijesse encourages other students to try computer

programming. “Coding is not just for software engineers,” he said. Senior Kelvin Chabla said that he wanted to be able to create a website to help students in Cisco pass the CCENT and CCNA certification exams. Kelvin said that he wants to become a network administrator.

One hundred and sixty students signed up, according to Assistant Principal Newman, but

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Students Fight Breast Cancer

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two biggest fundraisers were senior Mildred Alvarez, who raised \$800 and freshman Philip Papaccio, who raised \$410. "When I heard about the Breast Cancer walk, I thought it would be fun, but I didn't think I'd raise \$410. I had a lot of fun, and it

made me feel great because it was for a good cause. I can't wait for next year," said Phillip Papaccio.

"Every year that I've participated in the Breast Cancer Walk, it has been more successful than the previous year," said junior Tia Singh. "It's just a fun day walking to support people that you don't know personally. Advocates who participate not only help breast cancer, but they help create a caring atmosphere," she said.

Queens Voc, Meet College

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representative from SUNY Cobleskill said that "one concern for NYC students is the financial dilemma. I understand poverty and students need to see that college is affordable." He said that the students were very receptive to low prices for colleges, which made the fair enjoyable. Queens Voc students,



Mr. Illardi speaks with Mike Badia about future plans.

he said, "are completely ahead" of students from other schools in preparedness because "they already know what they want."

Brett Fuller, the representative from Borough of Manhattan Community College, explained

how "college is all about the right fit." Mr. Fuller said the students had a lot of questions and because of their shop classes were "a half-step ahead" when applying to college.

Mr. Fuller and Mr. Ortiz said they enjoyed the fair and hope to be invited next year. Ali Kamara, associate director of admissions for Macaulay Honors College, said that "all [Queens Voc] students can benefit from college." He said he understands that the requirements for Macaulay are competitive, but that students shouldn't be discouraged from applying to Macaulay or any other college. Application requirements are at least a 90 average and a 1,200 on the SAT for math and critical reading. Because the standards are high at Macaulay, many students who approached the table were frightened and turned away, he said. Mr. Kamara said he saw the college fair as an opportunity to direct students to colleges they might be interested in. "Students should be more informed," when it comes to the college process, he said.

The college fair was a hit with the students. Dexter Moy,

AP Exams

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by Ms. Rejalaga, Art History taught by Mr. Altenburg, Physics B taught by Mr. Papadopol, European History taught by Ms. Wilson, and Calculus AB taught by Mr. Raynor. AP Psychology and AP Art History discontinued for the 2014-2015 school year because of the lack of students taking the classes and the low scores on the AP exams, Mr. Gorman said.

"The funding for an AP class is about the same as a regular class but the text books cost more because they are college textbooks, and the school pays for the AP exams," said Ms. Ocampo, assistant principal of Pupil Personnel Services. According to some teachers, AP classes are a waste money and resources.

Although AP exam scores are poor, Ms. Ocampo suggests that the knowledge obtained from an AP class prepares students for college level classes. "It's a great opportunity for students to push

themselves and be exposed to the college level work and national assessment," she said. Mr. Schimenz, who is a member of the school leadership team, said the lesson might not be a good one. "If students are being given high grades in the class but ones on the test, they are not getting the right lesson about college and are being misled."

This year, AP classes at Queens Voc are Physics B taught by Mr. Papadopol, Calculus AB and Calculus BC taught by Mr. Raynor, and European History taught by Ms. Wilson. AB Calculus and BC Calculus, both taught by Mr. Raynor, each span one year of high school.

The BC Calculus course will require more of the student, because the BC course contains more content yet does not offer students more time to study these topics, said Mr. Raynor. The Calculus BC course must be taught at a faster rate rather than in Calculus AB course where a student is given more class time to practice.

Natalia Rios, another Queens Voc senior, said, "I want to major in political science but still be close to home."

Mr. Illardi said that he contacted many schools and that the following schools sent representatives: Queens Community College, Queens Borough Community College, Kingsborough Community College, Hunter College, Borough of Manhattan Community College, LaGuardia Community College, Medgar Evers, Maritime College, SUNY Cobleskill, Macaulay Honors College, SUNY Farmingdale, SUNY Cortland, Fashion Institute of Technology, and New York Institute of Technology. Representatives of the U.S. Army and the U.S. Marines also attended.

DeFranco likes the program, too, and said it is good that he feels comfortable speaking with his mentor about school and personal issues.

Both mentees are looking forward to continue in the program and to succeed as minority students.



Questions answered by pros.

Mentors Ready for More Mentee Success

by Shantal Teran

The Expanded Success Initiative program, run by Mr. Stuart, is off to a strong start with 40 freshmen enrolled and approximately 25 teachers to serve as mentors.

The mentoring program in Queens Voc is directed by Mr. Stuart, a veteran math teacher in Queens Voc. The program, he said, is geared toward helping minority, ninth-grade boys become college and career ready.

"Emphasizing youth development creates a culture of success throughout peers," said Mr. Stuart.

The program provides tutoring and academic support to get the mentees ready. Freshman boys are placed in this program based on poor math performance,

unacceptable disciplinary actions, and excessive absences.

The program runs all year long for the mentees, who meet with their assigned mentors once a week for an hour. "I think we can make a difference in people's lives" said Mr. Elfreich, who mentored last year and signed up again this year.

According to Mr. Elfreich, it's important to "build connections" with the mentees. "I don't want it to seem like I'm only checking up on their school work," he said. "When students see teachers in a different role, it broadens their perspective in other areas as well," he said. Mr. Elfreich said his mentee from last year still comes to visit him in his classroom.

Although the program has just started, Tyrell Adams Hayes, a

mentee, likes the program so far. "It gives us the help we need," he said. Tyrell is looking forward to improving his grades by the end of the program.

Mentee Marc Anthony



Mentoring allows students and teachers time to relate.

Coding Improves Employability

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only 60 students were selected into the ScriptEd program. The program was directed more for "juniors who are employable," said Ms. Newman.

Nehal Patel is a junior in ScriptEd. "I joined to learn coding; it's going to be needed in future IT jobs," he said.

After being taught how computers take instructions, students begin learning Hypertext



Preparing for the future.

Markup Language or HTML. The language is used in almost every website on the internet and allows users to see text and images, and link to other websites or pages. According to the ScriptEd website, students learn about the basic structures, images, and page layout of websites. "It was relatively easy for me to follow because I had experience with HTML in the past," said Jonathan Vargas, a ScriptEd student.

The program, which started two years ago, now services 15 schools in New York City, and had 100 paid internships this year, according to Mr. Bijesse. "It is unfortunate that 9 in 10 American schools don't teach coding," said Mr. Bijesse. "There are two reasons for this. The first is the lack of teachers with the ability to code. The second reason is a lack of the American education system's ability to adapt to changing times. This unfortunate fact is often finding its way into the news when comparing our test scores to other countries," he said.

There is no code experience needed to join since the program teaches students the basic and then moves to more advanced topics in coding. According to Mr. Bijesse, there is a six-week paid summer internship for promising ScriptEd students. "The internship allows them an opportunity to get positions and to improve their current positions," said Mr. Bijesse. Nehal Patel is interested in the summer internship and said he would like to work for Google. "They are my favorite company because of their products and services."

Preparing for the “Real World” by Being in It

by Eudeirys Espinal

In the work based-learning program, students intern in companies related to their major. “Work-based learning is the transition between the educational experience and the real world,” said Ms. Gross, the coordinator of work-based learning for SES students. This gives student’s real world experience without the safety net of their schools, she said.

About 300 Queens Voc students participate in WBL, according to Ms. Gross and Ms. Zagada, who coordinates WBL for SSBT and SCEET. All students on track to graduate are required to have 60 hours of work-related

companies in the nation, said Ms. Zagada.

The WBL coordinators have seen a positive change in many students who have completed their internship. “They appreciate the work in school and they see that it’s applicable to the work force,” said Ms. Zagada. Ms. Gross said that “students start to learn what is expected of them.” It’s also an eye opener, added Ms. Zagada, because internships allow them to set a feel for a career to see if they want to do it in life.

Students also recognize the impact of their internships. Evan Duarte, a senior in plumbing, said that as a result of his internship, “I feel like am more responsible and experienced.”



Jonathon enjoys works to gain marketable experience.

experience.

Some students have found themselves jobs to complete their 60 hours. Farhan Zaman, a senior majoring in business has taken that approach. He was introduced by a broker who told him about an opportunity at Douglas Elliman, one of the largest real estate

Coordinators use all their resources to find opportunities for students. Ms. Gross meets with local businesses and attends industry events, and both coordinators are working to develop partnerships with companies to create internship opportunities for students.

Checkmate!



Chess promotes logic, observation, and analysis.

by Jasmin Mrkulic

The chess club won a Queens-wide tournament on Saturday, Dec. 6, the first tournament it ever participated in. “That’s a huge accomplishment,” said Principal Burg.

The first in-house chess club tournament of the school year is fast approaching and students

who are interested should sign up by attending a chess club meeting in the library.

Ms. Dimech waited until October to get the chess club started this year, giving her time to advertise for new members because at the beginning of the school year, a meeting for the chess club resulted in a small turnout.

SkillsUSA Looks to Improve on Past Success



Principal Burg congratulates SkillsUSA officers as they try on their official blazers.

by Alexis Nieves

Queens Voc’s SkillsUSA chapter Vice President Sandra Campis said she expects the club “to do a lot better in this year’s competitions than last year, because many of the returning participants are juniors and seniors, who gained experience and learned from their mistakes in last year’s competition.”

Last year’s Queens Voc’s SkillsUSA team won eight medals, and one student, Pedro Bonilla, won the state competition in Residential Systems Installation and Maintenance, and went on to earn fifth place in the Nationals.

No dates have been set yet for SkillsUSA conferences, and Ms. Ramdeo, the advisor, has not yet decided if there will be any in-house competitions. The city conference will be held at Thomas Edison high school, followed by the state conference in Syracuse and nationals in Louisville, Kentucky.

The officers selected at the first meeting of the year were: President Mohammed Hossain, Vice President Sandra Campis, Treasurer Jocelyn Cruz, Secretary Pedro Bonilla, Reporter Emely Perez, and Parliamentarian Carmen Morel.

Queens Voc business student Mariam Abassi currently serves as New York City and State SkillsUSA Treasurer.

This year’s officials attended a fall leadership conference

from Nov. 2 to Nov. 4 at a hotel in Syracuse. “At the fall leadership conference chapter officers received training and information on SkillsUSA,” Emely Perez said. Officials followed strict schedules that ran from 7:30am to 11pm. “The schedules were definitely tight and a burden because we were on our feet for most of the day,” said Pedro Bonilla. The officers learned the value of daily gestures such as shaking hands, greeting others, acting courteously, and performed tasks to get out of their comfort zones. “The conference helped the officers gain leadership skills, which they could incorporate into this year’s competition and lead them in the right direction to understand their roles and adapt to their responsibilities,” said Sandra.

Members of different SkillsUSA chapters in New York City met to introduce each other and share ideas at an Area 5 meeting held in Queens Voc on Nov. 12.

The chapter will hold the Candy Cane Express fundraiser before Christmas. Students will be asked if they would like to order candy canes with a personal message attached to be sent to a friend or special someone.

“The SkillsUSA chapter raised over \$1,000 in a bake sale on Thursday, Oct. 30,” said Pedro.

In the spring of 2015, a faculty vs students basketball game will be held. Last year’s basketball game helped raise about \$900,

said Ms. Ramdeo. Emely Perez said, “Fundraisers help us pay our expenses, such as the trip to the state competition, so it is important for us to try and raise as much money as possible.”

Ms. Ramdeo has high expectations for the Skills USA team this year, she said. “I want to raise more money than we did last year and hopefully win more medals this year too.”

Many Queens Voc CTE teachers serve as advisors and act as mentors, including Ms. Ramdeo, Mr. Cintron, Mr. David, Ms. D’Onofrio, Mr. Garcia, Mr. Mugan, Ms. Quartuccio, Mr. Rivera, Mr. Vega, Mr. Yu, and Ms. Zagada.

Queens Voc’s SkillsUSA chapter meets every week to develop plans and goals, and to gather new ideas that will help them accomplish new milestones. Their primary goals are winning more medals, having more participants move on to nationals, and raising more money.

SkillsUSA is a national organization where students from different high schools around the country meet and compete against one another in different types of trades.

“The purpose of SkillsUSA is to have students be more aware of their career paths, learn new ways to apply their knowledge in their daily lives and become better leaders in the classroom and in the real world,” said Ms. Ramdeo. Their motto is “Preparing for Leadership in the World of Work.”

Ms. Dimech re-established the chess club last year, when she started teaching at Queens Voc.

A chess tournament was held last year in May and ran smoothly, according to Ms. Dimech. She plans to hold a second tournament in May.

Ms. Dimech threw down the gauntlet, “I challenge any student to come and play me at chess.”

In the club, students are encouraged to play against each other, and can decide to have any match timed if they want. Ms. Dimech is also willing to teach and play against students.

Members of the club say that they enjoy being a part of the chess club. A junior said that he liked the opportunity to find others for a challenge in chess. “I joined

the chess club because I used to have an interest in chess when I was younger and wanted to come back to that hobby sometimes”, said a senior.

Any student can join the club. Meetings are held on Tuesdays, periods 8, 9, and 10.

Students who have questions can contact Ms. Dimech with her email: jdimech@schools.nyc.gov.

Essay Contest Pilot Program Ends

by Angelica Campos

The izzit essay contest that was piloted at Queens Voc the past two years will no longer be held because of low participation, said Mr. Schimenz, who coordinated the contest.

In its first year, 225 essays were submitted, but that number did not improve the second year, as 225 essays were again submitted, putting the participation rate near 15 percent. But according to Mr. Schimenz who piloted the program for izzit, the essay contest just didn't work out from an izzit perspective, as only Mr. Elfriede, Ms. Moreau, Ms.

Rejalaga, and Ms. Ridge had their classes participate.

This contest was only available to Queens Voc students its first year and later expanded into two other schools, one in Indianapolis and the other in Pennsylvania. During the two years the contest was held in Queens Voc, over \$9,500 was awarded to the school's students. "It's disappointing because it robs kids of the opportunity to win money," said Mr. Schimenz.

Although the contest was open to all students, ninth graders were the bulk of the participants.

According to Mr. Schimenz, the purpose of this contest was to introduce students to

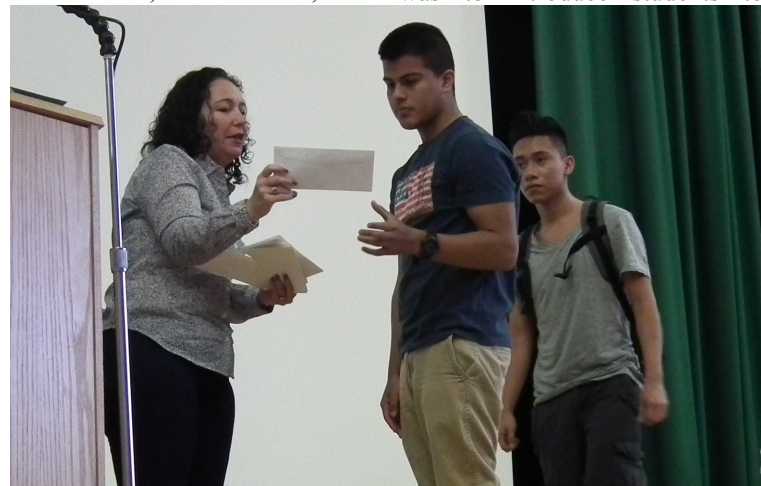
entrepreneurship, help students improve their thinking and writing, and gain a better understanding of what an entrepreneur is.

Students in the school were supposed to receive a DVD in their English class to help give them an understanding of entrepreneurship, but many of the DVDs were not distributed.

Last year over \$5,650 in prize money was awarded at an assembly in April. John Stossel, host of the "Stossel Show" on the Fox Business channel, was the guest speaker. The year before over \$4,000 was awarded. That year, James Tusty, an independent film maker and entrepreneur, was the guest speaker.

Senior Htet Naing Aung was the school-wide winner of the essay contest last year. He said that the process was fun because he got to think of ideas and support them as well as express these ideas. "It's sad I don't get to participate my last year, I would have loved to do it again," he said.

Mr. Elfriede, a ninth grade English teacher, participated because it was a chance for his students to win money. "I wanted students to know that if they wrote well and had good ideas they could win money," he said. "They don't like to write. This was a motivational tool that got them all involved," he said.



Principal Burg presents Cristian with a check for his essay.

College Applications and SATs

by Jacob Sobilo

College application deadlines are around the corner. A majority of four-year colleges require a standardized exam for acceptance, while community colleges do not require any standardized exam.

To register for the SAT, a student must have a College Board account. The SAT costs \$52.50 to register. Late registration costs an additional \$28, and makes it nearly impossible for students to get the test site of their choice. Late registration is usually only

accepted 2-3 weeks after the deadline has passed.

The next SAT registration deadline is Dec. 29 for the Jan. 24 test. Other upcoming deadlines are Feb. 13 for the March 14 SAT, and April 6 for the May 2 SAT. The deadline for the final SAT of the school year is May 8, for the June 6 test.

All SATs are administered on Saturdays, and students are required to be at the testing site by 7:45am, with number 2 pencils and their own calculator, and photo ID.

Students must have an ACT student account to register. The ACT without the writing sections, costs \$38. With the writing section the ACT costs \$54.50. The late fee is \$24. The deadline for the final ACT of the school year is May 8, for the June 13 test.

January 2016 will be the last time the current SAT format is used. According to College Board, the new SAT will not have vocabulary completion sentences, the math section will focus more on algebra and less on geometry, and the essay will also be optional.

Not only will the SAT format change, so will the scoring. College Board will score the SAT out of 1600, instead of 2400,

Scaffolding Gone Problems Going, Going...



For many students, Queens Voc has a fresh new look.

by Andres Ng

After nearly four years, the scaffolding that covered most of the 38th Street side of the school has been taken down.

"Water infiltration caused the bricks on the school building to bow," said AP Alikakos, explaining why the scaffold was initially erected. "Water entered [the building when there was rainfall] and saturated bricks causing them to bow out. It was a safety concern until construction was done." The School Construction Authority hired a contractor to repair the damaged

areas of the school building. The contractor used the scaffolding "to replace, sills, lintels, and add new bricks," he said. According to Mr. Alikakos, all of these components were replaced with new ones and made "water tight." The school building's outer layer meant to resist water infiltration, known as the curtain wall, was also fixed.

The work done on the school, however, was "not a perfect fix," said Mrs. Holland, the school custodian. "We're still not out of the woods yet. The scaffolding has been removed, but we're still in the process of having repairs done," she said.

as the writing section is being deleted. Students will no longer be penalized for guessing on the SAT.

The ACT is also being changed, but according to US News, "students should not change the way they prepare for the ACT."

The writing section will be adjusted, primarily for students who do not intend to go to college. The ACT will now address basic skills students need to enter the workforce. The hope is that the ACT will have meaning to a

potential employer.

Both exams are vital to get into many colleges and the higher the score the more doors will open. The SAT is administered seven times throughout the year, and the ACT is administered six times throughout the year.

Students who qualify for a fee waiver will not have to pay to take the exams. Fee waivers are available from Ms. Abrams in room 143 on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7:40am until 2:50pm.

Pedro Bonilla: Model City Council Member

by Htet N. Aung

Senior Pedro Bonilla was the only student from Queens Voc selected to participate in the Model City Council that took place on Saturday, Nov. 22, at City Hall.

"I decided to participate because I wanted to learn about the system of government and how bills are passed in New York City," said Pedro.

Model City Council is a leadership development program that provides public service education to NYC high school students. To apply, students had to be juniors or seniors, needed College Now experience, and

had to submit an application by Sept. 22. Fifty-one New York City public high school students were selected to participate, representing the districts of actual city council members. They were expected to attend three training sessions in November to learn from their mentors what it means to be a member of the city council.

After the training sessions, members used "their knowledge and experience...to vote on a piece of real legislation in the City Council Chambers at City Hall," according to the College Now website. "The program was a fun experience because I made friends that supported my ideas," said Pedro.

New Security Cameras Make QV Safer

by Christopher Ruiz



More cameras = more safety.

Ten new security cameras were installed in Queens Voc over the summer to improve safety, bringing the total to 64, said Mr. Alikakos, assistant principal of organization and safety.

"The new cameras were installed to eliminate blind spots," said Mr. Alikakos. The cost of purchasing and installing of new security cameras was \$140,000, he said. "The cameras make our school safer, and allows us to keep an eye out for all the students,"

Mr. Alikakos said. "We just want to make them feel that they are in a safe environment."

The cameras show real time activity and, according to Mr. Alikakos, are monitored from seven separate rooms throughout the school. While the cameras show what is currently going on, the system records the activity to allow administrators and deans to review incidents that occurred.

"There will be even more cameras added to keep making Queens Voc a safer school," said Mr. Alikakos.



SLT members discuss ways to improve the school.

School Leadership Team Gets New Members

by Mark Vazquez

The School Leadership Team has some new members this year.

Elections for new student representatives were scheduled for October, but were not needed as the number of volunteers equaled the number of openings.

Merry Shil has joined Htet N. Aung as a SCEET representative, Shantal Teran has joined Breanna Losak as an SES representative, Andres Ng and Christopher Ruiz filled the two openings for SSBT representatives, and freshman Jaime Virgen now represents SED.

In contrast, six teachers ran for two positions. Ms. Rejalaga and Mr. Schimenz were elected to represent the teachers. Ms. Rejalaga replaced Ms. Volpe, who decided not to run again because she is pursuing her education. Mr. Schimenz has been a teacher representative on the SLT for 10 years, and has served as chairman since Dec. 2008.

Three new parent representatives, Ms. Restrepo, Ms. Rodriguez, and Ms. Vidal joined Ms. Lopez, who was on the SLT last year.

Ms. Salas-Ocampo is again representing the administrators.

The SLT is composed of teachers, students, parents, and administrators who “meet monthly and work with the principal to solve problems and to help her improve the school,” said

Mr. Schimenz.

“I didn’t like the way things were being done around here,” said Mr. Schimenz about why he first ran. “I believed teachers needed to have their concerns expressed.” Breanna had similar reasons. “I wanted to contribute my ideas and help voice other students’ concerns,” she said. This is Breanna’s third year on the SLT. Breanna said that in the time she has been a representative, “the SLT has been able to address many of the problems that arose.” She said that a regular issue discussed is the minimal number of open bathrooms for students.

At the SLT meeting in October, Ms. Burg discussed the recent visit by New York State Education Commissioner John King and New York City Schools Chancellor Carmen Farina.

Commissioner King and Chancellor Farina were impressed with the school, Ms. Burg said, and the chancellor suggested changing the school’s name to Queens Technical High School because, she said, the word “vocational” gives off the impression that the school offers job training, but nothing more than a basic education. Ms. Burg said she’d look for feedback from the staff before making any decisions on that topic.

Students and teachers with any concerns should speak to their SLT representatives to have the issue discussed at SLT meetings.

Why Students Should Eat School Lunch

by Dolapo Oyekanmi

School lunch helps students focus throughout the school day, said Ms. Christine DeFelice, and it provides key nutrients, limits fat intake, prevents obesity, and boosts energy and grades.

According to one of the members of the lunch staff, Ms. Christine DeFelice, giving students a lot of options, such as different types of vegetables and foods that contain whole grain, is a way to get them to eat more healthful meals. She also said adding seasoning to the food is another way to entice students to eat it. Ms. DeFelice said that the school food has a lot of variety.

First Lady Michelle Obama has introduced Let’s Move, a program that includes eating

healthful lunch in public schools across the country. Every meal now being served in school contains grains, protein, dairy, and a choice between fruits and vegetables or both depending on what the students prefer, said Ms. DeFelice.



School lunch is nutritious.

List of School Activities

by Alexis Nieves

Clubs

Book Club
College Now
Construction Skills
FBLA
Gay-Straight Alliance
Leadership
Mock Trial Team
MOUSE Squad
Robotics Club
SkillsUSA
School Newspaper
Senior Yearbook
Student Organization

Advisors

Ms. Lewis
Ms. Newman
Mr. Ali
Ms. Mitchell
Ms. Elbettah
Mr. Vega
Mr. Davidson
Mr. Valdez
Mr. Ali
Ms. Ramdeo
Mr. Schimenz
Ms. DeCarlo
Mr. Vega

Sports

Boys’ Varsity Baseball
Boys’ Varsity Basketball
Boys’ Bowling
Boys’ Soccer
Boys’ JV Basketball
Boys’ JV Baseball
Co-Ed Handball
Co-Ed Wrestling
Girls’ Basketball
Girls’ Bowling
Girls’ Flag Football
Girls’ Softball
Girls’ Volleyball

Coach

Mr. Schimenz
Mr. Maloney
Mr. Devaux
Mr. Ali
Ms. Karcher
Mr. Cintron
Mr. Devaux
Mr. Zambrotta
Mr. Devaux
Ms. Poltawski
Mr. Garofano
TBA
Mr. Boyle

Ebola Hits Home

by Jesus Espinal

As of Dec. 5, four people have been diagnosed with the Ebola virus in the United States.

Thomas Duncan was the first person in the U.S. to be diagnosed with Ebola. He contracted the disease while helping a pregnant woman in his home country of Liberia. According to CNN, Mr. Duncan traveled from Liberia to the United States to visit his family members. He died in a Texas hospital on Oct. 8.

Nurses Amber Vision and Nina Pham contracted the Ebola virus while treating Mr. Duncan. Both of them are now free from the disease.

Dr. Craig Spencer was hospitalized at Bellevue Hospital in New York City after having symptoms of the Ebola virus. He worked as a medical aid worker serving with Doctors Without Borders in Guinea before coming to New York City.

Worldwide 15,935 people are known to have been infected and

more than 5,500 people have died.

The countries most affected are Liberia with 7,168 cases and 3,016 deaths, Guinea with 2,134 cases and 1,260 deaths, and Sierra Leone with 6,599 cases and 1,398 deaths. Other countries that have had cases of the disease include Mali, Senegal, Nigeria, and Spain, with 30 cases and 14 deaths, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Ebola can be traced back to 1976, when signs of the disease first appeared. The Ebola virus

began in two African countries, Sudan and Democratic Republic of Congo. It is believed that the virus was transmitted to humans by animals such as chimpanzees, monkeys, and fruit bats, according to the World Health Organization.

The virus does not live for long outside the body. Heat, ultraviolet, and bleach destroy the virus, while regular soap and water wash it away. The virus has to enter the body to infect a person. Possible entries to the body include the nose, mouth,

eyes, or a cut. Blood, vomit, and feces carry the virus, according to the website www.nbcnews.com.

Ebola is spreading because of weak health systems in the countries where the disease is having the greatest affect. The improper handling of infected patients is adding to the spread of the virus. Patients are being treated at home, facing the risk of infecting their love ones. Others are left on the streets to die, according to the website www.nbcnews.com.

New Teacher Rating System is Bewildering

by Catrell Jewel

Teachers are deemed “good” or “bad” through a new rating system created by the NYC Department of Education. According to the Danielson 2013 Rubric, the rating is divided into “classroom observation” and “student test performance” categories.

The results are supposed to evaluate how well teachers actually teach. Forty percent of a teacher’s evaluation is based on students’ testing performance and 60 percent is based on classroom observations conducted by administrators.

But which test is used might be surprising to someone looking for a logical answer. “Not all classes end with a Regents exam,” said Mr. Raynor, “for example, first year Trig.” As a substitute for trigonometry test results, Mr. Raynor said, he was evaluated using the students’ MOSL ELA essay writing scores.

According to MOSL team member Ms. Roberts, the MOSL ELA essay writing scores are the only scores considered if the subject doesn’t require state testing. If a state test is required for the course, MOSL scores count as half of the total “student test performance” rating, along with the state test scores. That goes for physical education teachers, too.

Classroom observations, conducted by principals and assistant principals, are also part of the rating. While observing a class, the principal documents the teacher’s grade on an evaluation form listing eight topics: demonstrating knowledge of content and pedagogy, designing coherent instruction, creating an environment of respect and rapport, managing student behavior, using questioning and discussion techniques, engaging students in learning, using assessment in instruction, and growing and developing professionally.

June 2014 Regents Results

compiled by Mauricio Bustamante

Exam	Year	Registered	# Took	# Passed	% Passed	# College Ready	% College Ready
CC ELA REG	2014	6	6	6	100.0%	4	66.7%
	2013	474	413	266	64.4%	141	34.1%
COMP ENG REG	2014	760	525	394	75.0%	238	45.3%
	2013	378	342	280	81.9%		
GLOBAL HIST REG	2014	452	373	278	74.5%		
	2013	583	477	308	64.6%		
U.S. HIST REG	2014	577	463	271	58.3%		
	2013						
CC ALGEBRA 1 REG	2014	291	283	164	58.0%	1	0.4%
	2013	641	478	354	74.1%	102	21.3%
ALGEBRA REG	2014	1069	634	477	75.2%	169	26.7%
	2013	438	375	130	34.7%		
GEOMETRY REG	2014	437	365	132	36.2%		
	2013	101	83	45	54.2%		
ALG 2 TRIG REG	2014	94	86	54	62.8%		
	2013	496	429	311	72.5%		
LIV ENV REG	2014	471	386	265	68.7%		
	2013	366	263	104	39.5%		
EARTH SCI REG	2014	315	254	122	48.0%		
	2013	252	143	40	28.0%		
CHEM REG	2014	267	159	50	31.4%		
	2013	198	96	20	20.8%		
PHYSICS REG	2014	281	109	22	20.2%		
	2013						

CC stands for Common Core.

Students who scored at least an 80 on the Algebra Regents are “college ready.”

Students who scored at least a 75 on the English Regents are “college ready.”



Ms. Lewis with some of the many book club members.

Start by Reading a Book

by Arman Khan

popular throughout the years.

Book club members and their advisor Ms. Lewis, the school’s librarian, went to the movies in November to see *Mocking Jay*, the third part of the *Hunger Games* trilogy.

The members are currently reading *The Maze Runner*, written by James Dashner.

This year book club chose its members rather than accepting whoever applied, and with 86 applicants, Ms. Lewis had little choice. “We took as many students as we could,” she said, adding that “30 students in total were picked. First come, first served.” Ms. Lewis pointed out that the book club has gotten

“I’ve found that the members gravitate towards dystopian novels,” said Ms. Lewis.

“The members love the book club. We feel like a family, and every intimate discussion we have on the books we read draws us close together,” said Ms. Lewis. Mohammad Hossain, Upasna Tyagi, and Marjan Bakht are three original members who have been in book club since it started in 2011.

Among the book club members, said Ms. Lewis, “Mohammad Hossain and Jessica Quito are very helpful to me.”

The members will read their last book in May and have a season ending party in June.

Abusive Relationships: How to Tell if You are in One

by Meztli Cardoso

actions.

making threats, and engaging in physical violence.

Controlling behaviors include constantly checking up on the victim, and the partner making all the decisions. Ms. Leslie, a public health advisor who works in Queens Voc as part of the CATCH program, said, “Control can also be digital. Not allowing your girlfriend to follow any guys on Instagram, controlling the people she can or cannot text, using an app to monitor your partners’ calls and texts are all examples of digitally controlling someone.”

Jealous behavior is a sign of lack of trust and insecurity. “Often the abuser will say they just care, or that it’s a sign of their love,” said Ms. Leslie. Signs of jealousy include accusing the victim of flirting, being upset when the victim goes out with friends or family, and questioning whom they talk to.

Abusers often blame the victim for their problems. The abuser will blame the victim for lashing out at them. Common phrases from an abuser include: “you made me mad,” “it’s your fault I got like this,” and “you should have known better.” Abusers don’t take responsibility for their actions.

Mr. Strauss is a guidance

Sasha never thought her boyfriend Josh would ever abuse her. She believed that only happened to “dumb” girls. She felt safe and secure with Josh.

After a year in the relationship, Josh insisted Sasha move in with him. She thought it was a great idea. She never believed her relationship would turn abusive, but after a month Sasha noticed Josh becoming more aggressive and short-tempered.

When Sasha pointed this out to Josh, he blamed it on her moving in. His temper got progressively worse. Josh began to isolate Sasha. First, he didn’t allow her to see her friends, then she wasn’t allowed to text or call her friends, and finally, she was not allowed to contact even her family. One day Sasha planned a picnic at the park. She figured that if they were out in public he would be less likely to be aggressive. When Sasha and Josh arrived to the picnic area, Sasha told Josh she forgot the blanket. Josh became furious and threw the picnic basket at her. From then on, Josh was physically abusive to her. He often choked her, slapped her, punched her, and once even put a knife against her neck. She blamed herself for his

This scenario is what many adolescents face.

According to LoveIsRespect.org, nearly 33 percent of adolescents in the United States are victims of mental and physical dating abuse. About 1.5 million high school adolescents have been physically hurt purposely by their partner. Violent behavior begins to occur most often from the ages of 12 to 16. “A teen’s confusion about the law and their desire for confidentiality are two of the most significant barriers stopping young victims of abuse from seeking help,” according to Love Is Respect. Many teenagers are unaware that they are in an abusive relationship.

The organization, Stop Relationship Abuse, defines an abusive relationship, as a “pattern of abusive and coercive behaviors used to maintain power and control over a former or current intimate partner.” An abusive relationship is not just physically hurting the partner but also showing a lack of respect for someone’s feeling and mental health. Signs of an abusive relationship include one or both partners seeking control over the other, jealously, blaming the victim for their problems, verbal abuse, using force while arguing,

potential partner more, having standards of what you want in a relationship, knowing your and your partner’s intentions first, communicating appropriately, having mutual respect, creating boundaries, and supporting each other.

If you have any friends who are in an abusive relationship, “try to talk to them, tell them different abusive relationship scenarios. Many teenagers may not know they are in an abusive relationship, but try to be careful with the words you use,” said Ms. Leslie.

If you or someone you know is in an abusive relationship, please reach out for help. An abusive relationship can be physical or mental, or both. Don’t be a statistic. At Queens Voc don’t be afraid to reach out to guidance counselors such as Ms. Judge, Mr. Strauss, or Ms. Leslie.

If you want to remain anonymous, reach out to the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-7233.

Need advice?
Send your questions to
QueensVocAdvice@gmail.com

Students Prepare for College...Now



Mr. Raynor in his College Algebra and Trigonometry class.

by Pedro Bonilla

One hundred and thirty-five Queens Voc students are enrolled in College Now and College Focus classes.

College Now is a partnership between City University of New York (CUNY) and the NYC Department of Education. High school students can take College Now classes and can earn up to 12 CUNY credits.

College Focus classes help high school seniors avoid remedial coursework at CUNY. "The College Focus class is not a college course. However, one can get an elective credit for either English or Math on their high school transcript," said Ms. Newman, an assistant principal who coordinates the College Now program at Queens Voc. Students in this program are prepared to answer questions on CUNY remediation exams. If students

pass the exam(s), they will be exempted from taking remedial classes from the subject area and will be placed into credit-bearing courses.

Ms. Newman said that high school students can prepare themselves for college by taking college courses and/or taking a College Focus class at either LaGuardia Community College or Queens Voc.

This fall semester, 135 students are enrolled in college courses at Queens Voc. Mr. Stuart teaches Introduction to Business to 20 students, Ms. Rejalaga teaches Critical Thinking to 27 students, Mr. Raynor teaches College Algebra and Trigonometry to 19 students, and Mr. Schimenz teaches Literacy and Propaganda to 29 students. Mr. Burke teaches College Focus ELA to 21 students, and Ms. Sameyah teaches College Focus Math to 19 students.

Taking a College Now class

has advantages. Students can earn CUNY college credits without paying the tuition. Some classes can also be counted as an elective credit for high school. "Although some private colleges and universities may not accept the college credits, taking the class helps students prepare by experiencing college work," said Ms. Newman.

Students taking a college class must also be able to handle general classes. Jocelyn Cruz is enrolled in College Algebra and Trigonometry College Now class in Queens Voc and is a member of SkillsUSA. "It is hard work handling general education and college class simultaneously," she said. "But since college class is two times a week, it is manageable. College class does interfere with some activities but some sacrifices must be made in order to be a step ahead."

Ms. Newman said that attendance is mandatory and if students are absent for three days, they will be dropped from the class. In the spring of 2013, Rodrigo Zayas was enrolled in Basic Writing 099 at Queens Voc. He was dropped from the class because he did not attend the class for three days. "I regret not attending the class because it would have taught me a lot of writing skills, which would have helped me on the English Regents," he said.

Students can apply for a College Now or College Focus class by filling out an application form, available from Ms. Newman in room 413 or Ms. Ocampo, assistant principal of pupil personnel services, in room 155.

such as piñeta and sapo, and a gift card to be raffled off, said Ms. Rejalaga. "Seventeen students and some teachers were bringing in dishes and beverages for the festival," she added.

Masks created by students in Ms. Volpe's art classes were going to be used as decorations for the festival, according to Ms. Rejalaga. "It is bitter sweet having all these people working so hard for something that ended up being canceled," she said.

"At this point I do not know if I would try to put together this event next year," said Ms. Rejalaga.

AP Garcia said, "We really have to investigate what is going on. To those of us who were organizing, it was a disappointment. At least 80 percent of the student body is Hispanic and it seems like they don't want to celebrate their culture. I know that many things are going on and students have full schedules, but we should stop one moment to celebrate our heritage, because we cannot forget our roots and this has an impact on our school culture."

Seniors "Look Forward" as They get Ready to "Look Back"

by Dalia Ibarra

As seniors leave the halls of Queens Voc and head out to the world of adulthood, they are left with a memento of their last year at this school: their senior yearbook.

Ms. DeCarlo has been in charge of the yearbook for the past five years. The school's yearbook committee is in charge of putting together this yearbook that covers the highlights and events worth remembering of their last year in Queens Voc. Wendy Camacho, a yearbook committee member said, "I joined the yearbook committee to become further involved in our school. Everyone in the committee has taken on a job to take pictures of clubs, sports, staff and so on."

Individual senior pictures have been scheduled in the auditorium for December 16-19 and January 12-14 with Jasienowski Studios. Seniors should have received their scheduled dates in the mail, but if they have not received them, students may go to Ms. DeCarlo or Mr. Vega. Seniors who encounter a problem, need to reschedule, or are unsure on how to order their desired pictures, may contact the studio directly at (718) 417-4317.

Yearbook committee members have been assigned to take pictures of staff members, with the intention of having every staff member's picture included in the yearbook. The first 12 pages relate to messages from the principal, administrators, class officers, as well as photos of the staff of Queens Voc. Fall sports, including the soccer, volleyball, and bowling teams, have been included in another section of the yearbook.

A section for all the CTE majors will also be included where a spread on the general activity of the students in their corresponding shop class will be made. Wendy Camacho said, "My role as of now is taking pictures of certain staff members and completing the SES page. It is important for everyone

to stay on task of their assigned pages because our first deadline is coming up and we don't want it to look sloppy." Pages must be completed by their first deadline, December 8.

In addition, a competition took place for a design for the yearbook cover. Students were encouraged to submit their own ideas and designs to the yearbook staff to get a large variety of choices for the final cover. The winners, Alejandro Coyotl and Kimberly Guaman, split the prize of \$30 off their prom tickets. Ms. DeCarlo said Alejandro's design featuring an architectural view of the school building and Kimberly's design of Queens Voc's mascot and logo will be combined for the final yearbook cover.

The theme, "Looking Forward to Looking Back," was chosen

Seniors can participate in the creation of the yearbook through replayit.com

after yearbook committee members brainstormed several ideas and they voted. "Out of all the themes, this one was the most original. We wanted to step out of last year's senior class," said Tania Jerez, one of the yearbook members. "Looking Forward to Looking Back means that we will create memories as a senior class that we can look back on in our adulthood," she said.

Ms. DeCarlo also said that all seniors can participate in the creation of the yearbook through replayit.com, which she recommends. Through this website, parents and students can upload pictures that may ultimately be used in the yearbook providing another way for students to be represented and included.

As of now, yearbook meetings are held in room 351 on Tuesdays at 4:30pm, unless otherwise stated.



Committee members use laptops to create the book of memories the seniors will likely cherish forever.

Hispanic Heritage Festival Canceled Again

by Htet N. Aung

Queens Voc's fourth Hispanic Heritage festival, scheduled for Friday, Oct. 24, was canceled for the second year in a row because of a lack of interest from students.

Seven tickets had been sold as of one day before the festival, said Ms. Rejalaga, a coordinator for the festival.

Information about the festival was publicized not only over the public address system, but also in classrooms, according to AP Garcia, another coordinator for the event.

The coordinators chose to host the festival on Friday after school so that most of the Queens Voc community could participate. The event was going to include games,



A look back at the last heritage fest in 2013.

School Experiments with New Online Grading System

by Mauricio Bustamante

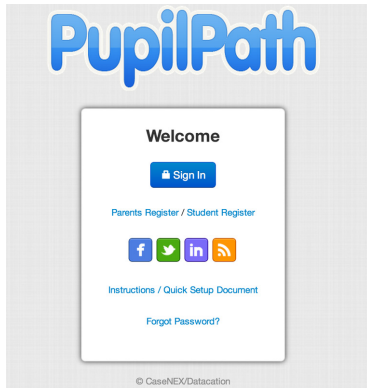
Pupilpath/Skedula is a new internet-based software program that many teachers in Queens Voc are using this year.

Pupilpath is the portal for students, while teachers use Skedula.

Ms. Ridge, an English teacher, likes the new system for teachers, students, and parents. “It’s great because all of my classes are already set up on Skedula and all of my students’ information, transcripts, and programs are already there. The program is also linked directly to STARS, which makes entering report card grades easier.”

Mr. MacDonald, another teacher, also uses the new software. “Students’ phone numbers, address, photo ID, and attendance are all on Skedula. Also, teachers can see how their students are performing in their other classes. Teachers can communicate about a student’s performance through anecdotes,” he said.

Principal Burg said the program “allows teachers and parents to monitor the students



daily, holding the students accountable for their actions.” While this will likely result in more pressure on the students, “it’s human nature to do better under pressure,” she said.

Last year, Ms. Burg was invited by the chancellor to participate in Learning Partners, a program in which schools are put in triads to learn about each other. Queens Voc was partnered with New Dorp and Tottenville high schools to learn about the different ideas each school has, so they can benefit from them. New Dorp uses the Pupilpath system and introduced it to Ms. Burg. She gathered more information about the system and when she was offered the \$20 thousand/year program for free this year, she decided to try it.

According to Ms. Burg, Pupilpath/Skedula has many helpful features. The most important feature for parents and students is the online grade book, she said. “Students and their parents can access Pupilpath from a computer or the cellphone app.” Mr. MacDonald said that “teachers are able to check how often a student logs on to Pupilpath by searching on a student’s name, and clicking on ‘Pupilpath,’ which will show the last time the student was logged on.”

Overall, said Ms. Burg, “the program provides instant notifications to parents and students, allows me to generate many reports, analyze class work, look to see who the graduating seniors are, and look at students’ records. Also, if parents register on Pupilpath, teachers can send parents text messages about their child’s behavior or class work.”

Ms. Burg hopes that teachers, students, and parents like the Pupilpath/Skedula system.

Ms. Burg said “teachers are not required to use the Pupilpath/Skedula system because it does not say in their contracts that they have to use it. Since the school is using Daedalus, Engrade, and now Pupilpath, Pupilpath will replace Daedalus next year for progress reports, so we will no longer use Daedalus after this year. Hopefully the teachers who

Honor Society to Begin Tutoring

by Shantal Teran

Arista has become an official chapter at Queens Voc, according to Ms. Basirico, a guidance counselor. Last year, Arista kicked-off at Queens Voc with the Arista Honor Society induction of 11 students who had achieved a 95 average for at least four consecutive terms.

The new officers for this school year are, according to Ms. Basirico: Htet Aung, male co-leader; Zinniah Munoz, female co-leader; Na Zheng, secretary; Pedro Bonilla, treasurer; and Jhun Arhuz Martinez, junior observant.

This year they are instituting a tutoring program, Arista Peer-Tutoring, run by Arista members and Ms. Basirico. According to Ms. Basirico, each member is graded on a point system to keep

track of their community service.

Leaders Htet Aung and Zinniah Munoz plan to expand peer-tutoring, offering their services throughout the school year. “We didn’t offer tutoring sessions throughout the school year, but that is what I want to do with the program this year,” Htet said. Members of Arista plan to impact and help guide students “to not only make QV a better place but the world” said Zinniah Munoz, who encourages fellow members to spread their knowledge.

“Being among the dedicated and scholarly, we know being an exemplary student does not come easy. Therefore, we offer our tutoring services to spread knowledge and education the way we were taught or better ways we found while studying and along the way,” Zinniah said.

The program provides a flexible schedule and students who apply for help will be matched with a tutor depending on mutual availability. Email and/or text messaging are other alternatives when scheduling conflicts arise, said Zinniah.

Seniors Begin Their Final Countdown

by Ashley Carvajal

Senior Events

A Mardi-Grads senior party kicked off senior events on Friday, Nov. 21, with about one hundred seniors in attendance. The Mardi-Grads party, run by Mr. Vega, the senior advisor, replaced the Senior Glow Out that had been run by Ms. DeCarlo and the yearbook committee.

Mardi-Grads was a free event. It started at 4:15pm and ended at 7:15pm. Toward the end of the event all the seniors gathered around the Mardi-Grads sign and took a group photo for the yearbook. “The dance was fun, the music was good, and I feel

like it reunited everybody,” said Anthony Angel. Classmate Jose Martinez was equally happy with the party. “The dance was fun, the food was good, and everyone was having a good time,” he said.

Senior Elections

Zinniah Muñoz was elected class president in a crowded field of candidates on Friday, Oct. 24, defeating Catrell Jewel by only two votes. Also running for office were Htet Aung, Mohammed Hossain, and Keyla Toribio for president. Senior Tyrek Ahmed said he voted for Zinniah Muñoz because of “her enthusiasm, and the fact that she wants to make our senior year fun. I feel like

she would make our senior year better.”

Azra Hoxha was elected vice president, Shantal Teran was elected for treasurer, and Leslie Puebla was elected as secretary. About sixty-five percent of the eligible senior student body voted. Valentina Gutierrez said she voted for Azra Hoxha because “I really liked her speech and I feel she’s trustworthy for the position of VP.” Ariel Peralta said he voted for Leslie Puebla because “she is a friend and she seems like the right person to fit in as our senior

class secretary. Newly elected Treasurer Shantal Teran was the choice of Ashley Reyes, who said she voted for Shantal because “I know she is very responsible and she will never disappoint anyone. She wanted this position, and she earned it fair and square. You can see it in her face she really wanted it which proves her determination.”

Also running for office were Carla Ordonez, Erika Jara, and Pedro Bonilla for vice president; Jocelyn Cruz for secretary; and Mariam Abbasi for treasurer.

Drawing by Lissette Acosta in City Art Exhibit



Artwork by student Lissette Acosta is now on display in “Simplicity in Complexity V,” ArtsConnection’s Student Art Program exhibition at Soroban Capital Partners.

Lissette was one of 34 artists selected for this exhibition out of hundreds of applicants. The opening reception and award ceremony was held on Monday, Dec. 8, from 5-6:30pm at the Soroban offices in Manhattan. Congratulations to Lissette and her art teacher Ms. Volpe.



Party banner on display.

Movie Review

by Mir Raonaq

Big Hero 6

When 14-year-old orphan Hiro loses his older brother, Tadashi in a suspicious fire, the teenager falls into a deep depression. Much like other great Disney movies such as *Toy Story 3*, *Wreck it Ralph*, and *Frozen*, *Big Hero 6* is very much the same level. Some parts of the film might be a bit too intense and might also be too mature for kids under age six, for example there is a scene where Baymax (robot) analyzes and talks to Hiro about his impending puberty. It’s a movie that’s as fun to watch as it is funny. But the real appeal of *Big Hero 6* isn’t its action. It’s the relationship a boy forms with his robot, Baymax.



Senior officers meet to plan a year full of fun and excitement.

QV Alum Charles Tripodi: A Lesson in Perseverance

by Mauricio Bustamante

In the middle of Great Neck, a well-to-do town on the north shore of Nassau County is Pristine, a beauty salon owned by Charles Tripodi. Ms. Sameyah, a Queens Voc math teacher, went to see Mr. Tripodi to discuss her hairstyle for her wedding. She said that in the course of the conversation, she mentioned Queens Voc.

As it turns out, Mr. Tripodi was once a student at Queens Voc and went on to become a successful hairstylist. Mr. Tripodi left Queens Voc in 1982, but returned 33 years later, visiting



Reunited: Charles Tripodi and Queens Voc.

the school on Monday, Oct 20, to demonstrate styling techniques to the Cosmo students.

Odalís Flores, a senior majoring in cosmetology, enjoyed Mr. Tripodi's demonstration. "He showed us how to do bridal hairstyles in less than 10 minutes and bridal hairstyles are difficult to do," she said. She said she really benefited from his demonstration to the class. "He told us he wasn't prepared and showed us a different method to do a client's hair if we're ever unprepared. He also told us that we should never let our clients know we're unprepared," she said.

Ms. Gonzalez said the students learned new techniques and approaches for hairstyling and that Mr. Tripodi gave the students life lessons throughout his presentation. "I think he's a good role model for the students because he is an experienced hairstylist who provided the students with advice and influenced them to want to be successful," she said.

Mr. Tripodi, probably never expected to be a role model, or even give cosmetology demonstrations in his old high school. He said he left home and school because of the abusive

environments. "When I used to come to come to school here, it was a free-for-all. Kids would get slashed for their chains. It was a rough school back then," he said.

Home life wasn't any better. "My father was an immigrant and would always beat me because that's all he knew to do. Since I was constantly abused at home and at school for being a homosexual, I ran away. I moved in with my grandparents who lived in the Bronx and I would beg for work even if it were just to sweep the floor at a salon in Queens. This allowed me to make my own money and be on my own without any abuse," he said.

I began working Tuesday and Thursday nights practicing my techniques in hairstyling."

Now, Mr. Tripodi owns Pristine, a salon he opened 14 years ago. "I worked and saved my money and I decided to either open my own business or work for someone for the rest of my life," he said. "It was a struggle when I first opened the salon. I worked six to seven days a week and I worked long hours; I still do," he said.

"I used to teach the staff at the salon I worked at and now I have 10-15 people working for me because they wanted to work for me," he said.

Mr. Tripodi provides internships to students in beauty

school and is now looking to provide internships to students in Queens Voc. "I teach the interns hairstyling techniques the old fashioned way, which is the best way. It'll help them do the hairstyles correctly. That's why I don't say I've hired people. I train my interns and I would get a hairstylist after much training. They end up working for me," he said.

Ms. Gonzalez, a cosmetology teacher, said she really enjoyed Mr. Tripodi's demonstration. "I think he did amazing work on his demonstration. He showed the students how to do quality work in a short amount of time," she said.

Odalís said that Mr. Tripodi is a good role model because "he had a difficult life growing up and he's one of the most successful

people from the Queens Voc cosmetology program."

Now, Mr. Tripodi will work with Cosmo teachers to develop a curriculum for their classes.

From his point of view, Queens Voc is a much better place. "I'm impressed that it is such a structured school," Mr. Tripodi said, adding that Queens Voc students are fortunate to live in a country with the freedom to be themselves and to go to a school like Queens Voc, and study their preferred professions.

One lesson he has already taught the students he spoke with was to use turn negative situations into positive outcomes. "My inspiration to become a hairstylist," Mr. Tripodi said, "was the abuse I received at home and at school."



Mr. Tripodi at work in his own, highly successful salon.

FBLA Raises Funds for Red Cross

by Aylin Ramirez

Future Business Leaders of America is raising money for the American Red Cross in a Friday frenzy.

Past FBLA president Mariam Abbasi said FBLA members will also participate in a community service project during the second week of December at the Queens Boulevard Extended Care Facility. FBLA members will entertain the elderly by reading poems and performing skits for them.

Mariam said upcoming FBLA events include district meetings, recruiting schools from different boroughs and recruiting people from Queens Voc. FBLA chapters will be going on a four-day trip upstate in the spring for their big state competition. FBLA also hosts social events such as movies, dances, and dinners which are held upstate.

President of Queens Voc's chapter Emely Perez said the Queens Voc FBLA chapter performs community service and charity work, sometimes by competing with other chapters. The Coin Challenge for instance

raises \$70.

The Spring District meeting will be held mid-February. Chapters from all of New York City will compete in job interviews, public speaking, accounting, business law, and Microsoft specialist skills. This will determine which chapter will go to New York State competition.

Another competition FBLA will participate in is called Designing your Future. FBLA members will create a promotional video and design a logo. The video will be graded on aesthetics, originality, and professionalism, and is due by Feb. 15.

Ms. Mitchell, Chapter Advisor of FBLA said "FBLA sharpens interacting skills by presenting in front of judges and being judged by them, it helps them become leaders in society and learn from

the experiences." Ms. Mitchell believes the best part of being part of FBLA is to see her students compete against other FBLA members as well as watching them be a part of community service activities.

FBLA is the largest business career student organization in the world. FBLA members compete within the state, nationally and contribute in community service in order to develop and prepare leadership skills. According to student Gabriel Miller, FBLA members learn how to compete in the business world. According to Emely Perez, who also serves as FBLA's State Vice President, FBLA's goal is to prepare students to work in business-related fields, to work with others, and helps with public speaking and time management skills.



The future of business looks bright for QV and for America.

VE Students Travel to Germany in Search of Sales

by Andres Ng

advertised," she said.

Seniors Emely Perez and Breanna Losak joined Ms. Mitchell on a trip to Germany Nov 14-21 to participate in the 50th International Practice Firm Exhibition.

Emely Perez, the CEO of the Virtual Enterprise firm STAR (Special Thanks And Recognition), and Breanna Losak, the CFO of DCW (Diverse City Wear) went to the German cities of Waldkirch and Essen to represent their VE firms, the "capstone course for the business students," said Ms. Mitchell, the coordinator of Virtual Enterprise.

STAR sells employee recognition and DCW sells "all types of clothing ranging from friendly casual wear to formal evening wear, including accessories," according to Catrell Jewel, the CEO of DCW. Both companies sell "virtual products."

Emely and Breanna formed partnerships with other practice firms from European countries in order to gain experience as part of the VE program. "I met students who came from Switzerland, Japan, Austria, Belgium, and France," said Emely. "The companies set up booths and

Breanna said that in the exhibition, "I learned how to work in a sales position and made many sales. I [also] learned new skills on how to be independent."

During their visit to Germany, Ms. Mitchell and the two students "enjoyed the sights and the gained experience," said Emely. In Waldkirch, Emely, Breanna, and Ms. Mitchell stayed with host families for the first two days in Germany "to interact with them at a personal level," said Ms. Mitchell. Breanna said she enjoyed the personal connections. "The host families were so nice and were very welcoming." Emely also found her host family to be most welcoming. "They're very polite and they knew English," she said. "As a group," Ms. Mitchell said, "we visited Friedberg, Germany, located in the Black Forest," which, Breanna said was really nice.

Ms. Mitchell took two other students, Farhan Zaman, the vice president of sales and marketing of STAR, and VE student Daniella Ortiz to Bakersville, to California to participate in a trade show in December. That trip will be covered in the next edition of *Vocational Voice*.

MOUSE Squad to the Rescue



Dave Bisesar repairs a malfunctioning SMART Board projector.

by Breanna Losak

Mouse Squad members have been maintaining the schools technical property by fixing SMART Boards, installing new equipment, and keeping computers and printers functioning.

Recently, MOUSE Squad members worked in the Writing Center to solve a printing problem that had gone on for several weeks.

The Writing Center, in room 301, is one of the few locations that students have come to rely on to print, said Mauricio Bustamante, a journalism student.

MOUSE Squad members have also received an assignment to work on the computers in room 413. They installed a previous version of Windows and reconnected the Wi-Fi to the computers in room 413.

In room 401 MOUSE Squad

members replaced the fan on the SMART Board projector.

"In room 411 we had to connect to a PXE server so that we can get an image file on the computers which took about a week to complete," said MOUSE Squad member Luis Marin.

MOUSE Squad members fixed a connectivity issue in the library. Some wax had gotten into the port so it wouldn't connect to the switch. They resolved the issue by re-routing the cables and fixing the port itself, said Mr. Valdez, who is leading MOUSE Squad as its new coordinator. He previously worked in MOUSE Squad as a coordinator at Lehman High School.

One of the first projects MOUSE Squad members worked on was the installation of new printers in the main office and guidance office. They connected the printers' Ethernet cable to a switch. Afterwards MOUSE Squad members had to download the printer driver on the computers.

They are also replacing old monitors and computers with new ones. Mouse Squad members recycle functional outdated equipment to nonprofit organizations. The old equipment was outdated and took too much

space and power to use. If the equipment is not working then they take it apart and reuse the parts.

When Mr. Valdez first heard of the program in his old school, he said, he "was surprised at the amount of students involved." Mr. Valdez said that at Lehman "the staff wouldn't trust kids, and everybody depended on him." This year, Mr. Valdez said, he is "looking forward to kids taking charge and running the program." Mr. Valdez believes that MOUSE Squad's success comes from the ability of the students to learn from others' experiences while working on an assignment as a group.



Angel troubleshoots a PC.

Nolett Ahmend is one of the members of MOUSE Squad. "MOUSE Squad allows students to be able to gain hands on experience, a much more effective way to learn than just reading from a textbook," she said.

MOUSE Squad main tasks include maintaining the schools SMART boards and completing assignments such as repositioning bulbs, replacing parts, and updating software.

Mouse Squad member Sabrina Pucha said that she enjoys being a part of MOUSE Squad because "every day is a new challenge that allows us to physically work with technology."

Mouse Squad is located in room 404, and meets during 2:30pm – 5:30pm Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.

There are 22 members of MOUSE Squad: Nolett Ahmed, Hugo Arenzana, Dave Biseso, Xiaowen Cai, Hasan Christy, Mushfika Chowdhury, Mike Condo, Shawan Das, Helen Eng, Jason Hermita, Johnathon Hernandez, Brian Kazi, Angel Linares, Luis Marin, Addy Molina, Jasmin Mrkolic, Sabrina Pucha, Evelyn Ramos, Merry Shil, Shih Bin Tsao, Andy Velez, and Kevin Vilchez.

Introducing QV's New Teachers

by Shourov Deb

Eight new teachers in Queens Voc seem to have a positive impact on students' response to learning. The school has eight new teachers who are Mr. Bahrenburg, Mrs. Bellettini, Mr. Lopez, Mr. McDowl, Ms. Nunez, Mr. Salinas, Ms. Shimizu, and Mr. Valdez.

Mr. Valdez is a networking and computer repair teacher. "I love Cisco, it is one of my best skills," he said. He was teacher at Herbert H. Lehman High School, and came to Queens Voc despite transportation difficulties. Mr. Valdez said he lives in South Bronx not far from Lehman, but he applied to Queens Voc because Lehman "was downsizing and veteran teachers had priority over newer teachers." Further, he added, resources were limited. "When I visited Queens Voc, I saw that the administration supported teachers with resources such as SMART Boards, which can help students learn better. Lehman did not have that." Queens Voc staff members have been friendly and his students are cooperative when class is in session, he said. "My students have been wonderful, better than what I expected. Their desire to be successful is obvious."

Before teaching, Mr. Valdez worked at Jacobi Hospital where

he was responsible for phone installations and computer networking. From there, he worked at the New York City Department of Information Technology and for the 311 Information Centers where he served as a desktop specialist. From there, he worked as a director at Kraus and in charge of five different computer technology centers throughout New York City.

Ms. Bellettini, a health and physical education teacher, came from a charter school where she was an assistant teacher for health. She said her role as a physical education teacher is far more intensive than her role in a health classroom. Handling a gymnasium with over a hundred students is something she quickly became accustomed to. "I learned how to take the lead in a phys. ed. class. It is much different dealing with 150 students instead of 30," she said. As a health teacher, she uses her newly acquired skills to keep her students attentive during class. Students should follow her rules and maintain work habits or they will fail her relatively easy class, she said. Ms. Bellettini said her motto is "It's my way or the highway. Students have to work or [they] will fail, and why would you want to go to summer school for health?" She said her motto has been influencing students to pass health.

Ms. Bellettini spends 45 minutes driving to Queens Voc, but she does not mind the drive. Parking, though, is a hassle, she said. She has met many new people, and created a strong mutual bond with Ms. Karcher, saying that she was her best friend.

Mr. Bahrenburg, an English

I saw that the administration supported teachers with resources, which can help students learn...

teacher, came from Simsbury High School in Connecticut where he taught English for two years. He said he wanted to continue teaching at a better, convenient location. At a job fair, he met Ms. Burg and discussed teaching at Queens Voc. "The students are very welcoming, especially my juniors," he said.

Mr. Bahrenburg said he wants students to pay attention and get involved in lessons. He moves around a lot in the classroom to make sure students are paying attention in class. He said he would describe himself as "loud, energetic, and positive."

Mr. McDowl is a teacher

for special education students. Before teaching at Queens Voc, he worked for a retail bank where he served as assistant manager. He worked in the finance industry for a few years until he decided become a teacher. "I wanted to get into teaching, which was always my goal. So after I worked in finance for a number of years, I went back to get my master's degree in teaching and started my whole new career, and here I am," he said.

Ms. Nunez teaches electrical installation, which she majored in while a student at Queens Voc. She graduated from Queens Voc in 2009. "Before I taught in Queens Voc, I was in Success Via Apprenticeship program for five years to become a CTE teacher. I did residential, commercial, and industrial work for three years with two electrical companies," she said.

Mr. Salinas, an English teacher, came from Richmond Hill High School, where he taught English. Richmond Hill experienced financial issues, he said, which made it difficult to keep teachers working for them. "I am lucky to get a job teaching at Queens Voc," he said. "I enjoy teaching. I am a firm but fair teacher. I like having fun with kids but work must be done first," he said, adding that "on Fridays, I like to be creative by letting students solve riddling."

"Queens Voc is different from Richmond Hill," Mr. Salinas. "This school has a lot of opportunities for students including shops like

cosmo, plumbing, and electrical installation."

Mr. Lopez, a Spanish teacher, came from High School for Arts and Business where he served as a substitute teacher. He prepared for his career in Spanish and Education. Before working at Queens Voc, he did not have teaching experience. At a meeting in his previous school, he found a position for a foreign language teacher available at Queens Voc. "I always wanted to teach Spanish," he said. "I prepared for teaching Spanish as a career in college and I am happy to find a position in this school and I expect to continue to work as a Spanish teacher for years." As a rookie teacher, he described himself as "flexible." "I like to receive feedback from students, he said, adding that "it helps me improve as a teacher and learn from my mistakes."

Ms. Shimizu, a physical education teacher. She came from Forest Hills High School where she served as a physical education teacher and a coach. Ms. Shimizu declined to comment beyond that.

Thanks to our morning announcers:
Jose Batista
Vatsal Patel
Jaime Virgen
and
Daneillia Wright

So the School Bathrooms are Dirty. *Whose Fault is That?*

by Breanna Losak

The first and second floor bathrooms seem to remain in a constant state of uncleanness. This is no surprise when over 1,000 students share four bathrooms. It doesn't help when some students go out of their way to vandalize the bathrooms or refuse to clean up after themselves. Many write graffiti on the mirrors and on the bathroom stalls. Some students treat the entire bathroom like the school's garbage can and casually throw their trash on the floor.

Students are restricted to four bathrooms for security reasons. Many students hang out and eat in the bathrooms. If all bathrooms were to be open on all floors, then it would be more likely for others to hang out in the bathrooms farthest from the schools safety agents' desk on the first floor.

By the middle of every school day, the bathrooms are unclean and have trash everywhere. Many students are tired of only being limited to two bathrooms that have an abundance of problems that range from unsanitary conditions to lack of bathroom supplies. Zinniah Munoz, senior class president, said in her campaign speech that she would try to open more bathrooms, but most bathrooms remain closed as the students continue to treat the bathrooms as garbage dumps.

"I believe every Queens Voc student should have access to bathrooms on every floor, just like the school staff does. It doesn't make sense to go to the dirty bathrooms on the first floor every time we need to go," said Htet N. Aung, an SLT member serving his third year.

Most students would like to be able to use bathrooms that remain clean throughout the day, but it is up to the students to keep their bathrooms clean. If students use the school's bathrooms as if they were at home, many of these problems would be greatly reduced. When the principal sees that students can behave in the bathrooms properly, then maybe she will agree to open more of them.



Bathroom decorations courtesy of Queens Voc students.

Queens Voc Gets a ★

Queens Voc was named a Blue Star School and four Queens Voc teachers were named Gold Star teachers by W!se, the non-profit organization that runs the financial literacy program used in business and economics classes.

The Blue Star designation is awarded to schools with a passing rate of at least 75 percent of

students taking the exam.

Mr. Alohan, Mr. Davidson, Mr. MacDonald, and Mr. Schimenz were named Gold Star teachers because they had a 90 percent or better passing rate in at least one of their classes.

Mr. Davidson, who coordinates the testing at Queens Voc, said he is "very supportive of the program because students need to understand how to handle money."



AP Newman shows off the latest Blue Star banner.

Vocational Voice

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

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



Forever

Mr. Schimenz
Main Office

iPad 2:31 PM

Libraries 16 of 28 Principal's Message

Melissa Burg, Principal

Dear staff and students,

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a happy holiday season and the best for 2015! Thank you all for your contributions to making Queens Vocational and Technical High School the wonderful place it is!

As the year ends, we should all evaluate where we are, where we want to be, and if we are on track to meet our goals. We should be proud of the goals that are on track and set up a plan to get the other goals back on track. What worked well and what needs to be improved? These are questions each one of us needs to ask ourselves.

Here is where we stand as far as Queens Vocational and Technical High School's goals:

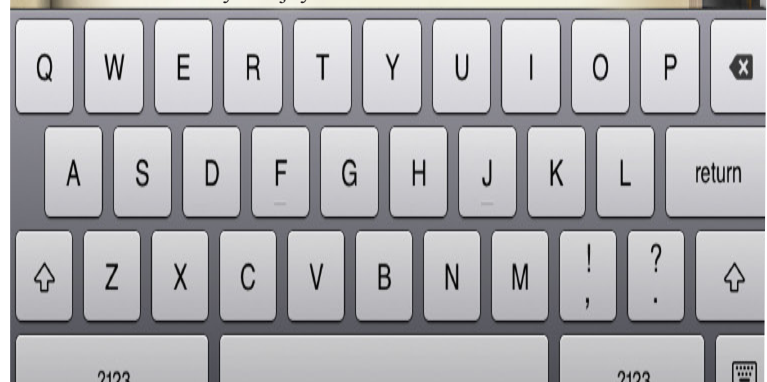
Our instructional focus is to improve students' college and career readiness levels, especially in math, by improving students' critical thinking skills. From this focus, several smaller goals have been developed for the 2014-2015 school year. These goals are written into our comprehensive education plan (CEP).

Goal 1: Increase the percentage of students earning college and career ready math and English Regents scores by 2%. What are we doing well? All students who have not achieved a score of a 75% on the English Regents and/or an 80% on the math Regents are in a special class to help them improve their score. Classes titled college-ready, college focus and critical thinking are all geared to assist. Where do we need to improve? These classes need to be taken more seriously. If the college benchmarks are not met, students must take a non-credited, remedial class in college, which still costs money. Currently, only 20% of our graduating seniors are "college and career ready."

Goal 2: Increase the percentage of students who earn 10+ credits in their third year of high school. What are we doing well? We have improved the percentage of students in their second year of high school earning 10+ credits to 85%. 82% of the freshmen have earned 10+ credits by June. 80% of the seniors have been graduating at around 80%. Where do we need to improve? Only 79% of our students who are in their third year of high school are earning 10+ credits. Strategies, such as credit recovery classes, which work for the other grades, are not working for this group. We need to figure out why students get stuck at this level and what strategies will work to support this group. Through a cycle of inquiry we need to develop a plan to keep moving students toward graduation.

Goal 3: Increase the graduation rate by 2% to 82% by August 2015. What are we doing well? We have 76% of students on track to graduate. Almost all of those students can graduate with an Advanced Regents Diploma and/or a CTE endorsement. Where do we need to improve? About 33% have not passed the Global History Regents yet. Citywide this Regents exam holds back more students than any other. Tutoring is being offered during lunch and after school. Students should not wait until the last minute for support. Please contact Goodwill Industries in room 417 to learn more about the tutoring services they offer here. Staff can help by pushing students to go for extra help sessions.

Once again I would like to wish everyone a very happy and safe holiday! Enjoy the time off.



Readers can also write us at Editor@VocVoice.org

Inquiring Photographer

by Meztli Cardoso

We asked students “What is your most significant item to you? Why?”

Carlos Negrón
Senior



“My student ID, because it gets me free lunch.”

Jason Sinchi
Senior



“My comb, because it tames my mane.”

Angelo Sinchi
Sophomore



“My sketch book, because when I draw I get to express myself and get to draw what I am thinking about.”

Carlos Vasco
Junior



“My most significant item is my body. My body is my temple.”

Freddy Vergara
Freshman



“My guitar pick that I keep in my phone. It is significant to me because I started playing when I was young. It has become a piece of my heart.”

Pamela Tavaréz
Junior



“My Bible is my most significant item because it’s my daily reminder of my faith and it keeps me going.”

Brianna Martínez
Sophomore



“My computer, because of the internet access.”

Rashel Pichadio
Freshman



“A song called “Born to Die.” It is significant to me because it explains my life story.”

Raven Walker
Senior



“My makeup bag, because you always have to have a beautiful face.”

Cristian Chamba
Junior



“My wallet is my most significant item because it contains my ID and my money.”

Cristian Millán
Sophomore



“My earphones, because they provide me inspiration and motivation from the music.”

Rob Manley
Freshman



“My sneakers are significant to me because they are beautiful.”

Keyla Toribio
Senior



“My record player, because it was an unexpected gift and showed how much the person had paid attention to me. It was something I had been wanting for a while.”

Purnata Anwar
Junior



“My most significant item is a book called *A Thousand Splendid Suns*. The stories leave me thinking about crises in the middle east and outside the U.S.”

Brenda Saavedra
Sophomore



“My phone is my most significant item because it gives me information.”

Carilyn Torres
Freshman



“My iPad, because I can do my homework and play on it.”

Advice Column

by Julisa Tufino Santos

Dear Julisa: I have been struggling with school and have problems keeping my grades up. I don’t know what to do but I feel like I can’t handle so many things at once.

Dear Slow Your Roll: My advice to you is to first relax a little. Take everything step by step. You should ask for help from teachers or peers when you do not understand a topic you’re learning. At the end of class, ask your teacher if you could do anything for extra credit. This will make you seem eager to get your grades up. And never leave projects last minute! This is a reason why many students receive low grades on projects or reports.

Dear Julisa: My boyfriend Timmy was hanging out with his BFF Rebecca and when I wanted to tag along he acted suspicious and made up excuses for why I shouldn’t join. Should I be worried?

Dear Worried Girlfriend: Your boyfriend may feel that you’re always on top of him and he probably feels he needs to breathe a little. And it’s not wrong for a girl and a guy to hang out. If you feel uncomfortable with this situation, confront him about it, but don’t act like a jealous girlfriend. It’s always better to talk about it and create a solution rather than to get mad and fight about it.

Dear Julisa: My teacher saw me writing a note in class and she confiscated it. In the note I called her “a fat blob” but she hasn’t said anything since. Should I apologize? Or should I wait till she says something?

Dear Note Writer: You definitely should apologize. Tell your teacher that you wrote that in a time of despair and you didn’t really mean that.

Dear Julisa: I don’t know what to do! I feel like I can’t breathe. My mom is suffocating me! I feel like I have the responsibility to please her and sometimes I don’t like what she’s telling me to do! I don’t know how to tell her that I need to breathe and that I need space.

Dear Free Your Soul: We are teenagers, so we obviously believe our parents are trying to suffocate us. At the end of the day, she’s your mother. Mothers are often right and we should do as they say. If you disagree on a topic with your mother, talk to her about it and work on a solution.

Why Pick QV?

by Nicole Caicedo

Fatima Silva

Aggelos Varvatsoolis

Questions

1. How did you first hear about Queens Voc?
2. What interested you about Queens Voc? Why?
3. What were you told about Queens Voc?
4. Who encouraged you to apply to Queens Voc?
5. Would you transfer out? Why or Why not?

Lesly Dutan



1. "My mom told me about Queens Voc and I also heard about it in middle school."
2. "In middle school I liked to learn new things and I liked that Queens Voc has the cosmetology program."
3. "My counselor told me about the school and she advised me to come here."
4. "Talking to my mom about the school, she told me to put my best effort and I would have no more ESL classes."
5. "No, because they have the cosmetology program and other schools wouldn't have the things I like."

Linda Sahin



- 1 "People told me about this school and my teachers told about it."
2. "The fact that it had so many programs, when I came to orientation I liked how it looked."
3. "My guidance counselor told me it was a good school."
4. "I had to pick at least 6 schools and I saw QV had sports teams and I spoke to my mom about it and she told me to choose it."
5. "Maybe, because sometimes the school looks ugly and my shop is boring."



1. "I heard about Queens Voc from my brother because he came here."
2. "The different shop classes, it gives you an opportunity to get your mind set for college."
3. "My brother came to QV."
4. "I talked to my parents and my counselor checked the grades and requirements for the school."
5. "No, because I really like the cosmetology program."

Daniel Castan



1. "From my brothers friend."
2. "EI program."
3. "My mom told me it was a good school because my brother's friend came here."
4. "First choice."
5. "No, because I like the school and all the program it has."

Naya Velez



1. "I heard about Queens Voc in eighth grade when I was looking through the high school book."
2. "The cosmetology program."
3. "I found out about the school from the high school book."
4. "I talked to my parents and they said it was a good school."
5. "No, because I love the cosmetology program."



1. "In my second month of eighth grade from friends."
2. "I was interested in the C-Tech program."
3. "I wasn't told much, my friend told me it was a good school and it had good programs."
4. "Queens Voc really caught my interest in the high school book."
5. "No, because I have made a lot of friends and I like my shop."

Marc Defranco



1. "In eighth grade, from the high school book."
2. "Computer technology, because I like dealing with computers."
3. "My counselor told me it was a good school."
4. "Looking through the high school book Queens Voc seemed interesting."
5. "Yes, because some of the classes are hard and I don't like some of the teachers."

Anthony Coneo



1. "In eighth grade, from the high school book and I researched the school."
2. "The Engineering program."
3. "My science teacher told me it was a good school."
4. "My dad."
5. "Maybe, because I wanted

to go to Aviation because my dad always encouraged me to go into aviation."

Danet Lopez



1. "First I went to the open house and they gave me information about the school."
2. "Cosmetology because it's something I like."
3. "It's a good school with interesting things."
4. "My brother encouraged me because he said that there would be interesting things in this school."
5. "No, because it's a good school and I've learned new things."

Andreas Demetriou



1. "I heard about Queens Voc when they went to my middle school."
2. "The computer programs because I like computers and instead of paying thousands of dollars to go to a private school I can come here."
3. "When they came to my school I got good information."
4. "Originally I wanted to go to Aviation but my dad encouraged me to come to Queens Voc."
5. "No, because this school has a lot of opportunities."

David Wu



1. "Through the high school book we got in the eighth grade."
- 2 "Computer technology because I like working with computers."

3. "My cousin told me about Queen Voc and that it was a good school."
4. "My cousin, he told me that there were shops that would interest me."
5. "No, because this school is interesting."

Hennessey Aponte



1. "People I know came to this school and they told me about it."
2. "They have different programs that interested me like cosmetology."
3. "That it's a good school."
4. "My counselor helped me apply to this high school."
5. "No, because it's a good school, it has good teachers, everyone is nice, and the teachers care about you."

Corny Student Pick-up Lines

by Shantal Teran

Although most corny pickup lines fail, here are some that are used by Queens Voc students:

Is your name Wi-Fi because I'm feeling the connection.

- Erik Gallegos, senior

I just had some Skittles. Do you want to taste the rainbow?

- Dominick Cichon, senior

You're looking mighty fine in the summer time.

- Emily Diaz, senior

If you were a booger I'd pick you first.

- Steven Asitimbay, sophomore

Are you a fart because you blew me away.

- Steven Ortiz, sophomore

They say beautiful starts with a "b" but to me it starts with a "u."

- Adrian Santana, junior

Do you have a bandage because I scraped my knee falling for you.

- Samantha Collado, senior

Do you have a library card? Because I'm checking you out.

- Daisy Sinchi, sophomore

I'll be Burger King you'll be McDonald's. I'll have it my way and you'll be loving it.

- Mahbub Ali, senior

Freshmen's First Impressions

by Carla Ordonez

Questions:

1. What was your first impression when you heard about Queens Voc?
2. What was your first thought as you entered the main entrance for the first time?
3. Has Queens Voc met your expectations so far? If so how?
4. On a rating of 1-5, what would you rate the school and why?
5. If you could change one thing about the school what would it be and why?
6. Who are your favorite teachers and why?
7. What is one feature you like about the school and why?
8. What is one feature you dislike about the school and why?

Michael Cabezas

1. My friends told me about this school and it turned out to be a good school. They were saying about the programs and activities they serve and it was really interesting.
2. I was a little nervous but I was wondering about my classes.
3. Yes, I like the way the teachers teach, they teach really good and I expect to learn.



4. A 5 because I like the activities especially the class and how I am taught.
5. The time we enter, we enter too early but overall it's a good school
6. Ms. Rejalaga because I like the way she teaches and she shows us video clips.
7. My exploratory shop class.
8. I like everything about the school.

Zuhayer Hussain

1. My friends told me about the good programs. I thought I could successfully become an engineer.
2. I got to step up my game. I have to be a better student.
3. I expect it to be fun and to make learning easy.
4. A 3.5, because it's really cool and I like the people here but there are some people who make it boring.
5. Some teachers should not be that strict, because teachers sometimes yell at me for no reason.
6. My favorite teacher is my ELA teacher because she knows what teenagers think and their point of views. Also, my math teacher because she makes math very fun. She excuses when we are fooling around and lets us have fun. Then later when it comes to work that's when she's serious.
7. One thing I like about the school is the exploratory program because the different stations give you a little of each and helps you decide a major.
8. One thing I dislike is the time. I have to be at school at 7:45am. It is too early and my house is far.



Angela Lateo



1. My friends told me the school helps you out throughout the four years. I thought it was going to be a friendly school and the teachers would help me a lot.
2. I was scared because I didn't know anybody, but now I got accustomed to the school.
3. Yes
4. A 5 because it is everything you could imagine for a school, they have anything you want.
5. The hours are too long. I am here from 8:45am to 4:15pm.

6. Mr. Bahrenburg because he makes teaching fun. He explains, shows us episodes, and we understand more. He's funny, while he reads he uses different voices and makes learning interesting.
7. I like the way the school is set up because it is very organized and the school knows how to control the kids.
8. I dislike the long hours.

Celine Santos

1. The high school directory showed me Queens Voc teaches occupations. I thought about cosmetology and wanted to learn about hair.



2. This school is big.
3. No, I thought we would only get one exploratory program per year, but I like that it is only a short amount of time.
4. A 4, because you get to try new things with the shop classes.
5. I would change the gym with just freshman I would feel more comfortable.
6. Mr. Bahrenburg, because he seems really into what he is teaching us. He seems as if he is just learning it as well.

7. I like that all the freshmen have lunch together because you get to see your friends.
8. Some students get out at 4:15pm.

Freddy Vergara

1. My sister told me there are a lot of programs like cosmetology or computer tech, which really got my interest.
2. They really have a nice hall.
3. Yes, my teachers are pushing me hard enough and I think I am doing well.
4. A 3.5 because I am now in computer tech and it's pretty interesting. I can make my own website or change a website which is pretty cool.
5. For the school to let us out during lunch and I would add more majors to choose from.
6. Mr. Bahrenburg because he is pretty exciting and knows how to grab a student's attention. Ms. Ferrara because I like how she explains thoroughly when I don't understand.
7. I like all the things the school can give to me and I just like the idea of what the school can do for me in the future.
8. The food.



Juan Beriguete



1. I thought this would be a good school and have good teams.
2. I saw disrespectful people entering the school and was intimidated.
3. No I thought the school would be small but it's actually big.
4. A 4, because my expectations for the baseball team were higher but this is a good school.
5. I wouldn't change anything. I would keep everything the same because I like this school.
6. Ms. Kramer because she

- always helps me with homework and spelling.
7. I like the baseball team they seem really nice and I want to join.
8. I don't like coming in so early the school is really far from my house.

Cristian Guaman

1. My friends said it was a good school and I thought it was interesting.
2. Yes because high school is the same as middle school just with a longer schedule.

3. I was confused, because there are two hallways you can either go left or right. My old middle school there was only one way.
4. A 3.5, because there aren't a lot of fights and there's no bullying.
5. I would make the school bigger because it seems a little crowded especially during lunch.
6. Mr. Bahrenburg. He's really fun, young, and still has



- imagination and I can relate to him.
- Ms. Ferrara because I like Algebra and she is really nice and teaches really well.
- Mr. Samuelson, I met him in the summer program, because he told me what Queens Voc be like.
7. The time passes by quickly, the schedule is long but it does not seem like it.
8. That we can't go out for lunch.

Tatyanna Redillo

1. I heard this is a good school to get into careers. I thought this school would help me be career ready.
2. There are a lot of people.
3. The school is showing me different trades and I can try everything in exploratory.
4. A 4, because there are nice people here, but the classes are a bit difficult.
5. For there to be less students in the staircase and halls because it is hard to get from class to class.
6. Ms. Poltawsky because she is easy going and really funny.
7. I like the people because they are diverse and I can learn from them.
8. Having such a long schedule because I live far away.



**continued on
next page**

Freshmen's First Impressions

continued from page 14

Taylor Colella

1. I heard about Graphic Arts, and I was really interested in an art program.
2. Yes, because everyone is more mature and respectful.
3. This place is so big how am I going to get around this place?
4. A 4 or 5, because a lot of people are really nice to each other and I made a lot of friends.
5. To let people wear sweats in gym.
6. Ms. Sameyah because she is

patient, nice, and gives extra help for algebra.

7. I like how everyone is nice to each other and I don't see a lot of bullying.

8. The way Graphic Arts started it out could have been more interesting.



Before I Taught in Queens Voc...

compiled by Htet N. Aung

"... I was a substitute for the Department of Education, while I was coaching a softball team in Port Washington. In 2014, I taught science for six months at a middle school in Bedford-Stuyvesant. Before 2009, I attained a bachelor's degree in Adaptive Physical Education and a master's degree in Sports Management, both at Brooklyn College. I also earned a second master's degree in Health Education at Hofstra University."

- Ms. Bellettini

"... I took on many roles. My first job was a volunteer job working for NYC comptroller J. Liu. I then worked at a fashion company and did a modeling campaign without getting paid. I spent two years doing IT work for Queens Hospital Center in Jamaica. Like many shop teachers in QV, I also was a part of the SVA program, which consisted of working in the industry and teaching at various schools while attending school at night."

- Mr. Yu

"... I taught at three other schools: Flushing, Hillcrest, and Mathematics, Science, and Technology high schools. My first job was a camp counselor because I thought I wanted to be a child psychologist. But then, I decided to teach history. So in college, I switched from psychology major to history major. I took on many odd jobs to pay for college

tuition. When I graduated with my bachelor's degree, there was a hiring freeze for teachers, so I became a waitress and worked at a daycare center. But I always knew that I wanted to get into the classroom to be a teacher."

- Ms. Farrell

"... I taught at two different high schools for 10 years: Graphics Arts and Business of Sports School. I held a lot of different jobs while attending NYU. I worked at a clothing store and at Singer Sewing Machine Company. I went to City College for a graduate degree in math education while teaching at Graphics Arts High School."

- Ms. Yanovsky

"... I had a few different jobs. When I was 14, I delivered newspapers on a bike. I worked as a mental health worker in a psychiatric hospital for adolescents for about a year and a half. That led me to realize I wanted to help kids, but not in that setting. I also worked in a legal department in a bank for three years, and as a bartender and a waiter at a few different restaurants."

- Mr. Gallagher

"... I was an event planner for Lehman Brothers Financial Institution for two years. I joined the Teaching Fellows program in June 2008 and started my master's degree in special education at Queens College. That summer in 2008, Ms. Burg hired me as a special education teacher at

QVTHS."

- Ms. Sartori

"... I went to Illinois State University for four years to get my bachelor's degree. Then I came to New York to do research and attend school at the American Museum of Natural History for one and a half years, where I got my master's degree."

- Mr. Clark

"... I worked for seven years as an account manager for a continuing medical education company. I worked with physicians who developed information programs, most with drugs that Pfizer produced. I planned medical education meetings around the US, Bermuda, and Mexico for doctors to get educated about new drugs and in turn they earned Continuing Medical Education, or CME credits."

- Ms. Elbettah

"... I taught English at Murry Bergtraum High School for 15 years. I was in charge of 35 para-professionals who were assigned to 35 wheelchair-bound students in both general education and special education classes. I thought my career would begin and end at Murry Bergtraum until 9/11. Because of the location of the school, we had to evacuate the building, and 12 other staff members and I had to find a safe place for 35 wheelchair-bound students. That's how I ended up at Queens Voc."

- Ms. Kramer

singer/guitar player for the band Goldfinger, John Feldmann. The only song that they haven't written

on this album is "Amnesia," which was written by the Madden Brothers. This album consists

of 12 songs. Their genre is Pop-Punk and they admire bands such as Blink-182 and All Time Low.

Music

Reviews

by Liliana Fernandez

x

Ed Sheeran

At the age of 17, Ed Sheeran moved from Suffolk to London to pursue his musical career. Ed wrote all the songs on this folk-pop album. Although the album is titled "x" it is pronounced "multiply." The album contains number one hits such as "Sing" and "Don't." Pharrell lends his voice as background vocals in the hit single "Sing." Ed Sheeran is an English native and has released two albums in the U.S. that are + and x. + [pronounced "plus"] contains hits like "The a Team" and "Lego House." The songs are based on Ed Sheeran's personal experiences and are relatable to society today. Not only is Ed Sheeran an amazing songwriter, but also his voice is like no other. He was the opening act for Taylor Swift on her Red Tour. Now he has his own headline tour and is playing sold out arenas around the world. He not only sings on this album but he also shows his rapping skills in "Don't."

In the Lonely Hour
Sam Smith

Sam Smith is a breakthrough UK artist with the single "Stay with Me." He has lent his voice to hit singles such as "Latch" and "La La La." His soulful voice and amazing riffs have won the hearts of millions worldwide. His album consists of 10 songs including his hits "Stay with Me" and "I'm Not the Only One." On his album, Sam Smith sings his own version of the hit single "Latch" in acoustic. "Latch" was produced by Disclosure a UK artist, and Sam

Smith sings the verses and chorus. The British singer/songwriter has grabbed his inspiration from personal experiences.

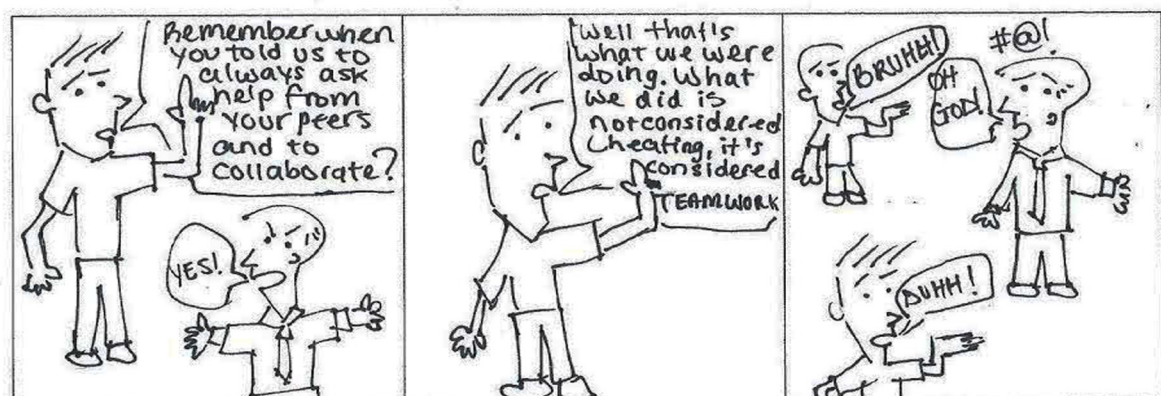
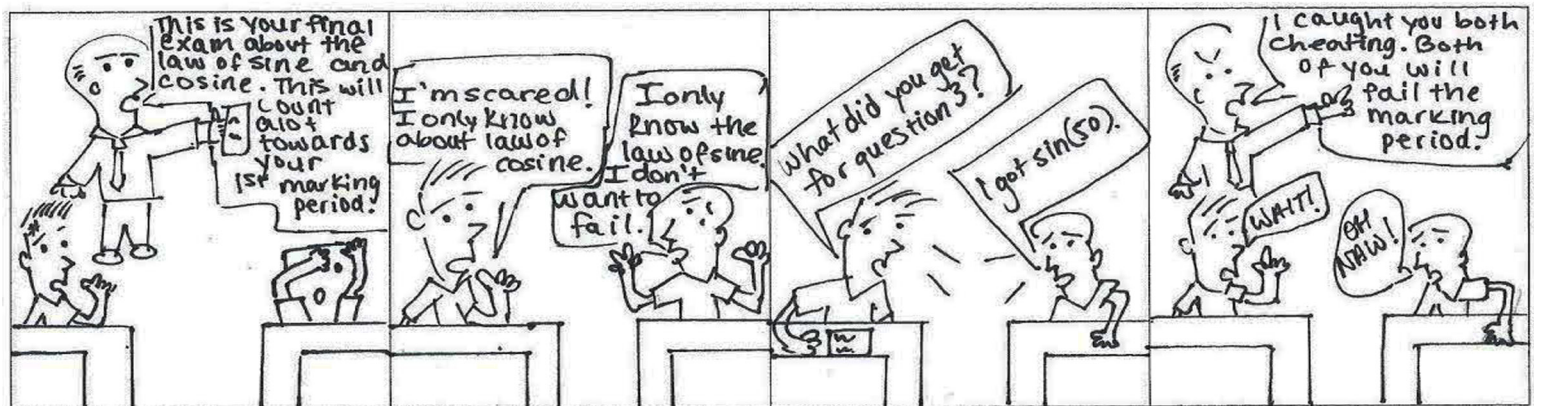
5 Seconds of Summer

5 Seconds of Summer

The Australian band 5 Seconds of Summer has opened up for the worldwide famous band One Direction on their Take Me Home tour and on their Where We Are stadium tour. They are now writing their own songs and are coming out with their own headline tour in 2015 called the Rock Out With Your Socks Out Tour. The band members started the group in 2011 as high school students; Ashton, 20, Michael, 19, Calum, 18, and Luke, 18. They all have a common interest, which is their love for music. Their self-titled album includes their hit singles "She Looks So Perfect" and "Amnesia." They have co-written songs on this album with some of the band members from All Time Low and former lead

"It's Not Considered Cheating"

by Pedro Bonilla



Mr. Zambrotta: “Fascinated with Southeast Asian Culture”

by James Pinos

In the summer of 2014, Mr. Zambrotta, a social studies teacher and wrestling coach, spent 39 days visiting four countries in Southeast Asia, Vietnam, Laos, Thailand, and Taiwan. Mr. Zambrotta said he was able to “completely check out of the chaos and madness that could be New York and home.” Although he traveled solo, throughout the course of his travel he met other travelers with whom he traveled and became friends.

For Mr. Zambrotta, this trip was 10 years in the making. He wanted to take this trip, he said, because he studied the Vietnam War in his college years and because he is “fascinated with Southeast Asian culture.”

Although Mr. Zambrotta is “by no means a Buddhist” and he didn’t travel seeking nirvana, one of his most memorable moments was meeting a monk who spent over an hour speaking to him about life and Buddhism, and blessed Mr. Zambrotta after he made a donation. Monks aren’t allowed to take cash donations, they are only allowed to accept



Mr. Z provided this collage of some highlights of his trip.

items as gifts. Mr. Zambrotta donated a basket that contained shampoo, slippers, food, and drinks. Another memorable moment for Mr. Zambrotta was getting tattoos that represent his trip by a tattoo artist in Taiwan.

He said that the he only

problem he faced in Asia was being sick his first few days there because he did not know “how strong condensed milk really is.” Mr. Zambrotta had no difficulties in the airport or crossing borders from one country to another. While in Asia he was with

people he met on the trip, whom locals attempted to rob. But, Mr. Zambrotta said, “my New York attitude caught them in the act, and I flipped out every time, so nobody ever got robbed because of my big New York mouth.”

Mr. Zambrotta’s favorite meal in Asia was a pork roll. “The best pork roll I had over there,” he said, “was made by a five-year-old girl working with her mom making food on the side of the street while it was raining.” The street food, he said, is “really different from what you find in America, where you walk by and have two options, hot dogs and the Halal trucks. That’s really all you see in New York when you travel around.” But in Asia, he said there’s a food truck “for every food you could think of.”

This winter vacation he will be traveling to Switzerland to visit a friend he met in Asia, the same friend whom will be coming to New York in the end of October. Mr. Zambrotta said, “I played tour guide in the end of August and I’ll play tour guide again in October,” and when he goes to Switzerland he will “be the tourist and they will be the tour guide.”

Mr. Zambrotta blogged about his travels on his website, www.teachertrekker.com.

Teachers’ Inspirational Quotes

by Aylin Ramirez

We asked some teachers to tell us their favorite inspirational quotes.

Mr. Vega: “A good leader inspires others with confidence in him; a great leader inspires them with confidence in themselves.”

Mr. Schimenz: “Good enough is the enemy of it can be better.”

Mr. MacDonald: “The measure of who we are is what we do with what we have.” – Vince Lombardi

Mr. Raynor: “Just get it done.”

– Principal Burg

Mr. Maloney: “The light at the end of the tunnel would be you.”

Ms. D’Onofrio: “Grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference.”

– Reinhold Niebuhr

Mr. Mugan: “It does not matter how slowly you go as long as you do not stop.”

– Confucius

Mr. Stefanidis: “Doing good by doing well.” – Benjamin Franklin

Mr. Yu: “If it does not work the first time, there is always F5”

– Mr. Yu

Embarrassing Stories

by Ashley Carvajal

It was parent teacher night, and one of my kids was pacing back and forth. A parent comes in and I tell the parent about her son, and she gives me a weird look. I was confused and didn’t know why she was giving me a weird face. Then I realized the boy in the back of the room was not her son. I apologized and felt so embarrassed. – Mr. Elfriede

One time I was with my wife and another couple, and I remembered someone had told me about dressing their kid up as a bear for Halloween. “Who dressed their kid up as a bear for Halloween, that’s so stupid,” I said. Then the guy tells me, “It was me who told you I was going to dress my kid up as a bear.” I felt so bad and embarrassed. – Mr. Garofano

I was in the sixth grade and my friends and I would climb trees. One day we climbed a tree next to the field by John Adams High School, and as everyone was climbing off, I got stuck. My friends were yelling for me to jump off but I couldn’t do it. The cheerleaders and the football players had been at practice so my friends called the players over. I felt so embarrassed having high

school football players rescue me from that tree. – Ms. Poltawsky

I was 12, and I was riding my bike and saw some girls on their porch, I ended up turning on the bike and ran into a parked car. I jumped over my handle bars and fell. A guy asked me if I was all right and I said “yeah.” I rode my bike home with my handle bar all messed up. I got home and fixed my bike in embarrassment. – Mr. Devaux

I was at the gym, and I was checking out this girl. As I walked around her, she got up and I recognized her. It was one of my closest friend’s mom.

– John Yigit, junior

Some girl was chasing me out of the guidance office and when I was opening the door, my book bag got caught on to the doorknob and I fell back. There was a classroom full of sophomores that saw me fall.

– Jorge Ceballos, senior

I went to go get milk during lunch at school, and as I got there a student came up to me and smiled and reached down to the milk cart. I thought he was getting me milk I said, “Aww thank you,” and he says “this is for me” and walks

away. – Mary Sato, senior

I went on a school trip to a museum during sophomore year and we were looking at artifacts. Then when the tour guide said we could take a closer look, I said “iight let’s go guys,” and I crossed the rope. The lady yelled “what are you doing?” Turns out we couldn’t cross the rope. I got banned from that museum.

– Erick Gallegos, senior

Book Reviews



by Dalia Ibarra

If I Stay
by Gayle Forman

Popularly known for its recent adaption on the big screen, *If I Stay*, written by Gayle Forman, focuses on the life of seventeen-year-old Mia. As a young child, Mia had expressed an interest in the cello, an instrument that seemed both so mysterious and elegant to her. Mia’s parents paid for a personal music instructor and was on her way to getting a possible acceptance to The Juilliard School. However Mia, faces a life changing decision when her family goes out for a drive one February morning and her family’s car collides with a truck. Forman focuses on the brutal 24 hours Mia faces during her state of unconsciousness as

she roams the hospital she resides in, invisible to everyone else. Mia fully emerges into her past life as she recollects memories and events she shared with those she loves. As the hours tick by, Mia has a suddenly realizes that she must make a choice, “If I stay. If I live. It’s up to me.” Forman creates a heartbreaking story on the tragedy surrounding Mia’s life, leaving the reader with an unfinished ending that persuades them to read the sequel, *Where She Went*, which was released in 2011.

Looking For Alaska
by John Green

Miles Halter has always been bothered by the mediocrity of his life, so Miles makes the decision to attend Culver Creek in search of a “Great Perhaps.” In Culver Creek, Miles meets Chip “The Colonel” Martin, his headstrong roommate, and Alaska Young, with whom Miles almost immediately focuses his attention on. This trio, along with the energetic Takumi, create a set of pranks to tip the Weekday Warriors off, a group of rich kids who enjoy terrorizing those in the lower class. As the story progresses, Miles begins to fall for Alaska, who insists on just being friends, despite the hints she drops that show Alaska is interested in him as well. John Green provides an interesting perspective on the coming of age of an average college student while discovering

the meaning of Simon Bolivar’s last words, “How will I ever get out of this labyrinth!” John Green has created yet another well developed novel full of plot twists and cliffhangers that will leave the reader wanting more.

Teachers’ Jokes

compiled by Angelica Campos

Why can’t you ever trust an atom? They make up everything. – Mr. Esguerra

What do you call a fly without wings? A walk. – Mr. Garofano

A penguin walks into a bar and says to the bartender, “Hey have you seen my brother?” The bartender says, “I don’t know, what’s he look like?”

– Mr. Schimenz

How do you make a tissue dance? You put a little boogie in it. – Ms. Rejalaga

What fish contains 2 sodium atoms? 2Na. – Ms. Mohan

What is the corniest place in the cornfield? The corner. – Ms. Ogunka

Two peanuts walk down the alley and one was aSALTED. – Mr. Elfriede

What’s Something About QV You’d Change

by Jeffrey Guevara

We asked students “What is something about Queens Voc you’d change? Why?”

Miguel Ortiz (Senior): I would change the food because the food is disgusting.

Cynthia Mejia (Senior): I would change the cell policy. Why aren’t we able to use them during our lunch period? It is our free period.

Justin Green (Senior): I would change the school colors. The school should get colors that no high school in Queens has, especially since Aviation has the same colors as well.

Sophia Hormoza (Senior): I would change the water fountains. They don’t work and some of them are growing fungus from being dirty.

Lincoln Speer (Junior): I would add more sports teams in the school because students aren’t active enough.

Ashley Chang (Junior): I would change the school hours because I need my sleep. I’d rather come to school at eight in the morning.

Gabriel E. Miller (Junior): The school spirit. There is such a lack of it here, it’s very disappointing.

Jocelyn Mora (Junior): I would change the school clock. It’s hard to tell when class is over.

Robert Hanft (Sophomore): I would change the school bathroom because it isn’t clean enough.

Ashley Paguay (Sophomore): I would change the school hours because they’re too long.

Anthony Asitimbay (Sophomore): One thing I would change is the school lunch because nobody likes bad food.

Betsy Bravo (Sophomore): I would have the bathrooms’ doors open throughout the school day because one bathroom isn’t enough for the entire school to use.

Who’s The Teacher?

compiled by Robert Hernandez

Teacher 1

I like showing support for school sports teams and wear a lot of their team t-shirts. I am a math teacher. I teach grades 12 and 10. I wear glasses and carry a backpack around with me. I do not have my own room so I travel a lot. I give tests every other week.

Teacher 2

I am a business teacher. I have dimples. I like checking on students to make sure they’re on task. I am always dressed in business clothes. I have eyeglasses that I am constantly looking for. I am also the Virtual Enterprise coordinator.

Teacher 3

I am a Spanish teacher. It is my third year here at Queens Voc. I am originally from Michigan, but I studied in Chile. I speak two languages. I frown upon lateness

to my class. I used to be really athletic in college. I always carry a blue backpack.

Teacher 4

I am the assistant principal of SES, the School of Entrepreneurial Studies and I am the College Now coordinator. I am very busy so you will have to walk around to find me. I’m always yelling “get to class!” when I see students in the halls after the late bell. I teach a grade 11 Entrepreneurship class. I tell you to “come to my office” if you don’t finish classwork or tests.

Teacher 5

I am the Honors Government and Economics teacher. I give homework every day and tests every three weeks. My class participates in the “We the People” competition every year. I am also the mock trial coordinator and program chairman at Queens Voc.

Answers:

- Teacher 2 – Mr. Davidson
- Teacher 4 – Ms. Newman
- Teacher 3 – Ms. Karcher
- Teacher 5 – Ms. Mitchell
- Teacher 1 – Ms. Watkins

Horoscopes

by James Pinos

Aries

(March 21-April 19)

You are courageous and independent. It is your time to stand out and show the world what you’re capable of. Yes you’ve tried before, but your moodiness, impatience, and short temperedness behavior caused failure. You enjoy taking risks, and it’s time to do so. Invest or go on dates with people you thought you wouldn’t see yourself with and remain calm, everything will fall into place. Life may not move as quickly as you want it, but life is filled with tests; picture them as practices to conquer your impatient mind.

Taurus

(April 20-May 20)

You are very independent and persistent. You receive advise everywhere you go because people can spot the help you need, but your stubbornness ignores the advice and you choose to take the hard road. The world is asking you to take a stand! This is your time to stand out, but no matter how strong you believe yourself to be, you will need help financially and morally from family and friends. Don’t ignore the advice you’re given. Take a stand, but take a helping hand as well.

Gemini

(May 21-June 20)

Gemini, it’s time to make yourself be heard! At school or at work, your cleverness and imagination will bring major

changes to the environment and you’ll be the cause of it, but only if you pitch your ideas out there. Although your ideas can change the environment you’re in for the better, you must take caution and think through all of your ideas no matter how impulsive Gemini are. Don’t come off as indecisive either. Be confident in yourself and your new ideas.

Cancer

(June 21-July 22)

It’s your time, so find your special someone and follow the seriousness if you already have a mate. You feel as if you have something to prove, but you don’t. The world knows of a Cancer’s loyal, caring, and dependable personality. Don’t rush or force anything into your life; it will come. But when you see something you like, go for it. Trust your instinct and in this way, you will be happy.

Leo

(July 23-Aug. 22)

You may just be the most confident of the signs, but you haven’t felt this way lately. It’s time you change this. Try out for that team or ask the person you want to be without; the results will turn out as you want them to. Confidence is key. Start to show the natural ambition of a Leo and you will even encourage others because many people look up to a Leo. Don’t exaggerate a bad day; believe that tomorrow will be better.

Virgo

(Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

You’ve had some bumps

in the road lately, and you’ve hoped that things turn around soon. They will! Don’t try to fix what has no cure. Let time do its part and use your helpful and reliable traits where they are most wanted. It’s time to let out your inner caring personality, may it be from volunteering to read for the elderly, or at a senior home, or donating blood at a blood drive. Activities of this nature will boost your happiness.

Libra

(Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

It’s romance time! You already know what you want. Now go get it. You don’t like to plan out your steps so everything is precise, but sometimes you should. Naturally, you are indecisive. Now think carefully of the actions you plan on taking. Think about your ideas, if you can’t seem to figure it out when you want, go with your gut and wait to see the outcome.

Scorpio

(Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

It’s your time. You’ve had a rough few months, but the tables will turn. Don’t try to move your life too quickly, control your hardheadedness, and understand that you’ll get what you most desire in due time. You must still put in all the effort to achieve your dreams. Being patient doesn’t mean doing nothing. Know what you want, give it your all, and do it.

Sagittarius

(Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

You are naturally very lucky. This is your time to take a chance because the odds are in your favor.

You will soon get things you never even pictured yourself with, but don’t let that power or happiness get out of hand. Make sure you can control yourself. Even with all your luck, you must remain smart and cautious. Express your sign in a wise manner and remain as daring as you are.

Capricorn

(Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Make your dreams come true. Disregard the negativity you’ve received, and aim for what you desire. You’re in a position where you think you’re doing well, but you aren’t happy, so change that by taking initiative and going for what you want. Become the ultimate opportunist.

Aquarius

(Jan. 20-Feb. 16)

Life hasn’t been going your way lately, amazing. But your luck can change if you change. You are one of the most powerful of the signs, as your voice is heard and people respect your judgment. Be careful not to switch up on your loved ones; your friends and your family love who you are. You come off with good intentions and use all the right words to say. You should remain this way.

Pisces

(Feb. 19-March 20)

You care so much and love life. People love being around you because you bring a positive vibe wherever you are. This will become very helpful to you soon. It will influence decisions on people who matter most. Luck is on your side, you’ll be very fortunate.

When R=AIN is a Good Thing

by Julisa Tufino Santos

The wait is over! R=AIN meetings will take place weekly, beginning on December 17, period 11, in room 349, according to Ms. Elbettah, the club’s advisor.

R=AIN stands for Reach Equality and Integrate Now, it is the school’s Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA).

R=AIN is open to everyone in Queens Voc, said Ms. Elbettah.

Students talk about life issues during the meetings. The program is designed to make students feel safe and to make them feel like themselves. People may join R=AIN to get to know other people.

“It’s also a place to make friends,” added Ms.Elbettah. “In this program you are able to talk and get things off your chest,” according to Amanda Hess, a member from last year and this year.

More Teachers’ Jokes

What is a pirate’s favorite vegetable? An arrrrtichoke.

– Mr. Mugan

Why was 6 afraid of 7? Because 7 ate 9.

– Sandra Smith

What do you do when you see a spaceman? Park your car, man

– Ms. Elbettah

Knock Knock. Who’s there? Confused Cow? Confused cow who? Oink!

– Mr. Nadler

Teachers who take attendance are absent minded.

– Mr. Lopez

Did you hear about the kidnapping in QV? No. Oh it’s alright the student woke up.

– Ms. Newman

Mr. Schimenz walks into a curtain store, and tells the salesman, “I’d like to buy a curtain for my computer screen.” The salesman replies, “Computers don’t use curtains.” Schimenz replies, “What? Those Cisco guys told me I have windows...”

– Mr. David

What happens when you throw a blue hat into the Red Sea? It gets wet.

– Mr. Burkhardt

What goes up and down but never moves? Stairs.

– Mr. Diamont

What is brown and sticky? A stick

– Mr. Bahrenburg

What’s your favorite joke? Email us at Editor@VocVoice.org and we’ll include it in our next edition.

What Are the Best Apps?

by Jesus Espinal

My top ten game apps for the iPhone:

1. Cubed Rally Redline

Cubed Rally Redline is a car game that involves avoiding obstacles in order to travel a far distance. Obstacles that are encountered include bushes, roadblocks, trees, and cows. The game also features coins to buy new cars, gasoline tanks to refuel the car, blue looking coins to drift, and ramps to jump over a lake. The game is great to pass time. The only downside is that some of the obstacles are difficult to see.

2. Smash Bandits Racing

Smash Bandits Racing is a racing game where players crash into objects to earn money. Be aware of the cops who are roaming the streets. Earning money allows the player to upgrade or buy new cars that can destroy more objects while taking less damage. The game has good graphics with a down view of game play. The best part about the game is that players are not restricted to one location. They can roam freely around different locations.

3. Asphalt 8: Airborne

Asphalt 8: Airborne is a racing game featuring many of the fastest cars. The game is like a regular racing game but with more action and many cities to explore. The game allows players to take different routes to get to their destination. The player can jump over roofs, driving through tunnels, and bridges.

4. Timberman

Timberman is an old school arcade game. The game involves cutting wood and avoiding branches in order to get points and advance to the next level. The game requires skills when avoiding branches; this is done by moving left or right on the iPhone. The game is great to pass time but also to compete with friends.

5. Tiny Striker

Tiny Striker is a soccer game that gives players the opportunity to play as a forward. The game starts out plain and simple but as the game progresses it gets difficult. The point of the game is to kick the ball into the soccer net. The ball, however, can be stopped by the goalie or by one of the defenders. The game increases in difficulty as more defenders are added to the field, which makes it harder to score a goal. The only downside to the game is that when the player does not have enough points to progress to the next level. He starts not from the level

he left off but from the first level of the game.

6. Retry

If you enjoyed Flappy Bird then you're going to enjoy playing Retry. Retry is an airplane game with similar functions as Flappy Bird. The game's main focus is to avoid obstacles by increasing or decreasing elevation, which is done by tapping on the iPhone screen. While avoiding obstacles the player has to make it through multiple airports to save his progress. The game is very entertaining and easy to start playing. The only downside to the game is that sometimes it's hard to control the plane.

7. GTRacing2

GTRacing2 is a car racing game that allows the user to play solo or multiplayer. The game features many of the latest cars and cities with over 1,400 events to complete, according to the website www.itunes.apple.com. The game is in 3D with very good graphics. The more races won, the more money earned, which allows the player to upgrade or buy cars. With multiplayer, players are able to race with people around the world. This feature makes the game very worthwhile to download.

8. Run Sackboy! Run!

Run Sackboy! Run! is a running game with the goal of traveling a far distance. There's a catch, however, a dragon is following Sackboy and waiting to eat him. As Sackboy runs, he will face some obstacles that will slow him down and give the dragon an opportunity to eat him. The game also has perks that can be used to help out when needed. The game has very good graphics with some movable objects. The game is very good to pass time or to compete with friends.

9. Trainyard Express

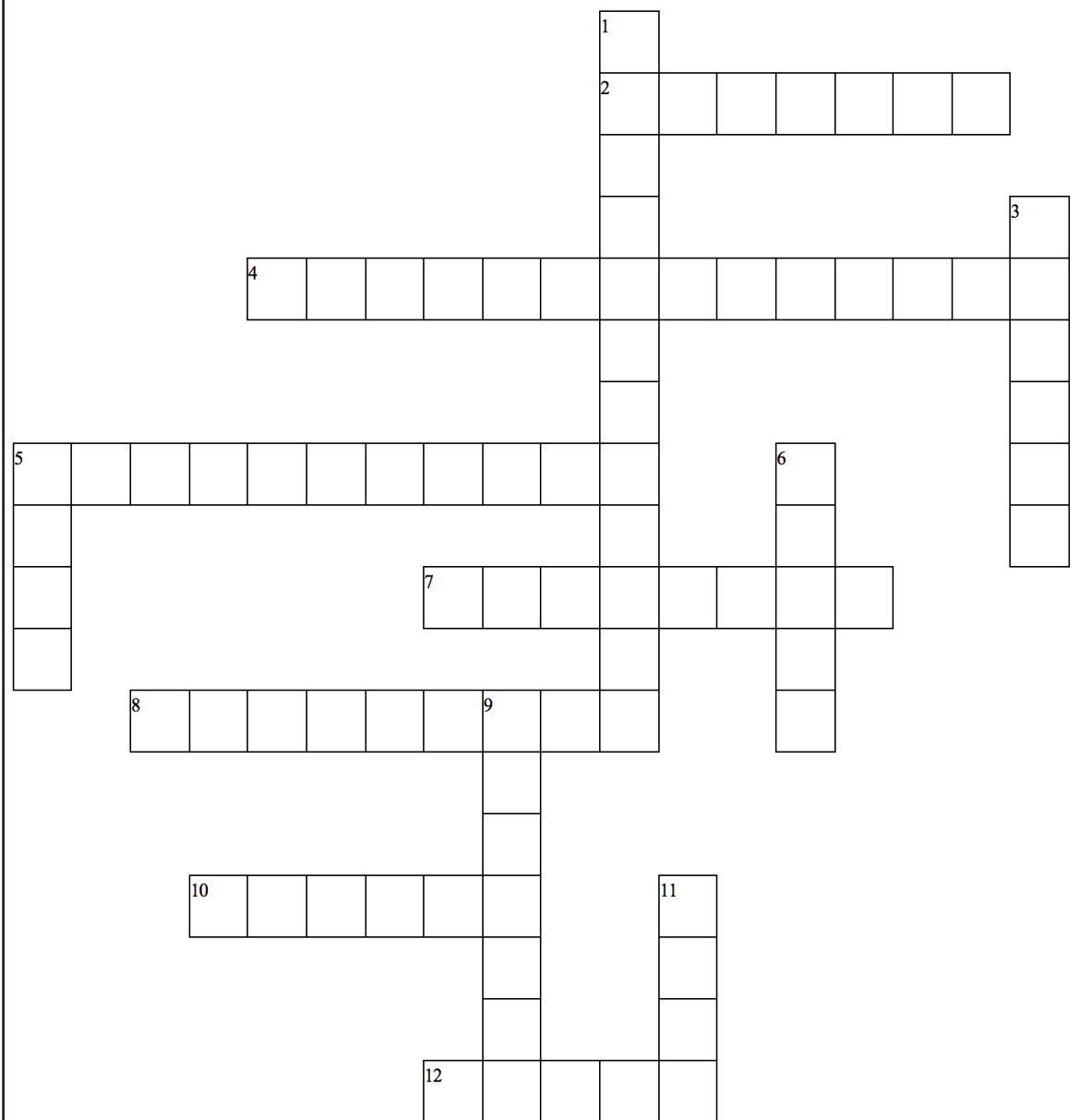
Trainyard Express is a train puzzle game. The game has outlet stations and goal stations that have to be connected. If the player connects the outlet station with the wrong goal station the game will not allow the user to advance to the next level. Furthermore, as the game progresses, it will become more difficult because more outlet stations will be available to connect with goal stations. If an outlet station is connected with the wrong goal station, trains will crash. The game is great to pass time but also to work your mind.

10. Pocket Train

Pocket Train is a train game that allows users to run their own train company. The game starts out in

Crossword Puzzle!

by Chris Ruiz



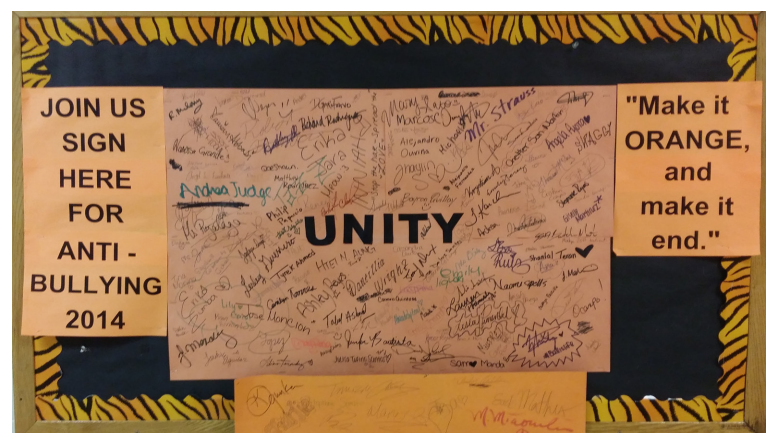
Across

2. Obsessed with riddle, puzzles and brain teasers, he frequently tries to outsmart Gotham's hero the Dark Knight, but is always defeated.
4. During WWII, a U.S. Army Soldier volunteered in an experiment and started as a puny man and became the world's first super soldier. Later on fought in battles, sacrificed his life and was iced for decades and later founded and now leader of The Avengers.
5. Arkham psychiatrist who fell in love with the Joker. A 'mad love' would lead her to a life of crime and would become the girlfriend of the Clown Prince of Crime. She is a member of the Suicide Squad.
7. Born on a planet called Krypton, sent to Earth as a baby from the doom of his planet. Using his abilities to protect Earth and is the Man of Steel.
8. Bitten by a radioactive spider as a teenager, giving him spider-like abilities. After his uncle's death, he knew that "with great power, comes great responsibility."
10. Created by Henry Pym and later took over itself and organized the Masters of Evil to face the Avengers. "There are no...no strings on me."
12. Insane, Clown Prince of Crime and is Batman's arch-nemesis. Why so serious?

Down

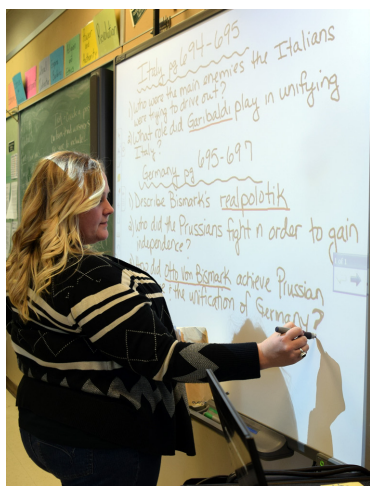
1. In brightest day, in blackest night, No evil shall escape my sight. Let those who worship evil's might, Beware my power, ...light!
3. He witnessed the murder of his parents as a child, swearing to avenge them. He trained and mastered multiple martial arts, detective skills and criminal psychology.
5. A scientist who was exposed by massive gamma radiation and when he gets angry he turns into this green giant full of rage. You wouldn't like it when he's angry.
6. Struck by lightning after months in a coma, woke up and developed super speed. He became the fastest man alive
9. Master of magnetism and one of the most powerful mutants. He is one of the X-Men's greatest foes.
11. Was Prince and later became King of Asgard. His mighty hammer is only summoned to him because he is worthy he is the God of Thunder.

Europe and with sufficient cash on hand, allows the player to expand to other cities and continents. Furthermore, the player can purchase different kinds of trains with different speeds and carrying capacity. The more the player expands, the longer the cities will be from each other, which will result in longer time spent on traveling to a destination. The game is very entertaining and the cities are based on real names, which make it more interesting.



Anti-bullying banner hangs outside 143.

Fall Featured Photographs



Ms. DeCarlo teaches new Global History class.



NYS Education Commissioner King and NYC Schools Chancellor Farina Visit Queens Voc.



Chancellor Farina in El Shop.



QV fights breast cancer.



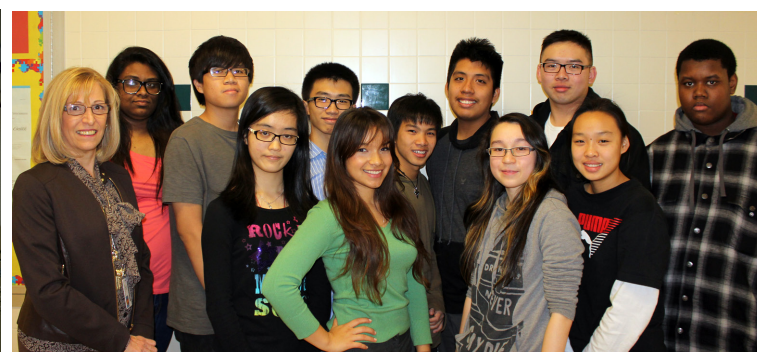
Robotics team bake sale.



Brandon having a blast at Mardi Grads.



Banners created on the first floor using the names of donors.

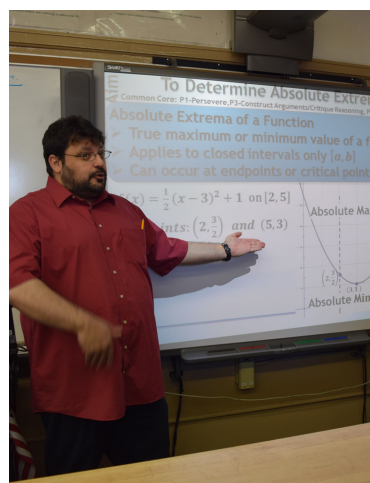


Arista members will soon be tutoring fellow students.

Smart Board Troubles

by Alexander Pena

The SMART Board in room



Mr. Raynor used to use the SMART Board everyday.

303 has not worked since the middle of September, said Ms. Charalambus, a math teacher.

The SMART Board projector hasn't worked for about a year, said Ms. Ferrara. "The school bought a new light bulb, but that wasn't the problem. The pens don't work. It's just here for show. They should just take it off so I could write on the white board," said a frustrated Ms. Ferrara. She said she has had to bring her own speakers from home and borrow an LCD projector from the school.

The SMART Boards are showing signs of age and need more maintenance. "Over time, things start to get old and you have to deal with that," said Mr. Gallagher, assistant principal of

the Humanities department.

The SMART Board in 311 hasn't worked for nearly a year. Mr. Diamont said, "It's not the light bulb, it's the projector, and they haven't fixed that." Mr. Diamont said he was told that many of the SMART Boards are no longer covered by warranty and that the repairs are costly.

AP Gallagher said there have been numerous problems with SMART Boards in rooms such as 247, 347, 351, 411, among others. "Different rooms, different problems," he said, attributing the problems to "wear and tear."

In room 349, the SMART Board isn't a problem, but Ms. Wilson uses her personal laptop "because the school's laptop is broken," she said.

In some cases, the SMART Board itself isn't necessarily the problem. Mr. Raynor, a math

teacher, said "the only problem I've had was when I'm in a room where the SMART board is the only thing I have. I need blackboard space because the SMART Board isn't as reliable as it may seem."

Senior Anthony Molina said that "in one room, the SMART Board keeps powering down. Why even waste time trying to get it to work?" he asked.

Help is on the way. Room 109 recently had a brand new, updated version of the SMART Board installed. While this was not a replacement, it does indicate progress on the SMART Board front.

The SMART Boards might just be overrated as a teaching tool anyway, said Jason Sinchi. "Some teachers can't handle the SMART Board well enough and should just stick to basic teaching," he said.

If you would like your pictures featured, send them to us at Editor@VocVoice.org. Because of the limited space, all featured pictures will be chosen at the discretion of the editors.

Varsity Basketball

by Farhan Zaman

Mr. Richard Maloney, boys' varsity basketball team coach for over twenty years, is ready for another season. After having a winning record of 10-8 and losing to the Institute of Collaborative Education in the second round of the playoffs in the 2013-14 season, the team has moved up to division A for the first time.

"Division A has better competition, which will force us to improve," said team co-captain Catrell Jewell.

Co-captain Alexis Nieves agreed. "Now that we have moved up to division A, we will definitely encounter players of a higher caliber, and teams that have more experience and that have been well prepared for the season." But Alexis isn't worried. "The fact that I'm playing with some of the players from previous years in junior varsity, I can already feel the high chemistry among my teammates," he said. The team members have been practicing on

their own since October to prepare for the season.

As of Nov. 26, the team has had scrimmages against Wagner, Newcomers, Queens Complex, and Academy of American Studies all in division B. Queens Voc defeated Wagner, Newcomers, and Queens Complex but lost to the Academy of American Studies.

The schools Queens Voc will play in Division A include: Bryant, Newtown, Aviation, Forest Hills,

LIC, Francis Lewis, John Bowne, and Grover Cleveland.

The first game of the season was at Newtown on Dec. 4, and their first home game on Dec. 8, against Forest Hills. Coach Maloney said, "You're only as good as your players are."

The returning veterans, all seniors, include: Mahbub Ali, Catrell Jewel, Christopher Lexis, Alexis Nieves, Alexander Pena, and Jacob Sobilo. The rookies include: Khirey Blake, Marcos Casado, Andrew Garcia, Michael Kammerer, Christopher Morocho, Dexter Moy, Dylan Sankarsingh, and Lincoln Speer.



Mr. Maloney and the boys varsity basketball team.

Sports Game Schedules

compiled by Dolapo Oyekanmi

Here are the schedules for the remaining winter sports games. The games are at Queens Voc unless otherwise noted. All games begin at 5pm unless otherwise noted.

- Boys' Varsity Wrestling
12/11/14 Flushing @ Queens Voc
12/16/14 Bryant @ Queens Voc
12/18/14 Robert F. Wagner @ Queens Voc
01/06/15 Martin L. King Jr @ Queens Voc
01/08 15 Beacon HS @ Queens Voc
01/13/15 Aviation @ Queens Voc
01/15/15 Queens HS Complex @ Queens Voc
01/20/15 Info Tech @ Queens Voc
01/22/15 LIC @ Queens Voc

- Girls' Varsity Basketball
12/12/14 Baccalaureate @ Queens Voc
12/15/14 Metropolitan Campus @ Queens Voc
12/16/14 Queens Voc @ Info Tech (4:30pm)
12/18/14 Queens Voc @ Maspeth HS (4:30pm)
12/19/14 Queens HS Complex vs Queens Voc @ LIC YMCA: Gym (4:30pm)
12/22/14 Robert F. Wagner @ Queens Voc
01/05/15 Queens Voc @ Frank Sinatra School of the Arts (4:30pm)
01/08/15 Queens Voc @ Newcomers/Acad. of Am. Studies-Gym (4:30pm)
01/12/15 Academy for Careers in TV and Film @ QV
01/16/15 Academy of American Studies @ Queens Voc
01/23/15 HS for Construction @ Queens Voc
02/02/15 Queens Voc @ Aviation (4:30pm)
02/06/15 Queens Voc @ Metropolitan Campus (4:30pm)

- Boys' JV Basketball
12/16/14 Aviation @ Queens Voc
12/18/14 Queens Voc @ Bryant (4:30pm)
01/08/15 Maspeth HS @ Queens Voc
01/13/15 Grover Cleveland @ Queens Voc
01/15/15 Queens Voc @ Metropolitan Campus (4:30pm)
01/23/15 Queens Voc @ Aviation (4:30pm)
02/03/15 Bryant @ Queens Voc
02/10/15 Queens Voc @ Grover Cleveland (4:30pm)
02/12/15 Queens Voc @ Maspeth HS (4:30pm)
02/24/15 Metropolitan Campus @ Queens Voc
02/26/15 Grover Cleveland @ Queens Voc
03/03/15 Queens Voc @ Aviation (4:30pm)

- Boys' Varsity Basketball
12/15/14 Queens Voc @ Grover Cleveland (4:30pm)
12/16/14 Queens Voc @ LIC (4:30pm)
12/23/14 Bryant @ Queens Voc
01/06/15 Aviation @ Queens Voc
01/09/15 Newtown @ Queens Voc
01/13/15 Queens Voc @ Forest Hills (4:30pm)
01/15/15 Queens Voc @ Francis Lewis
01/20/15 John Bowne @ Queens Voc
01/22/15 Grover Cleveland @ Queens Voc
01/30/15 LIC @ Queens Voc
02/03/15 Queens Voc @ Bryant (4:30pm)
02/05/15 Queens Voc @ Aviation (4:30pm)

Word Scramble

by Jasmin Mrkulic

You've been in Queens Voc for a while, but can you unscramble these words that relate to your school?

1) FERITICNICOTA

2) NOTCALIVOA

3) HYTENCOOLG

4) MOYGOTLOSCE

5) BUMPLING

6) SETGERN

7) RINGENEGENI

8) SICTREECLON

9) SUSIBESN

10) CEDELUSH

11) TETRAMPEND

12) NYCTOMIUM

- 13) COMMUNILA
11) DEBKTWEIL
10) 2CHEDNFE
8) BNGINE22
8) ETECLKONIC2
1) EICNIEEBKIC
9) KECENL2
2) BGNWBIC
4) COZWELOGOCL
3) LECNHOOGOL
5) LOSALIONAT
1) CEKLEICVLIOM

Queens Voc is again participating in the annual City Harvest Food Drive. Donations go to city food pantries and soup kitchens. Please bring non-perishable food items to your CTE class or room 143 before Jan. 9, and help rescue food for New York's hungry.

SENIOR SPORTS PROFILES

by Robert Hernandez

Nicole Caicedo



Team: Girls' Volleyball
Years on Team: 1

"This was her first year on any of my teams. I've seen improvement over the course of the season. She was a fine addition to the team."
– Coach Boyle

"She's a good player and a good teammate."
– Maritza Cardoso, Junior

Kevin Vilchez



Team: Boys' Bowling
Years on team: 1

"Kevin is a first-year bowler. He's the anchor on the 'B' team. He has the potential to be really good."
– Coach Devaux

"He was clutch when the team really needed it."
– Angel Escalante, Junior

Ashley Fernandez



Team: Girls' Volleyball
Years on team: 2

"Ashley was one of my starters. I have seen huge improvement from last year. I'm going to miss her; she was a great addition."
– Coach Boyle

"She brings experience to the team. She's fun and enthusiastic."
– Jennifer Cosme, Junior

Valentina Gutierrez

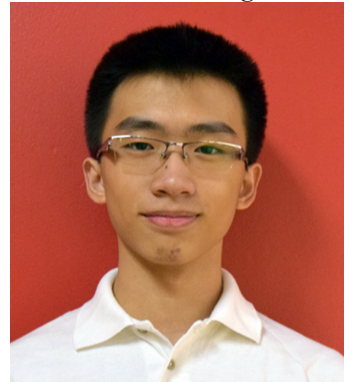


Team: Girls' Volleyball
Years on team: 2

"She was a consistent player. She was coachable and helped contribute a great deal to the team."
– Coach Boyle

"She was a great teammate who helped the team a lot."
– Jennifer Cosme, Junior

Htet N. Aung



Team: Boys' Bowling
Years on team: 3

"Htet was one of my most consistent bowlers over the last couple of years. He was a team leader and led by example."
– Coach Devaux

"He's a good player and played every game on the 'A' team. He's a nice guy."
– Bryan Arias, Junior

Eddie Quiles



Team: Boys' Bowling
Years on team: 1

"Eddie has been a clutch bowler and had big games when we needed them. He's very dependable and a great teammate."
– Coach Devaux

"A reliable player who was on the 'A' team. He was a good sport and had a positive attitude."
– Angel Escalante, Junior

Marie Vargas



Team: Girls' Volleyball
Years on team: 1

"This was Marie's first year as well. She's a steadily improving player and she was consistent with what she did."
– Coach Boyle

"She was a great personality to have on the team. A very sweet girl who always tried."
– Maritza Cardoso, Junior

William De Los Angeles



Team: Boys' Bowling
Years on team: 2

"William is another veteran of the team and another team leader other players look up to. He always has the potential to have a great game."
– Coach Devaux

"He was the guy who pumped everyone up. He was friendly and brought everyone together."
– Angel Escalante, Junior

Kaden Mejia



Team: Boys' Bowling
Years on team: 1

"Kaden was one of my more consistent bowlers. Kaden is another player I wish had joined before his senior year, so I could see improvement over the years."
– Coach Devaux

"He was good at bowling and friendly to everybody."
– Angel Escalante, Junior

Marc Dutan



Team: Boys' Bowling
Years on team: 1

"A first year player. Marc is a good teammate and I wish he had joined the team before his last year."
– Coach Devaux

"He's a good team player who was consistent and came through when needed."
– Bryan Arias, Junior

Upasana Tyagi



Team: Girls' Bowling
Years on team: 4

"Upasana is a veteran who improved throughout her four years. She shows dedication and is very supportive of the team."
– Coach Poltawsky

"She's very nice and friendly, and was a good captain."
– Maria Forero, Junior

Jasmine Torres



Team: Girls' Bowling
Years on team: 1

"Jasmine is a dedicated player. She is dependable and consistent."
– Coach Poltawsky

"She is fun and had good skills."
– Maria Forero, Junior

Lesley Pimentel



Team: Girls' Bowling
Years on the team: 1

"She's an excellent bowler, for someone who has never bowled before. Lesley's dedicated and very easy to coach. She has been clutch for the team."
– Coach Poltawsky

"She's sweet and a good leader."
– Dakota Elbettah, Junior

Wendy Camacho



Team: Girls' Bowling
Years on team: 1

"Wendy was a great team player. I wish she could have joined earlier."
– Coach Poltawsky

"She was really friendly and a good teammate."
– Dakota Elbettah, Junior

SENIOR SPORTS PROFILES

by Robert Hernandez

Alexiz Alvarez (Captain)



Team: Boys' Varsity Soccer
Years on team: 3

"He was this year's captain. Alexiz played well on defense and was a team player."

— Coach Ali

"He was a great captain, leader, and defender. He's responsible and cares about his players."

— Leandro Gamarra, Sophomore

Mike Flores



Team: Boys' Varsity Soccer
Years on team: 1

"He plays very well, whether on defense or midfield. He can do better if he tries harder."

— Coach Ali

"Good player and friend. He was a nice teammate."

— Leandro Gamarra, Sophomore

Mateo Avila



Team: Boys' Varsity Soccer
Years on team: 1

"He was a midfielder who tried hard to be productive when given the opportunity."

— Coach Ali

"He was a great midfielder with skill."

— Leandro Gamarra, Sophomore

Na Zheng



Team: Girls' Bowling
Years on team: 1

"Na shows the best sportsmanship. She improved throughout the season. I wished she joined earlier."

— Coach Poltawsky

"She was our 'team spirit' and was great at everything."

— Dakota Elbettah, Junior

Anthony Molina



Team: Boys' Varsity Soccer
Years on team: 1

"Great forward with the skills to place the ball where he needs it to be. He was great on free kicks and knows the game well."

— Coach Ali

"He's a skillful player and is one of the leaders on the team. He knows what to do on the pitch."

— Nick Eras, Junior

Eric Guailas



Team: Boys' Varsity Soccer
Years on team: 1

"He was a great defender. He needed to focus more on his position rather than thinking about scoring. As last man, he was very skillful when clearing the ball."

— Coach Ali

"He's a great center-back. He was a good friend."

— Chris Chique, Junior

Henri Vilchis



Team: Boys' Varsity Soccer
Years on team: 1

"He was a great defender and has developed good skills this year. I wish I could've played him more because of his ability as a defender."

— Coach Ali

"He's a quick and strong player who is good both defensively and offensively."

— Nick Eras, Junior

John Juca



Team: Boys' Varsity Soccer
Years on team: 1

"When given the opportunity, he tries very hard and plays well on defense."

— Coach Ali

"He was a good defender and was a good teammate."

— Chris Chique, Junior

Abraham Zepeda



Team: Boys' Varsity Soccer
Years on team: 3

"He is very skillful as either a midfielder or defender. He can play at a high level."

— Coach Ali

"He was a great defender who knows what to do during games."

— Cristian Alvarez, Freshman

Jhonatan Guaman



Team: Boys' Varsity Soccer
Years on team: 1

"He was very skillful, but inconsistent. He has the potential to be better."

— Coach Ali

"Jhonatan's a good player who was great on the wing."

— Chris Chique, Junior

Yalisa Vega



Team: Girls' Bowling
Years on team: 1

"She's a team player and has been consistent. Yalisa has a lot of passion for the team."

— Coach Poltawsky

"She's funny and lifts everyone's spirit."

— Dakota Elbettah, Junior

Boris Miranda



Team: Boys' Varsity Soccer
Years on team: 2

"One of the best players in PSAL, but thinks he's a one-man team. When he plays as a main midfielder for distribution, the team performs well."

— Coach Ali

"He's a really great player and was like a big brother."

— Kelvin Quiroz, Junior

Wrestling Season to Begin

by Mark Vazquez

Mr. Zambrotta, the wrestling coach at Queens Voc, said he expects a lot from the wrestling team this year. "I want everybody to have a healthy season and a productive season, with many kids passing classes and getting to wrestle as much as possible. We want to build young athletes into young adults," he said.

A main goal for Mr. Zambrotta this year is to further unite the team. "If you guys [the wrestlers] hate me but respect each other, then I'm doing my job," he said. After all, Mr. Zambrotta said, "the least important thing is winning. There's so much more to achieve, such as community, team, and family. We need to build on those and work together. When that happens winning is easy."

Captain Sahoniell Batista said

he can imagine the wrestling team dominating the division if "the team keeps up the hard work, focus, and determination. This year the team is working harder than I've seen before." For Sahoniell, a junior, this will be his second year as captain and his third year on the team. He shares the same expectations as Coach Zambrotta when it comes to unifying the team. "After all, a team is as strong as its weakest link," said Sahoniell.

This wrestling season, Mr. Zambrotta hopes to have three team captains, including a senior. Mr. Zambrotta planned to announce the other two team captains before the first wrestling match on Dec. 9.

Sahoniell describes wrestling practice as the "most intense two hours of your life." Aside from having wrestling practice



Weight room helps wrestlers get in shape.

in the cafeteria or the basement, sometimes the team goes to Beat the Streets, a wrestling organization that "provides wrestlers with the opportunity to improve themselves both on and off the mats," according to Sahoniell.

Volleyball Girls Find Success in Their Efforts and Improvement



Coach Boyle and team take a positive look at their season.

by Meztli Cardoso

The girls' volleyball team ended the season with a 2 and 10 record, ranked sixth out of seven teams in the Queens B West league. The team's two wins came against Aviation and Wagner.

Although the team ranked sixth, "the result was non-reflective of the work they put in. Each time we lost it was by two points. They were very close matches," said Mr. Boyle, who coached the team this year. "This season the girls improved as a

team. They played much better than what was expected. They came together and were eager to play. Volleyball is a short season, which is hard for the team to come together, but they managed to at the end," he said.

After tryouts, Coach Boyle said, "I kept all the girls who showed that they wanted to play on the team. Showing up consistently was important," he said.

The players agreed that it was a good season despite their record. "The season went well,"

said setter Maritza Cardoso Avila, "because we were able to improve on our skills. All the girls gave it their best to improve. I realized what I needed to work on, such as my setting and serving, and I worked to improve."

Outside hitter Paulette Baque said, "The season was fun because most of all the team got along well. We really helped each other out. I improved on working with my team and my serves. I really liked this season because we really got along together."

The girls' volleyball team will lose five seniors: Ashley Fernandez, Joselyne Aucapina, Nicole Caicedo, Valentina Gutierrez, and Marie Vargas.

"I really look forward for next year's team because five out of the six starters were not seniors. The ability level of the team went up. We have the potential to be a good team next year," said Mr. Boyle.

The remaining players are juniors Paulette Baque, Arianne Bolanos, Maritza Cardoso Avila, Zitlali Ceron, Jennifer Cosme, Tia Singh, Jocelyn Navarro, Maria Quintanilla, and sophomores Jaqueline Rivera, Inderjit Gahunia, Tatiana Tobon, and Stephanie Young.

said, "and a good role model for all the other players."

So far the boys have been busy. They've designed the 2015 varsity baseball t-shirt, which they sell to students and staff members to raise funds.

In early September, they participated in Action Team community service training at Citi Field, even getting to meet several major league players. Two weeks later, on Sunday, Oct. 26, about forty students raked leaves during "It's My Parks Day" at Flushing Meadows Park. The boys filled about two hundred bags of leaves. They also helped out at the Poppenhusen Institute in College Point after school on Monday, Nov. 3. The students helped clean up from Poppenhusen's haunted house. "Without their help, the cleanup would've taken us about two weeks," said Susan, a Poppenhusen representative.

Team members include seniors: Michael Badia, William De Los Angeles, Jeffrey Guevara, Eddie Quiles, and Christopher Ruiz; juniors: Mauricio Bustamante, Malcolm Romero, Travis Savino, Jonathan Vargas, and Andy Velez; sophomores: Benedetto Caraballo, Johan Diaz, Robert Hanft, Yiannis Koutsoumaris, Jordi Perez, and Steven Rodriguez; and freshmen: Alexander Galarza, German Gonzalez, Ivan Ossorio, Randy Paulino, Edison Rodriguez, and Jaime Virgen. Eligibility has not yet been determined, the coach said.



Thanksgiving dinner was a time to celebrate past and future.



Boys proved they belonged in A division with playoff spot.

Soccer Team in A Division

continued from back page

and David Valenzuela; five sophomores: Johan Astudillo, Elias Candelario, Leandro Montero Gamarra, Anthony Juca, and Cristian Vivar; and two freshmen: Cristian Alvarez and Christopher Tenecela.

Ms. Karcher Takes the Helm of Boys' JV Basketball

by Jacob Sobilo

Ms. Karcher has assumed all head duties for the boys' JV basketball team. Last year she helped Coach Daniel with coaching, and stepped into the position fully recently when Mr. Daniel became ill.

Ms. Karcher said she has an extensive background in basketball, having played on her varsity basketball team in high school and college basketball in South America, and played professionally in South America. Ms. Karcher is also familiar with coaching, having coached a varsity basketball team in 1997-1999 and was the assistant coach of the girls' JV basketball team at Bryant.

Despite returning to work, Mr. Daniel will not be coaching the team this year. Ms. Karcher said, she will use the help of Assistant Coach Stevens, a school safety agent, "Stevens has been with this team for quite some time now. He knows a lot of these guys, how they play, and how to get them to work together. I think he will be a great help to me," said Ms. Karcher.

Ms. Karcher has high expectations for the team, "Of course we expect to win, and with intense practices, focusing on teamwork and not individualism, I am confident the team can go far and have a successful season." The main concern and possible setback is the grades of the players. In previous years, JV players have struggled to stay on the team because of grades, and a large number of the players failed off.

Ms. Karcher recently appointed Jovanny Rodriguez and Malcolm Abney as team captains.

"Jovanny and Malcolm have proven themselves both in the classroom and on the court with their strong leadership skills," she said.

While Ms. Karcher held the first tryout on Monday, Nov. 3, and a second tryout on Saturday, Nov. 8, the final roster has yet to be determined and will be set after the second report card.

On Saturday, Nov. 22, the JV team had a successful scrimmage against Forest Hills. Forest Hills is in a higher division than Queens Voc. After watching the team play, Ms. Karcher said, "We should be successful if everyone is eligible. The way we played against Forest Hills shows we can be a very competitive in our division." The leading scorer was Rahiem Kennedy with 19 points, followed by Malcolm with 14 and Jovanny with 8. The team has no remaining scrimmages because Ms. Karcher is waiting for the report cards to determine who will be on the team.

The team generally practices from 6pm-8pm, after the girls' varsity team practices or after a varsity basketball game.



Ms. Karcher vs. Jovanny.



An 8-4 record and a playoff win is something to smile about.

Disappointing End of Season for Girls' Bowling

by Carla Ordonez

"It was heartbreaking seeing my players sad. I wish I could have done more to prevent us from forfeiting our second playoff game," said Ms. Poltawsky, Queens Voc girls' bowling coach.

The team forfeited their second playoff game against Tottenville on Nov. 13. Ms. Poltawsky believed it was safer to forfeit the game, rather than take public transportation to and from Staten Island, where the game was scheduled to be played. "The game was too far and there was not enough time to rent a van for the team," she said. "It's unfair, the team worked all to season to reach playoffs and the championship and we couldn't even get there," Ms. Poltawsky said.

Co-captain Xi Zheng was angry at the outcome of the second playoff game. "PSAL planned the location for the game last minute, and we couldn't find transportation in time," she said.

The bowling team ended the regular season with 8 wins and 4 losses. The team advanced to the playoffs and finished in third place in the Queens II league. They won their first playoff game against Forest Hills on Nov. 10. Upasana Tyagi, team captain, said the team started the game off a bit weak but finished strong. "It was a close game against Forest Hills, but during the ninth and tenth frames we all picked it up," Upasana said. The game was nerve racking and intense, Xi said. "It was anybody's game."

Ms. Poltawsky said the team was nervous during the first playoff game, "Especially Upa, the team captain, since this is her last year and her last chance to be on the team," she explained. Ms. Poltawsky said the team turned the nervous feeling into positive energy and the team pulled together resulting in the win.

"We needed to compensate for what we have lost and the team came out strong," Ms. Poltawsky said, expressing the win the team had against Grover Cleveland in the last game of the regular season. This was her best experience with the team, she said.

"We played Cleveland, the team in first place. We were down two of my better players because of eligibility, but we won in both the A and B game."

Ms. Poltawsky said the team has improved tremendously and advanced to the playoffs because of the players' increased dedication to the team. "Coming together has to be the biggest improvement the team has shown," Ms. Poltawsky said.

Na Zheng, a senior, is a new addition to the team. Ms. Poltawsky said that Na is the player who has improved the most. "She started with an incorrect bowling form and is now using excellent techniques. She came in really clutch at the Grover game," Ms. Poltawsky said.

Ms. Poltawsky said the greatest struggle she faced as coach was gaining the players' trust. "Teenagers tend to ignore what adults tell them, and it takes

Boys' Bowling Strikes Back!

by Aline Torres

Last year's bowling team completed the year with a 6-6 record. This year the boys ended the season 9-3 in third place, making it to the playoffs.

The team made it to the playoffs, but lost in their first round against Alfred Smith High School with a score of 2-1. Coach Devaux said, "the home game in the first round of the playoffs was close and everyone put in their best effort and worked as a team."

William De Los Angeles, a two year veteran, said the year has its ups and downs. "I was extremely upset when we lost the playoff. We didn't perform at our highest level, and the playoff game was frustrating because the school kept cheating and distracting us. Overall the season was lots of fun and I finally learned how to hook the ball," he said.

This year coach Devaux did not appoint a team captain. "I don't believe there always needs to be a captain, although I think there were great leaders like Derek, Htet, and William, and the team worked very well together," he said. But Derek Toohey, a junior veteran, said, "There should be a captain. The team should have someone to look up to when struggling."

time to gain their trust. But now I've gained their trust, and can teach them the proper techniques."

Both Upasana and Xi have seen their skills improve on the team. Upasana began playing with a 62 average and is now bowling with a 106. "I started with little to no knowledge on bowling and now I know all the terms," she said.

"Derek is the best bowler on the team because not only does he have the highest average, he is also the most consistent, which is a great example," said Coach Devaux.

Eddie Quiles along with bowlers in the team said that they're always learning from one another and improving. "My teammates have helped me a lot to improve consistency. Compared to how I started the season, my coach and I have seen my improvement. I will be joining the year again.

This year the veteran bowlers were Bryan Arias, Htet Naing Aung, and William De Los Angeles, Marc Dutun, Angel Escalante, Md Bahuarl Islam,

Kaden Mejia, Eddie Quiles, Derek Toohey, Charles Urena, and Kevin Vilchez. Htet, William, Marc, Kaden, Eddie, and Kevin are seniors and will not be returning next year.

"I'm going to miss Htet, it's been a pleasure being on a team with him and he has gotten better. I will also miss William De Los Angeles because he brings fire and energy to every game and practice and that is something you need to keep a team motivated," said junior bowler Derek Toohey. Coach Devaux said that this year "the team worked very hard I will miss the seniors and will be looking forward to what will be coming next year."



Seniors don't want their last year to become a gutter ball.

Soccer Team Successfully Moves to A Division

by Jeffrey Guevara

The boys' varsity soccer team ended their season 7 & 5, in third place in the Queens A West division.

The team's record earned them a playoff berth, and on Sunday, Oct. 26, the team traveled to Randall's Island to face Stuyvesant HS. The Tigers lost 3-1.

"All in all," said Mr. Ali, the team's coach, "this was their first year in the division. It was a good learning experience because

the players are being exposed to new obstacles to overcome." The coach added that this new situation "could lead the players to get scholarships for colleges."

The Tigers defeated LIC twice, John Adams once, Bryant twice, Aviation once, and Forest Hills. Their five losses came as they lost to Newcomers twice, and once each to Aviation, John Adams, and Bayside.

Coach Ali was satisfied the way the season turned out. "It was a big step up going to A Division and making the playoffs for the

first time," said Coach Ali.

According to the Coach, all the team members had a positive role on the team; it wasn't about standout players. "We were a team. We worked together and functioned as a team. That's why we did so well in A," he said.

The soccer team captains were Alexiz Alvarez and Boris Miranda, both senior rookies.

The roster consists of 28 players, four veterans: Johan Bermeo, Juan Diaz, Nick Eras, and Juan Rodriguez; and 24 rookies, consisting of 12 seniors: Alexiz Alvarez, Mateo Avila, Anderson Calderon, Mike Flores, Eric Guailas, Jhonatan

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